

Rice's Norton named Coach of the Year

By DAVID SAUNDERS

Bill Norton, Brother Rice basketball coach, goes into every game believing

his team will win. That attitude spilled over to the players. Norton characterizes his team as one that possessed quickness

and good outside shooting. They make up their lack of physical strength with their skill, awareness and overall intelligence.

Most of all, though, it's the desire to win.

"We never feel like we're the underdog. We prepare to win. The team is typified by its will to win. We expect to win all year long," says Norton.

They did just that. Norton guided his team to the State Class A Championships where they eventually lost

in overtime to Lansing Everett. The Warriors wound up 24-4.

Rice went into its last three games as the underdog. All three opponents were rated higher than Rice in the state.

NORTON is a coach with praise, emotion and discipline for his team.

"The greatest source of satisfaction came from the tremendous improvement of so many individuals," says Norton.

Speaking on his loss to Everett in the state championship game he says,

"We lost during greatly. We could never be cast among the timid. We have every reason to be as proud as if we won, and we do."

Norton has been coaching at Brother Rice for 13 years. In that time, he's had a state runner-up and a state championship team. His 1974 team beat Cass Tech in the finals, 60-56. He is a graduate of the University of Detroit.

"You have to be lucky to get as far

as we did, and if you define luck as we do, as what happens when preparation meets opportunity, we certainly will be prepared next year, and hopefully we'll get the opportunity."

For his coaching achievements, Norton has been selected Observer & Eccentric coach of the year for 1977. He was voted coach of the year during a meeting of area coaches, who also picked the 1977 Observer & Eccentric all-area basketball team.

Honorable Mention players listed

Following is a list of the players chosen for honorable mention status on the 1977 Observer & Eccentric All-Area basketball team.

Rick Milhizer, Farmington; Tim Moore, Andover; Kevin Kowalski, West Bloomfield; Paul Butkunas, Farmington; Harrison, Mike G. Troy, North Farmington; Scott Parks, Rochester Adams; Bob Finnell, Farm-

ington; Mike Gass, West Bloomfield; Mark Hayden, Brother Rice; John Perless, Andover; Brian Schurr, Troy; Preston Swigart, Avondale.

Scott Osters, Seaholm; Paul Wilke, Southfield; Mark Martin, Rochester; Brian Burgess, Brother Rice; Eric Feldman, Andover; Mark Marango, reia, North Farmington; Scott Parks, Rochester Adams; Bill Barclay, Southfield Christian.

Franklin wins

FRANKLIN RACQUET CLUB trounced Royal Oak Racquet Club, 2-0, in a Metro Tennis League match Saturday at Franklin.

Royal Oak players won only three of 24 matches, two in the men's singles and one in the men's doubles play.

The Racquet Clubs will have an open match with Rochester, April 17, at Rochester. Franklin resumes Metro Tennis League play, April 23, when the club plays host to Centaur Farms Racquet Club.

There will be a men's doubles tournament, 8 p.m., April 16 at the Franklin Racquet Club.

open women's tournament. That event will include singles and doubles play May 9-11.

Triple twister

Like lightning, tornadoes are not supposed to strike twice in the same place. But don't count on it. Oklahoma City was struck 26 times between 1892 and 1972, and the hapless town of Codell, Kan., was struck on May 29 three years in a row—1916, 1917 and 1918.

COURT HOUSE Tennis and Racquet Club will kick off a series of six tournaments, five of which are sanctioned by the United States Tennis Association, April 8-10 with a boys and girls 16 and under event for singles and doubles.

Those boys and girls 18 and under get their chance at a singles and doubles tournament April 15-17.

Two tournaments will be held April 21-24. This will include singles and doubles for boys and girls in the 10 and under and 12 and under divisions.

Boys and girls 14 and under may enter the singles and doubles play April 28 through May 1. Following that, an open men's tournament for those 35 and under and 45 and under will include singles and doubles play and be held May 6-8.

The only event not sanctioned is the

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