

Warriors win 4th title in row Raiders battle with state's best

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Birmingham Brother Rice utilized its powerful singles lineup to earn a share of the Division I boys tennis title at the Midland Community Tennis Center.

It marked Rice's fourth consecutive state crown, although this is the first time the Warriors had to share the honor.

The Warriors won three of the four singles flights and scored 27 points, tying Ann Arbor Pioneer for the overall title. Detroit Catholic Central was third with 23 and Okemos, last year's Division II champ which moved up this spring, was fourth with 22.

"It was a very competitive, dramatic atmosphere up there," Rice coach Steve Herdiza said. "We knew we had to win our last three (finals) matches to tie the Pioneer, and we were able to do that."

"Any time you win a state title, whether you win or tie, is a good day. We were two points down going into the final day, so tying was a good outcome for us."

Undefeated senior David Lynn led the Warriors by winning his second consecutive No. 1 singles championship.

In a rematch of last year's final, Lynn scored a 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-3 victory over Andy Formanecyk of Rochester Adams. They also waged a three-set war last season with Lynn winning, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Sophomore Matt Christian claimed his second consecutive state title. He went in this year as the top seed at No. 2 singles and registered an easy victory over Saline's Chris Dilks to win the title and cap an undefeated season. Christian won the No. 3 championship last year.

Rice's No. 4 singles star, senior Jeff Carrico of Farmington Hills, improved a spot from last year. He was second last year after losing a three-set match to Billy Walsh of CC.

While Walsh moved up this year and captured the No. 3 crown, Carrico stayed at No. 4 and earned the title with a three-set victory over Tim Hubbard of Ann Arbor Huron, 6-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Rice senior Justin Smith was

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seeded second at No. 3 singles and was upset in the semifinals by Mike Merz of Midland Dow, 1-6, 4-6.

Rice's top doubles performance came at the Nos. 2 and 4 flights where the teams of Bryan Karazis and Charlie Duerr (No. 2) and Sean Haley and Rob Figueroa (No. 4) lost in the semis.

"Singles has been our strength all year, but every flight on the team scored at least one point for us; so they all contributed," Herdiza said.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL TENNIS: The Shamrock finished third in the finals with 23 points, just behind Ann Arbor Pioneer and Birmingham Brother Rice, which tied for first with 27 points.

CC's Billy Walsh, last year's winner at No. 3, and Mark Flezer and David Atallah (Farmington Hills) earned a win at No. 1 doubles.

"I thought it was a pretty good weekend overall," CC coach Philip Eagleson said. "My guys came but and played pretty well."

"There was a lot of good competition and, heading into Saturday, we had a chance to win it, depending on who best who."

To Eagleson's dismay, the poor weather forced the tournament to be held indoors, something he thought might have worked

against the Shamrocks.

"They say weather is a great equalizer," Eagleson said. "We play outdoors all season, and it's a whole new ballgame inside."

Still, CC had a shot going into the final day.

"We had five flights alive; Rice had six and Pioneer seven," Eagleson said. "We had enough flights where we were playing Pioneer that we could stop them from getting points. We had a shot."

Walsh, seeded first at No. 3, cruised through the first two rounds and stopped Mark Reading-Smith of Pioneer in the semis, 6-3, 6-4, before beating Mike Merz of Midland Dow in the finals, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

"Billy came into states with quite a bit of will and really wanted to win this thing," Eagleson said. "It was amazing to see a sophomore so focused on winning. He played spectacular from start to finish."

Flezer and Atallah capped the day by beating Richard Marsh and John Fodell of Grassie Pointe South in the finals, 6-2, 6-2.

Those guys told me all year they were going to take the states and they wanted this, from the beginning of the season to the end," Eagleson said.

They did what they said they were going to do. They came in with two losses and averaged one of those during the weekend."

Ian McHenry and Nick Gonzales were second at No. 4 doubles. Matt Roe and Steve Doot were eliminated in the semis at No. 2 doubles, and Eric Tomlewicz and Paul Switz also bowed out in the semis at No. 3 doubles.

Mike Wagner lost in the quarterfinals at No. 4 singles and Mike Tindling in the second round at No. 1 singles.

North Farmington ended the boys tennis season with its third consecutive top-10 finish in the Division II state tournament Saturday at Kalamazoo.

The Raiders, who were fourth last year and second two years ago, tied with Birmingham Groves and Muskegon Mona Shores for seventh place with 13 points apiece.

"I think we did a pretty good job," North coach Mark Shenton said. "We wouldn't like to finish a bit higher, but when you're in the top 10 you really can't complain."

"We had some tough draws at a lot of flights, but overall our kids played very well."

The Raiders were beaten by either the eventual state champion or runner-up at every flight.

North had two semifinalists — senior Chris Copeland and junior Rob Frankel at Nos. 2 and 4 singles, respectively.

Copeland (25-3) upset the No. 3 seed in his second match before losing to top-seeded Mike Jeon of team champion Portage Central.

"Chris had an amazing season; he really stepped it up," Shenton said. "He was in a tough position, but he rose to the challenge."

He not only moved up (from

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No. 3 singles) but won everything from the conference to the regional and made it to the state semifinals.

Frankel had his best tournament of the year, according to Shenton. He topped the No. 1 seed, Dan LaRose, before losing to the eventual champion, Trevor Domlov.

"Because they were playing indoors, No. 4 singles was sent to Battle Creek," Shenton said. "Frankel went through his first three matches without coaching."

"The whole team had been telling Robbie he had the potential to make a run to the state finals. He has to be very happy with making it to the semis."

The only flight North was seeded was No. 1 doubles. Greg Boothroyd and Steve Jaffe won their first match but lost to the eventual champs from Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

"They ran into a very tough Lahser team, and Lahser was playing near-perfect tennis in that match," Shenton said. "There wasn't much they could do, so you have to give Lahser a lot of credit."

Dan Carlson and Dan Levy lost an extremely close match at No. 2 doubles to Portage Central, which went on to win the state title, 7-6 (7-6), 7-5. It was only

the second loss for the Raiders.

"We gave (Portage) the closest run of anybody," Shenton said. "That's evidence of how strong our No. 2 doubles were, and it's too bad they couldn't be meeting that team in the finals."

NORTH FARMINGTON RESULTS

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No. 1 singles: Jay Sherman defeated Jay Huerta (Lahser) in the first round, 6-0, 6-2; lost to No. 3 seed and eventual champion Eric Hodgman (Kalamazoo Layton) in the second round, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

No. 2 singles: Chris Copeland defeated Henry Delaney (Bloomfield Hills Lahser) in the first round, 6-0, 6-0; def. No. 3 seed and eventual champion Mike Jeon (Portage Central) in the semifinals, 6-3, 6-0.

No. 3 singles: Anne Zalkow defeated Brandon Sui (Grassie Pointe North) in the first round, 6-2, 6-4; lost to No. 2 seed and eventual runner-up Kyle Rausch (Lahser) in the second round, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

No. 4 singles: Rob Frankel defeated Ryan Smith (Bloomfield Hills Lahser) in the first round, 7-6 (6), 6-2; def. Jon Decker (Dearborn) in the second round, 6-0, 6-0; def. No. 1 seed and eventual champion Trevor Domlov (Portage Central) in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 6-2; lost to No. 5 seed and eventual champion Timor Domlov (Portage Central) in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-1.

No. 5 singles: No. 2 seed and eventual runner-up Steve Jaffe (Bloomfield Hills Lahser) in the first round, 7-6 (6), 6-2; lost to No. 1 seed and eventual champion Nick Wagner (Dearborn) in the quarterfinals, 6-1, 6-1.

No. 2 doubles: Dan Carlson-Dan Levy defeated Nick Rausch-Bartel (Farmington Hills Lahser) in the first round, 6-2, 6-2; lost to No. 1 seed and eventual champions Jon Wiscinski-Scott Hury (Portage Central) in the second round, 7-6 (6), 7-5.

No. 3 doubles: Scott Blomquist-Liam Gilg defeated first-round bye, def. Yong Yung-Jeff Many (Lansing Western) in the second round by default; lost to No. 2 seed and eventual state runners-up Brandon Lavey-Tyler Anderson (Farmington Hills Lahser) in the quarterfinals, 6-3, 7-6.

No. 4 doubles: Alex Tawer-Andrew Dallas (Dearborn) lost to unseeded but eventual state champions Jeff Rowe-Art Deering (Farmington Hills Lahser) in the second round, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

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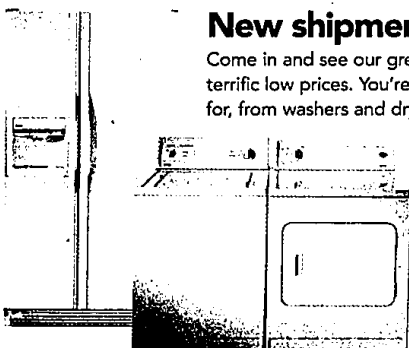
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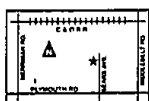
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