

1977-78 School Sports Preview

By JOHN DOSER

While students have been enjoying their summer months, the high school athletic departments have been putting together the 1977-78 sport season which promises to be an active one.

The Courier-Journal regrets it was unable to contact school officials at St. Agnes, Nazareth

AQ: Tough Grid Slate

All varsity head coaches at Aquinas Institute return intact this school year according to Aquinas Director of Athletics Dave Missile.

There are some interesting additions to the Little Irish Football slate, Missile adds, explaining that the revised City-Catholic League two division set-up allowed Aquinas to schedule several out-of-town opponents.

Nick Teta is back as head football coach and two of three assistant coaches also return - Ron Chiafery and Jack Lyng.

Departed is Moody Johnson who continues to teach at Aquinas, but who has signed on as an assistant grid coach at RIT under Tiger head coach and former-Aquinas grid star Lou Spiotti.

Succeeding Johnson is Dave Whitcomb, a McQuaid graduate, formerly an assistant coach at Gates-Chili under Clint Treadway.

Another Aquinas grad, Bob D'Etore, joins the staff as an assistant JV football

Cardinal Mooney Coaching Shifts

Veteran football coach Tony Merola is out at Cardinal Mooney and assistant grid coach Al Cretney is in—but Merola is in line for a teaching-coaching job at Fairport High which hopefully will restore faith and school spirit at the Maiden Lane, Greece, campus.

Merola was relieved earlier this summer of the head coaching job after some 14 years at the helm in a move which sent shockwaves through the local coaching fraternity.

The Fairport Central Board of Education was to decide on Merola's prospective Fairport appointment earlier this week.

Mooney Athletic Director Ed Nietopski, one of the most highly respected teacher-coaches in the Rochester area, declined to comment on the Merola situation, saying no possible good could result. He seemed pleased with his long-time friend's prospective appointment at Fairport.

Ralph Clapp, former Rush-Henrietta star athlete and ex-R-H Sperry head soccer coach, takes over for Tom Frew as head soccer coach.

Clapp will also coach varsity wrestling at Mooney; he succeeds Jim Morris who continues on the school's teaching staff.

Frew departed in June for graduate work at Indiana University.

Academy and DeSales of Geneva to include their respective coaches' stories in this edition. Every effort will be made to announce coaching changes (if any) at these schools in subsequent weeks.

Following is a look at what has happened in the coaching field, team strengths, schedules and competition aspirations.

coach under head coach Steve Centron.

Missile continues as head soccer coach, Father Mike Wesley, C.S.B., returns as head cross country coach, Ed Manusco is back as head basketball coach, Bill Lukasonas returns for varsity hockey, Father Wesley continues with winter track, and Bob Hitchcock is back again in varsity swimming.

Other coaches returning include Johnson (varsity wrestling), Mancuso (varsity basketball and track), Rich Pillitter (varsity baseball), Centron (varsity tennis) and Joe Lester (varsity golf).

Missile says no new sports have been added nor have the Irish dropped any from their present program.

Aquinas will play a "rough" football schedule this season, Missile says.

Opponents include Auburn, Elmira Southside, Elmira Free Academy and Rush-Henrietta, the state's top large school last fall, plus the usual City-Catholic League menu of Cardinal Mooney, Bishop Kearney, McQuaid, Franklin and Madison.

Tom Siembor returns as Mooney head cross country coach, while Nietopski hopes to strengthen the fall athletic program by initiating girls soccer at the varsity level under Cathy Krenzer, if the athletic budget permits.

Winter sports coaches returning include Nietopski (varsity basketball), Geoff Bamford (varsity bowling), Joette Abbey (girls varsity volleyball) and Krenzer (girls' varsity basketball).

Returning Spring coaches include Nietopski (varsity baseball), Abbey (girls softball), and Bamford (track).

There's a good possibility that Nietopski will add girls' track in the spring if he can find a coach and again, if the budget permits.

Kearney Faces New Grid Team in Fall

There's a head tennis coaching job open at Bishop Kearney, but it's the only vacancy on BK Athletic Director Don Della Vella's coaching staff.

The big news is the addition of Vestal Central, one of New York State's traditional football powerhouses, to the Kings' fall grid schedule.

The tennis opening results from the departure of Gary Heim who has swapped his BK post for the one at Brockport High.

Everything else, Della Vella, says remains the same as last year, with two slight exceptions.

The Kings are adding JV or intramural lacrosse to the athletic program and a coach has yet to be named.

In girls' sports, Della

McQuaid Coach Returns

Bob Pederson, the coach who introduced McQuaid Jesuit High to hockey, returns this Winter as the Knights' head coach.

He succeeds Greg Wojtowicz who resigned after last season; Pederson has been coaching hockey and is expected to continue teaching at Brockport State.

Other varsity coaching positions remain intact, according to McQuaid Athletic Director Tim Jordan.

Fall sports coaches returning include Tom Seymour (varsity football), Bob Armstrong (varsity soccer), and Bob Bradley (varsity cross country).

Winter sports coaches coming back include Jordan (varsity basketball), John Roselli (varsity wrestling), Mike Hasenauer (indoor track), and John Tobin (varsity swimming).

Spring sports coaches back again include Armstrong (varsity tennis), Bob Schaeffer (varsity golf), Jordan (varsity baseball) and Bradley (varsity track).

"Everybody knocked us for last year's football schedule," Jordan says, "so we have a tough schedule this year."

McQuaid opens against Monroe, then goes against Clyde-Savannah, the state's top small school champion last year, and follows with East, Aquinas, Kearney, Franklin, Madison, Mooney and Pittsford Mendon.

Vella says he's hopeful of starting gymnastics on an intramural level. There are no current plans to initiate boys' gymnastics, he says.

Returning coaches for Fall varsity sports include Della Vella (varsity football); Nelson Cupello of the Rochester Lancers (varsity soccer); Linda D'Onofrio (girls varsity soccer); Cathy Cavalari (girls varsity tennis); and Fred Kaufmann (varsity cross-country).

Winter sports coaches back again include Doug Farrell (varsity basketball), Brian Chadwick (varsity volleyball), Linda D'Onofrio (girls' varsity basketball), Bill Quinlisk (indoor track) and Dave Smith (bowling).

Spring sports coaches returning include Carmen Urzetta (varsity baseball), Kaufmann (varsity track), Brother Wright (varsity golf).

The Knights finished behind Rush-Henrietta in the local high school football poll last year. R-H won the state's large school grid championship as declared by the New York State Sportswriters Association last fall.

Mercy Sports

There are no major coaching changes at Our Lady of Mercy High School as the Blossom Road school continues one of the most aggressive girls' interscholastic sports programs in the diocese.

Sister Cathy Pflegar, Mercy athletic director, says co-coaches Dick Meyers and Sister Karen Marie are back at JV soccer; Ann Curtis, a novice with the Sisters of Mercy, takes over varsity tennis; and Sister Cathy is back again as head soccer coach.

Sister Cathy's soccer teams have won three City-Private League girls' soccer titles in a row after their first

year of competition back in 1974.

She is also handling varsity volleyball and varsity basketball, Sue Jensen returns for varsity track and Meyers coaches varsity softball.

The varsity swimming coach is somewhat questionable at press time, Sister Cathy says, although it's probable that last year's coach, Tom Hays, will return.

Soccer is the main sport at Mercy and Sister Cathy has lined up an 18-game schedule against private, city and Monroe County opponents.

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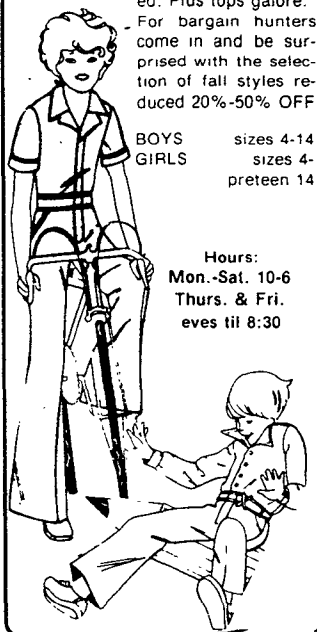
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