

Varsity

ing the lead to 20-7. Ortiz boomed the PAT through for a 21-7 lead. This marks the fourth week in a row Milentz has thrown a touchdown pass while allowing no interceptions. After another Needville drive was stifled by the "organized chaos" Raider defense, the offense took over with Diggs hammering home another touchdown run of four yards. That upped the lead to 27-7 entering the final quarter. The Raiders, off a short punt by the Bluejays, took over again at midfield

early in the fourth and marched the ball down to the two yard line. From that point, Diggs powered over the goal line again for his third touchdown of the evening. An Upson two-point conversion run was good; bringing the score to 35-7. Needville scored a late touchdown with two minutes to go in the game against Rice's reserve unit. Coach Russell Roark showed class toward the end of the game by having quarterback Milentz kneel on the ball at the Bluejay 16 yard line

instead of trying to score again. Some coaches around the state should take notice... Roark and the Raiders still believe it's about competing and sportsmanship. When all was said and done, Diggs finished the night with his sixth consecutive 100-yard rushing performance; 114 yards on 21 carries and three big touchdowns. Ortiz had an outstanding game, blocking from his wide receiver position as well. The Raider offense is now averaging about 340 yards per game, while the Raider defense is giving up only 132 yards.

Defensively, free safety Gerald Williams and defensive tackle Cornelius "E.T." Ashton led the Raiders with 11 tackles a piece. Ashton was also credited with setting up Rice's first touchdown with a blocked punt. Jerry Cleveland and Quentin Whitfield were each credited with eight tackles. Whitfield also had two big sacks for minus 18 yards. Trent Korenek and Upson had six tackles each. John Rucka, Adam Baird, Jermal Wright and Dante Fuller were each credited with four assisted tackles. The Raider defense gave up less than 100 yards of offense, with the exception of the last two minutes when they turned Needville's running back loose for 63 yards.

Coach Russell Roark gave out game honors to: Gatorade Player of the Week: runningback/linebacker Jerry Cleveland; Co-Defensive Player of the Week: defensive end Quentin Whitfield; free safety Gerald Williams; Offensive Player of the Week: offensive tackle Adrian Espinosa; Special Team Player of the Week: Cornelius "E.T." Ashton. This Friday's ballgame at Wharton kicks off at 7:30 p.m. This game will have a huge bearing in determining playoff representatives in 24-3A. Let's pull together and have a great crowd in Wharton and support our 6-0, undefeated Rice Raiders!

Editor's Football Notes: Rice's Conrad Diggs has pulled ahead of Keith Edwards from Louise to take the top spot in total yards rushing in the statistics for 3A and smaller schools compiled by *The Chronicle*. Diggs has 967 yards on 131 carries for an average of 7.3 yards per carry. He still has more total yardage than the 4A leader (Albert Hardy of Galena Park with

939), but the 5A leader (Nick Ned of Langham Creek) has pulled ahead with 1,027 yards. Rice dropped to fourth in team defense with 134.8 yards allowed per game. Leading the 3A and smaller schools is Hemphill with an average of 90.8 yards allowed. Kinkaid with 118.8 yards and New Waverly with 129.6 fill in the space between Rice and Hemphill. Gerald Williams still holds a spot in the kickoff return stats at number four. He has three returns for 114 yards, an average of 38.0. Ahead of Williams are C. Breazeale of Van Vleet with 3 for 138 (46.0 average); Pat Rehm, Sacred Heart, 8 for 353 (44.1 average); and Carl Shelton, East Bernard, 3 for 128 (42.6).

The Raider offense is #10 in team offense with 1996 total yards (1562 rushing and 434 passing), averaging 332.7 yards per game. District 24-3A Standings

	Season		District	
	W	L	W	L
Rice (6)	6	0	2	0
Sealy (5)	3	2	1	0
Sweeny (4)	3	2	1	0
Wharton (2)	2	2	1	1
Needville (3)	1	5	1	1
Hitchcock (7)	1	4	0	2
Stafford (1)	1	4	0	2

Numbers in parentheses indicates enrollment ranking.

Scores 10-6: Sealy beat Hitchcock, 31-7; Wharton beat Stafford, 45-7; Sweeny beat St. Thomas, 48-7. The Collier-Sharp Football Report has picked Rice as a 6-point favorite in Friday's game against Wharton. They picked Sealy over Needville by 28 and Sweeny over Stafford by 27.

C-S ranks Lewisville as the top 5A Texas team again this week. They beat Carrollton Smith 40-9 last week. Port Arthur Lincoln has reclaimed the top position in 4A by defeating Dallas Kimball 35-0. Daingerfield continues to lead in 3A, winning over 4A Hallsville 27-26. Celina is still the #1 team in 2A after taking a week off. Shiner moves back over Stratford in 1A by beating Kenedy 37-6.

Garland had their 19-game winning streak broken in a mild upset by N. Mesquite 14-13, while San Antonio Jefferson stopped their 22-game losing streak with a 37-20 victory over San Antonio Sam Houston. This was also the week's biggest upset. Sam Houston was a 35-point favorite.

Dickinson and Texas City played in the barn-burner game of the week with Dickinson winning 58-52 in seven overtimes.

The past week's biggest blowout was Lone Oak 62, Winona 0.

The free Collier-Sharp web site, covering all classes of high school football in Texas, is at www.collier-sharp.com.

Upcoming Raider Action!



Date	Team, Place & Time
Thurs., Oct. 12	Raider freshmen vs. Wharton*, Here, 5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Raider varsity at Wharton*, 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 19	Raider freshmen at Sweeny*, 5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Raider varsity vs. Sweeny*, Here, 7:30 p.m.

*District competition



Scoring his third touchdown of the evening, Raider #12, Conrad "Beefy" Diggs stroled across the goal line even though he was surrounded by Bluejays. Diggs picked up 114 yards on 21 carries and scored three of Rice's five TDs during his sixth consecutive 100-yard rushing performance.

Headlight Photo

Lady Raiders complete in Bluejay tournament

Saturday, Oct. 7, the 8th grade Lady Raiders traveled to the Lady Bluejay Tournament in Needville.

The Lady Raiders seemed to sleep through their first match with Boling, as they were hammered 15-11, 15-0.

In the second game, the first server for Boling scored five points, while the second completed the match by serving 10 straight.

"It's very difficult to compete with anyone if we can't return a serve," stated the Raider coach.

After about two and a half hours of "waking up time", the Lady Raiders took the court against Needville and rolled through the first game, 15-6.

The Lady Jays took the second, 11-15, as one player served 10 points.

The third game was a hard fought affair, as the Lady Bluejays ousted the Lady Raiders 12-15 to eliminate the

Raiders from the tournament.

Playing for the Lady Raiders were Vanessa Villafuerte, Arizbeth Ruvalcaba, Ashley Parker, Bea Posada, Jameka White, Stephanie Tillman and Rachelle Shorter.

Scoring on serve for the Raiders in the two matches were Ruvalcaba, eight points; Parker and Posada, seven each; White, six; Shorter, three; and Villafuerte, who was playing with a hurt wrist on her serving hand, 16.

The Lady Raiders were scheduled to travel to Hitchcock Wednesday, Oct. 11, and will host the Lady Raider Tournament, Saturday, Oct. 14.

Bluejays nip freshmen, 19-12

The Rice Raider freshmen football team traveled to Needville Thursday, Oct. 5, suffering their first loss of the season to the Bluejays, 19 to 12.

Offensively, the Raiders only managed two touchdowns. Ricky Cunningham and Zack Kloss each scored on running plays.

Other offensive standouts were linemen Jess Little, Dustin Krenk and Rusty Moore.

Defensively, the Raiders did a good job of causing a turnover late in the game which gave the Raiders a chance to win. However, the offense could not convert. Defensive standouts were Little, Michael Cooper, Marcus Woods, Kloss, Jasmine Smith and Anthony Palmer.

The Raiders host the Wharton Tigers this Thursday, Oct. 12.

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