

Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Aro

They Pray to Play Their Best — Saints Have Fine Year

By JOHN DOSER

For years Monroe County area football coaches have been trying to discover Don Quinn's magical secret of success at East Rochester High.

For years his counterparts have bumped heads and bodies against Quinn's ER Bomber football teams and in most cases have come out on the short end.

Quinn, in his 18th year as head coach at East Rochester High, has finally revealed his secret — although it was never a secret within the confines and town limits of the Village of East Rochester.

He takes his players to Mass on the morning of every football game.

Quinn explains that it's a voluntary exercise, but more than 80 percent of the squad participates. Mass is followed by the team breakfast and another brief visit to church before the game.

Of course, God doesn't take sides; but He must be pleased when 25 burley high school gridders and their coaches come in to ask for His help in playing their best.

"We don't pray to win," Quinn says. "We pray to play our best."

Quinn's prayers were answered in seven out of eight Monroe County League Eastern Division football games this season — the Bombers finished second to division champion Rush-

Henrietta (8-0) after losing to the Comets, 8-6, during the season.

You could say the Bombers eventually achieved some sort of revenge — when the Comets went up against once beaten Aquinas of the City-Catholic League in the season finale at Holleder Stadium, the prayers of the Little Irish were apparently well received in the heavenly press box because Aquinas won, 18-6.

One of East Rochester's extraordinary achievements, considering the school has a male population of only about 350 students (half the size of most other Monroe County schools), is the fact that Quinn's football teams have won two-thirds of their games since he became coach, including six league or division championships.

Quinn's 17-year coaching record is 98-37-3; and his Bomber varsity wrestling record is even more impressive — 200-22-6.

Quinn has more than contributed his share of championship trophies which makes quite falid the town's slogan: The Home of Champions.

Quinn also finds himself an Italian by osmosis; while a good part of the town's tradition and heritage is Italian, he has managed to persuade his Italian gridders to paint Irish shamrocks on their football helmets.

He tells his players with a wink that the Irish are the world's strongest race-reflecting the great

pride he takes in his own Irish heritage nurtured in his home town of Hamburg, N.Y.

He is what he teaches. He's as trim, town observers point out, as the day he arrived in the village. His crewcut is the same and his reputation as a hard nosed, but fair, coach is the same.

He takes pride in the friends he's made over the years with former players — achieved with dignity and without being overbearingly paternal.

Players like him; they say he reacts the same way after a 40-0 loss as he does after a 40-0 win (although there aren't many 40-0 losses pinned on Quinn's Bombers).

His greatest tribute is probably from his friend, Rush-Henrietta head coach Werner Kleeman, who says unlike many coaches, Quinn doesn't try to do much in the way of player offenses or defenses.

Kleeman admits he's copied Quinn in many ways. He copies him well enough this year to beat the Bombers and win the division title.

Last year the two teams divided the division championship.

BK All State Members Chosen

Eleven Bishop Kearney High School students have been selected for the New York All State Band. They are Gary Melville, Ann Garczynski, Douglas Morrow, Karen Niedzielski, Debbie Tiebohl, Claron McFadden, Brad Merkel, Rick Boden, Pete VanWyk, David Shahin, and Helen Hrab.

By JOHN SERAFINE

With the loss of some key players through graduation, and even more players that switched schools, it seems as though the DeSales Saints football team would be in big trouble.

The Saints had only 25 players try out for the varsity, but head coach Harry Furman put together a fine football team. The Saints ended up with an 8-1 record in the Wayne Finger-Lakes West League, second only to unbeaten Dundee, which beat the Saints, 30-26, in the season opener.

This year's team was characterized by a well-balanced offense and a tough-nose defense. Senior Lou Quethera, who threw 13 touchdown passes and passed for more than 1,000 yards got much of the credit, but the offensive line and the "Pony" backfield were outstanding.

The offensive line was led by co-captain John DeRaddo, Dan Linegan, and Mike Flynn. The

backfield consisted of small but tough Tom Bucklin, Doug Graham, Doug Smalldone and Boy Jaynes.

The two people who hauled in the majority of Quethera's passes were Tim and Bill Tapscott. The defense was total team effort and was one of the best in the league.

A lot of credit must be given to the DeSales team and especially Coach Harry Furman, who did an outstanding job with his tough "WHART-RATS."

SUNDAY DINNER

The people of St. Pius X will serve Sunday dinner Dec. 7, from 3 until 6 p.m., in their cafeteria at 3000 Chili Ave. Profits on the roast beef feast will help underwrite an eighth grade trip to Philadelphia. Tickets are cheaper in advance than at the door, and may be reserved through 889-2074 (Mrs. Griffin) or 889-9188 (Mrs. Stark).

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