

## Sports

### Rice Raiders launch District 26-3A race this Friday in home battle

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By GEORGE FERGUSON  
Rice High School's head basketball coach Dusty Lowe perhaps would not subscribe to the theory that an inch is as good as a mile after Monday night's battle between his Raiders and visiting Belleville.

It was the second time this season that the Raiders have dropped a close one to the Belleville outfit. This time, the visitors won 51-50. Earlier this season, in Belleville, the Raiders lost 69-68.

Close losses do not count, Coach Lowe would probably testify, even after officials lace the losing basketball mentor with technicals. One official Monday night indicated that Rice's coach got a little too vocal—to suit him, thus, the technicals.

The loss to Belleville cut the Raiders' season mark to six victories against eight defeats. In a game last week, the Raiders won over Van Vleck 70-67.

The Raiders' previous game with Belleville had been the third ball game of the season and that game was played in Belleville. Going into Monday night's contest, Coach Lowe had high hopes for a win over the visitors. Obviously, both teams had shown improvement since the first meeting early in the season.

The new head basketball coach at Rice sees the district race to be a "tough" one this season, and he sees four teams, including his Raiders, as having good shots at the conference title. He picks Rice, Edna, Gonzales and Columbus with about even chances for the crown.

Early in the season, Lowe picked Rice, Gonzales and Columbus as his choices for the title, but recently he has added Edna to that list, mostly based upon Edna's 19-2 record (going into this week's game).

Dennis Hemphill scored 16 points Monday night to lead the Raiders scoring in the tilt with Belleville. Gary Spates added nine points.

Nelson Dabney is the leading scorer for the Raiders this season, averaging 18.8 points per game.

Donald Spears, who contributed heavily to the success of the Raider football fortunes this past season, is the basketball team's second-best scorer, hitting for 14.8 average points per game. Going into the

Belleville game, Hemphill was averaging 10.9 points per game. James Williamson has a 9.2 point average per game so far this season.

Joining Williamson and Spears as returning lettermen on this year's team are Malcolm Thomas and Dabney. Spears and Thomas are the only two returning starters from the last year's Raider squad.

Regular starters, all seniors, this season for the Raiders are Williamson (6-0), Dabney (6-2), Thomas (5-11), Spears (5-10) and Spates (6-2). Hemphill (a 5-11 junior) comes off the bench in every game, however.

The Raiders have little depth, since Coach Lowe has only eight regulars on the team presently. Two juniors, David Morgan and Cornell Hurd, complete the Raider roster.

Coach Lowe is in his first year as head basketball coach at Rice. He came to Rice from Rockdale where he was head coach mentor for two years. Prior to that, Lowe was head basketball coach at Palestine for two years.

The Raiders have 11 games remaining on this season's schedule, all District 26-3A battles. The way the schedule turns out, the Rice roundballers play at home every Friday and away on Tuesdays.

After hosting Hallettsville here Friday, the Raiders travel to neighboring Columbus on Tuesday, Jan. 15, to meet the Cardinals.

At home games, the Raider freshmen team plays at 5 p.m., the junior varsity takes to the court at 6:15 p.m. and the varsity games are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Admission for home games is \$1 for students and \$2 for adults.

**FRESHMEN STRONG**  
Steve Carroll is coaching the hot freshmen basketballers at Rice — the frosh outfit has a 2-0 mark through this past Monday when the Raider freshmen scored a 51-13 victory over Belleville.

Lopsided wins are ho-hum for the freshmen — they defeated Belleville 68-24 earlier this season and won 52-30 over Van Vleck last week.

Marcos Wilson at 6-1 plays post for Carroll's team and Wilson sports a 12-point per game scoring average. Curtis McTeer has been scoring 10 points per game.

The Van Vleck game was the first in more than a month, Carroll said, adding that "anytime we can win by 20 points, we have to be satisfied." McTeer and Wilson scored 10 each in that game, with Williams tossing in 8 and Marvin Pope and Derrick Stevens scoring 6 each. Thomas had 4 points while Marquart scored two.

Coach Lowe is elated over the success of the freshmen — he says if they can stay together for the next couple years, they will be a super tough basketball team. "We've got eight guys on this team that can play basketball," he said.

**JUNIOR VARSITY**  
The Rice junior varsity basketball team lost to Belleville Monday night, 65-57. Johnny Botard was the leading scorer for Rice with 18 points.

The loss puts the Rice JV season mark at 1-3.

Botard is averaging 10 points per game.

Michael Hearn is the team's top scorer presently, however, averaging 13 points each game.



Rice High's Raiders dropped a heartbreaker to visiting Belleville Monday night. The Raiders open district play Friday when Hallettsville calls at the Rice gym.

### Computer literacy and basic drawing classes; registration this Thursday

The Adult Education Program will be offering two additional classes during the Spring semester. These classes are offered through the Continuing Education Division of Wharton County Junior College. The two additional classes will be:

**Computer Literacy:** 12 hour class which will focus on an overview of the micro-computer development in today's society, basic programming and a review of appropriate programs that are available in conjunction with the micro-computers. This class is geared for adults who have had no experience in working with micro-computers and would like to get some basic hands-on experience. The class is geared so that upon completion the student will have a basic knowledge on micro-computers of any system or brand. The cost will be \$14.40 for this class.

**Basic Drawing:** 24 hour class which will focus on how to do basic-line, shape, form, cast shadow, and placement. Also drawing by grafting and simple measuring. Learn to use a soft lead drawing pencil, blender

### Surplus food set for distribution here

Combined Community Action (CCA) will distribute USDA Surplus Food in Eagle Lake at the Providence Baptist Church, 1207 East State St. from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 17.

They also will be in Columbus at the CCA Community Service Center on January 17 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and in Weimar on January 18 at Weimar City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon.

All participants who have been receiving USDA Surplus Food products under the Emergency Food Assistance Program must be recertified in January. To be recertified, participants must complete a new application with current income information and present personal identification such as a driver's license, Social Security card, Food Stamp ID card, etc. Proof of residency must be seen by the eligibility worker, such as a utility bill, voter registration card, etc. Also persons who will be unable to

and kneaded eraser. You will have a finished pencil drawing that you will be pleased to have. The cost will be \$26.80 for this class.

In addition to these two new classes, the Adult Education Program will continue to offer classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) for those adults in our community who want to develop a working knowledge of the English language and General Educational Development (GED) classes for those adults in our community who have not received a high school diploma.

Registration will be held at the Eagle Lake Middle School this Thursday, January 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. Classes for the Computer Literacy class will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. and classes for the Basic Drawing will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. GED and ESL classes will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, also. All classes will be held on the ELMS campus.

pick up their food can send an authorized representative to pick up for them.

In January both the person applying for food and the authorized representative will need to be at the distribution site. Applications may be made prior to distribution days at the local CCA Community Service Center for clients who receive their food in Weimar, Columbus or Eagle Lake.

### T-shirts available

T-shirts proudly promoting the Rice High School football success this year still are available at the school, freshman coach Steve Carroll said Monday. The shirts are on sale in the athletic department in support of the excellent showing the team made in district and bi-district wins. Carroll said he can be contacted after 6 p.m. at 234-2870, or he and coach Clifton Darden can be called at the high school, if you would like a shirt.

### Sheriff's Report

By Jim Broussard

As in the past, starting next week, the Sheriff's Department will outline for your information the activities for the past year. One or two items will be discussed each week until the year's activities have been reported.

12-31-84: transported a patient to the San Antonio State Hospital; checked on a break-in around the Sheridan area.

1-1-85: checked on a reported break-in near Glidden; checked on a reported burglary in Garwood; responded to a burglar alarm activating in Columbus; assisted at the scene of an accident on IH-10 east of Columbus.

1-2-85: worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon; assisted with traffic control at the rest area on IH-10; assisted at the scene of an accident on IH-10 east of Columbus.

assisted at the scene of an inquest east of Columbus; checked on a disturbance east of Columbus; served three civil citations.

1-3-85: assisted at the scene of an accident on IH-10 west of Columbus; assisted with a funeral procession in Columbus; assisted a stranded motorist near Hatterman Lane; checked on a disturbance in Garwood; solved 11 burglaries and charged two juveniles with these burglaries; served two civil citations.

1-4-85: worked school traffic in the morning and afternoon; assisted the Columbus police with a disturbance call; checked on a criminal mischief near Weimar.

1-5-85: checked on a theft near Columbus; checked on a disturbance east of Columbus.

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