

Raiders travel to Sealy for District Title

The undefeated, 9-0, Rice Raiders travel to Sealy Friday night for a district title showdown with the highly-ranked Tigers. The Raiders, currently 5-0 in district 24-3A standings, have a one game lead over Sealy (4-1) and Sweeny (4-1).

With a victory, they can claim rights to a perfect 10-0 record and an outright district championship, which would be their first in school history.

Sealy can claim a share of the district trophy with a Tiger victory Friday night.

There is also a possibility of a three-way tie for the district title, if Sealy wins and Sweeny defeats Needville. Then, playoff seedings would go down to point differential.

All of these scenarios are immaterial if the Raiders can take care of business Friday in Sealy.

Rice, Sweeny and Sealy have already clinched playoff positions after last Friday's games. While Rice had an open week, Sealy defeated Stafford 38-14, Sweeny beat Hitchcock 35-6 and Wharton beat Needville 37-30.

District standings are: Rice 5-0; Sweeny, 4-1; Sealy 4-1; Wharton 3-3; Hitchcock, 1-4; Needville, 1-4; and Stafford, 0-5.

In district 24-3A, the playoffs spots are still blurry.

It appears Splendor has the top spot locked up, with Madisonville, Coldsprings and Cleveland still vying for playoff positions. The picture will be cleared up Friday night and the Raiders will then know their bi-district opponent, time, date and site.

Coach Russell Roark said, "This is a huge game for us. We can go 10-0 and be on a roll into the playoffs, or we could be 9-1 and a third place district representative.

"Our kids need to step up and play well Friday, because, to be honest, we haven't played very well on the road this season. Sealy's a very good football team, and we must be ready to play. We really shouldn't have trouble getting our players pumped up for this game. We need this one badly."

Upcoming Raider Action!



Date Team, Place & Time
 Thurs., Nov. 8 Raider freshmen vs. Sealy, Here, 5 p.m.
 Raider JV vs. Sealy, Here, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Nov. 9 Raider varsity at Sealy*, 7:30 p.m.
 *District competition

T'was the Night Before the Game

Note: This was found on the Internet and modified by a Raider fan.

T'was the night of the ball game when all through the school, all the fans were stirring because Rice Raiders ruled. The footballs were stored in the locker room with care, in hopes that the Mighty Raiders soon would be there. The students were nestled all snug in the stands, knowing that a victory would soon be at hand. And the RHS cheerleaders of silver and blue, showing their school colors for all to be true. When out in the parking lot their arose such a clatter, I sprang from my seat to see what was the matter. Away to the lot I flew like a flash, Tore open the door and out I dashed. The moon on the breast of the new fallen rain, gave a lust of midday to objects again and again. When what to wondering eyes should appear, but a Rice Raider bus, the football players were here! More rapid, the Raiders, with their muscles they came, Coach Roark whistled and shouted and called them by name: Now...To the top of the league, to the top score shining in the night, Now play hard, play hard, play hard and fight!!! So onto the field the players flew, with the cheering fans and Coach Roark too.

As they put on their jerseys of blue, silver and white, out to the field, oh what a sight! A wink of Coach Roark's eye and a twist of his head, soon gave the crowd a thumbs up to know they had nothing to dread. And laying his finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod, up the points and the scoreboard rose. So throughout the game, the Raiders scored and got hot, passing and running and harder they fought. A bundle of points they scored on the board. The fans were delighted and cheered, "We want more!" The cheerleaders were excited and yelled, "Go, Fight, Win!" The crowd joined in, and they shouted it again! Stunting and jumping and pumping the crowd, The cheerleaders yelled more and the stadium was quite loud!! The opponents have not a chance, and you know the rest. The Raiders beat the Tigers, because they are the best. At the end of the game, RHS formed a victory tunnel, they sang the fight song, as our football team funneled. The coach sprang to the bus to give his team a whistle, and away they flew like a firing missile. But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, The Raiders are #1 and to all a good night!!!

Raider JV pummels Stafford 46-6

The JV Rice football team traveled to Stafford last Thursday and walked away with a 46-6 thrashing of the Spartans.

The JV Raiders moved to 8-0 on the year and 5-0 in district.

Scoring Summary					
Team	1	2	3	4	Tot.
Rice JV	16	16	6	8	46
Staff. JV	0	0	0	6	6

First quarter
 7:02 Stuart Ray, 32 yard interception return; Zach Kloss, 2-point conversion.

3:11 Joe Lee Perez, 11 yard touchdown run; Stephen Moore, 2-point conversion.

Second quarter
 4:58 S. Moore, 56 yard touchdown run; Jasmine Smith, 2-point conversion.

0:56 Jermaine Hemphill, 14 yard touchdown run; Moore to Shaw, 2-point conversion pass.

Third quarter
 4:31 Kloss, 2 yard run; 2-point conversion failed.

Fourth quarter
 8:54 Stafford, 1 yard run, 2-point conversion, no good.

4:53 Jonathan Thomas, 2 yard touchdown run; Moore to Scott, 2-point conversion.

The JV Raiders will try to move its season mark to 9-0 Thursday night, Nov. 8, at home against the Sealy Tigers.

Come out and support the Raiders as they try for the perfect season, and to be the outright JV district champions.

A Father's Concern

By Dr. David F. Russell

On Sunday, Veteran's Day, we do well to reflect on the war that has been set before us and on those who serve.

What follows is a story from a dear friend. His son is a soldier, who has been deployed in the war on terrorism. The words are especially poignant, because they speak for thousands of mothers and fathers and husbands and wives who are today anxiously waiting for word from their loved ones.

"It both end and begins with a phone call.

"Hey Dad... Just got the word that we're moving out, pronto. Like we talked before, it'll be a while before I can call again. I love you. Don't worry about me. Put Mom on for a sec, will you?"

"It's the end of the waiting for military orders. The end of hope that they don't come. The end of uncertainty about deployment. He's going.

"The end is bad, but the beginning is worse. It's the beginning of long months of silence. Long nights of worry. Watch the news. Search the Internet. Wait for the phone to ring... but it doesn't.

"He might be in Turkmenistan, or Uzbekistan, or a dozen of other countries I didn't know existed before Sept. 11. I knew it might happen. After all, this is what he was trained for. He's a soldier. I know he's proud to do his duty. And I'm proud of him.

"I hug my wife and tell her he's going to be okay, but we need something more to cling to. 'Lord give him strength. Lord protect him.' Still, I have to focus. I have to keep on living, despite the hollow numbness in the pit of my stomach.

"My boy's gone to war. 'I've been there, but I've never been here. I've been the one to go to war, but not the one left behind... to

wait... to worry... to wonder. I didn't want this for him.

"Only yesterday he was a little kid pleading for me to go outside and play ball. Today he's a man doing his duty, defending his nation.

"He's special to me, but really no different from thousands of others. Your sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, friends and neighbors. They're all doing their duty, leaving their homes, leaving their families to fight an enemy who wears no uniform, swears allegiance to no country, and recognizes no rules of war.

"America's troops may be gone for weeks, even months or years. Some may never come home, yet all will be with their 'family.'

"Not blood relatives-not mom and dad-but with other young men and women with whom they serve in the military uniform of our country. Come what may, none will fail those with whom they serve.

"They are today's 'Private Ryans' and 'Band of Brothers.' Their platoons and air wings and ship's companies are their families, their brothers and sisters.

"Each has pledged his life and entrusted his safety to the other. All have forged a sacred bond that will last a lifetime, a bond none can understand; except those who share it.

"We are praying as a family, because, in a very real sense, every Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman and Coast Guardsman is a part of our family, The American Legion family and we love them all and we're proud of them.

"So, let us also pray that His will be done, and that He give us the strength to bear it-be it sorrow or rejoicing.

"God has blessed America with much bounty and many fine men and women through the years who have risked their lives - and given them - to preserve our liberty and our way of life.

"So today let this be our prayer, as in ages past, 'God Bless America.'

CCA to hold election

Combined Community Action Inc. (CCA), the anti-poverty human service agency serving Austin, Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette and Lee Counties, will be holding elections in Nov. for the representation of low-income residents of Colorado County to serve on the CCA Board of Directors.

The by-laws of CCA, a non-profit, tax exempt corporation, require the Governing Board of Directors be representative of three sectors of the community: public officials, private sector and elected representatives of the poor population.

Currently serving are Colorado County Commissioner Doug Wessels from Rock Island, Ms. Barbara Henson and Rev. Eugene Thomas from Columbus. There will be an election to select a low-income representative for Colorado County to serve a two-year term. This will take place in the basement of the Colorado County Court-

house in the CCA office. The meeting to elect this representative will be Monday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m.

Qualifications for nominees are:

1. Must be a U.S. Citizen;
2. Must reside in the county to be represented;
3. Must be at least 18 years of age;
4. Must declare his/her willingness to serve on the CCA Board.

CCA is now accepting nominations for this position. Nominees must submit forms indicating their qualifications as well as biographical information. The deadline for filing these forms is 5 p.m., Nov. 8. Forms should be submitted to the CCA Administrative Office, 165 W. Austin, Giddings, Texas 78942.

Additional information and forms may be obtained from your local CCA office or by calling Jennifer at the CCA Central Office in Giddings at 979-540-2980.

TWONC

and offer assorted beverages and snacks.

Visiting musician Joel Guzman will also make a guest appearance beginning at 4 p.m. and offer a repertoire of accordion music to the assemblage as it watches the late afternoon gathering of bird life at this haven.

Club members will not only determine if the music of this celebrated artist attracts birds but also if Accordionist Guzman can qualify as an expert bird watcher as well.

Club members, friends, visitors and potential Club members are cordially invited to view ducks, geese, wading birds, hawks, newly-arrived songbirds at this sanctuary. Binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras with telephoto lenses will be useful from a vantage point on a grassy knoll.

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Outdoor clothing, especially a jacket to ward off the late afternoon chill, is recommended, but waders will be unnecessary at the landscaped facility at the end of a well-graded road and in the midst of fallow rice fields, marshes, a small lake and assorted ground cover along field borders.

To get to the "Duck House", drive south from Eagle Lake on 3013 turn left Wharton for 1.7 miles, turn left (east) on a black-topped road for 1.4 miles, turn left (north) through a double gate, follow the graded road past a trailer house to adequate parking space next to the "beach-type" house. Club members will congregate on the high, well-positioned knoll beyond.

Persons wishing more information about this event or other TWONC activities or membership are asked to call Fannie Merle Welch in Wharton, 979-532-3195; Susan Tomchesson, East Bernard, 979-335-4883; Mae Ashby, Eagle Lake, 979-234-2019; or Doris Laughlin, Columbus, 979-732-8875.

Veterans

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four years on active duty, flew with the 155th Assault helicopter company of the 1st aviation brigade during the Vietnam War.

As an aircraft commander and aviation section leader, Boudreaux also earned numerous military decorations, including two awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal for Heroism, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

During his final 18 months in the service, Boudreaux attained the rank of Captain and was a flight instructor at the Primary Helicopter School.

In addition to remarks by the distinguished keynote speaker, the program will also feature music by the Arabia Shrine Temple Band, a rifle salute, a bugler playing taps and a cannon salute.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information or directions to the cemetery, please call 281-447-8686, ext. 200.

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