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Mario Hull hands off to Terrance Shorter with a host of Raiders blocking for him, including: Ryan Korenek, Francisco Vazquez, Kody Miller and Steven Lafferman.

Raiders District Champs; 14 District Wins In A Row

The Rice Raiders sealed-up a second straight, outright district championship on Friday with a 28-13 win in Hempstead.

Rice shared the district title in 2007 and has won 14 straight district games.

The Raiders had already claimed their spot in the playoffs for a tenth consecutive season with a win over Schulenburg October 23.

The Raiders ran the ball well in the win over Hempstead, gaining 170 yards on the ground.

"We wanted to run it and keep it away from them," said Rice Coach Brad Dumont.

Dumont said that he credits an improving offensive line for the success in the running game on Friday.

"We have to run the ball to be successful in the playoffs," he added.

The Raider defense played yet another great game, holding the leading rusher in the district to under 100 yards and kept him out of the end zone all night.

The Raiders played without quarterback Myles Dumont for a second week, with receiver Mario Hull filling in for him under center.

Hull only threw five times on the night, with two completions, one a touchdown to Chris Dorsey.

He also ran for 40 yards, and had a rushing touchdown.

Terrance Shorter was a work-horse for the Raiders carrying the ball 26 times for 125 yards and two touchdowns on the evening.

Hempstead jumped out to a 7-0 lead early, but the Raiders got the ground game rolling and scored 28 straight before Hempstead added their final points on an interception return for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

The game looked like it might get off to a tense start before it started when the Hempstead team went to midfield after Rice had lined up for the coin toss and national anthem and began chanting, then faced the Raider team and continued yelling and chanting in what looked to be a psych-out attempt.

Coach Dumont said that he didn't know if that was something they always did, and indicated that it may have helped the Raiders get pumped up for the start of the game, though he said that they were already ready to play.

Hempstead took the ball to start the game and wasted no time moving down the field to draw first blood in the contest.

They ran the ball six straight times to the Raider 13, but after a pass break up by J. J. Reggins,

Hempstead faced a fourth down and lined up for a field goal.

Rice jumped offside and the five yards gave Hempstead a first down at the eight.

They ran it in on the next play for a 7-0 lead with 8:09 to go in the first quarter.

Rice took the ball at the 37 on their first possession.

The Raiders also worked the ground game with Shorter carrying for five, then 19 yards to Hempstead 37.

Two plays later, Rice faced a third and nine, and Hull came up with a ten yard carry for the first down to keep the Raiders moving.

Two plays after that, he gained another 20 on a carry to the Hempstead six.

After pushing to the one, the Raiders fell short of the goal line on third down, and decided to go for the touchdown on fourth down.

Hull went over the top on a sneak and scored the touchdown.

Cristian Samaniego made the extra point and the score was tied at 7 with 2:16 left in the first

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Rice Homecoming On Friday

The Rice Raiders are set to host Brazos on Homecoming Night in Altair on Friday. Game time is set for 7:30 with Homecoming activities during halftime.

The Raiders have established their playoff position and have already secured the district title.

The Raiders will play either Rogers or Lexington in the bi-district round of the playoffs, depending on the outcome of Rogers versus Salado on Friday night.

Rice has a 14-game district win streak going.

"We will look to extend our district winning streak to 15 in a row with a win," said Rice coach Brad Dumont.

Dumont said that they would not overlook Brazos and that they want to keep the win streak going.

He also indicated that quarterback Myles Dumont would be a game time decision. He has missed the last two weeks with a knee injury.

"We feel he is getting better, but is still day to day," said coach

Dumont.

Brazos has held their last three opponents to 37 points.

They beat Hallettsville last week, 14-6 and narrowly lost to Hempstead earlier in the season 10-7.

Their offense has only averaged 200 yards per game while they give up 313 yards per contest. They have only thrown for 345 yards total the entire season.

Due To Drought, LCRA To Ponder Suspensions

LCRA's municipal and industrial water customers were told Oct. 26 that LCRA staff is considering recommending a temporary suspension of action on new contracts that would increase demand for municipal and industrial water.

This is part of a plan LCRA is developing for managing the third year of the Colorado River Basin Drought.

"This is not just another drought."

"We think it could be the worst drought our region has ever faced," said LCRA General Manager Tom Mason.

"Every water user in the lower Colorado River basin has been affected by this serious drought and will continue to be affected."

"Everyone will have to make sacrifices and change how they use water."

Mason said the intensity of the current drought dropped the region's water-supply reservoirs, lakes Travis and Buchanan, to less than 40 percent of their capacity this summer, due to these factors:

-A two-year rainfall deficit in some parts of the basin of as much as 30 inches below normal.

-Historically low inflows into the Highland Lakes in three of the past four years. Most of the rains that fell in the Highland Lakes watershed this summer soaked into the extremely dry ground, with little runoff into rivers and creeks that feed the Highland Lakes.

-Record hot summers in 2008 and 2009. These produced record high temperatures that increased rate of evaporation on the lakes.

-Higher demand for irrigation water from agricultural customers.

Recent rains have been beneficial, but the drought is far from over.

Water supply lakes remain less than half full despite significant rains last week.

Mason added that the recent rains, while welcome, have not recovered the significant inflow deficit that was nearly 400,000 acre-feet this summer.

The deficit represents the shortfall of water coming into the Highland Lakes compared to the worst drought in recent history - the Drought of Record - that occurred in the 1940s and 1950s.

Long-term forecasts show above-normal rain this fall and winter, due to El Niño.

The temporary suspension of new water sales, if approved, would not require any current customer to limit its water sales.

The main purpose for considering a temporary suspension of new water sales is to ensure that firm water customers like the City of Austin that have reserved adequate water can receive the water they planned to receive and that LCRA can fulfill its responsibility.

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Chris Dorsey, Jonovan Allen and Francisco Vazquez stop a Hempstead runner.

NEWSBRIEFS

Playoff t-shirts for sale!

The Rice Booster Club is pre-ordering football playoff shirts which will arrive in time for the first game. Sizes YS - AXL will sell for \$12 each, and 2X and 3X sell for \$13 each. Pre-orders will be taken until Wednesday, Nov. 4. The shirt will be royal blue with a screen design on the front announcing the 10-year consecutive playoff run and will have the football roster on the back. For more information call Clarice Dumont at 361-772-6909 or email cadumont@ricecid.org.

Calling All 21st Century Raiders

Rice High School is inviting all Raider football players from 2000 through the present to be recognized at Rice Homecoming 2009 on Friday, Nov. 6 against Brazos. The Raiders have made the playoffs 10 consecutive years and want to give everyone that was part of this tremendous run their due.

Senior citizen's dance is Friday

A senior citizen's dance will be held Friday, Nov. 6 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Center. The Fabulous 4 will provide the musical entertainment. For more information call 979-234-2903.

E.H. Henry fund drive Saturday

E.H. Henry Scholarship Committee will hold a Scholarship Fund walk-a-thon, trike-a-thon, bike-a-thon and scooter-a-thon on Nov. 7. Registration is from 7-7:30 a.m. Race starts at 8 a.m. Prizes for first, second and third place. For more information call 979-758-3515, 758-3000, 979-234-3854 or 234-6532.

Anniversary celebration in progress

You are invited to come out and help celebrate three years of dedicated service with Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church (BC) family. They will honor Pastor and Sister Dave Curry. Pre-anniversary is Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. Speaker will be Pastor H.O. Williams of Mt. Carmel BC. Pre-anniversary musical will be Saturday, Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. Appreciation will be Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 p.m. Speaker will be Pastor Obie Rhodes of White Cloud BC.

Sealy Dance to host dance Saturday

The Sealy Dance Club will host a public dance Saturday Nov. 7 at the American Legion Hall in Sealy. Dance time is 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Music will be provided by "Al Sulak". Great mixed music. The theme for this dance is "Autumn Harvest". Come and have fun. Every dance is a big party and fun time. Open to the public. Free cake, coffee, sandwiches, chips, dips, and door prizes. The public is invited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Gardiner Ministries to be in Sheridan

David Gardiner Ministries will be at Thy Word on Sat. Nov. 7 at 2:30 p.m. The church is located at 1112 Hwy. 90-A west in Sheridan. Call 361-772-0170. There will be worship, word, and personal prayer.

Annual meeting at Plaza

The Plaza Theatre, Inc., will hold the annual meeting of its membership at 7 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the theater, 120 South Houston Street in Wharton. Agenda items include State of the Theatre addresses from members of the executive committee and board elections; the slate of nominees for the 2009-2010 board is Henry Baade, Amber Barbee, Regena Bass, Tony Bone, Russell Kacer, Roshunda Jones, Henri-Ann Nortman, and Patsy Sabrsula. Bud Northington will be named an Honorary Board Member, and a plaque honoring Honorary Board Members will be installed in the lobby. Everyone is invited but only members may vote. Memberships may be purchased at the meeting.

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Winners of the Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce's costume contest on Saturday are pictured above. Front row left to right: Adult: Sharon Geigley as pirate; 1st Grade to 3rd Grade, Tristram Munoz as Dr. Death; 4th Grade to 6th Grade, Jasmine Cadriel as Wednesday of the Adams Family; Infant to Kindergarten, Zachery Etheridge as Tin Man. Back row left to right: Jr High to High School, tie, Ricardo Gonzalez as Frankenstein and Madison Stancik as Diva.