

Warriors regain state championship with 15-5 victory

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LACROSSE

For Brother Rice, the lacrosse state championship trophy is back home where it belongs.

The Warriors had captured three consecutive championships from 1998-1999 before Detroit Country Day upset them in last year's state-title game. However, Brother Rice regained the Class A state title Saturday with a maddening 15-5 victory over Birmingham Unified.

"We lost last year in a real close game so I think our guys were real hungry this time around. It's real satisfying and it's nice to have it back," said Brother Rice coach Rob Ambrose. "The thing is we have a great rivalry with Birmingham and all the kids know each other. They have a good program and that intensifies things."

The teams played each other in early May and Brother Rice dominated that match, winning 19-7. Consequently, top-ranked Rice, which had lost just once all season (in Ohio at the recent Midwest Tournament), was a heavy favorite to regain its championship.

The Warriors stormed to a 2-0 lead on goals from John Hallp and Matt Baker.

Birmingham charged right back on a pair of neatly designed Noil Lundberg goals to tie the game at 2-all. Mark Mueller scored a few minutes later to give Rice a 3-2 lead heading into the second period.

The Warriors netted four straight goals to take an 8-2 advantage and appeared ready to take command. Birmingham scored two late goals, including a

marker by Adam Kadro with one second before halftime, to make it an 8-4 game entering the second half.

But that's as close as Birmingham Unified (17-7) would get.

Rice's defense limited Birmingham to just one second-half goal, and that came with just six minutes remaining in the game. Meanwhile, Rice countered with seven goals of its own to finish with a 23-1 overall record.

"We weren't able to get the ball moving like we wanted to,"

said Seaholm coach Aaron Frank, whose team's last state championship appearance was in 1997 when it also lost to Rice.

"They're a great team. We made some mistakes and you just can't make mistakes against a team like that. I give them a lot of credit. They played so well and took advantage of our mistakes."

"We didn't have quite the intensity level we needed to have to beat a team like them. We played a really solid game (in Friday's semifinal win over

Detroit Country Day). Maybe we kind of were a little worn out. We just didn't show the fire we had (against DCD).

"We had our chances early, but in the third quarter we kind of let things slip away," he said. "They came out on fire in the second half and, for some reason, we just couldn't get it running on all cylinders today."

Besides Lundberg, who had three, and Kadro, the other Birmingham tally came from Kevin Riley.

The Warriors were led by the Mueller brothers, Mark and Matt, who combined for nine goals and three assists. Rice's other goal scorers were Jesse Just, Mark Heid, Nate Sullivan and Patrick Morrow.

"In a championship game, you never know what to expect, but we had the intensity to keep the things going through all four quarters today," Ambrose said. "We got a lot of ground balls and face-offs, and I think we kind of wore their defense down a bit."

Golf from C1

credit. They came ready to play Saturday and shot the lights out.

"We didn't play bad golf by any means. We shot decent scores."

Borowiec, who was the individual runner-up last year, was one of the prime contenders, if not the favorite, to win the title this year, but she finished in fourth place with a 160 total.

"Erin was very disappointed," Kowalski said. "She went into this meet believing she could win it and be the Division 1 champion."

"She said she had difficulty putting. She missed some putts she normally would've made. She had some first putts she didn't put as close or didn't sink."

"But she's only a junior and she has another year. She can come back and go for it all again next year."

Mercy senior Lindsey Densmore ended her career with a brilliant, two-day performance that netted her a sixth-place finish (162).

"You couldn't ask any more from a senior," Kowalski said. "She went to graduation Thursday night; they had an all-night party, and she got very little sleep."

"She comes out and shoots the best round (82) of her life and follows it up with an even better round (80) Saturday."

"That was a big surprise and helped us finish as well as we did. She was so happy and so was her dad."

Also competing for Mercy were Maureen McFawn, 95-90-185; Katie Dinmore, 90-97-187; and Latanya Foster, 101-95-196.

The individual champion was Harper Woods Regina's Amanda Pettit, who shot rounds of 78 and 78 for a 154 total.

"I have to give her all the credit," Kowalski said. "She came out at the end like our Lindsey did and played the best golf of her career."

The Marlins plan to be among the contenders for the state title next year. They lose Densmore and Foster to graduation, but Borowiec, McFawn and Dinmore will return for their senior seasons.

(Freshman) Christina Cibrario and (sophomore) Kim Warzyniec are ready to step right in there," Kowalski said. "The girls we have coming back already have a goal to win it next year."

Kowalski added the Marlins were third in the state tournament two years ago, too.

"Hopefully, there's a pattern developing here," she added.

FINAL TEAM SCORES

1. Grand Blanc, 344-328-670;
2. Traverse City Central, 332-358-690;
3. Farmington Hills Mercy, 349-342-692;
4. Livonia Churchill, 306-357-723;
5. Harper Woods Regina, 300-364-724;
6. Ann Arbor Huron, 373-358-731;
7. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 369-363-732;
8. Brighton, 378-374-752;
9. Grand Lodge, 375-370-754;
10. Rochester, 402-354-758;
11. Traverse City West, 404-368-792;
12. Midland, 414-379-793.

INDIVIDUAL TOP 30

1. Amanda Pettit, Harper Woods Regina, 78-78-154;
2. Mandi McConnell, Grand Blanc, 82-78-157;
3. Breanne Hall, East Kentwood, 78-80-158;
4. Erin Densmore, Farmington Hills Mercy, 78-81-160;
5. Noal Gilroy, Grand Blanc, 83-78-161;
6. Lindsey Densmore, Farmington Hills Mercy, 82-80-162;
7. Cici Christie, Rochester Hills, 82-81-164;
8. Christy Jonkhoff, Traverse City Central, 78-88-166;
9. Lacey Wickesall, Traverse City Central, 83-85-168;
10. Courtney Hancock, Brighton, 85-84-169;
10. Lauren Hawthorne, 88-81-169.

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