

Warriors look to hit war path on diamond

By MICHAEL KERN
After highly successful football and basketball seasons at Birmingham Brother Rice, the school's baseball team has some tough acts to follow.

It's those type of challenges, however, that seem to really turn on Brother Rice's coach, Al Fracassa. Starting his 16th year as baseball coach, Fracassa is confident his team can repeat as Central Division champion of the Catholic League.

This year's squad features a well-balanced blend of experi-

ence—five seniors, five juniors, five sophomores, and one freshman. The lone freshman to make the team is Tim Scheerer, a backup shortstop.

LAST SEASON'S freshman sensation, Mike Cullen, is returning to Brother Rice's coach. A centerfielder with excellent speed, Cullen stepped right into a starting role last year and hit .333.

Joining Cullen in Brother Rice's outfield will be senior John Dallo. Born in Baghdad, Iraq, Dallo is

referred to by Fracassa as "a good hitter and great hustler who provides team leadership."

Senior Tim Riley will hold down the other outfield spot with junior Tom Lewandowski available as a reserve. While the outfield looks to be pretty solid, Brother Rice could encounter some problems on the mound.

WHEN BROTHER Rice won the Central Division with a 7-3 record last year, the team was carried by two all-league pitchers who have since graduated.

The question of pitching will be answered this season by senior Bob Grant, sophomore Mark Kochanski, junior Tim Seagraves, and Mike Brielmaier, a senior who also played football and basketball for Brother Rice.

Seagraves will also be assuming the other end of the battery combination by sharing the catcher's job with sophomore Tom Henry. The rest of the Brother Rice infield is short on experience, but long on defensive flair, according to Fracassa.

JUNIOR SHORTSTOP Bob Cleary will return as the only infielder with varsity experience. Promoted from last year's junior varsity team are two starters—sophomore first sacker Larry Clarke and senior second baseman Shawn McGowan.

Sophomore Bob Menzies will back up McGowan at second base while juniors Rance Aguirre and Scott Rucarean are currently dividing time at third base.

"Our strength will be our defense," said Fracassa. "If we can come up with a pitching staff, we'll be alright."

FRACASSA HAS earned a reputation at Brother Rice for being a stern taskmaster whose football and baseball teams are consistent winners in Catholic League competition.

"I consider attitude, intensity, and ability, in that order, when I choose a squad," he explained.

"I like the attitude of this year's team," he continued. "At this point, we compare favorably to Brother Rice teams of the past. It's been a very easy team to coach."

"THE BOYS know they must work hard and sacrifice. Quite often, it's the team with a good attitude that can win over a team with equal or even better talent," he added.

"I hope we have that kind of team."

All-League squads come in volleyball

Accentuating their steady growth, girls varsity sports reached still another plateau last week.

That's when Wayne-Oakland League (WOL) volleyball coaches picked their premiere All-League and All-Oakland County teams.

Coaches represented WOL champion Bloomfield Hills Andover, West Bloomfield, Clarkston, Waterford Kettering, Milford and Livonia Clarencville.

All-County picks were:

- First team—Cheryl Stickley (Clarkston).
- Second team—Sue Brennan (Clarkston).
- Alternate team—Paula Mekus (West Bloomfield).
- Honorable mention—Nancy Foster (Clarkston).

All-League picks were:

- First team—Nancy Huff and Paula Mekus (West Bloomfield), Cheryl Stickley and Nancy Foster (Clarkston), Robin Merbitzer (Milford), Sue Brennan (Clarkston).

- Second team—Carol Zahnow (Andover), Kathy Horrigan (West Bloomfield), Debi Allen and Deborah Hall (Kettering), Kathy Higgins and Jean Wyss (Clarkston).

- Honorable mention—Delores Joque and Steve Waalkes (Andover), Jennie Redner (West Bloomfield), Jane Church and Dede Miller (Clarkston), Kathy Campbell (Kettering), Karla Crabb (Milford), Patty Meyerelles (Clarkston).

At Country Day

Lacrosse season set

By JIM BOCHENEK
What sport has 10 men to a side, free substitution, plastic heads on the players' wooden sticks and is played on a field 110 yards long and 60 yards wide?

No, it's not Canadian football but rather lacrosse. Lacrosse, once an athletic event usually reserved for the exclusive colleges on the Eastern Seaboard, is now making an appearance in Michigan.

Detroit Country Day in Beverly Hills was one of the original innovators of lacrosse in this state but now other area high schools also are beginning to field squads. Country Day Coach Gene Reilly, himself a former eastern collegiate coach, is looking forward to the continued progress of the sport.

"LACROSSE is definitely the coming sport in the country," said Reilly. "It's becoming popular because people are beginning to see that it is a combination of football, soccer and basketball and there are really no player size limitations."

Reilly also said lacrosse is the only spring sport that offers contact. Thus, many high school football and soccer players come out for lacrosse in order to stay in shape. Lately, a lot of these players have found that lacrosse is more than a means of conditioning.

The sport certainly is growing. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook is fielding a varsity squad for the first time this year as are Bloomfield Hills Andover and Grosse Pointe University-Liggett.

COUNTRY DAY once again will be competing in the Midwest Scholastic Lacrosse League. The loop has been in existence for three years and consists of L'Anse au Lac, Mount Clemens and Cranbrook in Michigan.

Worthington and Western Reserve High in Ohio and Shady Side Academy in Pennsylvania.

The Yellow Jackets placed second and third, respectively, the last two years and once again looms as a strong challenger for 1974.

"Country Day is a very small school so we don't have many kids to choose from to make up a team," said Reilly. "Some schools have 45 or 50 kids come out for their teams. We don't have that many people."

THE YELLOW Jackets will be led this year by its co-captains, senior goalie Mike Bucci and junior midfielder Marty Letts.

Bucci was credited with two shutouts last season and was chosen to the first-team, all-league squad.

Country Day's scoring load will, for the most part, be shared by the squad's two leading 1973 scorers, senior attackmen Jeff Hilbard and John Van Antwerp.

Other veteran scorers coming back this year include midfielders Andy Conway, a junior, and Scott Burns, a senior, plus attackmen Mike Young, a senior, Kent Burns, a junior, and Mark Wilson, a sophomore.

ONE OF the impressive newcomers out for this year's squad is senior Tom Constand. Constand played on the Country Day varsity football team last autumn and is expected to add muscle to the Yellow Jackets defense.

The defense will have only one returning letterman, junior Burt McCandless, so the help given to the backline by Constand will be needed.

Reilly, besides his duties as lacrosse coach, is the athletic director and head football coach at Country Day. He coached varsity lacrosse at Wesleyan College for three years before arriving in Michigan.

"Lacrosse is a great game for kids but it does have a few problems that have to be straightened out if the sport is to grow even more," Reilly noted.

"COST is one factor that has to be considered," Reilly said. "At our school each player has to pay for his own stick at a cost of about \$20. The plastic head of the stick should last for a very long time though the wood shaft may have to be replaced from time to time."

Reilly also pointed out that the cost

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