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CC, Rice clash in battle of unbeatens

BY BRAD MONASTIERE
STAFF WRITER

One of the most storied football rivalries in the state will have a new chapter added to it Saturday night.

FOOTBALL

A pair of undefeated teams clash when top-ranked Catholic Central (9-0) takes on Birmingham Brother Rice (9-0) for a 6 p.m. kickoff at Birmingham Groves High School.

This will be the 47th meeting between the two programs since 1963, with the Shamrocks holding a 25-20-1 edge in the all-time series, counting Prep Bowl contests.

Lately, the series has been dominated by the Warriors, thanks to wins in 2000 (24-0 and 24-7) and 2001 (21-14). Prior to that, CC had won seven of the previous eight

"You've got to play with no mistakes to beat (CC). They have a lot of kids back from last year, and watching them on film, they look as strong as ever."

Al Fracassa
Brother Rice coach

meetings, dating back to 1996.

Brother Rice coach Al Fracassa said the game with the Shamrocks is always important for both schools.

"It's a big game and I'm sure they want to get back at us because we've won the last couple games with them," he said. "The schools have a great deal of respect for another, and Tom Mach is one of the best

high school coaches anywhere."

For his part, Mach agreed that both teams hold each other in the highest respect, and said it's always a memorable battle.

"The game is a great attraction for fans. It's the one they all want to talk about," Mach said. "Both programs have been good over the years, and it always seems to come down to one touchdown or one big play by either team."

Catholic Central is currently ranked No. 1 among Division I teams, while Rice holds the top spot for Division 2 teams. CC is the defending Division 1 state champs, and was ranked second until Utica Eisenhower lost its opener.

Rice opened a lot of eyes around the state with its resounding 34-20 win over Farmington Hills Harrison at the Pontiac Silverdome Aug. 31. The Warriors put an emphatic end to the Hawks' 36-game winning streak thanks to the stellar quarter-

"Our defense needs to do a good job of containing their offense because they've scored a lot of points in their games."

Tom Mach
Catholic Central coach

back play of Doug Pickens, who threw four touchdown passes in the win. The Warriors also recorded tight wins over Oxford (35-28) and Madison Heights Bishop Foley (35-27).

Fracassa said the team will have to keep its mistakes to a minimum to beat the Shamrocks.

PLEASE SEE CLASH, D3

Sidelines

U-M vs. MSU

A number of Oakland County soccer players will compete on both sides when the University of Michigan and Michigan State University club teams meet next week.

The game will be played at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at Novi Meadows Soccer Stadium, located at 11 Mile and Tall roads in Novi.

There will be a nominal charge for admission.

Local players on the U-M team are Justin Street (Farmington Hills/North Farmington), Jon McClory (Northville), Dari Orandi (Bloomfield Hills) and Dave Trimble (Troy).

The MSU roster includes Ryan Byrd (Beverly Hills), Chris Metzger (West Bloomfield), Jeremy Willrock (Birmingham) and Matt Hylinen (Troy).

For more information about the match, visit www.umich.edu/~msoccer or e-mail Justin Street at streetj@umich.edu.

College football

Sophomore Chris Roberson (Farmington Harrison) caught a 5-yard touchdown pass from Troy Edwards in Eastern Michigan's 35-32 football victory Saturday over Southeast Missouri State (2-1).

Roberson was EMU's leading rusher last season but was moved to wide receiver during spring football drills. Roberson's 10 catches capped a 16-play, 93-yard, nine-minute drive and gave the host Eagles (1-2) a 14-10 halftime lead.

Roberson had two catches for 9 yards overall.

Hay paces win

Keith Hay overcame a rough start Monday to birdie the final four holes and claim medalist honors in Farmington's 155-159 golf victory over Rochester Stoney Creek.

Hay shot a nine-hole round of 37 at San Marino Golf Course for the 31 Falcons. Mike Schuster shot 38, Adam Ellis 39, Steve Bralcher 41, Jason Welsh 44 and Brad Cregar 45.

Rea leads Raiders

Tony Rea shot even-par 35, a round that included two eagles, to lead North Farmington a 158-165 victory over visiting Rochester Stoney Creek in boys golf Tuesday.

The Raiders had a 40 from Scott Weinrob at Glen Oaks Golf Course, Al John Noble, 42 Mychal Cocke and 43 Eric Swedan. Stoney Creek's Dan Boyle shot 36.

North is 9-0 overall and 5-0 in the Oakland Activities Association Division III. "It was another nice victory for us," coach Bruce Sulton said. "Hopefully, we can keep it up. I'm kinda liking this new conference."

"It seems this team is playing well together. They started team dinners, which we've never done. I think it has brought the kids together; it's a bonding type of thing."

"For whatever reason it is, they're playing well and playing consistently."

Barrows leads North to OAA win over Mott

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Susan Barrows ran her best time of the season at Oakland Community College Tuesday to lead the North Farmington girls to a 19-42 cross country victory over Waterford Mott.

Her time of 20:09 was 20 seconds faster than her previous best on the course. Teammates Amy Miller and Katie Milan tied for second place with 23:18 times.

Katie Petersen was sixth in 24:35 and Jackie Murrenus seventh in 25:19. In non-scoring roles, Shara

CROSS COUNTRY

Cherniak and Julie Kaplan were close behind in eighth (25:29) and ninth (25:45) places, respectively. The Raiders are 1-1 in the Oakland Activities Association Division II.

"I was pleased with the meet," North coach Bill Pinnell said. "We had four of our top seven run personal bests at OCC."

"The times are starting to come down. The second group of girls are starting to get closer, and we're working on dropping their times, too."

Barrows was fourth overall in the Division I race Saturday at the New Boston Huron Invitational with a 19:23 time, which was one second faster than a year ago.

Miller was 45th (21:55), Milan 57th (22:23), Murrenus 107th (24:25), Petersen 108th (24:31), Kaplan 113th (24:49) and Cherniak 120th (25:15).

Livonia Stevenson won the race followed by Ann Arbor Pioneer and Livonia Churchill. North was 11th with 321 points.

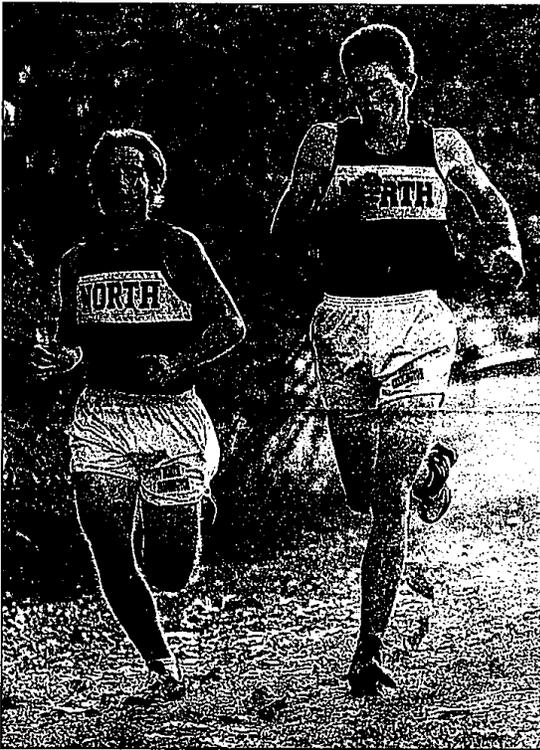
"All seven (times) were their personal bests of the season," Pinnell said. "It was definitely a good team race. The four, five, six and seven runners are starting to get closer, and the times are starting to drop."

HAWKS WIN CLOSE ONE

Farmington Harrison nipped Royal Oak Dundero in an OAA Division III girls meet Tuesday at OCC, 47-39. The Hawks are 1-1 in dual meets.

Shannon Bailey finished second (22:46), Irina Maslennikova third

PLEASE SEE CROSS COUNTRY, D4



North Farmington's Ben Gannon (left) and Jeff Mataya shared first place Tuesday in the Raiders' 20-39 cross country victory over Waterford Mott.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER/OBSERVER

Falcons whip Hawks, Highlanders

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Senior Joe Russo was on center stage Tuesday night for the Farmington High soccer team in its 7-0 win over host Farmington Harrison.

Russo scored four goals to lead the Falcons (8-2) for a change instead of Matt Okopyny and Matt Konopinski, the team's top two scorers.

Okopyny and Konopinski weren't pushed out of the picture completely. They contributed one goal each as did Kacey Lopata.

Farmington, which led 3-0 at halftime, also had two assists from Okopyny and one apiece from Konopinski, Eric Gaughan and Matt O'Brien.

Andrew Martin and Andrew

PREP SOCCER

Amis played one half each in goal and shared the shutout. The Falcons outshot the Hawks, 19-1.

"We played pretty well," Farmington coach Luke Juneja said. "Our passing was very good. It was on the set plays that we got most of our goals."

"We have several outstanding players who can get goals from set plays. One-at-a-time we were stronger in those positions."

Harrison played pretty well, too. Their midfield played better than I thought they would, especially Eric White and Brett Laird. They did a good job in the midfield."

"The Hawks fell to 1-5 overall but coach Tim Russell said he was happy with the effort from his play-

ers. "For a lot of the game, we actually frustrated Farmington, because we played with them for quite a while," he said.

"Brett Laird and Eric White had outstanding games. There's only so much they could do, but they held their own in the midfield."

"The biggest difference between the two teams is they started seven seniors and we started six underclassmen."

FARMINGTON ROUTS ADAMS

Farmington registered a big win in the OAA Division I Saturday when it stomped Rochester Adams, 7-0.

Even if the Highlanders have struggled without star player Simon

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, D2

Farmington girls tourney winners

Farmington High School had three flight champions in girls tennis Saturday and won the team title at the Flushing Invitational.

PREP TENNIS

The Falcons accumulated 32 team points to finish ahead of St. Clair (28), Flushing (22), Ovid-Elsie (20), Midland (18), former state champion Port Huron Northern (15) and Bay City Western (9).

"I'm so proud of these girls," Farmington coach Carl Badnyec said. "It was great to see that their efforts were rewarded with the team championship trophy."

Farmington's Kristie Boskey and Allison Lyon won the Nos. 3 and 4 singles, respectively, over St. Clair opponents.

Boskey won a tiebreaker in the second set while Lyon conceded just three points in two sets.

PLEASE SEE TENNIS, D3

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