Rice still top team in tennis

BY MARTY BUDNER

Birmingham Brother Rice's tennis team went to the Division I state tournament as the team to beat. No one did. The Warriors captured their second straight championship Saturday at the Midland Tennis Center by winning three of the soven flights and placing second in two others. Rice netted 26 points and won by four over second-place Midland Dow, which had 22. Grosse Pointo South was third with 20 points, followed by West Bloomfield and Ann Arbor Pioneer, which tied for fourth with 18 points apiece. It was a clutch performance by the Warriors who were ranked No. I all senson and were near perfect in dual meets with a 10-0-2 record. "We went up there with a bulls-up attached to us since we were the defending champs," said Brother Rice assistant coach Tom Osborn. "Everyone came out with their "Argame against us." "But the guys reached down and they really clevated their game and played to their "Arlevel," he said. "Their concentration was a sight to behold." Rice, which lost just two playors from last year's squad, started off slowly by losing at No. 2 flight singles in a tough first-round match. However, the Warriors rebounded exceptionally with their players in the remaining six flights advancing to at teast the semifinal rounds. "The Warriors finished with finalists in five flights which gave them the title regardless of the outcomes. "We had a couple key (singles) matches with Dow in the semifinals to the semifinal rounds. "The Warriors finished with Tow went them the title regardless of the outcomes. "We had a couple key (singles) matches with Dow in the semifinals that were crucial," said

Osborn.

Brother Rice's lone singles Enther Rice's lone singles champion was senior Mark Gorski who is headed to St. Benaventure on a tonnis scholarship. Gorski was seed-second at No. 3 flight singles and won the title with a three-set victory over toge-seeded Black Willmarth, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3. Rice also captured the Nos. 2 and 3 doubles flight championships.

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The No. 2 team of sophorore Jeff Carrico and junior Chris Brede culminated a perfect season by winning the state title with an easy 6-2, 6-4 triumph over Midland Dow's team of Kevin Keeley and Mahir Verghese. By winning all four of their state-meet matches. Carrico and Brede matches, Carrico and Brede finished with a 23-0 season

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At No. 3 doubles, Rice's top-seeded combination of senior Scott Gross and freshman Matt Ora won in straight sets over second-seeded Evan Roarty and Collins Chip-Getz of Grosse Pointe South in straight games, 6-0, 6-3. Gross and Ora did not drop a set at state and finished the year with a 19-2 record.

Rice's state runners-up included David Lynn (No. 1 singles) and Justin Smith and Sean Cafmoyor (No. 1 doubles).

"We got better during this year and 1 thought we were a better team this year than we were last year, but so was everybody else," said obsorn. "It was a little scary at the beginning, but we hung in there and we were able to pull trout. It was very exciting."

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Detroit Catholic Central
had to replace six players who
graduated from the 1998
seam, but that didn't stop it
from placing seventh in the
Division I state meet. CC finished with 10 points, one
behind sixth-place Rochester.
CC's No. 1 singles player,
unseeded sophomore Mike
Findling, was making a
strong run at a top-four finish
when an injury caused him to
retire in the second set of a
third-round match with No. 2
David Bere of Midland Dow.
Findling beat seeded players Preston Gaspar of Grosse
points South (6-3, 6-3) and
Rochester's Desmond Early
(6-0, 6-0) in the first two
rounds.

Raiders from page C1

back."

Jaffe, who will play tennis at
Emory University in Atlanta
next year, is the first North player to win an individual flight
championship in the state tour-

next year, is the first North player to win an individual flight championship in the state tour-nament.

It was a real convincing victory, North coach Rick Jones said.

When you realize how many really fine playors there are, there has to be a lot of breaks and some fine tennis. The breaks have to fall your way, and you have to take advantage of these things when they do. And he did that.

"I thought Brad played a very smart match, especially in the final against Mitchell.

"Brad really showed his experience and ability to adjust his game during the match, Mitchell kept trying to hit bombers, and Brad changed his strategy and mixed up his game."

As a team, the Raiders were ranked No. I in the last coaches poll, but they could see the handwriting on the wall when those to the state meet.

"When we saw the draw, we kinda knew were going to be fighting for second place," Jones said, adding the Raiders were seeded in all seven.

The Chiefains had the potential to score more points Friday than the Raiders would in the whole tournament, he added. Okemes had 20 on the first day and North had 15.

"We were strongly in second place at that point, but that's an awful let of points to make up in the finals," Jones said.

"The really proud of the kids, we had some exciting tennis, it wo matches and reached the some ways, you could say we had some courageous tennis."

That was a reference to North sunsceded at No. 4 singles but made it all the way to the finals and was the state runner. When he state runner was a some ways, and the second round and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northers In the semis before losing to No. Mays.

The match with Kline lasted noarly four hours Friday, and Thinkel had just a half-hour break before he played his third match against Grosse marked the place of the second round and the second had to evereome leg cramps to eventually win a three-set tiebreaker.

Then, Finkel had just a half-hour break before he played his third match against Grosse "Inter matches and reached the semisphore of the finals."

The matches and reached the semifical was made and reached the semifical with a 27-tecord. Golaszewski and Josh Wood were seeded first and second, respect tively. Each team won its first two matches and reached the semificals.

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STATE TENNIS RESULTS

ood Jourd, Sef. Leon Cereminate, submiguean owners, where the provided in the Control of the Con

team all season was great camaraderic and chemistry." Jones spied. "I don't know if success breeds that or having success is because of that.

"We had to be on the courts real early Saturday morning to warm up. All the kids, even the ones who lost and were out of

