

DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

Senior Paul Jokisch will literally be one of Rice's tallest offensive weapons.

Rice heats up!

State champs seek to repeat

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The mystique that each fall seems to envelop the football program at Birmingham Brother Rice is back.

Warrior head coach Al Fracassa has a label for it. "The unified attitude these players have... is tradition here now."

You have to call it something. Despite the fact that the Warriors face what their coach calls "the toughest schedule in our entire history," the 1980 state champions loom as a large threat.

Captain/quarterback Dave Yarema and tight end Paul Jokisch, both seniors, should work together like a knife and fork in 1981.

There's plenty of experience and talent in other key positions. And, it's no secret that again this season, Rice's second-stringers probably would be starting at any other area school.

Another ingredient is Fracassa's coaching. As he tells (and yells to) his players in practice, "if you don't do this, we'll lose." With a lifetime win-loss ledger of 140-34-7, you've got to believe he knows what he's talking about.

After Fracassa's frisky football team faces Youngstown Cardinal Mooney in the Silverdome, Chicago St. Rita's at Chicago, and Toledo Bysider at either Groves or Seaholm in the season's first three games, it'll be a seasoned squad that squares off with Catholic League opponents.

DETROIT COUNTRY DAY

'It's the toughest schedule in our entire history.'

—Rice coach Al Fracassa

The Yellow Jackets, a leading contender for the 1981 State Class C championship, may enjoy some added incentive this year.

Freshman Eric Clark, son of Detroit Lions head coach Monte Clark, has a good shot at the starting center's slot. If Monte is in the stands, Country Day gridders won't want to look bad.

Other plusses for Country Day, according to head coach Joe D'Angelo:

- "Quarterback Troy Hudson is an excellent punter and quarterback, and a key to our success.

- "A strong offensive backfield, and experience and talent in other skilled positions.

- "Three receivers who average over 6-foot-6 — George Clark (6-4), Damon Jones (6-7), and Chuck Adams (6-5)."

- "A junior running back named Chris Maruz (a transfer student from Bloomfield Hills Andover) will give us good running strength."

D'Angelo attended a football practice at Brother Rice recently. Perhaps he's picking up a few pointers from Fracassa.

ORCHARD LAKE
ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's head coach Al Dicken is wearing a smile these days.

With the exception of three seniors and two other starters, last year's 6-3 team returns intact.

"We've got the best set of four receivers I've seen since I've been here," said Dicken of Brian Beckett, Tim Grombala, Martin Brennan and Jim Taluto.

The Eaglets also boast both talent and size. Other key returnees include quarterback Carl Pellegata 6-3, 195 pounds (a four-year varsity starter); center Chris Martin, 6-2, 190 pounds; guard Andy Martin, 6-2, 185 pounds; tri-captain/1980 all-league tackle Frank Bednard, 6-2, 205 pounds; and tackle Dave Moten, 6-2, 200 pounds.

The Eaglets will be fired up for the season opener, as they seek to avenge last year's 17-16 loss to Country Day.

TEAM: Orchard Lake St. Mary's
COACH: Al Dicken, starting his fourth season with the Eaglets.

CAREER RECORD: 14-13

1980 RECORD: 6-3

KEY RETURNING PLAYERS: Carl Pellegata, quarterback, senior; Bart Biebuyck, running back, senior; Brett Green, running and defensive back, senior; Kevin Clouse, fullback, junior; Chris Martin, offensive center, back, senior; Andy Martin, offensive guard, sophomore; Sean Clouse, offensive guard, sophomore; tri-captain Frank Bednard, offensive tackle, senior; Dave

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Athens to challenge

Dondero is MSAA favorite

By Marly Budner
staff writer

Royal Oak Dondero, which dominated the early days of the Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA), is the odds-on favorite to win this year's football title, according to area coaches.

The Oaks won the league's first six championships, then watched as Birmingham Groves and Southfield-Lathrup tied for the 1977 title. Dondero has since won only one (1979) of the past four league crowns.

However, the Oaks may be ready to re-claim their throne this season.

"Dondero is definitely the team to beat," said Rochester Adams coach Joe Zelmanski. "Dondero's JV was 9-0 last year, so they should be tough."

While Dondero is the first team mentioned on everyone's list, Troy Athens and Southfield-Lathrup are only a slip-of-the-tongue behind.

Athens finished with a 3-2 league record last year and has 21 returning lettermen, including its entire backfield.

Junior quarterback Steve Pankow will lead the potentially destructive offense, which averaged 14.6 points per game last year. He will be supported by senior running backs Phil Shaller

and Tim Drumheller, who are both beginning their third year of varsity ball.

PANKOW PASSED for 427 yards, including four touchdowns last year. Drumheller amassed 877 yards and scored nine touchdowns. Senior tight end Kirk Lawitzke caught 17 passes for 279 yards last year.

Meanwhile, Bobbitt is the first name associated when talk turns to Southfield-Lathrup athletics. Paul Bobbitt, a 6-foot, 3-inch, 185-pound senior tailback, gained over 850 yards last year.

"Our backfield is one of the best

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John Walker has veteran team



C.J. Risak

So what's in a team's nickname anyway?

A paper is thrust in your face. Glancing at it, you see what awaits you. You'll be thrown to the bears Friday. Whatever the outcome, that encounter will be followed with a fight against panthers one week later. Then will come attacks by hawks and raiders, followed by a swarm of yellow jackets.

So what do you do? Attack — after all, you're a tiger.

This world of sports nicknames can be a vicious place. The violence attached to certain sports nicknames is traceable in the history of sport itself.

According to Dr. R. Brasch's book, "How Did Sports Begin," sports started as "a religious cult and a preparation for life. Its roots were in man's desire to gain victory over foes seen and unseen, to influence the forces of nature and to promote fertility among his crops and cattle."

The word sport is an abbreviation of the word *disport*, meaning a diversion and an amusement.

Religious ceremonies? Fertility rites? Amusing diversions? If that's what ancient sports were like, they didn't stay that way long.

FOOTBALL WAS devised in England. The game was what we now call soccer, and it was simple to play — construct two goals, find something to use as a ball and choose up sides.

Early games were violent, but pregame ceremonies were worse. Legend has it that in ancient English times they used the severed head of a conquered foe as the ball. Some amusement.

Violence caused King Edward II of England to ban the game in 1314. Games got out of hand, with some 500 persons participating and using entire towns as the field.

Nicknames arose from the people playing the game. The Old Blackheathens were one of the first football clubs in England, formed in 1862 and named after the town they were from.

Soccer had by then already spread to the states. On Nov. 6, 1869, Rutgers beat Princeton, 6-4, in the first American collegiate football (soccer) match.

To distinguish themselves from the Princeton players, Rutgers team members wore red jerseys. To this day, scarlet is still Rutgers' school color and their nickname remains "the Scarlet."

BUT WHATEVER happened to the religious rites associated with sport? The first Olympics were dedicated to the ancient Greek gods. But in later times teams never adopted religious nicknames.

Why weren't there any Cambridge Clerics? Nicknames, like sport itself, became less serious as time went on. While games were taken seriously, people no longer thought of them as influencing the growth of crops or the amount of rainfall. Nicknames became fierce-some or even boastful.

Certain schools in the O&E coverage area stick to the ancient concept of fear-inspiring nicknames.

There are Spartans (Livonia Stevenson and Redford Bishop Borgess), Raiders (North Farmington), Warriors (Birmingham Brother Rice), Cats (Plymouth Canton) and Panthers (Redford Union and Garden City East).

Sports teams' nicknames can also convey some historical significance: The first baseball club in America was the New York Knickerbockers, named after a type of pants worn by Dutch settlers.

In O&E land, there are the Patriots (Livonia Franklin and Redford Temple Christian), the Westland John Glenn Rockets and even the Plymouth Salem Rocks.

Noble peoples of the past inspired the Bloomfield Andover Barons, the Bloomfield Lahser Knights and the Rochester Adams Highlanders.

HOWEVER, THERE'S always exceptions to the rule. Several schools in O&E land dislaid past reasoning when choosing their nicknames. Instilling fear into opponents did not inspire such team tags as Gazelles (Bloomfield Sacred Heart), Cranes (Bloomfield Cranbrook), Blue Jays (Southfield), Aardvarks (Bloomfield Kingswood) or Marlins (Farmington Mercy).

These animals are not feared predators. They are more often the quarry than the hunter.

There are other local nicknames which one must guess the reasoning behind.

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Avondale to dominate league foes

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

It was a stinging welcome for three of the teams in the North Oakland Activities Conference.

That evaluation comes after examining last year's inaugural season of the Class B league and the reigning champions — the Avondale Yellowjackets.

Avondale, coached by Rick Brewer, swarmed all over its three league opponents — Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, Brandon and Oxford — and everybody else on its schedule. Avondale ran up nine straight victories, scoring 329 points and surrendering only 13.

Only three offensive and five defensive Yellowjacket starters return from last year's squad. Avondale is still the league power, but the other three teams may have closed the gap somewhat.

Brandon is expected to be improved with new coach Art Paddy at the helm. Paddy last coached Orchard Lake St. Mary to the 1977 Class D football title. Paddy is also a former West Bloomfield grid coach.

Cranbrook Coach Mike Leu started four sophomores last year, so the Cranes will have a nucleus to build around. However, lack of depth is a problem and injuries could wreck the team's season.

The prediction here is that Avondale should again reign as NOAC champs, with Cranbrook, Brandon and Oxford scrambling for second place.

TEAM: Avondale
COACH: Rick Brewer, starting seventh year as head coach.

CAREER RECORD: 40-14
LAST YEAR'S RECORD: 9-0

KEY RETURNING PLAYERS: Derek Woodmore, halfback/linebacker, senior; Mike Fisher, tight end, senior; Jim Kroll, linebacker, senior; El-

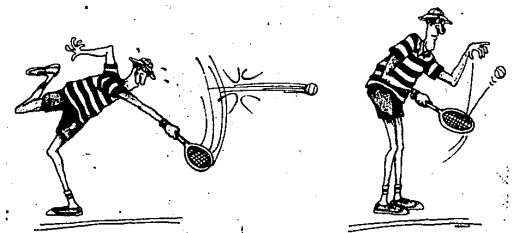
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