

Rice looks to repeat

(This is the first in a series of articles which will preview the area basketball teams for the 1974-75 season.)

By RON HINGST

They don't know what hustle is until they've played Brother Rice—taken from the list of goals of the '74-'75 Warrior basketball team.

One of the toughest things about winning in sports is to keep on winning, and Rice coach Bill Norton is faced with that paradox.

"Of course, we are going to try and win the championship again," Norton said. "But I want this year's team to seek its own identity."

LAST SPRING, the Warriors realized a dream of every prep basketball squad—a state championship.

"This year is the most difficult time I have ever had in selecting a team," Norton said. "It has caused me a lot of mental turmoil. I've got 21 ball players with varsity ability and only 15 uniforms to hand out."

"We'd like to keep winning, but we have lots of unanswered question marks," he said. "Last year at this time I could tell you my starting team. This year that is not the case."

Graduation eliminated 10 players from Norton's championship team of last year.

FOR EXAMPLE, Norton said, the second, third, fourth and fifth guards last year were all seniors.

Dave Washington has returned for a backcourt spot at 5-foot-10—three inches taller than last year.

K.C. Ryan, a leading contender for a guard position, suffered a broken hand late in football season, and he is expected to be sidelined at least four weeks.

Norton said other contenders for a guard position include Don Hendricks, Tom Hebert, Jerry Dietz.

UP FRONT the Warriors will be centered by 6-foot-8 Will Franklin with Kevin Hart and Curtis Griffin at the forwards. But injuries to Hart (knee sprain) and Griffin (shoulder sprain) will hamper their efforts in the early games.

Juniors Tom Henry, Keith MacGudwin, Tom Hunter and Dan Peters will make strong bids at forward," Norton said.

According to the 11-year veteran Rice coach, Dietz and Mark Kochanski will backup Franklin; sophomores Kevin Smith and Tim Scheerer could play varsity or with the reserves, and Dan Maclean, Bill Matkin and Joe Bosse are other contenders for a place on the roster.

Another prospect is six-foot-eight freshman Kevin Threlloff who Norton termed the "Warriors center of the future."

Of the group, Hendricks could be the sleeper.

THE SIX-FOOT-TWO junior has outstanding athletic potential, Norton said, but he has been plagued by an assortment of injuries and illnesses during his prep career.

Playing basketball at Brother Rice minimizes an individual's effort towards personal stardom and glory.

"We'll have eight or nine guys who will play every ball game," Norton said. "The game's leading scorer will be the guy that's in the open to shoot. We do not feature superstars."

"You win ball games with a balance attack," he added.

Before the season started Norton developed the thoughts of his players into a list of goals for this year's team which pretty much describes the Warriors' philosophy.

THE LIST INCLUDED:

1. We'll play anybody, anytime, anywhere and expect to win.
2. Hard work is the basis of success.
3. The team comes first.
4. There is no indispensable man on the team.
5. They don't know what hustle is...

NORTON ADMITTED he will find out the strength of his current team early in the schedule.

The Warriors will play Chadsey, U. of D. High, Mumford and Catholic Central in the initial four contests this year, and Norton rated each high on the list of outstanding teams.

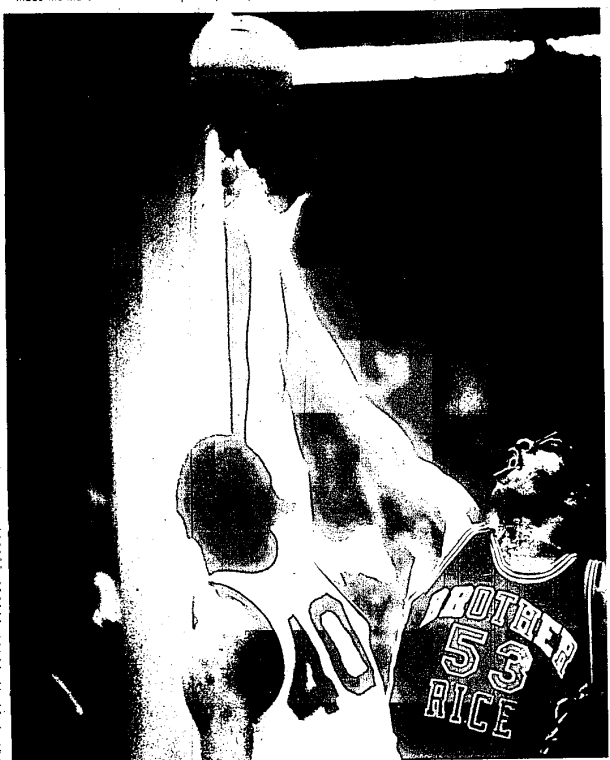
"If we have good basketball players and we feel we should play the best," he said.

Norton also labeled Cass Tech High, Berkley, Highland Park and Pontiac Central as legitimate contenders for the State Title.



It was sweet victory for Rice coach Bill Norton and his Warriors last year. But the nucleus of that team which made the march run to the championship has graduated.

By DOUG BACMAN, Staff Photographer



Warrior center Will Franklin, Number 53, returns the Rice lineup this year at six-foot-eight. The senior was selected to an all-state berth in one poll last year, and a similar performance is expected from him this season.

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Lady Wings win first

The Spartan mini-Wings of the Michigan-Ontario Ladies hockey League got their season off on the right foot Sunday with a 2-0 victory over Point Edward (Ont.).

All scoring in the game was confined to the last four minutes of play.

After two scoreless periods, Pam Cable jammed the puck into the left side of the net with four minutes remaining to give the mini-Wings their margin of victory and Pam Gambino scored into an open net in the final minute of play to ice the victory.

Net minder Sue Warner was perfect throughout, stopping 13 shots on goal.

The mini Wings, who are sponsored by the Spartan Sports shop of Troy, will go at it again next Sunday when they host London (Ont.) at Fraser Arena.



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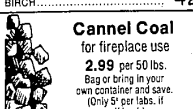
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