

Second season ends for McQuaid Notre Dame, DeSales reach semis

By Richard A. Kiley

Not all local Catholic schools enjoyed the "luck of the Little Irish" last week. For some, the second season came to an abrupt end.

After routing hapless Bishop Kearney 51-34 on Feb. 21, McQuaid hoped to keep its momentum going against the powerful Spartans of Gates-Chili. The Knights (8-11, 14 seed) forced the Spartans (17-2, third seed) into overtime only to lose 60-59 at Greece Athena High School last Wednesday night.

The three-minute overtime period became necessary when McQuaid's Glen Taggart tied the second round contest at 57-57, after he converted a desperation bucket with :00 remaining on the clock. But Rob Kornaker's basket, aided by one free-throw by co-captain Lou Tufano in the extra period, enabled the Spartans to advance to the quarterfinals of this year's tournament against sixth-seeded Franklin (14-5).

Gates Chili held leads of 17-10 after one quarter and 29-28 at the half, but McQuaid led after three by a score of 44-42.

Tufano, Monroe County League West Division's scoring champion (18.1 points per game), finished with 22 points, sharing game-high honors with McQuaid's Greg Woodard. Ken Boehner contributed 13 for the Knights.

Kornaker ended up with 14 points for the night, while teammate Rick Reyes added 11. The Spartans were just 13-for-23 from the line against the Knights.

Over in the Section 5 Class C Basketball Tournament, Geneva DeSales is wreaking havoc on the highly seeded teams, much like Aquinas is doing in Class AAA.

Second-year coach Tony Alvaro (although he stresses the point that he is "no spring chicken" after coaching 27 years at Romulus High School) has taken his "Cinderella" squad, seeded No. 7, to the semifinals with two nip-and-tuck wins over Scio and Fillmore.

DeSales edged No. 10 seed Scio, in a slow-moving contest, 43-40.

Alvaro's team trailed at halftime by one, 23-22, but pulled away in the second half, thanks to seven-for-10 foul shooting in the second half.

Sam DeMetro was the only player in double figures for DeSales, as he poured in 22 points. DeMetro is a transfer student from Waterloo High School. Transfers played an important role for DeSales this year.

"We are a regional team, and I was wondering at the beginning of the year if we would be able to play well together," Alvaro said. "I've got three boys from Newark, two boys from Waterloo and four from Geneva."

Alvaro likes to refer to his boys as a "team's team," noting that they all know "what each other can and can't do."

Against No. 2 Fillmore, some late heroics by Brent Holdridge and Sam DeMetro made

the difference in DeSales' 65-62 come-from-behind win.

DeSales led at halftime, 31-27, and built up a 10-point third-quarter bulge but found itself down by three points with just under three minutes left in regulation. A Holdridge basket and steal on the ensuing play put DeSales ahead to stay. A basket with just :05 left on the clock iced the victory for Alvaro and his squad.

DeMetro finished with 26 points, while Holdridge and Mike Donahue added 17 and 10 respectively.

This is the furthest a DeSales team has gone in eight years of sectional play, not a bad accomplishment for a team that consists of just nine players.

DeSales (13-7) played No. 6 seed Arkport (14-5) last night at SUNY Geneseo.

Over in Section 4, the boys' basketball team of Notre Dame at Elmira has recorded two romps in reaching the semifinals, while the girls' squad ran into a buzzsaw against powerful Newark-Valley.

The top-seeded Crusaders (15-5) began its sectional play with an 80-48 walkover against No. 16-seed Greene Central. Notre Dame raced out to a 41-23 lead after the first half and never looked back.

Dave Ferris pumped in 19 points for the night, while Kevin Vecellio and Tom Gough scored 15 and 14 points respectively.

Full-court pressure combined with balanced scoring proved too much for Lansing-Newark Valley on Saturday night as Notre Dame prevailed 94-69, after leading by just 11 (44-33) at halftime.

Gough was unstoppable in scoring 30 points, while Vecellio and Gough added 25 and 13.

"Our defense was our best offense," Crusader coach Mike Johnston said, referring to the win over Lansing-Newark Valley. "Our full-court pressure produced a lot of turnovers for us and a lot of two-on-one and three-on-one baskets."

Johnston says he will incorporate the same philosophy against No. 4-seed Sidney (18-4) in the semis.

"We will have to make it a full-court game and keep applying pressure. We hope to get our break going again against Sidney," he said.

Coach Kathy Boughton's girls were not as fortunate as they recorded a 51-39 win over No. 11 Odessa-Montour but fell to No. 3 Newark Valley.

In the 51-39 win over Odessa-Montour, Christine Vetukevic tallied 17 points while teammate Kathy McCarthy added 12.

Boughton's team never recovered from falling behind 24-2 in the first quarter against No. 3-seed Newark Valley when they lost 51-36 Saturday night.

Newark Valley shot a torrid 11-for-12 in the opening stanza, while the Crusaders were an ice cold one-for-13.

"We showed good shot selection but they just wouldn't fall," Boughton said. "We



Jeff Gouiding/Courier-Journal

Mooney Coach Ed Nietopski had some tough but encouraging words for his players during a time out in Mooney's game against East on Tuesday, Feb. 18. The Mooney squad led for most of the first half but lost the game, 68-47.

played them even the rest of the game but we dug too big a hole in the first quarter."

Naralie Kozlowski scored 14 points while McCarthy contributed 9 to pace Notre Dame.

Despite the disappointing finish, Boughton was proud of her squad's tenacity even after it was down so badly, and feels next year will be more promising.

"We'll have eight seniors on next year's team so we will have a good nucleus to start with," she said. "Things just didn't gel for us Saturday night but I thought we showed good character."

That character should carry the Crusaders even further next year.

Teens' Weekend Planned

Sal LeChase will head a team of thirty people on a Teens Encounter Christ Weekend in Industry on March 7, 8 and 9. A Holy Hour for the success of the weekend will be held at the school auditorium on Saturday, March 8 at 4:30 p.m. A "Hootenany" (singing and witness) will follow the Holy Hour at 5:30 p.m. Donations of cookies, brownies, candy or fruit would be appreciated.

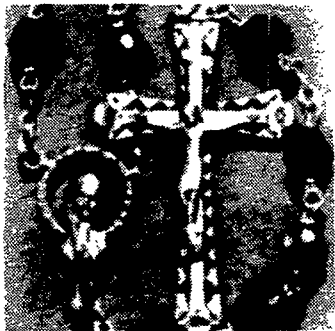
Cenacle Dream Workshop

A weekend entitled "Self-Awareness Through Dream Exploration" with Mary T. Dombek, R.N., M.S., will be offered from March 7-9. The workshop is a cognitive, experiential and guided exploration of dreams in the context of a group. There will be an emphasis on spiritual growth through dreams. Contact the Cenacle Ministry Office, 693 East Ave., Rochester or call (716) 271-8755.



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