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Michigan Prep Football Insights

Brother Rice vs. Catholic Central

By Prepseer

It used to be called the Boys Bowl. Rice's participation in the Boys Bowl ended in 2002, but the game between the Warriors and Shamrocks is now an annual rivalry game that is the highlight of the season for both teams. The 2010 edition will be the 54th in the series that began in 1963. CC leads the series 27 to 25. There has been one tie. This year's game promises to be one of the most interesting in the long series.

The game will be played on a Sunday afternoon, just like the old Boys Bowl clashes. It will be Rice's home game and played at Wayne State University at 2:00 pm, October 10. The game culminates a weekend-long All-Class Reunion that celebrates Brother Rice's 50th Anniversary. Based on pre-season prognostications, there's a

good chance both teams will be state-ranked when they meet in Week 7 of the season. Who knows, they could both be undefeated, just like many of their previous meetings. Regardless of the records, the game will be a battle and a toss-up as to the outcome.

In addition to the Wayne State venue, there will be many special activities surrounding the game. The week before the game, there will be a one-hour special on Channel 4 that will highlight the 50 years of Brother Rice High School and its academic and athletic excellence. The program will chronicle the “Rivalry for the Ages,” the football series between Brother Rice and Catholic Central. Highlights from the series, including interviews with former players and coaches from both schools will help fans relive some of those great memories. There also will be an in-depth preview of this year’s game, which will be the 500th football game in Brother Rice history. The special will be produced by Emmy Award winning State Champs.

Another special event surrounding this year’s game is the national coverage that will result from the game being featured in ESPN-U’s Great American Rivalries series. The production crew will be in town for the week leading up to the game and will be filming at both schools as they prepare for the Sunday battle. The game play-by-play will be aired on a tape-delayed basis on ESPN-U. Only a handful of games are selected as Great American Rivalries each year, and with its long history of nail-biter classics between two Michigan state powers, this game has made the list of this year’s games.

Special game day activities currently are being planned. A special halftime show, coin toss ceremonies, alumni tailgates, etc. will add to the usual excitement of this game. There will be a special game program produced just for this game. It will feature a game summary for each of the 53 games in the long series and top individual performances in these games. A spirit tee shirt has been produced and distributed at both schools. It features the special rivalry between Rice and CC, not only in football but also in all other sports. All sports and the state championships of each school in each sport are highlighted. There have been 102 MHSAA State Championships between the two schools (55 Brother Rice, 47 CC). The shirt has been produced in two colors (orange for Rice, white for CC). It should make for a couple of interesting student sections at Wayne State.

The game will serve as the kickoff for a new trophy that will be awarded to one of the two schools after the 2010-11 school year. Dubbed the Catholic-Brother Cup, points are awarded for each win in each sport at each grade level for the entire school year. It will add an interesting twist to the already great rivalry that exists between the schools in all sports. In a dry run last year, it was a virtual tie heading into the final contest of the year—the MHSAA Lacrosse Championship Game.

The Sunday date for this year’s game should allow fans of other teams to come out and see what this Brother Rice-CC series is all about. Circle October 10 on your calendar and head over early to Wayne State. A sellout crowd is expected.

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