

Photo by Susan McKinney

Balloon Launch

Mary Beth Miller enjoys one of the main events at Mercy High School's field day Sept. 27, a day of class skits, games and a songfest. The annual celebration introduces new faculty members and students to the Mercy Spirit.

IN THIS CORNER George Berker

Things tend to get distorted. Which is why the next few lines will tell you exactly how great is the managerial record of Joseph F. Altobelli, formerly of Detroit, now of Gates, N.Y.

"Alto" adopted Rochester as his home town when he quit swinging for a living nine years ago. He spent his apprenticeship years as a manager in the Bluefields and Stocktons and then reached Dallas-Fort Worth of the Texas League. On to Rochester, springboard to, the majors, in 1971.

Altobelli did it all that first to repeated replay action — missed touching the plate. The minor league grand slam — catcher apparently did not tag him in time, which is why Frantz made the "safe" call. It took the

1972 — A first division finsish, but no post-season cigars.

1973 — Championship of the Northern Division.

1974 — Northern Division championship; best record, overall, in either division; IL pennant in playoff series with Southern Division champion Memphis Blues; Governors Cup series title in playoff with Syracuse.

The most impressive stat of all is that Altobelli finished first in his division three times in four seasonal races.

Now Altobelli fights the toughest statistic of all, Most experience baseball men agree that the manager is rare who can survive three years — not four — at the triple-A level in the same

city Perhaps, without all that winning, it would be unlikely. But until something opens up in the majors, and something usually does, even if it means switching organizations, Joe Altobelli seems safe enough to endure another year in front of the critics at Silver Stadium.

That, of course, only if he wins.

HOPSCOTCHING THE SPORTS BEAT: Unluckiest local man in baseball is big league umpire Art Frantz. Art was working the plate in a Yankee-Indians game when the sticky one happened. The runner apparently — according to repeated replay action catcher apparently did not tag him in time, which is why Frantz made the "safe" call. It took the replay to show the missed step by the runner. But the camera pointed over and again to a boot by the umpire. A tough break. A bad break for a talented per-former, Frantz. Worse break yet it wouldn't have been televised except for rain on the prime game site in another city. Good break: The Yankees eventually won it anyway, wiping out the beef against judgement.

The first NFL sudden death game of the season under the new "fifth period" rules was history only a few minutes. Denver and Pittsburgh had played a wild 35-35 tie, and the coach of the favored Steelers, Chuck Noll, was asked for his opinion of the new setup. "It stinks," said Noll, reacting like nearly every coach in the world resisting change or new challenge.

Joe Cullinane, popular Rochester Red Wing sportscaster over WROC Radio, tells this low key story about Bobby Malkmus, a manager this summer at the Baltimore Orioles' minor league Bluefield, W.Va., club.

Malkmus, according to Cullinane, is an off-hours preacher of sorts who individually seeks out big league

dividually seeks out big league (and some not so big league) ballplayers to talk to them about Christ.

He's not flamboyant about it, Cullinane explains, he just goes about quietly, approaching individual ballplayers, and asks them to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The preaching got Malkmus into trouble once when the son of the owner of a team where Malkmus coached managed to get him fired.

Malkmus, who played with the old Buffalo Bisons in 1962, is at best an unusual* coach to see in action at spring training camps, with his "pray and play" philosophy, Cullinane says.

"It's rare to see the number of players he reaches, all on his own time. You even see some players reading the Bible in their spare time."

Cullinane says Malkmus reaches black and white ballplayers 'alike with his message, including a few Red Wings from time to time.

Malkmus' only purpose in preaching, Cullinane believes, is that he simply wants to do his part in spreading the word of Jesus Christ.

The Town of Irondequoit deserves a solid pat on the back for the way in which it combined a variety of official offices and departments to rescue the Bishop Kearney High football team from its recent dilemma, which resulted from an ancient state law forbidding public schools from allowing religious organizations to use their facilities for profitmaking activities.

BK. athletic director Marty LaFica and Eastridge athletic director Florence Bojinoff had worked out the details of a plan, requested by BK through the East Irondequoit Board of Education, which would permit BK to use the Eastridge High field for its home football games this season. BK's usual home field - Holleder Stadium - was closed by the City of Rochester this fall for reseeding.

Publicity about similar requests by Cardinal Mooney (for any of three Greece public school fields) and Aquinas Institute (for use of the City School District's Franklin High field) which were turned down by the respective public school authorities, caused East Irondequoit to reconsider its approval, and suddenly BK was informed it could play at Eastridge but could not charge admission.

To the rescue came the Irondequoit Parks and Recreation Department, which offered to act as the sponsoring agency for Kearney and in fact became a middleman renter of the facility on BK's behalf.

Under state law a public school district can offer its facilities to town-sponsored groups.

CYO BASKETBALL

The Catholic Youth Organization is preparing for the 25th year of its Boys Parish Basketball League program, to begin Nov. 24. Entry fee is \$175 per team. The girl's basketball season will begin Dec. 8, with an entry fee of \$70.

Adults interested in organizing a league (ages 18-35) are asked to contact the CYO at 454-2030.

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK Adu Deven

BK head football coach **Don Della Vella** said there was no problem at BK's opening game, except that the Kings lost, 34-0, to Madison.

The arrangement is perfectly legal and not uncommon according to East Irondequoit School Superintendent Rodney D. Spring. "The recreation department often uses our buildings and swimming pools and we've always had close cooperation," he said.

We believe BK, the East Irondequoit Board of Education, the Eastridge athletic department and the Irondequoit Parks and Recreation Department deserve a 21-gun salute for the cooperation demonstrated in solving a sticky problem.

We also believe that the City School District and the Greece School District might have tried a little harder to help Aquinas and Cardinal Mooney when they were asked.

Mercy Picks Tennis Team

Our Lady of Mercy High School announced its 1974-75 tennis team. The team will consist of the following girls:

Seniors Robin Cappelino, Noel Knille, Marcia Miller, Kathy Perry, Telana Stokes; juniors Kathy Moffett, Monica Sullivan, Margaret Wafer, and sophomores Julie Bayer, Mary Clare Kenning and Kathy Termotto

REGIONAL CAMPOUT

Reaching Out to Others was the theme of the Catholic Youth Organization's first Christian Youth Leadership weekend held by the Northeast Region Sept. 20-22 at Camp Stela Maris. More than 60 youths and advisors participated.

Youth people from nine parishes were involved in outdoor tasks, contests and workshops on topics like leadership, service and peer ministry.

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