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## Cardinals Go Down South, Come Home With Big Wins

By JOHN DOSER

Ed Nietopski, who used to play a mean shortstop for the Rochester Red Wings, says he can still hum the ball from the pitcher's mound in Cardinal Mooney batting practice.

Nietopski, head baseball coach at Mooney, says he's glad to see the snow go, but this year he didn't let it interfere with his team's "preseason" training.

"We took a team trip with some of the parents, myself and my family down to Virginia. The kids paid for their own shot and we had some good days down there," Nietopski says.

"That is baseball country," Nietopski says unequivocally. "We went to Fairfax, Va., about 20 miles outside of Washington, and I've never been as impressed with schools and with athletic facilities and programs as I was with those people. It was fantastic."

Nietopski visited two of the most beautiful high schools he's ever seen: Robinson and Fairfax, both public schools. They were big schools, bigger than any high school Nietopski has seen back in the Rochester area.

"You could put at least four Cardinal Mooney gyms inside the Robinson gym — maybe five — it seats between six and seven thousand."

"I've never met such congenial and hospitable

people in all my life. We were treated just like kings. They showed us a tour of their school, and the athletic director invited us to use their gym facilities.

"We had a full infield practice on a floor like we have — Chem Turf — and while we were doing that we had some of our kids hitting in two batting cages with pitching machines; and there were basketball games going on at each end, all at the same time."

Enrollment at Robinson, incidentally, is 4000 students compared with about 1300 at Mooney.

Fairfax High School was about the same size, gym and all, except that it sat only 5500 people.

"Then they showed us the entire sports complex. They had a sauna bath room, a separate room for wrestling, a separate room for apparatus, a dance studio, just anything you could think of — and on top of that — first class all the way."

Fifteen players, two assistants, two managers, ten adults and Nietopski's family left Easter Sunday in six cars and drove all the way. They arrived back home the following Saturday.

"It was an educational tour too. We went to Arlington Cemetery to see President Kennedy's grave, and the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; we had a tour through the Capital; we went through the Aerospace

*"We met Fairfax first, the second top team in the county. We won that scrimmage. Then we met Bishop O'Connell, one of the top Catholic schools there and we beat them."*

Center; we spent a half day at Annapolis — they really gave us royal treatment."

One time the Mooney auto fleet got lost trying to find Bishop O'Connell High School, the only Catholic school Mooney scrimmaged.

"We stopped at an intersection and talked with a sheriff in his car for directions. He just turned on his blinkers and said, 'Follow me.' He gave us a 10-mile escort right to the high school field."

for itself there; it's one of the three big sports — baseball, football, basketball."

Mooney had three scrimmages and didn't put New York State high school baseball to shame at all.

"We met Fairfax first, the second top team in the county. We won that scrimmage."

"Then we met Bishop O'Connell, one of the top Catholic schools there, and

we beat them.

"Then we met Robinson, the top team in the state, and they beat us. Robinson is one of the finest high school teams I've ever seen; just loaded, an unbelievable team; they play just like a professional club."

Nietopski says Mooney will have a good team this year. There's no reason to doubt him — at least that's what two out of three Virginia high school teams will confirm.

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## Sports Who's Who

**Editor's Note** — This is the first in a weekly series of short, brief sports news items about athletes (mostly high school) in the Diocese of Rochester.

It's a perfect opportunity for mom, dad, or coach to drop Raparound Sports Editor John Doser a clipping or a note about your son or daughter's athletic achievement or progress at the high school level or above.

If you do send us a blurb on your college athlete, be sure to include the name of his/her high school. Send all items to RAPAROUND SPORTS DIGEST, 51 Boxwood Lane, Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

Named to the City-Catholic Basketball League's second all-star team were Randy Lockhart (Kearney), Tom Beattie (Mooney) and Mike Sheehy (McQuaid).

Drawing honorable mention in the voting were Bob Keenehan (Mooney) and Mike Beebe and Mike Banachowski (Kearney).

Randy Benjamin and Chris James (Aquinas) were first-team selections in City Private League basketball voting. Steve DiLauro and Mike Mancarella (Aquinas)

received honorable mention.

Mancarella is the son of Monroe Community College soccer coach Joe Mancarella; James also received honorable mention in the 1977-78 All-Greater Rochester high school basketball roster selected by Democrat & Chronicle sportswriters and Section 5 coaches.

Jody Lavin (DeSales) was picked as a member of the D&C's second team in its area high school girls' basketball voting. Honorable mention went to Mary Ellen Hart (Mooney).

Scott Delgatti (former Mooney), was the winning pitcher as Tacoma downed the Rochester Red Wings, 4-1, in exhibition baseball at Biscayne College in Florida.

Bill Nealon (former Kearney) reached the 18-and-under final consolation of the East Bowl tennis tournament in New York City before losing, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to Dave Lenhoff of San Diego.

Bishop Kearney's ice hockey team placed two players each on the first and second Monroe County High School Hockey League's Northern Division all-star teams.

Defenseman Bob Hogan and forward Mike Getner were selected for

the first team and Dave Paskell and Rich Ver-cruyse for the second. Named to the second team in the Southern Division were Tony Salazzo and Tim Kelliher (McQuaid).

Eight members of McQuaid's crack swimming team were picked for the City-Catholic League's all-star team: Ned Nicosia, Marty Mahoney, Henry Rohrer, Tim Holly, Jeff Talbot, Jerry Schneider, Bill Schneider and Neil Brophy. Also on the team is Greg Tuttle (Aquinas).

Sam Romano (Kearney) was picked for the City-County Volleyball All-Star squad. Romano served for seven points, had nine spikes and made nine saves in the Kings' victory over East for the City-Catholic League title.

Vinçe Biamonte (McQuaid) was the winner of the 178-pound title in the Leo Bernabi Freestyle Wrestling Tournament at Spencerport High.

Rich Salamone (former McQuaid) won two matches for the U.S. team in World Cup wrestling at Toledo. His two decisions in the 105.5 pound class gave his team 44 points in matches against Japan and Cuba. Earlier Salamone won the 105 pound title in the U.S. Wrestling Federation Championships at Hofstra University.

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