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Sports

Hemphill, Botard, Hurd return next year
**Rice Raiders stage season
of fun, success in basketball**

La Grange's Leopards, the team that wiped out the Rice Raiders from the 3-A basketball playoffs a couple weeks ago, will not be going to the state tournament this weekend in Austin. La Grange was eliminated from competition by Ingleside.

La Grange qualified for the regional tournament, held in Kingsville by defeating Devine 67-55 in an area game a week after defeating Rice.

The District 26-3A champion Gonzales also fell out of state playoff competition at the Kingsville affair. Gonzales also fell to Ingleside.

Ingleside is now one of the four 3-A teams and representing this region of the state in the state tournament at Austin.

The UIL boys' state basketball tournament is scheduled for Frank Erwin Center at Austin Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Finals in all classes will be played during the day Saturday and Saturday night.

Class 3-A opening round games in the tournament are at 2 and 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Joining Ingleside at Austin for the 3-A playoffs are Sweeny, Seminole and Brownboro.

Seminole is the team that beat Rice in 1979 for the state 3-A basketball championship. New Boston will not be in Austin this year to defend the 3-A title it won last year.

The Rice basketball team finished District 26-AAA play this past season as runner-up to district champion Gonzales. In basketball, both the champion and runner-up champ enter the playoffs. Rice met La Grange in the first round of the playoffs.

The Raiders finished season play with a 13-12 season record and the Rice cagers went 7-3 in conference play. Losses in district competition were two games to Gonzales and Columbus.

Rice coach Dusty Lowe will have only three players returning next year from this year's Raider squad. They are Dennis Hemphill, Jimmy Botard and Cornell Hurd.

Coach Lowe said he will probably bring up three or four players from this year's undefeated Rice freshman team to the varsity next year. Also expected to play on the Rice varsity basketball team next year will be Michael Hearn, Arthur Foster and Lynn Montgomery, three of the most consistent standouts on this year's junior varsity team.

Nelson Dabney was the leading scorer all year for Rice, sporting a 17.5 per-game average and Donald Ray Sparks, a standout in all sports at Rice High School, was second in the scoring department as he averaged 16.7 points per game.



Nelson Dabney (42) tosses in two points in the La Grange game. James Williamson (44) waits for rebound.



Leopards from La Grange win Bi-district over Rice. Here La Grange's H. Greathouse grabs rebound.



Rice basketball coach Dusty Lowe, center, maps strategy during crucial time out in Bi-district contest.

(Photos by John Fearing)

Raider baseball off to damp start

The weatherman has not been too helpful for the Rice Raider baseball team so far this season — the first scrimmage at Hallettsville has to be cancelled by wet grounds and workouts the Monday contest with Sealy — Keith Penell and Bryan Bubella each threw for three innings.

Rice's next outing after the Belville game Thursday will be in the Shiner baseball tournament on March 14-15-16.

District 26-AAA competition for the Raiders begins on April 9 at Altair when Edna visits Rice.

The Rice baseball lineup for 1985 includes Jason Smith as catcher and Penell and Bubella as pitchers. John Adkins at first base and Jon Wunderlich at second base.

Glen Leopold and Chad Miller are shortstops and Curt McTear and Michael Burke are listed as third basemen.

Steve Almanza and Everett Alvarado are leftfielders for the Raiders.

Kevin Long sees action in the centerfield position and Steven Drisk is the Rice right fielder.

Lady Raider tracksters launch season

Girls' track coach at Rice, Jane Dostal, is looking forward to the track season this year. She is not predicting another state championship, but she is not ruling it out either. The Lady Raider tracksters were co-champs in the state 3-A competition last year with Diboll.

Coach Dostal will get the first look at her 1985 track and field team this Saturday when the Rice girls travel to Yaokum for a meet there.

Twenty-one girls are out for track and field competition this year at Rice. And this is the first year ever for Rice to field both a varsity and junior varsity team in girls track and field.

Rice's mile relay team took second place in last year's state meet and three members of that team and an alternate are returning this year. They are Janet Scott, Becky Kutzer, Jennifer Woods and Marsha McTear. Kutzer was the alternate.

Woods, also a standout Lady Raider basketball player on the district championship team this past season, was also a member of the sprint relay team last year. Emerald Clayton is returning this year. She finished third in the 400 and third in the 800 meter runs last year.

Last year's participants in the state meet were the first for Rice High School since 1976 in the girls division. The last Rice student to participate in the state girls track meet was this year's girls track coach, Jane Dostal.

At that tournament, Rice placed fourth with a 362. Columbus was first with a 323, Cuero was second with 342, and Yaokum third with 346. Jeff Marquart was the medalist for the Raiders with an 82. Pecos Coble shot 9; Paige Pawhal, 66; Trip Cypoon, 66; and Billy Cook had 100. Kevin Dorn, 3, the other team member, was unable to attend the tournament.

Thursday's play in Columbus is a rematch of a tournament that was rained out here last Friday.

He said this week he is pleased with the progress his team is showing in workouts.

Cleve Scott is returning this year to the Rice track lineup. He finished fourth in the state meet last year in the 100-yard dash and he was a participant on the Raider sprint relay team that finished fourth in the state meet last year.

Carroll expects good things from the sprint teams and in weight competition. He said one of the strong points in the depth in the weights.

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Rice golfers meet Columbus

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Bob Ashby earns hunting award

Bob Ashby, well known for his biggame trophy hunts, added another trophy to his collection recently when he was named "Worldwide Sportsman of the Year" for 1984 by Ron the Guide, a world-wide hunt booking organization.

Ashby received the award, a beautifully engraved trophy, in mid-February at the organization's third annual South Texas Big Game Conference and Awards dinner in Corpus Christi. Ron's home. Between 300 and 500 people attended, including Prince Bandar Saud al Saud of Saudi Arabia who made the trip from the middle east.

While hunting and fishing all over the world, Ashby has bagged many trophy animals, and hunted with many persons well-known in the sporting world. Some of those attending the conference were George and Joann Watford, chairman and chief executive officer of Prairie Producing; George Angelides, professional hunter from Tanzania; Eduardo Arroz, professional hunter, Spain; Skipper Bettis, professional hunter, British Columbia; Charlie Cockrell, outfitter, New Mexico; Clarence Griffith, outfitter, Missouri; Tom Heist, professional

hunter, and Vern Humble, outfitter, both of Alaska; Texas state representative Stan Schlueter, and hunters, outfitters and government officials from other countries as China, Turkey, Kenya and Australia, as well as various states in the United States.

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38 students report for tennis

The tennis courts at Rice High School are taking on a bright look. Coach Dusty Lowe has been busily working on the courts the past two weeks getting ready for the upcoming tennis season.

Lowe said Monday that when he's finished with the courts at Rice High School, the school will have the "second best" tennis facilities in District 26-AAA. Gonzales presently has the best net facilities, the coach said.

To go with the improved courts at Rice, Lowe was surprised Monday when 38 students reported out to participate in tennis — only 24 players can be carried on the roster, the coach said, so he will have to test the 38 and any others who report out for tennis to get the best prospects.

Lowe will have about two weeks to get his team all lined up. Rice's first tennis meet is at 4:15 p.m. on March 19 at Yaokum.