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JOAN M. SMITH, Edit

Photos by Joan M. Smith

A Crescendo of Clarinets

Incoming Bishop Kearney instrumentalists are busy these Tuesdays. Every hour on the hour there is musical activity at the school. Clarinets, 9 a.m.; flutes at 10; trumpets at 11; saxophones at 1 p.m.; trombones at 2 and baritones and tubas at 3 p.m. A few Tuesdays ago, Jeanne Hauser (lower left hand photo), BK clarinet instructor, stood in for Ray Shahin, musical director, and put the young musicians through their paces — scales, new musical scores and marching techniques. Come September the new students will have a foundation from which to expand their musical talents during their four years at BK.

Kearney Girls Claim Softball Crown

Gina Specksgoor's bases-loaded double with two out in the bottom of the seventh inning drove in the winning run and capped a five-run rally as Bishop Kearney (18-2) beat top-seeded Webster Thomas, 11-10, for the Section Five Class A girls' softball title June 9 at Fairport High School.

The win gave Kearney its first sectional title in any girls sport and only the third in the school's history in boys' and girls' competition.

Thomas (17-2) outhit Kearney, 9-8, and had six of them in the first inning when they jumped to an 8-0 lead. Jeanne Dunn led off the game with a home run for the girls from the Ridge. Mary Kelly followed shortly with a two-run homer and then Nancy Headd smacked a grand-slam home run to cap an incredible first inning.

"I just kept reminding them that they probably couldn't get it all back in one inning," Kearney coach Linda D'Onofrio said, "but they would have to hang in there and keep nibbling away at the lead.

"Actually, though, with our team you almost don't have to say anything. They have a great attitude. They were behind in other games this season, never eight runs, but they never gave up. They've been great scrappers."

Kearney started eating away at the Thomas lead with two runs in the first, another in the third and two more in the fourth. That made the score 8-5.

"We seemed to be back in the ball game," D'Onofrio said. "Then Thomas got two more runs in the top of the fifth and we had to catch up five more runs to pull even."

Going into the last inning, the score was 10-6 Thomas. Run-scoring singles by Megan McKenzie, Sue Hoffman and Mary DelConte brought the Kings closer. They then tied the game on pitcher Donna Sapienza's sacrifice bunt.

After a walk and a couple of throwing errors, Kearney found the bases loaded with two out and the stage set for Speckgoor's heroics. The five-foot, 100-pound second baseman slugged her second hit of the day, a line-drive double up the middle to drive in the winning run.

Kearney advanced to the finals with a 13-3 win over Churchville-Chili. Pitcher Sapienza, with some of her best control of the season, held the Saints to just five hits. Shortstop Dawn Armanini triggered the offense with a single and a triple and four runs batted in.

Thomas' appearance in the finals was its fifth in six years, but for all its trips, they have never come away with the title.

McKenzie, Specksgoor, Hoffman and Debbie Buddenbeck of Kearney were named to the all-tournament team.

Sr. Ryan Receives Grant

Sister Mary Kay Ryan, liturgical dancer and dance teacher at St. Agnes High School, has received the 1979 Peter Sheehan grant ($500) provided for work connecting arts and religion.

In fulfillment of the grant stipulations, Sister will begin a liturgical dance group. These dancers, September through December, will pray, choreograph and dance in preparation for luturgical performances in four area churches during Advent. The group will also give a dance-prayer workshop to interested parish and staff persons. The reason for the workshop Sister explained, "Was to prepare them for accepting dance as a form of prayer."

Peter Sheehan, in whose honor the grant was established after his death in 1972, was a former teacher at St. John Fisher College, the president of the Bach Society in Rocheser, and a member of the diocesan Music Commission. He became chaplain of the University of Toronto when he left Fisher, where, in his activities with artists, dancers and musicians, he fostered a rapprochment between religon and the arts.