

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Ar Will Downstate Opponent Crown Kearney's Kings?

By JOHN DOSER

Bishop Kearney head football coach Don Della Vella says he isn't crazy, although his fellow Catholic high school (and maybe some public high school) coaches may think he is!

Della Vella, who doubles as Kearney's athletic director, ran into football scheduling problems again this season.

He was, for example, unable to schedule neighborhood rival Eastridge High, and went looking for an eighth game opponent.

He had opportunities to schedule smaller high schools from the Syracuse area, but after making many phone calls, he discovered Vestal Central, one of the state's perennial top-ranked super grid powers, had a similar open date.

Della Vella went ahead and scheduled Vestal because he couldn't back down from the challenge of playing one of the state's best - head on - and at Vestal, besides.

Della Vella, who is co-chairman of football along with Monroe High Athletic Director Dick Cerone for the City-Catholic League, explains that Kearney experiences all

kinds of problems and conflicts each year in trying to put together a football schedule.

It's increasingly complex because most Monroe County area schools are already in one of two leagues (City-Catholic and Monroe County) and most games are filled within league games - leaving little room for "non-league" games unless a league is broken into divisions which creates opportunities for additional non-league games to fill out a nine game schedule (the maximum number of games allowed by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association).

"We try to maintain the Kearney-Irondequoit-Eastridge series, but the County came up with its schedule after ours and we (BK and Eastridge) couldn't find a suitable date."

Della Vella says he can't understand why Monroe County and area leagues can't do their scheduling at the same time.

"We don't do it together and in the end somebody always gets burned (left with open dates)."

"We were short a game, so I started calling all over the state. I called Syracuse,

Buffalo, the Utica area, etc., to find out which teams were available for our particular opening."

Under normal conditions, most school grid slates are filled by the end of January, sometimes as early as five or six weeks after the previous season ends.

Della Vella was still making phone calls as late as May, one month before the school term ended.

He thinks the Section 5 football program as a whole doesn't take a back seat to any other area in the state - and Pennsylvania as well.

"But what we do need is to bring it all together - Catholic, city, county and other schools all run into this scheduling problem. I remember going to a Section 5 meeting and hearing the problems Coach Lou Molisani has at Wellsville over scheduling. Every year he has the same problems."

The Monroe County League's Eastern Division had some problems with the addition of a new school (Rush-Henrietta Roth). But because the County West had teams with open dates, the Eastern Division teams were able to fill out their schedules.

"But County East set up a schedule with very little flexibility whatsoever in order to pick up the extra games needed."

"It seems to me there's a need for better coordination because each year, unless this problem is settled, it isn't going to get any better."

Della Vella strongly supports athletic competition among Catholic and public schools within the same community because of the obviously natural rivalries created.

"But it can't be a one-man fight Eastridge has to set Kearney aside if it really wants to play Kearney. And Irondequoit, Webster and the Henrietta schools must do the same thing. If we want to play these town rivalries, we have to make moves and ovations to our league chairmen earlier," Della Vella says.

Eastridge, says Della Vella, may not have a sixth game because of similar scheduling problems.

"Here we are, right next door to each other, we each need a game, and we can't find them. Then Vestal came up."

Kearney had a chance to play several Class A or Class B

schools from the Syracuse area, but Della Vella has always had an itch to play bigger schools from out of town.

He always enjoyed it when BK went out of town to play teams in Rome, N.Y., or Erie, Pa., etc., whether the Kings won or lost.

An ideal Kearney schedule, in his judgement, would include Irondequoit, Eastridge, the natural Catholic rivals, a few top City public school teams and a sprinkling of "outside" opponents.

"I think our kids will get exposure (going against Vestal), I remember every year when we used to play a big team, a guy like Paul Adamo and some other guys got some exposure down in Rome that consequently helped us graduate Adamo to the University of Wyoming."

"The kids have to reach for higher competition. You don't want to go for a crazy schedule all of the time, you have to give them something within their reach so they can be successful."

"There should be one or two games on the schedule the kids really have to dig down and reach for." (Continued Next Week)

An Introduction to Politics

By JOAN M. SMITH

Boys' Empire State, sponsored by the American Legion, was held in June at Morrisville, N.Y. Like its counterpart, the Girls' Empire State, the boys week long venture was an educational program which endeavors to instruct young men about the privileges of the vote, the formation of political parties and the process of choosing and electing leaders to fill governmental offices. There was, however, a major difference between the two events - the U.S. Marines were at the Morrisville agricultural and Technical Institute to add a touch of military discipline to the proceedings.

"We marched everywhere - to meals, to gym," exclaimed Chris Resch a Mooney senior who attended along with classmates Mike Poinan and Wayne Penazek. Others among the 1000 boys who participated in the program were John Nacca from Aquinas, Tim Holt and John Sullivan from Bishop Kearney and Dennis Cushman of McQuaid.

The boys were introduced to the spit and polish of military life, which included not only gruelling physical exercise but making a bed so perfect that a quarter would bounce off the sheets.

Aside from these military matters, the young politicians experienced the democratic political system at work while they created their city, county and state governments. The boys ran for offices on all levels, sought votes and passed legislation.

John Nacca ran for a city office and was elected City Councilman. What impressed



The three young politicians who say their generation is better informed about the logistics of government are Chris, Mike and Wayne.

Photo by Susan McKinney

him most was the "Making the passing of laws and putting them into action." According to him, most of the laws dealt with traffic violations.

"It was realistic," described Mike and added, "especially the conventions. They were just like what I've seen on TV."

Chris and Wayne ack-

nowledged that before they went to the program they didn't know that much about the government but while there learned quite a bit. But not only did they learn about government they also saw the machinations applied to vote getting. "The wheeling and dealing" was how one student put it in referring to the bargaining and the juggling of

allegiances in order to secure necessary votes.

"It showed how good our democratic process is but it also showed how easily it is abused," said Mike.

Wayne agreed with him adding, "There could be improvement but there is no other government in the world that is any better."

Where did they think improvements could be made?

"More investigation of politicians and their legislation," suggested Mike.

All in all the boys maintained the experience had been well rounded in giving them a taste of college, military and political life.