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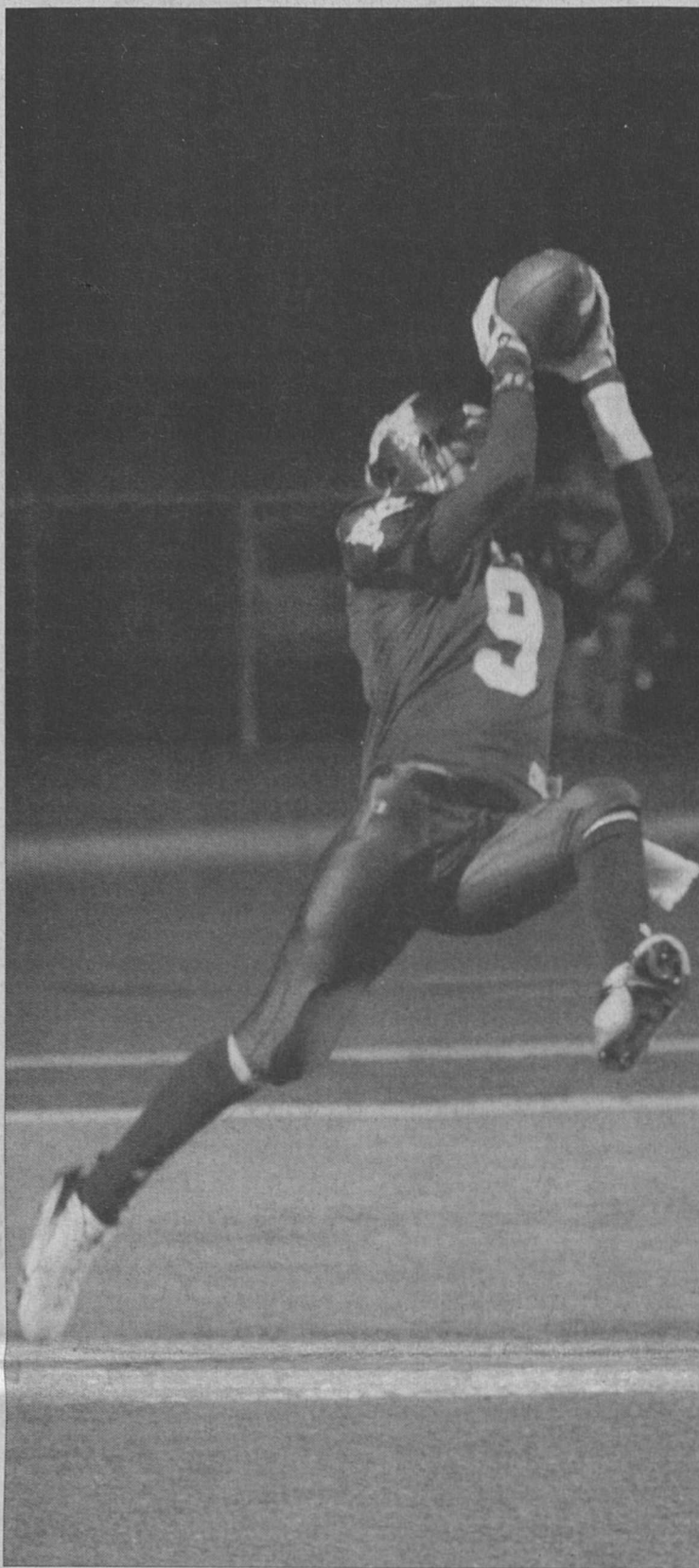
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EAGLE LAKE, TEXAS

NOVEMBER 29, 2007



Mario Hull hauls in the touchdown that gave the Raiders their first lead of the game in the fourth quarter last Friday night against Lago Vista.

Raiders Sink Vikings With 19-Point Comeback

For the second week in a row, the Rice Raiders had to come from behind in order to extend their season. This time it was against Lago Vista at Hays Consolidated High School, near Buda.

Rice found themselves trailing 40-21 early in the fourth quarter of the area playoff game before scoring three unanswered touchdowns to take a 41-40 victory.

The Raiders (11-1) advance to the regional round where they will face off against Stockdale (10-2) at Memorial Stadium in Victoria on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The winner will take on the winner of East Bernard (8-3) versus Refugio (12-0) in the regional final. (Playoff bracket on page B4)

The Raiders completed their comeback when Taylor Cook hit Mario Hull in the corner of the end zone on fourth and twelve for a 26-yard score with 4:40 left in the game. Luis Samaniego made the go-ahead extra point.

Lago Vista had an opportunity

to kick a go-ahead field goal, but the 35-yard attempt missed with 1:02 left in the game. The kick could have been from 30 yards, but Lago Vista was pushed back by a false start penalty.

"One of the things we have preached all year is 48 minutes long," said Coach Brad Dumont about how the team stayed in the game despite the deficit.

"The whole staff believes we will win," he added.

Ziggy Foster had another great performance with 222 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

"He is special and his O-Line is doing a great job," Dumont said.

Cook threw for 87 yards with two touchdowns. He also rushed for 46 yards and a score.

"Cook made the big play when we needed," said Dumont. "I have all the confidence in him, as do his teammates," he added.

Hull caught three passes, two for touchdowns including the game winner, and had 49 yards on the night.

Foster has rushed for 1,045 yards and 15 touchdowns in the last four games. He has 2,213 yards and 26 touchdowns on the year.

Lago Vista struck first in the contest on their first possession of the game.

They started their drive on the Raider 49 and a 26-yard run got them to the Raider 20 with first down.

Two plays later they had first and goal at the ten, finally scoring on third down from the three. The extra point was good and with 7:19 left in the first quarter it was 7-0, Lago Vista.

The Raiders started their first drive at the 38 and Foster carried for six yards, followed by Cook

for three.

Foster then broke free for 18 yards to the Viking 41.

Three plays later Rice went for a first down on fourth and five, but a defensive holding play gave them the automatic first down at the 29.

Foster broke loose on another run for 24 yards to set up first and goal at the five.

Foster punched the ball into the end zone on the next play and Samaniego tied the game with the extra point. With 3:49 left in the quarter, the score was 7-7.

Lago Vista's next possession also resulted in a touchdown.

A 44-yard carry set up first and goal at the nine. They found pay
Continued on page B1

Raiders Play Stockdale Friday In Victoria

The Rice Raiders (11-1) will take on the Stockdale Brahmas (10-2) on Friday night in Victoria at Memorial Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. for the regional matchup.

Coach Brad Dumont said that Stockdale like to run their offense from shotgun formations and their quarterback is the leading rusher on the team.

The Raiders have equaled the most wins for a Raider team, and look to advance to the quarterfinals for only the second time.

Rice's previous trip to the quarterfinals in 2003 resulted in a four overtime loss to Port Isabel.

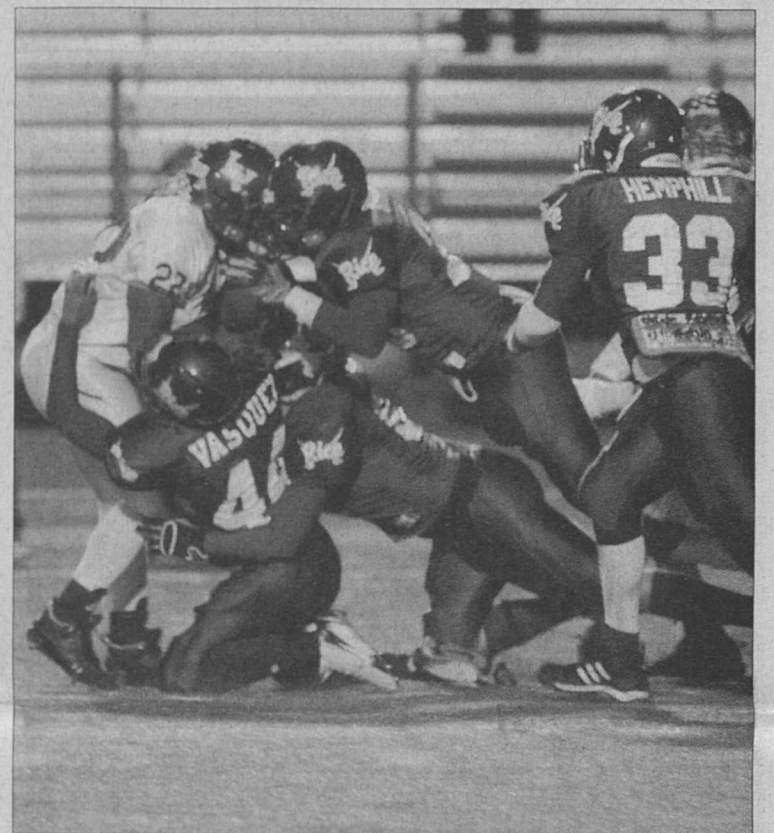
Dumont said that the Brahma defense is very physical.

"We will need a great performance to come out on top," he added.

The Raiders are six point underdogs in the contest, according to the Harris Poll.

The winner will face the winner of Regugio (12-0) versus East Bernard (8-4).

Directions to the game are on page B3.



Chito Vasquez, Damian Steven and another Raider take on the Lago Vista running back.

NEWSBRIEFS

Raiders to play Friday in Victoria

The Rice Raiders continue the 2A state playoffs Region IV 2A Regional Championship against the Stockdale Brahmas Friday, November 30 at Memorial Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Presale tickets sold at Rice CISD Administration office thru 3 p.m. Thursday. \$6 for adults and \$3 for students. All tickets at the gate will be \$6.

Raider Pep Rally to be held Friday

Raiders will be having a pep rally on Friday at 2:30 p.m. in the gym. When the team leaves there is going to be a caravan to Victoria. The Cheerleaders will paint and decorate any cars that want to be decorated. We will leave from the high school. There will also be a tailgate party at Viper Stadium.

Catholic Daughters spaghetti dinner Sunday

The Catholic Daughters Eagle Lake #2465 will hold a spaghetti dinner Sunday, Dec. 2 at Didner Hall from 6 to 7 p.m. Plates to go available from 5 to 7 p.m. There will also be a silent auction and quilt drawing. The CCD Christmas Programs starts at 5:30. For more information or tickets call 234-3620, 234-5667 or 234-5208.

Chamber office now open

A reminder to the citizens of Eagle Lake, the Chamber Office is now open Monday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sealy Dance Club to hold public Dance Dec. 1

The Sealy Dance Club will be hosting a public Dance Saturday, December 1 at the American Legion Hall in Sealy. Dance time is 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the "Texas Sound Czech". The theme for this dance is Mistletoe and Magic Christmas Affair. Every dance is a big party and fun time. Free cake, coffee, sandwiches, chips, dips and door prizes. The public is invited. For information call 979-885-3589.

GRSBC program is Dec. 2

Greater Rising Star Baptist Church (GRSBC) 9th Pastor Aid Program will be held Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. Speaker will be Rev. K. Wicks, Rev. Truman Scott, Sr. pastor.

Mt. Olive Baptist Church supper Dec. 2

Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church will be having a Candlelight Lord's Supper on Sunday, December 2 at 6 p.m. Bishop K. Conner of New Beginning Baptist Church of Houston will be the guest speaker. Rev. D. Curry, Pastor.

Rice Medical Center blood drive Dec. 4

Rice Medical Center will be having their quarterly "Commit for life" blood drive on Tuesday, December 4 from 2 to 7 p.m. The donor coach will be at the visitor parking lot at the hospital. Holidays always seem to need more blood, so call Barbara Pidgeon at 234-5571, ext 5236 to make an appointment. Walkins are always welcome.

Study Club to have meeting Dec. 5

The Eagle Lake Study Club will hold their December Christmas meeting on Wednesday, December 5 at 2 p.m. at the home of Maryan Gertson in Lissie. This earlier date will take the place of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Courthouse Project Costs Creeping Higher

Colorado County commissioners, meeting on Monday, were given higher price tags for courthouse renovation and construction of an annex.

In September the courthouse renovation was estimated at \$8.5 million and has now grown to \$8.7 million.

The annex jumped from an estimated \$3 million to \$5.5 million.

At the same time, the archi-

tect working with the county has drawn one option for a two-story building, covering about 22,000 square feet that would require taking the property occupied by the Farm Bureau.

Commissioners are expecting a grant from the state to cover about \$6 million of the courthouse renovation work.

Still, commissioners and members of a citizen's steering com-

mittee cautioned that the figures were preliminary and subject to change and no decisions had been made about the size or shape of the annex.

Commissioners noted they will have the final say.

But the new figures, if they hold, mean the county will have to come with about \$8.2 million for the courthouse renovation and the annex.

County Judge Al Jamison said after the meeting the increased figures would probably mean the county would have to have a tax increase of about 4 cents per \$100 valuation.

That figure is up from an estimate of 3 cents earlier this year.

Commissioner Tommy Hahn also expressed some concern that there was talk of moving some offices of which commissioners were not aware.

He also indicated he had some concerns about a recommendation to acquire land now occupied by the Colorado County Farm Bureau for a new annex, across Travis Street from the courthouse.

Hahn said he was concerned about how one of the items on the agenda was listed to authorize construction of a courthouse annex.

"We don't have answers for the public," Hahn said, referring to the size, location and offices that would be housed in an annex.

County Judge Al Jamison said he had listed the item "to leave a footprint" that the commissioners had discussed the issue, but said he was not pushing for an authorization.

Commissioners later tabled the authorization of construc-

Continued on page A12

Rice Board Receives Favorable Audit

The Rice School Board got news at their regular meeting November 19 that their annual financial audit was unqualified, which, in layman's terms means that the audit was good.

The district reported revenues of \$11.927 million with expenditures at \$10.959 million.

The district's fund balance ending the year was \$9.123 million. This balance is the amount of money the district has to operate before tax payments start to come in the fall.

The money is also a reserve of sorts in case the district runs into some sort of major problem.

The district has earmarked about \$3.5 million for use on capital investments and for construction. This practice is called fund designation, and the expenditures are not set in stone.

According to state formulas, the district's optimum fund balance would be about \$5.2 million, though the auditor indicated that it was not a bad thing to have more than that.

She indicated that the district was in good financial health.

Board members also discussed the possibility of joining the El Campo-Louise Special Education Co-Op for next school year.

Superintendent Michael Lanier said that his guess was that joining the coop could save the district as much as \$100,000 a year.

The district had been involved in a coop with Weimar ISD, but that was dissolved by Weimar.

Because El Campo is the financial administrator for the
Continued on page A12



Firefighters were called to the 1000 block of Campo Rosa Road to battle a trailer fire around 8:20 a.m. Sunday. No injuries were reported and an investigation indicated that the fire started when a cat knocked over a lit candle inside the trailer.