



Volleyball Program Accomplishments Through the 2010 Season (started in '93)

444 VARSITY WINS IN PROGRAM HISTORY. (444-201-2 → .689)

2001-2010 – Ten consecutive years of 20 plus wins in a varsity season.

2005: 1st Chicago Catholic League (CCL) school to win all 3 CCL titles the same year.

2007 Varsity: - Most wins and longest win streak in a season in program history (39)

- First team to win all 4 in-season tournaments in program history

- 1st CCL school to win 6 varsity CCL titles

- IHSA State Finals Sportsmanship Award Winner

VARSITY (IHSA and CCL sanctioned since 1992):

1999, 2001, 2003, 2004 (undefeated), 2005, and 2007 (undefeated) – CCL Champions

1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2008- CCL Runner-Up

1995, 2000, and 2010- CCL 3rd Place 1994 and 2009- CCL 4th Place

1995, '96, '97, '98, 2002, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, and '10- IHSA Regional Champs

1997, 1998, 2002, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, and '08 - IHSA "Sweet 16" Qualifier

2004- IHSA Sectional Champions ("Elite Eight"), "Final Four" and 3rd Place State

2006, '07, and '08- IHSA Sectional Champions, "Elite Eight," State Finals Qualifier

SOPHOMORE/ JUNIOR VARSITY (CCL sanctioned since 1992):

1995, '96, '97, 2002, '03, '05 (undefeated), '06, and '09 (undefeated)- CCL Champions

1999, 2004, and 2010 CCL Runner-Up 2001, 2007, and 2008 CCL 3rd Place

FRESHMAN A (CCL sanctioned since 2002):

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2010- CCL Champions

2003 and 2007 CCL Runner-Up

FRESHMAN B (CCL sanctioned in 2009):

2009 and 2010 (undefeated)- CCL Champions

Undefeated Regular Seasons - 1996 Frosh "A," 2006 Frosh "B," and 2007 Varsity

Br. Rice Lawless Award Winners: (CCL MVP Player and Coach Awards)

Players: George Tadros (1995), Keith Alberts ('97), Keith Gutierrez ('99), Chris Kozlarek (2002), Robbie Coughlin ('04), Jordan Vidovic ('05), Brendan Ori ('06), Josh Scaletta ('07), and Kevin Padden ('08).

Br. Paul Ickes, CFC / Coaching Staff: 1995, '96, '99, 2001, '02, '03, '04, '05, and '07

2006- Daily Southtown Coach of the Year – Br. Paul Ickes and Coaching Staff

The Brother Rice Volleyball Program prides itself on . . .

“ACT MANFULLY IN CHRIST JESUS:” This quote is taken from our school crest- **Viriliter in Christo Jesu.** ‘Rice Pride’ means that we commit to always **“Act Manfully in Christ Jesus.”** This is who we are as Christians. We remind ourselves of this each time our teams pray together- at the end of every practice, game, and when our teams gather before each match day in our chapel.

ACADEMICS: Each year, our program has accumulated a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Student-athletes at Brother Rice are just that- students 1st and athletes 2nd. **Brother Rice being named a Top 50 Catholic High School in the U.S. for the last 5 years in a row affirms this commitment to academic excellence.**

BEING A HIGH QUALITY PROGRAM WITH OUTSTANDING FACILITIES: Brother Rice fields four teams annually (a varsity, a sophomore, and two freshmen). All teams play a full schedule of matches and tournaments. We have two modern gyms boasting 4 practice and 3 competition courts with the finest volleyball equipment by Senoh- used in the Olympics and by most NCAA schools. Also, our newly expanded and equipped Fitness Center (2003) provides added opportunity and benefit for our student-athletes to enhance their skills. In 2006, we completed a rejuvenation program of our poles and a replacement program for all our nets and padding- one of the first schools in the state now boasting customized lettering- and in our South Gym: 1) added a new sound system, 2) replaced backboards (all baskets are now raised during volleyball competitions and practices), 3) added two side courts for both tournament competition and practices, 4) refinished the floor, 5) added new lines and logos for all courts, and 6) added 2 new scoreboards for both courts. In summer 2007, our air-conditioned North Gym was equipped with new backboard raising devices- helping quicker court set-up. In summer 2009, our North Gym floor was repaired, re-finished, and re-lined with a new center court logo.

EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS AND PARENTS: In eighteen years of Chicago Catholic League Volleyball, Br. Rice has had **nine** Tony Lawless student-athlete award winners. This award is given annually to the outstanding student-athlete and coaching staff in each sport sponsored by the Catholic League. Brother Rice's seven winners have been George Tadros ('95- St. Germaine), Keith Alberts ('97- St. Jane), Keith Gutierrez ('99- St. Christina), Chris Kozlarek ('02- Central JHS- EP), Robbie Coughlin ('04- Finley JHS), Jordan Vidovic ('05- St. Alexander), Brendan Ori ('06- St. Barnabas), Josh Scaletta ('07- St. Benedict), and Kevin Padden ('08- St. Barnabas). Robbie (Quincy), and Jordan (Lewis) play NCAA Division One Volleyball, and we have many more players playing at the NCAA Division 1,3, and NAIA levels. One former player- Bill Gleeson, '01- starred for St. Ambrose University and now serves as their Head Coach. Other current and former coaches and players serve by coaching and officiating at the grade, high school, and club levels. Chris Kozlarek was named to the First Team All-American Squad for NCAA Division One as a senior in 2006 at Loyola University Chicago and plays professionally in Denmark currently. In addition, many of our players have been recognized by the local, citywide, and even national press for their achievements and contributions on and off the volleyball court. One example: Jordan Vidovic was named the National Beach Tour Boys Volleyball Player of the Year in 2007- **he is the first player outside of the state of California ever to achieve this honor!** Our parents lend support in a variety of positive fashions- match attendance, concession stand work, planning special events including our popular Chicago, Senior Parent/ Player, and Alumni/ Banner Nights and Dinners, picture-taking, sign-making, and tournament breakfasts and lunches among others.

VOLLEYBALL COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND BEING ON THE CUTTING EDGE: Br. Rice is known regionally for its involvement in the game of volleyball. For many years, Br. Rice has served as a host site for various USA Volleyball events- including the Great Lakes Boys Volleyball Festival each February- as well as the NIKE/ McAuley Challenge, the most prestigious high school girls' volleyball tournament in the country each fall. Br. Rice is also involved with the IHSA (Illinois High School Association). From 2004-2006 Br. Rice served as Sectional Host for the IHSA State Boys Volleyball Tournament, and in 2007 and 2008 served as Regional Host. In fall, 2007, Br. Paul Ickes began serving a 3-year term as the Chicago representative to the IHSA Advisory Committee for Boys and Girls Volleyball. Br. Rice has also been a leader in the development of Chicago Catholic League (CCL) Boys' Volleyball- our conference. Along with Brother Ickes serving as the

CCL Volleyball Moderator (commissioner) for many years, Br. Rice has been the host site numerous times for the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshman CCL Tournament Championships. We have also taken a lead role in the annual CCL Volleyball T-shirt Fund-raiser which in its' eight years has raised over \$10,000.00 for numerous causes. For several years, Br. Rice has served as a host site for Volleyball For Charity- an adult tournament held each year the Saturday after Easter to benefit Park Lawn School for the Handicapped in Oak Lawn- and we look forward to continued involvement. Next year's tournament will be played on Saturday, April 18th, 2009- consult www.volleyballforcharity.org for more information or for sign-ups. In March 2009, Br. Rice was a host site for the Annual Digging for Donna Charity Tournament raising over \$15,000 and awareness for breast cancer. And each March, Br. Rice Volleyball partners with our Student Activities Office to participate in St. Baldrick's Day- shaving heads and collecting donations in solidarity with all cancer victims... especially the young. Br. Rice led all schools **in the U.S.** in raising **over \$70,000** for cancer research. In 2008, Br. Rice initiated the 1st Annual St. Baldrick's matches vs. Marist, and the 2 schools have agreed to make this an annual event. **NEW! On Friday, May 20th, 2011, we will host the Brother Rice/ Marist volleyball matches outside on our newly installed turf field inside Gary Little Stadium.** In 2009, Brother Rice initiated the 1st Annual Brother Rice Smack Attack- A National High School Boys Varsity Volleyball Tournament- with 9 teams and plans call for expanding to 24 teams- April 23rd - 24th, 2010.

COMMITMENT TO TOTAL VOLLEYBALL DEVELOPMENT: Br. Rice is the undisputed leader in Illinois for grade school boys' volleyball development. Our annual summer camp is the oldest (since 1993), largest (nearly **100** campers last year), and best (many attendees and parents have affirmed this) in Chicago. Moreover, Br. Rice has hosted grade school boys' tournaments every Easter Week since 1994 for all interested area schools with over **40** teams entered last season. We also have enjoyed our involvement in the South Side Boys Volleyball League each spring, and we serve as a host site for their regular season matches and playoffs as well as the Final Four Tournament played on Championship Sunday... always the first Sunday of May. Both Br. Ickes (Moderator) and Mr. Bergstedt (Officials and Rules Chair) have been involved with the South Side League for many years. We are also the only school in the state that offers an annual coaches clinic for area grade schools- held in early March. Further, we are the only school in the state that hosts an Annual Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman A, **and** Freshman B Boys Tournament. We are also one of a handful of area schools that offers a summer volleyball program for all current Br. Rice students which includes training at Br. Rice and participating in the Palos Courts League. Open gyms for all students are held 2 days a week until the start of the season. Brother Rice also serves as a host site for numerous ELITE Volleyball Program Camps led by Therese Boyle-Niego and Anne Eastman-Kuziela. **NEW!** Starting summer 2009, Brother Rice offered a sand volleyball camp at Circle Park in Evergreen Park and is exploring the possibility of offering sand volleyball as an interscholastic sport in conjunction with the IHSA. In the meantime, we offer an intramural sand volleyball program for Br. Rice students on Tuesdays in the fall. We also hosted a fall grade school sand volleyball tournament and will host another one on Saturday, May 9th, 2010.

EXPERIENCED, COMMITTED COACHING: Brother Rice has one of the largest, most stable, and most experienced coaching staffs in the state. Brother Paul Ickes (Varsity), Mr. Dan Dwyer (Assistant Varsity) and Brother Jay Toole (Moderator) have been with the program since its start in 1993. Mr. Denis Bergstedt (Assistant Varsity) joined us in 1996, Mr. Tom Daker (Volunteer) in 2005, Mrs. Inga Balzaras-Rzeszutko (Head Soph) and Mr. Matt Clemens, '03 (Assistant Soph) in 2010, and Mr. George Kamberos (Frosh A) and Mr. Nick McNally (Frosh Asst.) in 2011. Moreover, Br. Ickes and staff have received the Tony Lawless Award **nine** times (1995, '96, '99, 2001, '02, '03, '04, '05, and '07) in our 18-year history for superior coaching in the Chicago Catholic League. In 2006, Br. Paul Ickes was named The Daily Southtown Boys Volleyball Coach of the Year. Coach Daker is Head Volleyball Coach at Morgan Park Academy. Br. Ickes, Mr. Dwyer, and Mr. Bergstedt also serve as instructors for **ELITE** Volleyball Program conducted by Therese Boyle-Niego and Anne Eastman-Kuziela.

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