

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

DeSales Girls Win Sectionals

By JOHN DOSER

DeSales High of Geneva added the Section 5, Class D girls' basketball tournament championship trophy to its collection last week by easily defeating Belfast, 55-27, at Geneseo State College.

The sectional title was the first ever won by a DeSales girls' team and possibly the first ever won by the school at all, says Coach Doreen DeSain.

Last year DeSales made it to the semifinals before losing to Belfast by three points; this year they made sure there was no way history could repeat itself.

The Saints finished 16-1 for the season and also won the Finger Lakes Class D title.

There's little doubt DeSales was pushed a little more in its quarterfinal tournament game against Arkport, a 61-45 win, and Lyndonville, a 73-56 win, than it was in the title scrap.

"Lyndonville and Arkport both gave us a hard time," DeSain says.

"We didn't play very well against Arkport, but we played better against Lyndonville."

There's no doubt that DeSales senior Jody Lavin played well against all three.

The Class D tournament's most valuable player scored 33 against Arkport, broke the Section 5 girls' single game scoring mark with 51 against Lyndonville, and finished her high school career with 30 points and 25 rebounds against Belfast.

The Saints lost only one game all season, a Finger Lakes League match at Bloomfield, by four points.

In the return match at DeSales, the Saints beat the pesky Bombers, a Class C team, by 15 points.

The Saints are not a one-woman team as many outside observers think.

"That's not true," DeSain explains.

"What the situation is is that before we go into games, each person has a certain job they have to do.

"And in order for Jody to score as much as she does, we usually had to have fast breaks, or someone to pick for her — which usually takes up three other players — someone has to get the rebound and pass it out to her.

"Plus, a lot of times when she has the fast break she will pass it off, but if the other girl misses it, she's the first one underneath the basket to get the rebound and it goes right back up."

Andy (Andrea) Venuti and Ellen Monahan, a pair of 5-foot-4 seniors, have the most assists, DeSain says, although no one kept statistics because there are only nine girls on the team — all players.

Three others fill out DeSain's "starting six," including 5-10 senior Ann Quigley, and two sophomores, 5-9 Debbie Hickey and 5-8 Kathy Knittle.

Others on the team are 5-5 senior Laurie Schibley, 5-6 sophomore Trisha Riley and 5-6 sophomore Michele Rago.

On paper the Saints appear to be "short people," but DeSain says her team is comparable to their opponents.

A couple of opponents

did have a six-footer or two, but obviously the Saints did not consider them great obstacles once the teams got on the court.

Against Lyndonville, for example, she fired 20-for-34 from the field and connected on 11 of 15 shots from the foul line for 58.8 and 73 per cent success, respectively.

Her best effort prior to Lyndonville was 47 points earlier in the season, her 51-point output broke her own previous sectional tournament record of 43 set last year.

Lavin has attracted many women's college basketball scouts and while Cornell, St. John Fisher, Ithaca, and Canisius have indicated more than a passing interest in her, she seems to favor Yale.

Second choice apparently is among Canisius, Ithaca and maybe the University of Rochester.

While the girls' Class D championship game was played at Geneseo State, DeSain doesn't really see teams in that classification ever traveling to the War Memorial in Rochester to play because it's simply too far away.

"Most of our Class D schools are in Allegany and Steuben Counties and the War Memorial is just too far away for them. I would like to see the Class A schools play there because most of them are around the War Memorial."

DeSales played before 200 at Geneseo, DeSain says, and the Saints were tickled pink.

After all, there are only 200 students in the entire school.

Stage Productions



Photo by Susan McKinney

Strange Creatures

The Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School is sponsoring a children's theater, April 8, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The production is "Alice in Wonderland" and will feature Sue Rousseau as the White Rabbit; Nancy Caswell, Alice's friend; Ellen Sweetland as Alice and Linda Jones who portrays the White Queen.



Photo By Terrance J. Brennan

The Land of Oz

Nazareth Academy's Lamplighter Players, under the direction of Ellen Secci and Sister Donna Marie Cucci, will present the Wizard of Oz, April 7, 8, 9, at 8 p.m. along with a Sunday 2 p.m. matinee. Above, the Wicked Witch of the West as played by Kathleen Browne scares Dorothy, played by Mary Beth Ringholtz and the Scarecrow who is Tracy Foley. Orchestra director is D. Donald Cervone from Brockport College. Other characters are Alison Brasser as Glinda (the good witch) and Bob Coyne from Aquinas as the Tin Man.



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at Nazareth Academy during an assembly. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, April 4 to receive \$5.

Explorer Honored

Susan Connor, a student at St. Agnes High School and President of the Strong Medical Explorer's Post, has been awarded the Silver E by the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America. She was presented a plaque at this year's Explorer Recognition Dinner.

Sue's career in Explorer's has spanned three years and along with her duties in the Strong Medical Post she's President of the Medical Explorers Association of Monroe County and Vice-chairman of the Explorer President's Association.

Recently she presided over a Health Career Night at Brighton High School. She is being sent, by her Post, to the National Explorer President's Congress in Washington, D.C., April 12-16. According to present

plans, she will be entering a pre-medical course this September.



SUSAN CONNOR