

★ ★ Sports ★ ★

Jeff Fraka, Sports Editor

Seminole Beats Rice Boys For Class AA State Championship

Cold Shooting Spells Disaster For Raiders In Finals Saturday

The most successful basketball season ever for the Rice High School Raiders boys came to a sad and shocking end last Saturday as they were upset in the Class AA State finals by Seminole with a score of 56 to 49.

Rice finished the season with an impressive 27-7 record, missing out on being the best AA team in the state by only one victory.

The Raiders were clearly the favorites to win the state title after knocking off the defending state champion Whitehouse Wildcats 72 to 60 in the semi-final game played Thursday afternoon at the Special Events Center in Austin.

Although Rice could not pull out to a comfortable margin over the Wildcats, they never trailed in the contest and maintained control of play throughout the game.

Against the Seminole Indians on Saturday, the story was completely opposite with Rice trailing the entire game and never able to play their style of ball.

For Raider coach Jack Grammer it was the second time he had taken a Raider team to the state meet in Austin. The first trip was in Class AAA in 1975. Rice was eliminated in the first round that time, losing to South Grand Prairie.

This trip, the Raiders moved a step closer, but still were unable to bring home the coveted crown.

Despite the loss of two of the top players in the state, 6'7" senior guard John Grammer and 6'7" senior postman Lonnie Bluntson, the Raiders are a team of the future and promise to be a bonafide contender in the next few years with a fine crop of juniors, sophomores and freshmen.

Free Shooting In Finals

A big factor in the State Class AA finals was Rice's inability to hit from the outside which allowed Seminole to sag as many as three defensive players around Rice center Lonnie Bluntson, stopping any hopes of getting the ball inside.

The Raiders hit a mealy 31.9 percent for the game, connecting on 23 of 72 shots. Seminole hit a more respectable 47.6 percent in the contest, connecting on 20 of 42 shots, three field goals less than Rice.

At the free throw line it was a rare sight seen by Rice, Seminole hit 16 of 23 while Rice hit on three of five for the game. The sizeable difference in focus called was sent to the Raiders, not only in scoring, but also because Raider Larry Haynes, a junior, fouled out with 3:30 remaining in the game and John Grammer was left with about one minute left.

In the final five minutes of play, Seminole hit 10 of 22 free throws while Rice never got to the line in the entire fourth quarter.

Seminole also led in rebounding, pulling down 37 while Rice had 27.

Raiders Fall Behind Early

The first quarter of Saturday's state championship game pretty well told the story of the entire game for the Raiders. Rice did not score a bucket for almost six minutes of the game, trailing 0 to 0 until Haynes popped a short jumper in with 2:14 remaining in the first eight-minute quarter.

Grammer added a bucket while the score led to 4 to 4 and Haynes added two more buckets in the final minute of the first quarter scoring with Rice behind 15 to 8.

Grammer scored a quick 3-point shot to open the second period but Seminole

Spring Sports Get Into Full Swing This Week

A full schedule of spring sports activities highlights action this week.

Lodging, the state - The state golf team will host a golf tournament at the Eagle Lake Recreation Center beginning Saturday morning.

Also, Saturday morning, the Rice District Jr. High School track teams will combine forces and host a track meet at the Eagle Lake Middle School track.

The 1979 track season will officially get underway for the Rice High School

Raiders on Friday as they travel to Brookshire for the Royal Relay.

The Raider trackmen, under the direction of Coach Bruce Breneman, have been working out since January 31, but will have their first meet competition this Friday. The Rice JV will be in Hallettsville on Saturday.

Other Activities Include:

TRACK: Friday - Rice H.S. boys' team at Royal. Saturday - Rice H.S. girls' team at Needville. Sunday - Rice H.S. JV boys' at Hallettsville.

BASEBALL: Thurs.-Sat. - Rice H.S. baseball team in Weimar Tournament.

GOLF: Saturday - Rice H.S. golf team hosts tournament in Eagle Lake.

Pflugerville Ends Season For Rice Girls At Region III Tourney

One of the most surprising, exciting and inspiring basketball seasons ended Friday night for the Rice Raider girls as they were defeated by Pflugerville 71-58 in the opening round of the Region III Class AA Tournament held at Blinn Junior College in Brenham.

Pflugerville went on to capture the tournament title and will represent Region III in the Class AA girls' state tournament in Austin, opening play on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. against San Antonio Randolph.

The Raiders, coached by Reuben Wunderlich and Paula Vain, surprised most people this season with their successful 26-8 record. With the change from 6-player basketball to five player, using the same rules as the boys, nobody was sure what to expect.

And with several members of last year's squad not returning and a large number of young and inexperienced players, the Raiders are looking to be a team of the future.

The remaining players for the Raiders are all sophomores and should provide Rice with two more years of outstanding play. They are Patricia Banks, Phyllis Carter, Yolanda McTeer, Sharon McTeer, Janice Waligurs and Mary Ann Beak. All saw action in most of the Raider games this season and should add valuable experience to next year's squad.

Raiders Lead Early

In regional action in Brenham Friday night, the underdog Raiders played with the same intensity that has led to their success this season. After one period of play the Raiders were on top 11-10.

Pflugerville, a much taller and more physical team, was intimidated by the Raiders' aggressive defense but managed to pull ahead of Rice 27-25 at halftime.

In the third period, Pflugerville made some adjustments and used their 6'7" junior center, Karen Thompson, inside and pulled ahead 48-40.

With the Raiders concentrating on stopping the inside game, Pflugerville began hitting from outside, keeping the Raider defense off-balance.

Rice was down by six points with a minute left in the third period when Sharon McTeer fouled out. Pflugerville connected on its free throws and seemed to take complete control going into the final period.

The Raiders found themselves down 54-40 after only a minute of play in the final period making several costly turnovers. Pflugerville maintained a comfortable lead throughout the contest and went on to win 71-58.

Pflugerville's Thompson led all scorers in the game with 33 points.

Flowers had 28 for Rice. S. McTeer ended up with 15 and Banks scored eight.

Raiders fans extend congratulations to the girls and coaches for their fine play this season and look forward to further success in future years.

The Raiders and coaches extended thanks to the fans for the support shown to them throughout the 1978-79 season.

Bluntson Grabs Loose Ball



Rice Raider Lonnie Bluntson (55) grabs one of his 13 rebounds in the final of the Class AA State Basketball Tournament in Austin on Saturday against Seminole. Rice lost the game but Bluntson was named to the All-Tournament team for his outstanding play in the two games. He had 30 points in Rice's semi-final win over Whitehouse on Thursday and had 11 points in the final Saturday. - Photo by Paul Gilbert, San Marcos.

never gained the lead.

Grammer scored eight first quarter points; L. Bluntson had six and Haynes had two to give the Raiders a slim 16 to 14 lead.

In the second period, the score was knotted at 20 to 20 when Rice scored three unanswered baskets to pull ahead 25 to 20. The Raiders extended the lead to 10 midway through the period and looked to be pulling away. But, the Wildcats came up with five points in seven seconds to narrow the lead once again.

L. Bluntson hit two free throws and Grammer added a field goal to give Rice a 37 to 29 halftime lead.

The Raiders saw their lead cut to six early in the third period but rallied to open a 16-point margin midway through the period. At the end of the third quarter Rice led 56 to 43.

In the final quarter, Whitehouse moved to within eight but could not get any closer as L. Bluntson hit 11 final period points to round out the scoring. Starter Darryl Axel and Stephen Spaniel were the only other Raiders to see action in the game.

Overall the Raiders hit 59.6 percent for the game while Whitehouse hit 46.6 percent. Rice led on the boards, outrebounding the Wildcats 35 to 24.

Whitehouse was led by its two all-stars from last year's tournament, senior James Nix had 30 points and senior Dwayne Pettigrew had 15.

Awards Ceremony

At the conclusion of the Class AA competition Saturday afternoon, the Raiders received a large runner-up trophy and each player received a medalion.

A large following of Raider fans followed the team to Austin for the state tournament and formed a big cheering section in support of the Raiders. They were led in cheering by cheerleaders Kathy Franz, Lana Mahallie, Stephanie Schneider, Brenda Rocks and Pam Kallins.

While it was a disappointing conclusion to a long and successful season, Raider fans expressed great pride in the accomplishment of the team and coaches Jack Grammer and Gil Bluntson and close the season with the comment, "We're proud of you!"

Thanks Extended

The coaches and players expressed appreciation to the student body and fans for their loyal support in the playoff competition as well as throughout the entire 1978-79 season.

4 From EL In KC's Region Free Throw; Nada Entry First

On February 24, four local Eagle Lake students took part in the Regional Basketball Free Throw competition sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Eagle Lake Council No. 4843 was honored to be represented in the competition by 11 year old William Hollas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Winn Hollas; 12 year old Pam Banks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Banks; 12 year old Cedric Pope, son of Mrs. Jo Ann Smith and Stanley Smith; and Viola Castillo, 13 year old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ignacio Castillo.

Under some very stiff competition from the Houston and other local area K. of C. councils, Pam Banks, Cedric Pope and Viola Castillo placed second in each of their respective age groups. William Hollas placed third in the boys' 11 year old division.

The competition was held at Mt. Carmel High School in Houston did have one local area winner. She is 11 year old Jennifer Barta of Nada. Jennifer will now compete in the State Basketball Free Throw contest, to be held in San Antonio this Saturday, March 10.

3 Horses Are Reported Stolen Near Columbus

C. H. Potter of Columbus reported to the county sheriff's office at 9:15 a.m. Wed., Feb. 28th that someone had stolen three horses and a cattle sprayer from his property just east of Columbus.

Investigation by the officers revealed that entry was gained to the property by cutting the lock on a gate and that a truck and trailer entered the property into which the horses and sprayer were believed to have been loaded.

The investigation has been turned over to the Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association and the sheriff's department in this county will assist with the investigation.

The results:

Rich Farris was the losing pitcher for Rice. Bruno Shimek started, but Farris came in after three innings.

John Grammer led hitters with three hits and one run batted in. John Schneider had two hits for Rice.

For the JV's, Michael Duarte, Scott Holden and Andy Morales each had one hit in the game that ended in a tie.

Raiders In Weimar Tour. Thurs., 4 PM

The Rice Raider baseball team opened its 1979 season on Tuesday night in Weimar with a 6-3 loss to the Wildcats.

The junior varsity played a game prior to the varsity contest, but because of a delay caused by a light problem, the game ended after six innings with the score tied at 6-6.

The varsity Raiders will be back in Weimar this weekend to play in the Weimar Baseball Tournament. Rice will meet Hallettsville in the opening round at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday.

If the Raiders win they will play at 3:15 Saturday. If they lose they will play at 8:45 a.m. Saturday.

In the varsity contest, Tuesday night, the Raiders suffered their first loss with four errors and nine walks playing a major factor in the results.

Mac's Marine Service is Closing Apr. 1. M. M. (Mac) Jones, owner of Mac's Marine Service in Eagle Lake, announces that he will be closing his business on April 1st.

Prior to the closing he is offering some outstanding bargains in boats and motors and other boating supplies.

★ SPORTS ★

P&WD Hearings Set In Area; In Columbus Mar. 16

Public hearings have been set for mid-March in all counties under the regulatory authority of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to consider hunting, fishing and trapping regulations for 1979-80.

Citizens are invited to comment on the proposed changes at these public hearings, generally held at the county courthouse.

The meeting will be held in the Colorado County Courthouse in Columbus at 8 p.m. Friday, March 16th.

Other area counties where hearings will be held are: Austin, March 16, 10 a.m. County Courthouse, Belville; Fayette, Tues. March 13, 10 a.m. County Courthouse, Lavaca; Fri., March 16, 3 p.m. County Courthouse, Hallettsville; Wharton, Mon., March 12, 3 p.m. County Courthouse, Wharton.

Baseball Oldtimers To Meet Sunday

The South Central Texas Old Timers Baseball Association, the only such organization known to exist in the state, will hold its 10th annual reunion this Sun., March 11 at Blase's Place on Highway 90-A, west of Hallettsville, announces Al Kasparek of Weimar, president of the association.

Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m.; business session, which will include the awarding of Hall of Fame certificates to the honorees of 1978 and Memorial Services will be at 2:30 p.m., followed by a barbecue at 4:00 p.m.

The awarding of certificates to the Hall of Fame will be made to 75 individuals.

Report Your Sport Call 234-2783

249 high game and shared high series honors with Erwin Knippel, each having a 565. In team state, What Can 1 Say posted the 854 high game and the Woolly Boogers' 2401 series was tops.

Other high scorers were Alta Barten's 204-509, Butch Schmidt 534, Mano Graham 515, James Booker 505, Leroy Janda 509 and Erwin Knippel 212.

Margie Knippel's 222-578 and Ben Castillo's 212-578 set the pace for individual bowling in Skull Creek Mixed League action Feb. 20th. Other individuals scoring high on Feb. 20th were:

Skull Creek Mixed League action Feb. 20th. Other individuals scoring high on Feb. 20th were:

Following Feb. 27th Skull Creek Mixed League action the Woolly Boogers continued as top contender in the league with a total of 65 wins, two ahead of the second place Skull Creek Lanes team with 63. The Night Stalkers and Catfish Farmers finished in a tie for third with 60.

Last week Margie Knippel rolled a 206-567 to lead the women while Floyd Spennath bowled the men's

HORSE RACING

COLUMBUS RACE COURSE
Columbus, Texas

March 10-11, 1979

► FEATURE RACES ◄

- EARLY BIRD FUTURITY - Est. Purse \$100,000
Trials January 21, 1979. Finals February 4, 1979.
- NEW YEAR DERBY - Est. Purse \$25,000
Trials January 1, 1979. Finals January 28, 1979.
- COLUMBUS TRIPLE CROWN FUTURITY - Est. Purse \$100,000
Trials March 4, 1979. Finals March 11, 1979.
- LIVE OAK DERBY - Est. Purse \$25,000
Trials March 2, 1979. Finals March 10, 1979.

Est. Post Time: 12:00 Noon

FOOD • DRINKS • BEER

THE RICE RAIDER BOYS' & GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAMS AND COACHES SAY:

THANK YOU

We extend sincere thanks to our loyal followers - students, parents and friends - for their wonderful support in our district and play-off competition!!

Your support and enthusiasm helped us greatly in our play in District, Bi-District, Regional and State Games

Congratulations

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR

Boys:

DISTRICT 20AA CHAMPIONS

BI-DIST. & REGION III AA CHAMPIONS

CLASS AA STATE FINALISTS

GIRLS:

DISTRICT 20AA CHAMPIONS

BI-DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

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