

**This Week's Action!**



Date	Team, Time & Place
Thurs.-Sat.....	Rice baseball at Sacred Heart Tournament
March 5-7	Hallettsville
.....	Rice JV baseball at Edna JV Tournament
March 12-14.....	Rice JV baseball at Weimar JV Tournament
Fri., March 13 .....	Rice baseball vs. Hitchcock, Here, 6 p.m.

**Rice tennis players take trophies**

With eight schools participating at both Rice and Columbus High Schools during the First Annual Consolidated Tennis Tournament, the Rice Raiders came away with three top place wins.

The Lady Raiders fast-pitch softball team opened their second season last week by traveling to Schulenburg where they took part in the Third

Lori Grigar and Cori Gertson won first place in girl's doubles, defeating the Columbus team of Grobe and Dowell in a two tie-breaker final match 7-6, 7-6. Grigar and Gertson won their first match 12-6. In their second match, they defeated Koether and Leyser 12-6.

Angel Phillips and Stacy Rodriguez won first place consolation, defeating Rice and Petrosky of Columbus 8-4 in a Pro Set.

The boys' double team of Matthew Milentz and Barrett Thomas came in second, losing a tough, hard hitting match to the Columbus first seeds of Lowe and Mills. On the way to the finals, the boys won matches against Columbus, Bastrop and Bay City.

Also making an excellent showing were D.J. Sosa who came in fourth in a tough boys' singles bracket and the doubles team of Bo Vavrusa and Richard Vargas who also came in fourth.

Joel Baggett, Amanda Engstrom, Chanda Coxwell, Jenna Hoffman, Kristen Wesselski, Koehl Cranek and Clifford Keith and Leslie Waddell also participated.

**Living Word to be at Eagle Lake Methodist Church**

Living Word will be in Eagle Lake Sunday, March 8, at 7 p.m. This highly talented vocal group is appearing at United Methodist Church located at 200 W. Prairie.

Living Word is under the direction of Mr. Jay Polito.

Currently in their 25th year of ministry, this group of six singers based in Toms River, N.J., has traveled over a half million miles throughout the U.S. and Canada, performing over 2,000 concerts before church groups, youth rallies, high schools, colleges, summer camps and military bases.

The group has recorded 10 albums. Their most recent recording is titled "Window of Mercy" which includes songs that relate to all ages.

**SPORTS**

**Lady Raiders softball captures first victory**

Annual Lady Shorthorn Tournament involving nearly 25 area high school squads.

The Lady Raiders jumped quickly on the scoring wagon by reeling off seven first inning runs against their initial opponent, Navarro.

Though obviously rattled, the Navarro team regained their composure and, eventually, the lead despite timely hitting by Risa Waddell, Amy Obenhaus and freshman Stacy Schneider.

Lori Grigar and Teresa Pittman also added hits for the Rice squad, but first game jitters took the Lady Raiders defense out of the game and Navarro came back to claim a 16-9 victory.

After a quick meal shuffled line up, the Lady Raiders again forged out to an early lead over their second opponent, Ganado.

The Lady Raiders had built an 11-

1 lead through three innings on the bats of Shanna Waligura, Valerie Koronek and Christie Cranek.

Also aiding the Raiders were the sparkling defensive plays of Grigar and Pittman, who completed an unassisted double play to help pitcher Risa Waddell out of a jam.

Once again, though, the late innings were unkind to the Lady Raiders as the Ganado girls exploded for eight more runs bringing the score to 11-9 at the end of four innings.

With time quickly running out, the Ganado squad scurried to get the last inning started and were successful in prolonging the game but, thanks to four more Lady Raider runs in the top of the fifth, the Ladies secured their first win of the season.

This also goes down as the first win ever in Rice Lady Raider Softball history, spanning all of 15 games.

Unfortunately, the rejoicing and

talk of a softball dynasty died quickly and quietly at the hands of a very aggressive Burton team.

Burton brought only 11 players, but may have won with only the pitcher and catcher as the Lady Raiders struggled at the plate.

Numerous errors, due in part to the inexperienced players from Rice, and masterful pitching gave Burton the right to advance in the tournament and gave the Lady Raiders a sorrowful but rejuvenating trip back home.

Speaking of home, make plans to come out Saturday morning to see the first ever home game played on the Lady Raiders new ball field just west of the football field on Hwy. 90A.

Each fan who attends and registers will have a chance to win several Rice t-shirts, a cap or a Raider polo shirt! So come watch the Lady Raiders take on Brazos and be a part of Rice softball history.

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**Powerlifting meet nets Rice medals**

The Raider Booster Club sponsored the 4th Annual Rice Raider Powerlifting Championship Feb. 21.

Over 150 contestants representing 14 schools participated in the meet. Participants competed individually and as teams. The Raiders fared well in both areas.

In the girls division, the Raiders took second place in team competition

behind Louise. They were tied in points, but Louise edged Rice out by having three first place finishes to Rice's two. Third place was Luling.

Lori Grigar of Rice was awarded the trophy for outstanding lightweight lifter and Demetria Coleman of Columbus was named outstanding heavy weight.

Placing first in the boys division

was Cuero, followed by Smithville in second and Schulenberg, third.

Outstanding lifters were lightweight Justin George of Van Vleck and heavyweight P.J. Chovanec of La Grange.

Receiving medals in their respective weight classes were; first, Lori Grigar and Amy Obenhaus; second, Adriana Rodriguez, Justin Schneider and Kevin Godley; third, Risa Waddell, Caleche Cranek, Fausta Rodriguez and Chad Kallina; fourth, Martha Rodriguez and Jeremy Weishuhn. (See individual results in next week's paper.)

Members of the Booster Club wish to thank the students, faculty members, parents and fans who volunteered their time to make Rice's meet so successful. A special thank you to Coach Patrick Willis for the many hours of planning and coordinating.

Girl powerlifters will compete in Falfurrias for regionals this weekend. The boys' competition will be March 14. Good luck to all qualifiers!



**LCRA sets open house March 12**

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) will discuss options for meeting the region's future water needs at an open house Thursday, March 12, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Veterans Center in Columbus. The public is invited to attend.

"If you use water, this is for you," said Joe Beal, manager of WaterCo, LCRA's water operations section.

LCRA staff will host exhibits on possible options for stretching the region's water sources to meet increasing demands into the next century, including water conservation, groundwater development and channel dams.

The meeting will also feature exhibits on related issues such as recreation and the environment.

"We plan a very informal open house, with no speeches or presentations," said Jeff Saunders, LCRA hydrologist who is coordinating the meeting. "You'll be able to look at the informational exhibits and talk with LCRA staff, ask questions or express any concerns."

Refreshments will also be served. There's no admission charge.

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