

Solving Rice dispute—a mammoth problem

TO REMEDY the public-private school athletic controversy in Oakland County, one must change two different educational-athletic philosophies.

And changing historical perspectives is a difficult task.

The current non-league scheduling boycott by public school athletic directors protesting Brother Rice's athletic dominance in recent years provides a platform to debate this volatile issue.

The controversy, as seen from the public school viewpoint, stems from a private school's unfair advantage of drawing student-athletes without regard for specific attendance boundaries.

Private schools, like Brother Rice, say they must draw from the metropolitan area to remain financially independent.

commentary

Public schools, on the other hand, are restricted to specific attendance boundaries.

Brother Rice, the focus of recent bickering, draws students from the tri-county area. It also has a winning athletic program.

Frustrated by Rice's ability to attract student-athletes outside specific attendance boundaries, Oakland County athletic directors rebelled last month and informally agreed to omit private schools from all non-league sports competition.

Now this simmering controversy leads Brother

Rice supporters to believe public schools are challenging the philosophy behind parochial education.

FINDING SOLUTIONS to this situation looms as mammoth a problem as trying to change either side's educational or athletic philosophy.

Almost everyone has an answer to the dispute. Some say the public and private schools should conduct separate championships.

Others advocate that private schools should be limited to attendance boundaries like the public schools.

But separate championships won't solve the problem — there are only a handful of Class A private schools in the state. Rice's competition would be severely limited under this plan.

A private school title is tarnished because the

majority of state schools are public institutions. And the public school title would be diluted without private-school participation.

Attendance boundaries for private schools are totally against the philosophy of parochial education. After all, we live in a free society and parents are allowed to choose, based on what they can afford, the type of education which is best for their children — no matter where they live.

The philosophies of the two educational systems have sharp differences which stymie the opportunity for a unanimous decision to this debate.

Athletic directors must analyze these following questions before they meet Feb. 26 to discuss the Rice controversy again. Only then will they have a

(Continued on Page 3)

Farmington Observer

sports

Tom Baer editor/644-1101

Thursday, February 5, 1981

(F10)



Goran Vasovski (20) gained hero status when he sank the winning basket to pull Harrison past Birmingham Seaholm. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Basketball roundup

Late bucket saves Hawks

By TOM BAER

Farmington Harrison, which failed a big test in the Western Six League last Friday, rebounded in thrilling fashion Tuesday with a 50-49 victory over non-league Birmingham Seaholm.

Harrison was trailing, 48-47, with just two seconds left to play when Hawk coach Mike Teachman called time out.

"We set up a sideline tip," he said. "Steve Shanbom went up high and took the inbounds pass and tipped the ball to Goran Vasovski, who sank a 10-foot jumper."

For Vasovski, a 6-foot senior guard, that basket capped an excellent evening. In addition to his 10 points, he dished out seven assists to bring his season total to 65.

Steve Hollatz, a 6-4 junior, led the Hawks with 18 points on eight baskets and two of two free throws. Harrison held a 38-25 rebounding advantage with Hollatz picking off 13 and Shanbom, the team's center, grabbing 10.

C.J. Beske led Seaholm with 16, and teammate Rob Jeske netted 14. Jeske missed two crucial free throws late in the fourth quarter.

Actually, Seaholm lost the game at the line. The Maples made 22 field goals to the Hawks' 21, but the Farmington school went eight for 13 at the stripe compared to Seaholm's five of seven.

Harrison, now 7-5 overall, returns to WSL play Friday night with a 7 p.m. game at Walled Lake

Western. Seaholm takes its 6-6 record to Hazel Park High for a Southeastern Michigan Association contest on Friday.

WESTLAND GLENN 65 FARMINGTON HIGH 45

Kevin Thweatt, Westland John Glenn's 6-2 basketball standout, fired in 17 points last Tuesday as his team lashed Farmington High, 65-45, in non-league action. The loss put the Falcons at 7-7 overall.

"We played so well last Friday (in an upset win over Livonia Stevenson), and tonight we just showed up," said Farmington coach Richard Roy.

"But you have to give Glenn credit. Those kids really hustled."

Rob Sisson scored 12 points for Glenn, which led by six (27-21) at half time.

Pete Mantyla scored 13 points for Farmington, and Paul Kobel added 10.

Farmington plays next on Friday at Walled Lake Central in an Inter Lakes League contest. Game time is 8 p.m.

FERDALE 53 NO. FARMINGTON 49

North Farmington dropped its ninth game in 12 starts last Tuesday, but Raider coach Ken Dean isn't discouraged.

"The kids are really getting knocked around," said Dean, whose crew was on the short end of a 53-49 score against Ferndale High. "But the spirit is

good on this team. The kids aren't down at all. They're doing everything I ask of them."

Rob Guim and Jeff Bloodworth led Ferndale with 18 and 14 points, respectively. Mark Bowditch scored 10 for North, and Bill Gravus added nine.

Westland John Glenn comes to North Farmington for a Northwest Suburban League contest Friday evening.

ROSEVILLE BAPTIST 75 NORTHWEST 40

A bad season got worse last Tuesday for coach George Lemke and his Farmington Lutheran High Northwest basketball team. Northwest dropped its 10th game in 11 starts with a 75-40 showing against Roseville Baptist Academy in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Dave Mierzejewski scored 31 points for Baptist, and Jason Anderson added 14. Dave Austin scored 15 points for Northwest, which is 0-5 in conference play.

Inside sports

- Swimming 2C
- OCC sports 4C
- Prep statistics 5C
- Jogging column 10C
- Avon tennis 10C

Gymnast hurt as North tops Farmington

Kathy Temple, one of the state's top high school gymnasts, was nursing a badly bruised back Tuesday after falling off the balance beam while competing for her North Farmington team in a meet against Farmington High.

Temple, who was treated at Southfield's Providence Hospital following the fall, will miss the next few meets, according to North coach Mary Johnesse.

"Kathy was doing a back somersault on the beam and her foot slipped," Johnesse said. "She fell and first hit her lower back and then hit her upper back on the stand that supports the beam."

"They (the doctors at Providence) said she'll have to keep it cold for 36 hours and then use the whirlpool and exercise. She'll be back; she'll be able to compete."

The accident may have happened because Temple was not wearing shoes made especially for gymnasts, according to the coach.

(Continued on Page 2C)

WSU to honor athletic director

John K. Cotton, athletic director for the Farmington public school system and a former football stand-out at Wayne State University, will be inducted into WSU's Athletic Hall of Fame during ceremonies later this month in the school's McGregor Memorial Center.

Cotton, 57, was a three-time football letterman from 1942-46. He was a two-way guard for the Tartars and was elected the team's co-captain in 1946. In 1945, he was selected to the Michigan State All-Opponent Team.

Cotton's athletic career was interrupted for war duty in 1943. He spent two years in the service and was awarded two Purple Hearts, one while wounded in Saipan, the other while wounded in Okinawa.

Cotton returned in 1945 in time for his senior season at Wayne. Following graduation, he served as WSU varsity line coach for nine

years, 1947-56, before coming to the Farmington public schools.

He is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and was elected vice-president of the MHSAA in 1970, the first athletic director to hold that post.

He was named the state's Athletic Director of the Year in 1975, and was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1978.

Cotton has lived in Farmington for more than 30 years.

The ceremony and luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 21, a Saturday. Tickets are priced at \$15 per person, and tables of eight may be reserved by calling the WSU athletic department at 977-4249.

Cotton is one of six new hall of fame members.

The others are Joel G. Mason, the

(Continued on Page 2C)



JOHN K. COTTON
WSU Hall of Famer

Mercedes-Benz



Top row, left to right: 300 D Sedan, 300 CD Coupe, 240 D Sedan. Lower row, left to right: 300 SD Sedan, 300 TD Wagon.

For 1981, the diesels of Mercedes-Benz include yet another turbocharged model.

Mercedes-Benz introduces the world's most powerful diesel station wagon: the 300 TD Turbodiesel.

Mercedes-Benz transforms the world's first turbodiesel, the 300 SD, into the most aerodynamically efficient sedan in America.

And Mercedes-Benz offers two other fine

diesel sedans and a limited production diesel coupe, all dedicated to the proposition that a fine car can also be an efficient car.

Revolutionary? To the company that introduced the world's first diesel passenger car 45 years ago, nothing could be more traditional.



ESTATE MOTORS, LTD.

464 SOUTH WOODWARD AVENUE • DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM



644-8400



OPEN MONDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS UNTIL 9 P.M.