

Rice gridders to use wishbone

By TOM SCHRAM
With a five game winning streak, a college styled offense and a coach who describes himself as "a very happy man" Brother Rice High School has every reason to expect another winning football season this year.

And the 14 returning lettermen won't hurt either.
Bother Rice started last year with what was touted to be one of the finest prep teams in the area. Then they went out and dropped their first three games relegating any thoughts of championships to teams quicker out of the gate.
Head coach Al Fracassa believes that the team was ready last year but "we ran into a forty-one yard field goal to lose one game and we played two better teams in Divine Child and Catholic Central in the other two."

A SUDDEN turnabout resulting in the five game winning strak which the Warriors will carry into this season brought about cries of "wait 'till next year."

Next year is here for Brother Rice and, according to Fracassa who has coached more than one championship team in his 15 years as a head coach, there is the potential for this to be a very good year on the gridiron.
"At this time we have the makings of a very good football team. We should do all right barring injuries. We lack real depth," Fracassa said.

The success of the team will be determined by the play of the offensive backfield, headed up by veterans Ted Fox, Jim Lewis, Mike Cullen and Dan Hendrix and by the consistency of the line which will be anchored by 6-foot-4, 210-pound Kevin Hart.

THE NEW WRINKLE in the offense will be the installation of the wishbone, a top-level college offense which is not as popular at high school levels because of the complicated maneuvers necessary for successful operation and the fact that most prep squads lack the number of talented personnel to make the formation work.

The wishbone is four-option offense in which the quarterback may either hand off to the fullback, pitch-out to a trailing halfback, fake the pitch-out and run himself or pass, depending on the reactions of the defense in each situation.

All of which is a lot to ask of junior quarterback Hendrix, who will pilot the team. But Fracassa insists that Hendrix "capable of doing the job."

"The wishbone is a great offense but you just have to have the personnel to handle it. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who doesn't have the personnel," said Fracassa, who says he believes in fitting the system to the players rather than the other way around.

"I believe in letting the personnel dictate the system," he said.

THE WARRIORS will open up this year at Bay City Central. Fracassa approved of the northern opponents as a way to test the Catholic League as a whole.

"Many of the Catholic League teams will play at least one of their non-league games against outstate opponents and I think that it's great. This is a tough league and I think that other teams want to play us as much as we want to play them," he said.

According to Fracassa, Traverse City and Alpena will be other opponents for Catholic League teams this year. Brother Rice scouted Bay City Central for one game last year and exchanged films with them in preparation of their Sept. 13 meeting.

Fracassa said that he respects every opponent in the Central Division League play this year and he thinks it might be a tight race to the championship.

FRACASSA was especially wary of defending champion Catholic Central, Notre Dame and De La Salle.

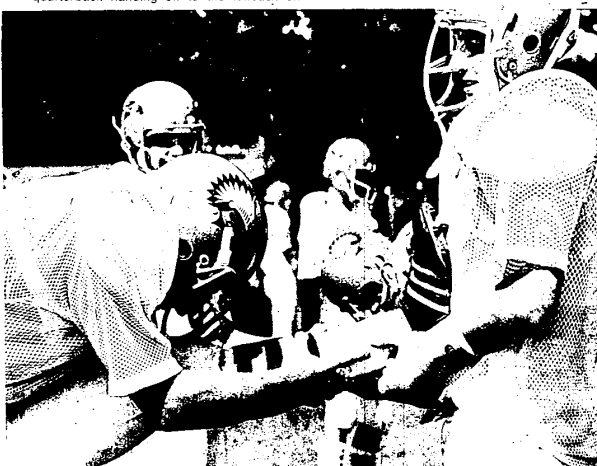
"But I expect that everyone will be good. Many great players have come out of this league," he said.

Besides speed and balance, which he listed as assets, Fracassa said that this year's team was outstanding because of its attitude.

"This team has an excellent attitude. It's up to par with any team I've ever coached. Motivation is perhaps 90 percent of this game and this year.



The wishbone's first option involves the quarterback handing off to the fullback off tackle. (Photographed by Douglas Bauman)



Stretching leg muscles early in the season is an important part of training. (Photographed by Douglas Bauman)

Birmingham open swims

The Birmingham Added Education Association has announced that open swims will begin at area pools on Tuesday, Sept. 3.
Derby Junior High will be the site, of the open swim on Tuesdays with other sites and days being West Maple on Wednesday, Groves on Thursdays and Seaholm on Mondays.
Admission to the swims will be 60 cents for adults and 35 cents for children. More information is available by calling 644-9300 ext. 255.

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Junior team has tryouts

Tryouts for the Birmingham Hockey Association's Junior "C" travel team will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 10 and 11.
Registration for the 17-25-year-olds who wish to try out for the team will be held each day at 8 p.m. at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena, 2100 E. Lincoln in Birmingham.
Tryouts will be held both days at 9 p.m.

The association's Bantam and Midget travel team tryouts will be held 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 3 and 4, with registration scheduled at 6 p.m. at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena.

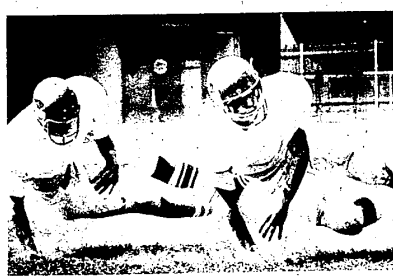
team seems to have that great motivation," he said.

"It is the ability to work with young people who are instilled with desire and motivation that makes Fracassa a happy man."

"I'VE BEEN COACHING football for eighteen years. Three years as an assistant and 15 years as head coach.

And the night before our first practice this year I couldn't sleep. If I ever lose that kind of enthusiasm, I'll get out of coaching right away," he said.

For the Brother Rice Warriors, it will take all the enthusiasm they can muster, plus a lot of talent and hard work and a modicum of luck if they are to come out on top of the Catholic League's tough Central Division this year.



Kevin Hart (left) and Ted Fox go through grass drills with the line. (Photographed by Douglas Bauman)

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Non-violent hockey league

A men's slo-puck hockey league, dedicated to the elimination of punching, hacking, broken teeth and general over-all blood-letting" is being formed in Bloomfield Hills.
The league will prohibit slap shots and checking in their effort to achieve more sane approach to the sport of hockey.
The Bloomfield Expo ice arena will be the site of the games. Interested area residents are asked to call 264-0024 for further information.

Insurance FACTS

by Robert H. Bergstrom, CPCU

The first nation to include health insurance in a program of social insurance was Germany, which under Bismarck 1883 took advantage of growing German sentiment, to make a health insurance compulsory, supported by a state subsidy. Austria and Hungary followed Germany's lead before the turn of the century. Norway, Great Britain and Russia, were next to the bandwagon of national health insurance. Social security is our nearest thing to a national health insurance plan.

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