Dream comes true for Rice grad Morrison

Like mnup Detroit-area boys, young Steve Morrison often watched Lions' games and pictured himself playing on the Silverdome field. 'It's something I always dreamed about, 'Morrison' staud. Last Sunday, Morrison's dream came true, although he wore the blue of the Indianapolis Colts, not the Liona.

Unfortunately for Morrison, the game's result was more like a nightmure – a 32-10 loss. Still, the former Birmingham Brother Rice All-Stater called it 'a special day.'

the former Birmingham Brother lice All-Stater called it "a special day."
Plenty of Morrison's friends and family attended the game. Plenty of Morrison's cliege coach, Gary Moeller, now a Lions assistant, was on hand.
"T've heen looking forward to this game ever since the schedule came out last year," Morrison provided tickets to many of his well-wishers." I'm looking forward to seeing them," he added.
Morrison, a 6-feet-3, 246-pound linebucker, is in his third NFL season. He's been a defensive starter for much of that time, but played a backup role against the Lions until starting linebacker Elijah Alexander left the game. Morrison pays regularly in the Goltz' kickoff return, punt, field goal and extra point teams. It's a job he takes seriously.
"I enjoy it, just getting the

seriously.
"I enjoy it, just getting the opportunity to play, no matter

what the role. You can't look at it as less important. It's just as important as offense or defense." Morrison entered last Sun-

defense - tied for sixth on the team. He had 18 solo tackles,



'Once you make a step up (to the NFL) vou have to learn learn to be more physi-cal, to be faster, just Improve in every area and try to be consistent.

Steve Morrison

including one quarterback sack, plus five tackles on special teams.

After starring at Brother Rice, Morrison enjoyed a standout col-lege career at the University of

Michigan. Morrison was a three-year starter for the Wolverines. He was voted the team's top linebnoker twice, started in U-M's last Rose Bowl victory, in 1993, and served as the defen-

M's last Rose Bowl victory, in 1993, and served as the defensive enptain as a senior.

Today, the U-M connection gives Morrison and teammate in the Colts' lockerroom when discussions turn to college football, as it often does.

"Everybody does that, talk trash in the Glocker room about your school." Morrison said.

"You're proud of your school. I'm rail proud of Michigan). This is one of the best teams they're even the best teams they're the head of the control of th

me."
Several NFL teams expressed
interest in signing Morrison soon
after the draft. He chose the
Colts, the first team which con-

Colts, the first team which contacted him.

"I had a couple other offers,"
Morrison recalled, "but I thought
had a fighting chance to make
the team here. Looking back, it
was a perfect fit for me."

Morrison not only made the
team, but he's been a regular
contributor since his rookie season. His attitude and work ethic

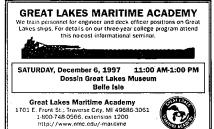


Welcome home: Former Birmingham Brother Rice graduate Steve Morrison, right, fights off a block by Detroit Lions tight end Pete Metzelaars during a recent NFL game at the Pontiac Silverdome. Morrison, a 6-feet-3, 246-pound linebacker, is in his third NFL season. Morrison played most of the second half at linebacker against the Lions, in addition to his special teams duty. Morrison plays regularly on the Colts' kickoff, kickoff return, punt, field goal and extra point teams.

may be the reason be's exceeded the expectations of NFL scouts.

"Once you make a step up to learn the NFL you have to learn to be more physical, to be faster, its improve in every area and try to be consistent."

Morrison's NFL highlights include "getting the opportunity to the opportunity of the consistent of the second of the second





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