

# Mooney, Slight Favorite, Meets Aquinas for Title

Cardinal Mooney, High and Aquinas Institute have climbed to the top of the mountain in the Diocesan basketball tournament — having hung by their fingernails to get there — and face each other at the summit this Sunday, March 20. The championship battle is scheduled for 3 p.m. in R.I.T.'s Ritter-Clark gymnasium.

Mooney must be favored, on the basis of comparative records — the Cards are 17-3 against Aquinas' 12-8 mark — and on their only previous meeting. The Cards took a 42-34 verdict back on Jan. 22. Any pre-game edge must be a slim one, however, as judging from their recent play, the two teams are quite evenly matched.

The Ed Nietopski-coached Mooney five played great clutch ball to beat DeSales of Geneva in a semi-final game last Friday. After leading most of the game, the Cards fell behind, 45-44 in the closing minutes, then went ahead twice at 45 and 47-all.

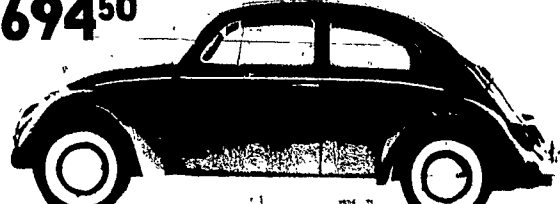
Irish, coached by Jack Kelly, looked like a college team playing a high school team. They carried a 19-point lead into the last quarter, saw it dissolve before a furious Crusader rally, and barely managed to hang on for a 67-65 victory.

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## Semi-Final Thriller Irish Survive ND Rally, Win 67-65

By WHIT JOHNSON

Notre Dame of Elmira came close to the biggest upset of the Rochester Diocesan Basketball Tournament last Sunday afternoon.

After trailing by 21 points late in the third period, the deliberate-moving Crusaders had Aquinas on the ropes during the last two minutes of play, but time ran out and Aquinas escaped with its 12th win of the season and a berth in the Diocesan finals next Sunday.

1500 excited fans in the R.I.T. gymnasium watched Jim Flynn's Elmira club rise to an unbelievable comeback but still lose, 67-65, to Aquinas.

Aquinas started out in brilliant fashion, jumping to a 24-8 lead after the first eight minutes. Notre Dame, however, recovered to outscore the Irish 21-19 in the second period and narrow the halftime lead to 43-29.

Jim Coffey and Jim Brady treated the fans to a spectacular display of sharp-shooting in the first canto when they combined to give Aquinas 18 points.

In the second stanza it was John Laveck and Richie Greenwood who stole the limelight, collecting all of Aquinas' 19 points in that period.

Coach Jack Kelly substituted liberally as his team enjoyed leads of 20 points twice during the third quarter.

The Irish were coasting along with three minutes to go when suddenly, Notre Dame erupted, putting together a 13-point string that almost stole the bacon.

With 3:03 showing on the scoreboard Notre Dame's Baker sunk two free throws to make the score 64-52. Jim Murawski countered with a field goal. Then Bill Huddle scored two buckets, followed by two baskets by Bob McCursan to up the score to 66-60.

Dan McCarthy drove in for another Notre Dame bucket. A free throw by Huddle closed the gap to 66-63. The hustling McCarthy then stole the ball, dropped a roll-in to make it 66-65 with four seconds to go. But little Paul Fiore of Aquinas, who played a sensational floor game, was fouled as the Crusaders battled to gain possession again. He hit on the first try, failed on the second, to give the Irish a 67-65 advantage. Huddle tried one desperate shot as the buzzer sounded, but to no avail.

Jim Coffey of Aquinas scored 19 points to take game scoring honors. Team mate Jim Murawski was right behind with 16. Richie Greenwood and John Laveck also were in double figures with 13 and 10 respectively.

Notre Dame had four of its first five in double figures, Huddle leading with 16. Bob Barnoski and McCursan each had 13 points, McCarthy, 12.

In the rebound department Aquinas used its height to advantage, snaring 53 to Notre Dame's 32.

The loss brought Notre Dame's season to a close with 15 wins and 5 losses for the campaign. Aquinas is 12-8 going into the tournament finals.



**The Men Behind the Tournament**  
BEHIND THE SCENES of the Diocesan High School basketball tournament is the hard-working, efficient committee. Seated are William O'Toole, Arthur Bamann, Jr., chairman, and Victor De Simon. Standing are, from left, James Crego, Norman Darsoell and Thomas Emmanuel.



**GOOD FOR TWO!** Mooney's Terry Murphy (25) dunks a short push-shot, as DeSales defenders Steve Fitzgerald (10) and Mike Rowan close in. Mooney's Kevin Dugan is in the background.

**LATCHING ON** to rebound in tournament game is Dan Davids (14) of DeSales, while Jim Harrington (33) of Mooney reaches in vain. Steve Reid of DeSales is at right.

## Mooney Over DeSales In 53-49 Thriller



**A BRIEF WORD** from Mooney's principal, Brother Daniel Redmond, to student who was beating drum during play at the Mooney-DeSales game. The gist of Brother's message was: LAY OFF!

shots and one by Paul Devaney. Dugan hit for Mooney, which kept a 2-point edge, 41-39 as the buzzer sounded.

Devaney opened the final period as he pumped one in to tie the score at 41-all. At the 5:40 mark, Fitzgerald hit again from outside and DeSales had its first lead, 45-44.

Kier tied with a free throw, but Steve Reid popped one in from fifteen feet. Mooney's Murphy again knotted the score. A DeSales turnover enabled Davis to net an easy lay up for a 49-47 Mooney lead.

Then came the turning point of the game. With 1:08 remaining, a light Mooney press forced Fitzgerald to throw a wide 40-bounds pass to Roulan who lost it out of bounds. Again Davids hit as he pulled the Cards out of reach, 51-47. Murphy and Reid scored for their respective

teams as the game ended with Mooney on top, 53-49.

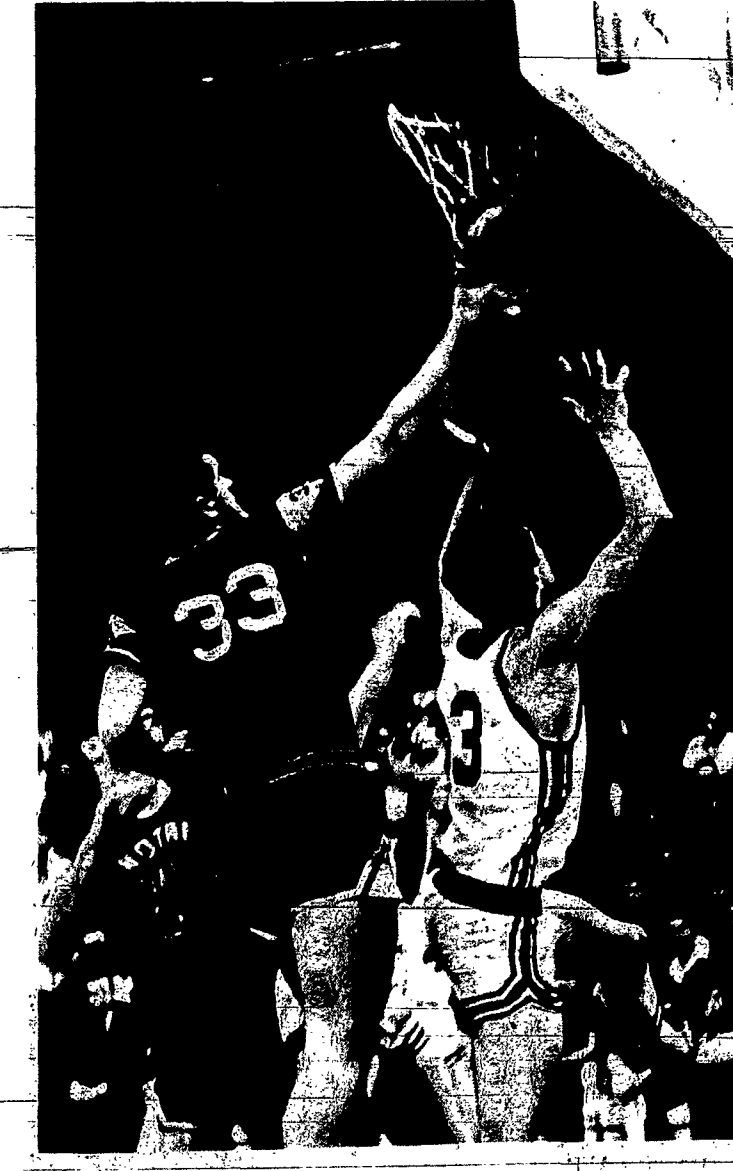
Coach Ed Nietopski's Cards showed a balanced attack, led by Murphy and Dugan with 15 and 12 points, respectively.

Fitzgerald topped all scorers with 17 markers in a losing cause. He was helped by Devaney who tallied 13.

The loss brought DeSales overall record for the year to 11 and 7. Mooney's victory lifted their won-lost mark to 17 and 3, best record of any Catholic high school in the diocese this year.



**PARDON MY SHOULDER!** Richie Greenwood (13) of Aquinas, delivers his shot, gives the brushoff to Dan McCarthy of Notre Dame, as N.D.'s Leonard closes in.



**STRETCHING FOR REBOUND** is Notre Dame's Jack Leonard (33) as Jim Coffey (3) of Aquinas goes empty-handed.

By MIKE WOODEN

Favored Cardinal Mooney High barely held off the scrappy DeSales Saints to capture a tight semi-final game in the Diocesan High School tournament, 53-49. The winners meet Aquinas this Sunday for the Diocesan title.

The game, played at St. John Fisher College last Friday, was nip and tuck although Mooney led most of the time.

Both clubs had been playing a run-and-shoot game all year, but DeSales surprised everyone by opening with a stall. The Saints controlled the ball for the first two minutes before being it out of bounds. Tom Murphy, Card's floor general, spotted Otis Davis who hit for the first field goal of the game.

DeSales again stalled until Steve Fitzgerald tossed in a free throw. Mooney then hit a string of points on foul shots by Murphy and Elm Kier, and a Jim Harrington basket.

This made it 6-1, but Fitzgerald and Dan Davids came back with DeSales baskets. Harrington connected from the charity stripe but Davids, followed with a jumper. Kevin Dugan and Harrington capitalized on DeSales' turnover to put Mooney ahead 11-7. With 14 seconds left, Mike Roulan of DHS hit and the first period ended with Mooney in front, 11-0.

Still playing deliberately, the Bob Mahan-tutored Saints went outscored, 20-18 in the second quarter as the Cards took ad-

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