

# Birmingham Unified claims 1st boys state crown

BY MARTY BUDNER  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Unified's boys lacrosse squad made history Saturday afternoon.

The Bulldogs defeated Birmingham Brother Rice, 11-10, at the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood oval in front of a large crowd to claim the Class A state championship.

It is not only the first state title for the Birmingham Unified boys lacrosse team, but also marks the first state championship for a public school-based team in the Michigan Scholastic Lacrosse Association's top division since it began sponsoring state tournaments back in 1980. "This was our third time playing at that oval (in a state title game) and, in our previous two games, we walked away as runners-up," said Birmingham Unified coach Aaron Frank. "This year we walked away with the trophy and that was terrific."

"This is something I've dreamed about for a long time."

## LACROSSE

When I started this program in 1990 I had visions of us reaching this level. I've pictured holding that state championship trophy up a thousand times in my mind over the past 13 years.

"To see that happen is really amazing. I'm really happy for all these guys," he said. "There were high expectations this season and it was just an awesome ending."

Birmingham split with arch rival Brother Rice in their two previous meetings this season. The Bulldogs defeated the Warriors in a regular-season game, but the Warriors later rebounded to defeat Birmingham for the prestigious Midwest Lacrosse Association crown in Ohio.

They were the state's top two teams all season and were destined to meet in the MSLA championship game.

Brother Rice, the two-time

defending state champions, qualified for the finals with a victory over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood. Top-seeded Birmingham Unified advanced to the championship match with a triumph over Novi.

Birmingham threatened to make the state championship game a rout, taking a 5-1 lead after the opening 12 minutes, an 8-1 halftime lead and a 10-2 advantage after three quarters.

The Warriors, however, staged an eight-goal fourth-quarter rally - many of them with a man advantage - to make the final score respectable.

"When we beat (Birmingham) for the Midwest title, we were able to control the tempo of the game and we played good defense against them," said Brother Rice coach Rob Ambrose, whose team finished with a 20-4 overall record. "We knew (coming into the state title game) they'd be looking for revenge and we knew it would be a tough game for us."

"We let this game get away

from us. We got on a roll in the second half, but it was a little bit too late," he said. "But Birmingham is a good team with a lot of seniors and they deserved to win."

Senior Adam Kadro, the game's offensive most valuable player, led Birmingham with four goals and three assists. Ryan Connery and Kevin Demorest each scored twice and Brandon Moore, Jim Constantine and Paul Tranhan netted one

goal apiece.

Birmingham goalie Ryan Demorest made 14 saves and was named the game's defensive most valuable player.

"There were two keys for us," said Frank, whose team's 23 victories tied a record for most wins in one season by a Michigan Scholastic Lacrosse Association team.

"Ryan Demorest was unbelievable. Rice had some good opportunities and some point-blank

shots that Ryan had no business stopping - and he did. Plus Adam Kadro was the quarterback of our offense and he really set the pace for us. He played with tremendous character. "Brother Rice is a good team and a team like that is not going to quit," he said. "They fought 48 minutes and got into rhythm. Fortunately, the clock was one our side."

And so is the 2002 state championship trophy.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### OCC SPONSORS HOOP CAMP

The Oakland Community College women's basketball team will have a basketball camp for kids in the third through eighth grades 5-8 p.m. Monday, June 17, through Thursday, June 20, at the Highland Lakes Campus.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per person. Each camper will receive a T-shirt for attending the camp, which will be run by OCC women's head coach Mary Allen and assistant coach Christine Nordstrom.

For more information or to receive an entry form call (248) 942-3179 or (248) 942-3170.

### CIVIL VILLEYBALL CAMPS

Livonia Clarenceville coach Aliena Love is offering two sessions of summer volleyball camps for incoming grades 5-12 from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, June 17-21, at Clarenceville (cost \$50); and July 15-19, at Beechwoods in Southfield (cost \$90).

Clarenceville will also be hosting a high school volleyball league for girls in incoming grades 9-12 the week of June 24 through Aug. 4 (with an addi-

tional playoff week).

The cost is \$250 per team (eight players per team).

For more information on either the camps or the league, call (248) 672-8926.

### FINIA REGISTERING PLAYERS

Farmington Hills Hockey Association is accepting registrations for new players for the 2002-2003 fall/winter season. Registration forms are available at the information desk at Farmington Hills Ice Arena on Eight Mile Road. For more information call (248) 478-8193.

### SCHOOLCRAFT HOOP CAMP

Schoolcraft coach Carlos Briggs and assistant Steve Norgrove will conduct a boys basketball instructional camp for boys in incoming grades 1-12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 5-9, at the school's gym. The cost is \$125 per person.

For more information, call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5254.

### STINGRAY SWIM SIGNUP

The Farmington Family YMCA Stingray swim team is registering swimmers for its summer long course season, a

competitive swim program that runs through Thursday, Aug. 1.

Team participation is open to anyone between the ages of 6 and 18. Participants are required to be a YMCA member.

Depending on ability, participants will swim either at the YMCA or local high school pools. After June 12, swimmers in the two higher-level groups will swim at an outdoor 50-meter pool.

For more information, call Cathy Warnick at (248) 563-0276 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

### CHAMBER GOLF OUTING

The 2002 Chamber Golf Classic, sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, will be Wednesday, June 19, at the Links of Novi.

The fee is \$160 per golfer or \$45 for dinner only. Registration is at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Checks should be payable to F/FH Chamber of Commerce and mailed to 30903-B West 10 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336. Call (248) 474-3440.

This is an open letter to all Bill Knapp's Guests

## Bill Knapp's

June 2, 2002

To Our Valued Guests (open letter #4)  
We at Bill Knapp's want to thank you. The support we have received from our guests continues to be incredible, as we work to rebuild Bill Knapp's to be the restaurant you fondly remember. We've worked hard to improve the Decor and Atmosphere by making it more traditional with other background music... the Quality of our food (from recipe to presentation)... and the Menu with the return of 21 traditional favorites including recent additions of Stuffed Cantaloupe, Bill's Original Chicken Salad, Jumbo Shrimp and Tenderloin Steak.  
Part of our renewed commitment is to guest service including open communication - listening to what you want from Bill Knapp's and letting you know what's going on with us. I want to give you my personal assurance that our goal is for Bill Knapp's to continue to be a future in Michigan and Ohio for many years to come. While we still have work to do, business in our Bill Knapp's restaurants has been quite good since we began making the improvements this past fall. We're busier, and our guests are happier. Here are some of the comments I've received from guests over the last 7 months:  
• "Thanks for bringing back the Bill Knapp's I remember. I was in the restaurant the other day and it was so good to see that the place was packed and there was a line to get in!"  
• "I remember ordering the 'Lion' for my dinner when I was a kid, so glad you brought the animal names back..."  
• "The whole experience was worth the money spent - our time spent together as a family was much more enjoyable without the distraction of a TV..."  
• "I want to commend you for listening to the wishes of your patrons - this is the first time I've ever seen a large corporation actually listen to what they have said..."  
• "The tenders were better than we remembered..."  
• "Although my kids liked the activities in the waiting area - I didn't... I like a more sedate and peaceful dining atmosphere than you get everywhere else..."  
• "Thank you - you not only realized that the change of course made by Bill Knapp's... may not have had the effects hoped for - but listened to those of us who let you know our feelings..."  
• "I'm delighted to see that you realized your unique niche and are playing to your strengths..."  
• "And probably the most telling comment: 'It's like going home.'"  
I want to restate our commitment to you that we will continue to listen and work hard to be your favorite family restaurant. On behalf of the Bill Knapp's family of guests and employees, please accept my personal invitation to visit us soon to reacquaint yourself with the tradition that is Bill Knapp's. Present this letter to your server before July 7, 2002 at our locations in Dearborn on Greenfield, Livonia at 6 mile or Plymouth Rd., Southgate on Northline, Woodhaven at King and Allen or Farmington Hills on Grand River and receive 20% off your guest check.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Brown

Jamie Brown, President and CEO

For comments or suggestions contact me at (616) 964-5306 or email at jamie.brown@billknapps.com.

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