

Brother Rice controversy sizzles

The information for these stories was compiled by Oakland County sports editors Tom Baer, Marty Budner and Dennis O'Connor. The stories were written by Budner and O'Connor.

Birmingham Brother Rice's winning athletic tradition has generated more frustration than admiration in recent years from Oakland County athletic directors and coaches. Most area athletic directors informally are refusing to schedule Rice in any non-league sports programs.

In the minds of area coaches, there's no doubt the Warriors are an athletic powerhouse which attract more than their share of publicity. But coaches claim this is a result of an unfair advantage — Rice, a private school, can draw student-athletes from all over the state.

In fact, many athletic directors feel all private schools have unlimited attendance boundaries, while state law restricts public schools to specific attendance boundaries.

"The sore is getting bigger and bigger, said Bloomfield Hills Athletic Director Norm Quinn. "And it's affecting more and more people. I think it's gotten to the point where you

beat your head against the wall. It gets frustrating."

THE SITUATION was exposed at a Thursday luncheon meeting of more than 50 athletic directors from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The meeting was at Dominico's in Berkley.

Although nothing substantial was decided, three major concerns were discussed:

- Should private schools operate under the same guidelines and boundary restrictions as public schools?
- How effective are current state rules in dealing with athletic transfers?

● Should the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) institute a separate state playoff for public and private schools?

Vern Norris, MHSAA's executive director, also attended the meeting to listen to concerns of area athletic directors.

"We have a responsibility (to the athletes) to provide equal competition for them," said one coach at the meeting. "We feel it has come to a point where, in our situation, we can't provide equal competition against other schools who obtain athletes from all over."

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Is it recruiting or attracting?

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— Bloomfield Hills AD Norm Quinn

Recruiting or attracting? This is another major issue in the controversy between Birmingham Brother Rice and other Oakland County public schools.

Most public school athletic directors agree that private schools aren't faced with the same attendance boundary requirements of public schools.

Brother Rice, an athletically successful private school, can draw students from beyond the metropolitan area.

Whether or not Rice "attracts" or

"recruits" student-athletes, most public school athletic directors in the tri-county area are informally boycotting Rice. They are refusing to schedule the Warriors in non-league contests as a protest against current boundary rules.

"I KNOW FOR a fact that they (the Warriors) draw from three counties, and I think 15 different school districts — now how fair is that?" asked Birmingham Groves Athletic Director Carl Penderacki.

"The thing is finally coming to a

head, and I'm glad to see it.

"It's kind of a sensitive area because we have to work together, and yet we see they are under a different set of rules," Penderacki said.

Norm Quinn, Bloomfield Hills athletic director, echoed Penderacki's concern.

"It's really an unfortunate thing," Quinn said. "You're looking at a program (at Rice) that has gotten too successful."

Southfield-Lathrup Athletic Director Darrell Harper said his "coaches are

upset about it. Obviously they (private schools) are getting the top-flight kids.

"It's the whole setup — they can draw from anywhere and we've stuck with what we have. That isn't fair.

"And, technically, they aren't breaking any rules — but it leaves a bad taste with principals, ADs and coaches.

"You always hear stories," Harper added. "But I've never had any proof of recruiting."

Penderacki had a different experience.

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BILL NORTON

Farmington Observer

Thursday, January 29, 1981

sports

Tom Baer editor/644-1101

(P1C)



Harrison's Janine Glaus competes on the balance beam against Farmington High.

Soph gymnast leads Falcons past Harrison

Sophomore Jo Smith is making a name for herself as a member of Farmington High School's girls' gymnastics team.

Last Monday, Smith won all four events to pace her team's 72-2-68-9 victory over city-rival Farmington Harrison. She won vaulting (7.60), uneven parallel bars (7.1), balance beam (6.6) and floor exercise (7.4).

"Tonight wasn't one of her better nights, but she's been doing an excellent job all season," said Marta Scharnberg, Farmington's first-year gymnastics coach.

"She's a very hard worker. We have so many beginning gymnasts on the team, and Jo is certainly an inspiration to them."

Harrison's best competitors are Janine Glaus and Kris Birs. Glaus placed second in vaulting (7.20) and third on bars (5.55), and Birs took second on bars (5.40) and floor (7.4), and had a third on beam (5.85).

Farmington's Tina Bona earned a second on beam (6.15) and a third on vaulting (6.9), and teammate Pat Berish finished third in floor (6.3).

The victory put Farmington at 3-2 this season, and Harrison fell to 1-3.

In another recent meet, Kathy Temple won four events to help North Farmington down East Lansing, 37-3-69.4. North is 4-0 this season.

Temple posted an 8.55 in vaulting, an 8.9 on bars, an 8.45 on beam and an 8.7 in floor exercise. North's Dona Kebrdie placed second in floor (8.3) and third on

bars (7.6), and teammates Alyene Wolf and Kim Edwards tied for second in vaulting (8.35).

East Lansing's top gymnast was Jackie Dickenson, who placed second on bars (8.2).

Farmington hosts Grosse Pointe North at 7 p.m. on Thursday. On the following Monday, Feb. 2, North Farmington hosts Farmington, and Harrison travels to Walled Lake Central. All meets begin at 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Farmington High raised its dual-meet wrestling record to 7-2 Tuesday by beating North Farmington (34-28) and Farmington Harrison (47-25) in the annual city meet on North's mats.

Kevin Dearth, Farmington's 98-pounder, won two matches, beating Harrison's Greg McCoy, 20-1, and pinning North's Todd Brown in 2:35. At 112 pounds, Farmington's Dave Denny pinned Harrison's Steve Timmins in 3:00 and then decisively North's Keith Kilmer, 15-4.

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Jo Smith helped Farmington beat Harrison by winning all four events. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

Hawks shock RU, 58-55

'Push came to shove'

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison tuned up for its Western Six League basketball showdown with Northville Friday by surprising a strong Redford Union club, 58-55, last Tuesday.

"Redford Union is a good team, but when push came to shove we were doing the right things," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "I think our kids are finally starting to believe that they know what to do with the basketball."

Harrison's Steve Holatz, a 6-foot-4 junior, made eight of 11 field goal attempts and hit on five of six free throws for a game-high 21 points. He's been shooting better than 68 percent from the field in recent games.

"Holatz played a fine game," Teachman said. "We're finally getting the ball where it belongs — in his hands."

Steve Shanborn, a 6-foot-4 senior center, was another Hawk standout with 10 points, eight rebounds, five steals and four assists. Goran Vasovski added 10 points for the winners.

"We won this game with good shot selections," Teachman said. "We shot 52 percent from the floor; they (RU) shot 37. Also, we made 12 of 14 from the line in the fourth quarter."

Todd Hillis scored 16 points for RU, and Jerry Burk added 14. The game was knotted at 24 at halftime, and RU took a slim (39-36) lead after three quarters. The loss was RU's fourth in eight starts this season.

Northville, which didn't play last Tuesday, comes to Harrison on Friday, and first place in the six-team Western Six League will be at stake. Both teams own 4-1 league records. Game time is 8 p.m.

NORTH FARMINGTON 60 BRIGHTON 59

Tom Renard sank a 14-foot jump shot with just nine seconds left to play to pull North Farmington past Brighton, 60-59, in non-league basketball last Tuesday. Coach Ken Dean's Raiders are 3-7 with the win.

Renard, a 6-foot-3 junior, finished with 13 points as did teammate Bill Gravin and Kevin Shaw. North took a 4-3 lead in the early going, but Brighton led by 11 (23-12) after the first quarter.

Tom Niergarth and Joe Zaborosky each scored 13 points for Brighton, which fell to 5-8 on the season.

North returns to Northwest Suburban League play on Friday with an 8 p.m. game at Livonia Franklin.

FARMINGTON 52 CHURCHILL 51

Farmington High survived a 17-6 third-quarter beating last Tuesday and overcame Livonia Churchill, 52-51, in another non-league contest. The win put coach Rich Roy's Falcons at 6-6 overall.

Farmington outscored Churchill, 19-9, in the opening quarter and led by seven (31-24) at halftime. Then came that nightmare third quarter, and the Falcons found themselves trailing, 41-37.

"We were flat and didn't move at all in that quarter," Roy said.

But Jerry Liphart, Farmington's best shooter, saved the night by scoring eight of his game-high 16 points in the final quarter, when the winners posted 15 points to Churchill's 10.

Farmington had balanced scoring with two more players in double figures. Pete Mantyla contributed 13 points, and Kevin Nichols had 10.

Chris Harvath and Scott Conrad each scored 13 points for Churchill, which has a 5-8 overall record.

Farmington hosts Livonia Stevenson on Friday. The Inter Lakes League game has an 8 p.m. start.

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