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Mercy's Off and Running

By JOHN DOSER

Defending champion Mercy High is again off and running in City-Catholic League girls' soccer with three league victories in its first three starts.

And, Sister Cathy Pflieger's goal this season is the same as last year's — to win the girls' Section 5, Class AA soccer title.

Her teams have had two cracks at the sectional title; they were ousted last year on a fluke "penetration time" ruling after reaching and losing in the finals to Palmyra-Macedon the year before.

Sister Cathy, an Ithaca College graduate, has 14 veterans back on her 19-girl team and nine are seniors.

Last year Mercy finished 9-0-1 in the league and as this was written Sister Cathy's boosters were shooting for their 24th straight C-C league victory against Monroe.

Mercy won its first three games this season by outscoring opponents 65-6 — indicative of its powerful offense.

"We play an attacking game with the halfbacks on offense," explains Sister Cathy.

Colleen Cleary, a senior, leads the Mercy scoring attack at center forward; she has connected for 14 goals and is small and fast, says her coach.

Junior Margie Meath plays an inner position; she's a strong kicker, likes to kick from the corners, and can also put the ball into the net — she scored nine goals in Mercy's first three games.

Diane Coleman, a freshman, plays the other inner position; she's very fast, and has played all over the forward line so far this season including center forward, inner and wing.

Coleman has peppered the nets for six goals so far this season.

Dee-Dee Springer starts at one wing spot; she's a senior and plays

beautiful soccer according to her coach. She handles corner kicks also and has scored twice.

The other wing spot belongs to Tish Ciaccio, a sophomore, who has scored one goal.

Returning after a year's absence because of some ankle surgery is senior center halfback Patti Van Hove, who has scored three times from her halfback position on direct, free kicks, ranging 50 feet or so.

Eileen Delaney, a senior, also starts at halfback; she has scored one goal.

Maureen O'Heaney, a junior, plays another halfback spot, but has yet to score.

Starting fullbacks are senior Dianne Schmidt, and freshman Mary Karen Delaney (Eileen's sister), whom Coach Sister Cathy calls an excellent prospect.

Goalie for Mercy is a veteran performer whom Sister Cathy believes to be the best goalie in girls' high school soccer in the area.

She's senior Eileen Smith, who also excels in basketball and volleyball. She let only one opponent's goal in the nets all last season.

Last year Mercy outscored the opposition by 30 to 2 (goals were worth one point; this year goals are worth two points and penalty-kicks are worth one point).

Mary Ellen Weber, a senior, alternates at one inner spot with Kim Nairy, a junior, and Erin Shehey, a freshman, plays frequently at wing.

Sister Cathy says Mercy is going to take the City-Catholic League soccer crown again this year — for the third year in a row.

"We're not messing around," she says, "not in the sectionals either," she adds.

Morale is sky high at the Blossom Road campus, where they're shooting for their third unbeaten league season in a row, not bad

considering this is only Mercy's third year of soccer.

Sister Cathy says Madison Kearney (a first year team coached by Linda Donofrio) and Harley Allendale-Columbia will be Mercy's toughest opponents.

Reflections On Faith

Elmira — On Sept. 29, Notre Dame students participated in a Day of Recollection.

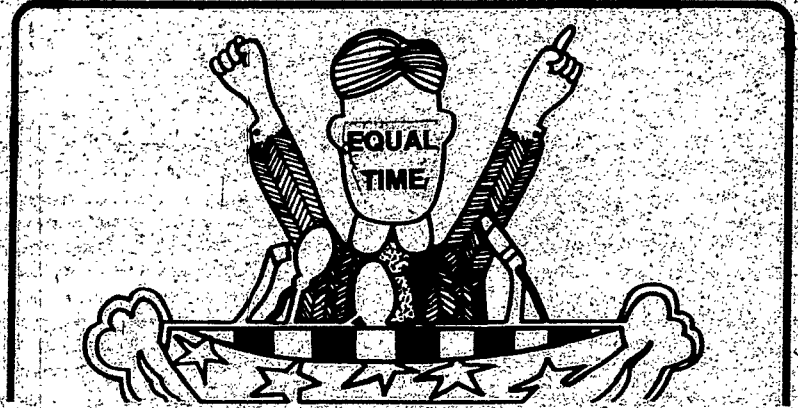
Freshman and sophomores remained on the campus while the juniors split up into groups at six different areas for a two-day retreat. The senior retreat was held at St. John's Parish in South Waverly. The classes were accompanied by the Notre Dame Faculty and a majority of area priests.

The theme for the freshman retreat was "Friendship in the Lord." Their plan was to examine their friendships with each other and with God. The sophomores' theme was leadership and the juniors' "Friends." The Senior Class dealt with the awareness of Christ in their lives.

On the Day of Recollection, Principal Sister Mary Walter said, "This day should be an important day in everybody's school life because it gives students a chance to reflect about God and themselves at the beginning of the school year." Matt Fennell.

Winners!

Receipients of the Winner's Circle \$5 were Mike Thornton, Geneva DeSales for the week of Sept. 22 and McQuaid junior David Werner for week of Sept. 29.



Do you think the time is coming when the Catholic Church will recognize divorce?

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Linda Parkes, freshman parents can't get along and the kids are in the middle the Church should help them but by recognizing the divorce. It may be a long time before the Church changes its view but if people work at it, it may change quicker.

Katie Mara, freshman, riding club "Yes, if certain circumstances like if a couple constantly fight and if there is physical violence. Those types of situations only get worse and I feel it would be better to dissolve the marriage."

Carolyn Rosica, sophomore, basketball "I think they might recognize it under certain circumstances. I myself don't think it's right, because if they start allowing that they will begin to allow other things. If husbands and wives would talk things over, problems can be worked out other than by getting a divorce."

Amy Piercewell, senior, ski-club "I think so. People will get divorced whether or not the Church recognizes it because people don't let religious beliefs influence their decisions as much as they did. It's easy to get a divorce and if it weren't, I feel people would try harder to solve their problems."

Sue Scheg, freshman, flute "They should in certain circumstances. If the marriage isn't right the children will grow up to live the same way. If parents' unhappiness is influencing the children, divorce should be allowed. But separation should be tried first and then if things don't straighten out, then the divorce."

Cindi Piercewell, junior "Yes, everyone seems to be getting divorced. The divorce rate has increased so much over the years. There is more and more people that will turn away from the church to get a divorce. Divorce is increasing because it's easier to obtain one than 20 years ago. Back then there were just as many unhappy marriages but divorce was difficult so they stayed together. In the future I don't think there will be as many marriages until people are sure about it — so that will lower the divorce rate."

Regina Antonelli, freshman "I feel the Church is beginning to allow so many things already that someday they will recognize divorce. But I don't think that's a good idea. It would be unfortunate to allow people to decide not to stay together because it would cause a loss to the true idea of marriage. I'd rather see people try harder to solve their problems than rely on divorce."

Debbie Springer, sophomore, ski club "I don't think it will, because it would make the Church weak and it wouldn't have an influence on the people in the parish. I think husbands and wives should talk out their problems, perhaps see a counselor. I think it's too easy to get divorced today and that is why people aren't taking the time to solve their problems."



Candy Drive Mascots

Sept. 24 was kick-off day for Nazareth Academy's candy drive. To get the students in the spirit a pep rally was held which included skits performed by all four classes. Above, students displayed the stuffed animals which would be the class mascots in the competition to meet quotas. On left; Senior Dawn Kozlowski; sophomore, Mary Morgan; freshman Monica Culligan, and junior Mary Periera. The students have had a busy time selling eight tons of chocolate.

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