

COURIER Sports



Photo by Susan McKinney

Fast on Feet

Ivory Crockett, who has run 100 yards in a world record time of 9.0 seconds explains his skill to local newsmen after he won the 100-yard dash in RIT Invitational.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Davis

The desire of Rich Parrinello, new assistant football coach at Aquinas Institute, his Alma Mater, to return to the Dewey Avenue school "to where it used to be in football" sends shudders up plenty of spines.

While we appreciate what Parrinello really means, to see the Irish move back where they were in the late 40's and early 50's would be folly. And we know Parrinello, in his enthusiasm, doesn't mean it either.

Aquinas' story is well known in the Rochester area. The Little Irish over a period of time under coach Harry Wright became the No. 1 high school football team in the country, pulled crowds in excess of 20,000 to Silver (then Red Wing) Stadium, but had to resort to post-graduate students to do so.

While Aquinas football fortunes meant bringing into Rochester the best grid schools from New York City, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Houston, Chicago and even Boys Town, Neb., its output in other sports, quite localized, went right down the drain.

When Aquinas football was at its peak (the Irish now were playing in their own stadium, since sold, renamed and rededicated, Hollister Stadium), the public schools in the Rochester area refused to compete with the Irish in any other sport, a move which made football the only sport at the Dewey Avenue campus.

When crowds began to dwindle because Aquinas never lost to anybody, school officials re-evaluated the grid program and elected to de-emphasize the sport which meant a slowing down and later elimination of the imported players from out of town who needed extra credits to get into college, and a return to a more sane, total athletic program.

It took Aquinas almost 30 years later being joined by three other Catholic high schools, none of which existed prior to 1950, to get back on solid ground with the public schools in the area, a long trip which culminated in two steps — the merger of the four Catholic schools' league into the Rochester Interscholastic League in the 60's, and membership, still temporary, in Section 5 of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

Parrinello, an outstanding quarterback at Aquinas and later at the University of Rochester, knows the story inside out.

He followed in the footsteps of his brother John at Aquinas and went on to break scoring records John set earlier at the U of R.

At Aquinas he'll be helping head coach Nick Teta with offensive backfield work. We know he'll give 120 per cent to help the Irish improve last year's 5-3 record. We hope too, that's all he has in mind.

MORE AQUINAS NEWS — Leo Hand, former assistant coach at both Aquinas and McQuaid and two years ago at St. John Fisher, returns to the Fisher campus after a year of head coaching at Parish High School, 25 miles north of Syracuse.

The Parish job didn't turn out to be what Hand expected and he jumped at the opportunity to handle Fisher football again when Mike Piehler resigned to go into business.

Hand will need a hand in pursuit of his Fisher goal because at last word his only income, come September, will be the \$1000 stipend Fisher's club team can muster up for its head coach.

Fisher won three, lost two and tied one, two years ago, under Hand.

Father Tom Bales, Aquinas' highly successful coach who directed the Irish track team to two unbeaten seasons in a row, including a big win over arch-rival McQuaid in a battle of unbeaten last month for the City-Catholic League championship, is taking a year's sabbatical for further education.

Ed Mancuso, a 1969 graduate of Aquinas, will take over the varsity track reins next season.

Dick Izzo, a star distance runner on Father Bales' team, won the 17th annual essay contest conducted by the New York State Department of Law, Izzo's title: "The Supreme Court Obscenity Decision — Sense or Censorship?"

Besides running for Father Bales, Izzo also was editor of the Aquinas literary magazine.

Weekend Tennis Tournament Set For Charity

A round-robin tennis tournament will be played in Monroe and Ontario counties during the weekends of July 27-28 and Aug. 3-4. Proceeds will go to the Rochester Area Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Local mixed doubles teams will compete in individual round-robins, with the winner of the most points in each group advancing to the next round. The championship round is scheduled for Aug. 4 at St. John Fisher College. Competition will be arranged in three categories of proficiency.

Tournament sponsors are local recreation departments and the Genesee Valley District Tennis Council. Entry blanks are available through the departments, tennis clubs and some sporting goods stores. Further information may be obtained from the chairman, Larry Lays, at 385-1393.

OHD LEADS WORKSHOP

Coming — A workshop for the Elementary Formation Program offered by the Office of Human Development was held at St. Patrick.

Sister Alice McLaughlin, SSJ and Sister Mary Kruckow, RSM, both members of the Rural Staff of the office, team-taught three classes; Father George Wiant presented the Theology of Human Development.

Mrs. Ralph Kragle was chosen as chairperson; Miss Jane Cunningham as vice-chairman; and Mrs. Jack Haughey as secretary.

The members of the committee are presently working on projects to determine the needs of their parish and community.

IN THIS CORNER

George Beamon

Some nut once decided that baseball standings on or about July Fourth offered a preview of the final charts in October. The same genius probably invented the old line about throwing out the book on the Army-Navy game each year. He had to hide in the closet when Navy, an off-the-board favorite, buried the Army 51-zip last November.

This Practically Peerless Prognosticator last April picked four teams which did NOT win their divisional championships a year ago. Los Angeles and St. Louis in the National League; Boston and Kansas City in the American League.

As of this writing, I was 75 per cent genius.

Kansas City was lagging 2 1/2 back of overpowering Oakland. But that would change. The two-time World Champions were hotter than ever at owner Charley Finley. The latest outrage was having to purchase their own 10-cent stamps to answer fan mail. Finley, with a massive cutback on promotions, seemed to be spiting himself. He still was helping Alvin Dark manage the team, by long distance phone from his home in LaPorte, Ind.

The Philadelphia Phillies flew high for a while. They had two former Cy Young Award pitchers, Jim Lonborg and Steve Carlton, on their staff. But their pitching couldn't stand up. Evidence: The Phillies themselves were so concerned they carried an overload of 12 pitchers. Five of them were excess baggage, at the expense of the utility staff. The Cardinals caught them and left them standing still in a weekend charge just before the Fourth. The Cardinals should romp.

Cincinnati was supposed to be a lock in Las Vegas thinking, but Los Angeles is the team that's

winging. These are the same Dodgers who were five in front last August, and collapsed from the shock of an anticipated World Series. They are all beautiful ballplayers, all a year wiser, and they comprise probably the best balanced team in baseball, the Oakland A's possibly excepting. The Dodgers will stick.

I was home free with the Boston Red Sox, despite some crippling early injuries. The killing blow came last weekend when the Bosox's All Star catcher, Carlton Fisk, was involved in a head-on at the plate, went for knee surgery, and was sidelined for the distance.

This was the cruelest kind of blow for rookie manager Darrell Johnson, not to mention Fisk himself. Johnson had nothing behind Fisk, and as an old catcher himself, knows full well the need for class and experience behind the plate.

Baltimore was odds-on to romp in this division. With his catching wiped out, Darrell Johnson will have to think of something to stave off the Orioles.

If, indeed, a manager can do anything.

Maybe the most interesting sideshow in the big show will be taking place in Anaheim, Cal.

That's where Dick Williams, fresh from consecutive World Series triumphs, will try to win with a last place club. The same nut who knew all about July Fourth and the Army-Navy game, decided long ago that bad managers can get a club beat; but good managers can't help a bad ballclub. Check for Dick Williams' position on Oct. 1. He may be last. But he's holding a contract good for \$100,000 for another three seasons. That's a winner.



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