

Shamrocks whip Warriors

BY STEVE KOWALSKI

STAFF WRITER

It's not the Boys' Bowl anymore, but try convincing members of the Detroit Catholic Central football team that that.

The inspired Shamrocks beat Birmingham Brother Rice, 35-14, as the two teams resumed their rivalry two weeks earlier than usual, on a Saturday instead of Sunday, at Birmingham Groves instead of Wisner Stadium.

CC scored three second-quarter touchdowns for a commanding 21-0 halftime lead. Fumble recoveries in Rice territory set up the first two touchdowns and a long punt return set up the third.

No. 1 ranked CC, off two weeks due to a second-week cancellation, improved to 2-0 overall. Rice fell for the first time in three games.

The Shamrocks spoiled the debut of Rice sophomore Matt Baker, recording three sacks and two interceptions. Baker, playing in place of

FOOTBALL

injured senior Pat Craddock, completed two of seven passes for nine yards. Craddock is out two to five weeks with a knee injury.

"Turnovers, right from the beginning, hurt us and we never got the momentum back," Rice coach Al Fraccas said.

"That's a very powerful team. It's like they clone those guys, they look the same every year. The young sophomore did the best he could and he'll get better."

CC senior Dave Lusky was busy as he completed five of 11 passes for 119 yards, scored on a 1-yard dive, made all four of his extra-point attempts, punted three times and intercepted a pass in the second quarter.

"It was our day today," Lusky said. "To us, this is our 'Boys Bowl.' This is what every senior lives for at CC. To play Rice and win, it's a dream come true."

Junior tailback John Kava

gained 137 yards on 20 carries, showing power and speed with touchdown runs of 24, 1 and 64 yards. Senior running back Kyle Entsminger had 57 yards on 10 carries, scoring on a nine-yard run.

Senior Broc Naysmith opened holes at offensive guard and had an impact at inside linebacker and special teams, leading the Shamrocks in tackles.

Naysmith, filling in for injured all-state candidate Casey Rogowski, and the defensive front of Jeremiah Hicks, John Abshire and Lou Willoughby, helped limit Rice to one first down and six yards total offense in the first half.

"At the start of this year I didn't want to play it because I wanted Casey to play it," Naysmith said. "But Casey said 'You've got to step up and take my spot.' I was in a zone today. I'm just waiting for Casey to come back."

A fumble recovery by CC's Marc Frohm at the Rice 32 set up the Shamrocks' first score, a nine-yard run on third down by

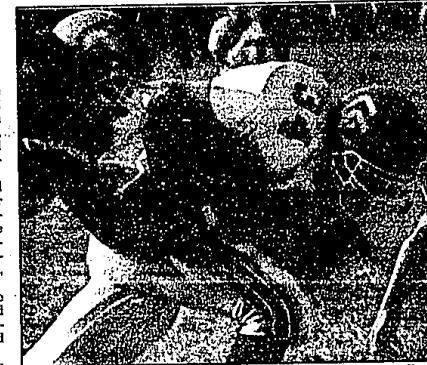
Entsminger with 6:51 left in the half. A 26-yard pass to tight end Nick Brzinski on third down and 10 put the ball on Rice's 16, one play after Lusky was sacked by Ted Jones and Brooks Hartnett.

Rice's next possession ended with a fumble recovery by junior nose guard Jeremiah Hicks, giving CC the ball again at the Warriors' 32. A 13-yard reception by Brzinski led to a 24-yard run by Kava with 6:41 left, raising the lead to 14-0.

Before the half ended, the Shamrocks added a one-yard touchdown run by Kava, following Jason Woohiko's 39-yard punt return to the Rice 15.

Lusky's one-on-one drive with 4:24 left in the third quarter capped a 10-play, 59-yard drive that really got Rice after three CC penalties pushed the Shamrocks into a 26-yard catch by Jeff Potts on third and 25 from the CC 15 to kill Rice's spirit.

"That play was real big, set the tone for the second half," said Lusky, crediting the time he received from Naysmith, Frohm,



BILL HANSEN

Ground gainer: CC's Kyle Entsminger picks up rushing yardage Saturday in a 35-14 victory over Brother Rice.

cut the deficit to 28-7.

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Mark Goebel with 6:02 left.

Brian Parent, Michael Morris and Steve Dominguez on the offensive line.

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