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Sports

District play opens Friday

Reality should set in Friday on the Rice Raider football field as 1982 district 24AAA football play opens.

As coach Cliff Darden put it Monday morning, the season already is at its mid-point, counting the weeks of practice before school opened. There are three weeks of practice in addition to the ten-game season opens.

The reality is the opening of district play, which is the first step leading to the state championships. While Rice was picked in a pre-season coaches poll to place third, behind Waller and Columbus, high school football has proven nothing is a sure thing.

With three games behind them, each school has had the opportunity to see what its players can do, and look over the other schools in the district.

For instance, ranking schools just by pre-district play, Bellville comes out on top with a 3-0 record. Waller and La Grange fall in next with 2-1 records, and Rice, Columbus and Sealy come next with 1-2 records. Royal-Brookshire is 0-3, and Hempstead, Rice's Friday night rival, is 1-1.

Of course, wins and losses alone do not give clues to strengths and weaknesses of a team; who they played, and playing conditions are only two other factors to be considered.

With the first six weeks and three games gone, coach Darden and the Raiders know what they have to do, and are prepared to face the opening kick-off.

Some major changes have been made in coaching and playing assignments, as well as sideline decisions during the game.

First, the Raiders coaching staff started the season with Darden's seven assistants working with the varsity: four on offense and three on defense.

But after the El Campo encounter, Darden said he felt more organization was needed for the JV and the freshman teams, so

JVs continue winning ways
The Rice Raider Junior Varsity won for the second week in a row last Thursday, beating the Needville Bluejays 6-0.

The Rice score came with two minutes left in the game, and started deep in their own territory, according to coach David White, coach.

On the defensive side, Coach White heaped praise on the team effort that kept Needville from scoring even though they had the ball less than 15 yards from the end zone. "Our defense did a great job in stopping them," White said.

The Rice score was set up with a 34-yard pass from quarterback John Herborth to Keith Penzell, bringing the ball to the 14 yard line. Two plays later, Penzell ran around end and scored.

In the second quarter, Pecos Coble suffered a knee injury while playing center, and Glenn Heffner took the position for the first time. "He did real well," White said after the game. He also praised James Amos and Penzell on offense as well as Malcolm Thomas and Michael Sibley. Coble should be ready for action this week.

On defense, Coach White pointed to Trahan Taylor, Jason Smith and Gilbert Alvarado as some of the top players. For the previous week, the junior varsity defeated Hallettsville 15-0 and now are 2-1 on the season. Thursday at 6 p.m., the team plays in Hempstead.

assignments were changed. David White, offensive line coach, and Gary Wrinkle, offensive backfield coach, are in charge of the Junior Varsity.

Maurice Gindrat is the freshman coach. That shift proved positive as those teams played against Needville and Hallettsville have come away winners.

As for playing assignments, junior Mel Pratt has come in to help senior Troy Corman with quarterback duties, with Corman starting against El Campo and Hallettsville, and Pratt coming on the field first against Needville.

Thirdly, coach Darden said he will not hesitate to make player changes during the district games, when the mental mistakes that have wrecked ball movement continue to be made.

A problem Darden will face is depth, at any given position. When someone is hurt, someone comes in from the bench, but often to fill in where a shuffle was made on the field. One player already in the game may shift into a hurt player's position, and the new man fills that shift.

Such changes can drastically upset a team's rhythm. As for the game Friday night, Darden is looking at the Hempstead quarterback, Johnny Holland, who has a blue chip rating for college scouts as a first class prospect. Their defense is well organized and they have a new coach. Kickoff is 7:30 p.m. at Rice Stadium.



On second down and 15 yards to go, Rice quarterback Mel Pratt attempted a pass to junior Delbert Jarvis from the Needville 16, but it was too high and went incomplete. On the next play, senior Troy Corman replaced Pratt and tossed a screen pass up the middle to Dwayne Pagel for the raiders' second score.

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Rice freshmen win over Needville

Statistics and Play-By-Play
provided to The Headlight

By Joe Fling
and Leroy Alvarado

Player	Touchdowns	Assists	Total Hike
Amos	11	3	14
R. Johnson	3	3	8
Pagel	3	3	6
Kazmir	1	4	5
Pratt	2	2	4
Schorlemmer	0	4	4
Gertson	3	0	3
Munoz	2	1	3
Davis	2	0	2
K. Johnson	0	2	2
Thomas	1	1	2
Woods	1	1	2
Baumgarten	1	1	2
Corman	0	1	1
Anderson	0	1	1
Arge	1	0	1
Lanyon	1	0	1
Sanford	0	1	1
Osburn	0	1	1
Jarvis	1	0	1

The Rice High School Raider freshmen, coached by Henry M. Gindrat, went to Needville last Thursday night and scored a big win over that team by the score of 14 to 6. Both touchdowns runs were made by Raider Cleve Scott.

The Raiders' first touchdown was an impressive one with Scott taking the opening kickoff in from 70 yards. The only other Raider TD came in the middle of the third quarter when Scott made a five yard plunge for the six points.

Named as defensive standouts were Darrell Pagel, who intercepted a pass in the third quarter, and Brian Smith, who made a fourth quarter interception pass. Coach Gindrat also noted the fine efforts of second string middle linebacker John Seybold who came in to play a good game.

Commenting on Thursday night's action, Gindrat said the boys "played fair with good improvement from last week." He is assisted in coaching duties by Finest Axel and Clifton Darden.

The Rice Raider freshmen will travel to Columbus this Thursday for a game with the Cardinals scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Rice	Needville
53-245	25-62
10-5-119	13-3-63
2	1
0	1
7/5	4/3
17/135	5/65
3/15	—
2/20	6/85
1/9	—
19	5
63-464	4/125
0	5/95.8

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