



SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Doser

Is Cardinal Mooney the best high school football team in the state?

Bishop Kearney head coach Don Della Vella, whose Kings lost, 46-0, to the Cardinals, believes Mooney may well be.

(Of course, this column was written before Mooney, rated fifth in the state, beat Madison last Saturday.)

Mooney continues to sweep the votes of the coaches involved in the local ratings conducted by Ray Buck of the Rochester afternoon daily.

George Graham, former Charlotte High coach and presently athletic director at the Lake Avenue school, is also very high on Merola's Maulers.

"If you haven't seen them play, you owe it to yourself to see them," George said. "That team is one of the best high school teams you'll ever see in this area," he added.

"I HATE TO ADMIT it," an Aquinas graduate of a decade ago was saying, "but Aquinas is now just another high school playing football."

While the three straight losses the Little Irish absorbed at the hands of Penfield, Madison and McQuaid weren't runaways, (6-0, 8-0, 14-6), it's still a bitter pill for diehard Aquinas fans to take.

Aquinas, coached by Nick Teta, hasn't thrown in the towel yet, and don't expect the Irish to do so.

All Catholic school coaches agree on one point — when two Catholic schools meet in football, records don't count and anything can happen.

One thing's for certain. Teta said he was tired of not only losing, but of not scoring. After two shutouts, the Irish managed to hit paydirt once against McQuaid. But watch out when they run into a club with a really vulnerable front line. There may be no end to the points Aquinas will pile up.

MIKE PIEHLER, first year head coach of St. John Fisher's club football team, has reduced the Cards' offense into six basic plays with emphasis on blocking and tackling.

Fisher, winner over Steubenville and Scranton in its first two games, now has bleachers, a concession stand, promotion and security of the grounds for home games, initiated and handled by students on a volunteer basis.

Leading the Cards' gridders are ex-Franklin High performer Chick Waller; a defensive linebacker who earned All-America club football honors last year.

Fisher cross country coach Rod Williams sees only bright spots for his runners. Team captain Jeff Hale from Fairport, Paul Keating from McQuaid, and Ted Harding from Notre Dame of Batavia, are three top freshmen prospects.

Hale already owns the Fisher home course record.

"We'll be tough this year," Williams reports, "but next fall and the year after that, watch out."

CERAMICS COURSE

A ceramics course for adults that features the use of the potter's wheel and other hand building techniques is offered at Aquinas Institute. Classes taught by Father Leonard Cullen, CSB, meet Monday nights. Fee for the 10-week series is \$45. Reservations may be made by calling the school, 254-2020.

FOOTNOTES — McQuaid Invitational drew 1,319 runners including 25 girls for the first time. McQuaid finished fourth in Class AA led by John Farrell's 17th place finish. The McQuaid Invitational involved 72 schools, largest meet of its kind in the state outside of New York City.

Tom Steen of DeSales Geneva set a school cross country record with an 11:29 over the 2.2 mile DeSales home course but the Saints lost to Marcus Whitman, 22-35.

Syracuse West Genesee has Vestal and Lancaster in its Inter-sectional Christmas Basketball Tournament, Dec. 27-28, and needs another entry. Syracuse West Side Catholic, a new school, needs regular season basketball games as does Syracuse Assumption.

McQuaid's **Bob Thomas**, now the field goal and extra point specialist at Notre Dame, holds the fourth longest field goal boot in high school football in the state. He kicked one for 45 yards. He's tied with two others. Longest FG on record is 50 yards long by Dan Starkey, Clarkstown North, last October.



Mercy Field Day

Cheerleaders, above, encourage Mercy High School's Freshmen and Seniors during a traditional baseball game at Mercy Field Day, Friday, Sept. 28. The day is annually set aside to foster school spirit and unity through competition. Other highlights of the day are a morning song fest, below, as well as a balloon launch.



IN THIS CORNER

George Beahon

Within a couple of weeks, people like Bill Virdon left the Pirates; Billy Martin departed Detroit; Whitey Herzog escaped Arlington, Texas; Eddie Kasko was booted out of Boston; and Ralph Houk and Yankee Stadium perished together.

More heads will fall.

Danny Ozark was off the board at this writing to get canned in Philly, which may not be such a negative thing. And even, an organization so dense as Houston's can not possibly tolerate another year of Leo Durocher.

All these poor, dedicated ex-athletes out on the street, right?

Right. Out on Easy Street.

Shed no tears for the guys who are temporary or permanent victims of the musical chairs game that is baseball managing.

They have a pension fund that makes Kodak's look raggedy.

Not only managers. All the anonymous staffs of coaches, the guys who follow the leader blindly and pick up their paychecks twice a month and hoard half their meal allowance and never take a fall in the press when things go bad — all these coaches cash in just like the managers.

And all the thousands of players.

To qualify for the major league pension fund a guy must give all of four years of devotion to The Game.

Even if you're an instant failure and hit a dollar and a quarter every year or just sat on the bench classified as a utility man, everyone hopes never has to be

played. Just caddy the hot dogs and chewing tobacco for the skipper, and stay out of trouble.

You must live to be 50, so a Bill Virdon, for example, will have to wait eight years before he can draw his pension. Meanwhile, he'll stick with the Pirates as executive scout at about \$30,000 a year and expenses.

In eight years Bill Virdon will be eligible for pension checks worth about \$17,000 annually.

Hank Bauer got dropped as manager by more than one American League club. He tried life in the minors for a while, but this was the Mets organization and he was bypassed for Yogi Berra.

So Henry is hunting and fishing and golfing now, struggling along on a pension of a lousy \$26,000 a year.

For every manager who's bumped out into the pensioner's life, there are a handful of coaches and 25 ex-players. None of them is standing around with a tin cup full of pencils, like some former fighters.

Getting back to Yogi Berra, a couple of paragraphs ago. Only one month before the end of that stumbling contest in the National League East, Yogi was scheduled for execution.

That would have been no shock to Yogi. When he won an American League pennant, the Yankees fired him.

MIKADO TRYOUTS

The Aquinas Dramatic Club is seeking girls to audition for parts in its presentation of The Mikado, by Gilbert and Sullivan. Those interested should present themselves at the Aquinas stage any day after school. Dates of the show are Dec. 7 and 8.

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