

Mercy's queen in Class AA; Lions rule far-west region

By Richard A. Kiley

Section 6 (Buffalo area) continued to dominate this year's Far Western Regionals as yet another Section 5 champion, this time the Mercy Monarchs, was disposed of rudely.

The Lady Lions of Lockport, ranked sixth in the state, deployed a ferocious, swarming defense in roaring to a 51-36 victory over Mercy and advancing to the next round of the state tournament.

After shooting the lights out last Wednesday night (March 12) in a 14-point romp over Rush-Henrietta, it was lights out for the Monarchs when they went nearly eight minutes without a point near the end of the contest.

First-year coach Kathy Boughton's Monarchs jumped out to a 5-0 lead early, thanks to a bucket by Julie Seitz and a three-point play by Beth Wambach. But the lead was short-lived as Lockport shifted into high gear, and went on a 14-4 spurt to lead 14-9 after one quarter.

Mercy's cold outside shooting doomed any hopes to regain momentum in the second stanza, when Boughton tried to change her game strategy by forcing the ball inside to center Colleen Sheehy.

But the result was the same. The Lady Lion defense clogged the middle and smothered Sheehy on numerous occasions, frustrating Boughton's attempts to change the complexion of the game. The Monarchs trailed 26-17 at the half.

Mercy appeared to tame the Lions somewhat in the second half and, with less than three minutes remaining in the third quarter, trailed by just four, 34-30. But after an 8-2 tear at the end of the quarter, the lead ballooned to 10, at 42-32.

Then the scoring drought began, ending any hopes of a Monarch comeback. Boughton's club, looking desperate in its final quarter of the season, converted its first basket since the waning moments of the third quarter with just 1:26 left in the game. The Monarchs were plagued by turnovers, committing eight in the final quarter alone.

Wambach had 17 points to pace Mercy

while the next highest scorer was Stacey Paridon with 5.

THE MONARCHS EARNED their way into the regional playoff with a ruthless shooting clinic against the previously undefeated Lady Comets of Rush-Henrietta at Geneseo State Wednesday night. Paridon was named Section 5 Class AA Tournament MVP after she poured in 22 points in the 64-50 win, with many buckets coming on uncontested layups after Mercy wore down a sluggish Rush-Henrietta squad.

Mercy is only the third school in the tournament's 14-year existence to win three consecutive championships.

The Lady Royal Comets absorbed a damaging blow when Kris Eckert broke her left ankle with just 2:50 gone in the opening quarter. Eckert's loss was crippling to Rush-Henrietta coach Tom Dulmage, who hoped the sophomore's rebounding capabilities would establish the running game which streaked his club to a 21-0 record before Mercy.

The Monarchs then upped the margin to six, with the 5'4" Paridon hitting rainbow jumpers over the two-three zone deployed by Dulmage. Paridon and teammate Beth Wambach combined for 12 of the 16 Monarch points to lead their squad to a 16-12 lead after one.

All-tournament Rush-Henrietta guard Tami Paladino (19 points) did all she could to keep her team from getting blown out early. The 5'3" senior tallied six points in the second quarter, but the Monarchs' Sheehy began dominating the boards and hitting Paridon and Wambach with outlet passes leading to easy layups. Mercy took a 30-18 with 3:30 left in the half before the Lady Comets dwindled it to nine at halftime, 34-25.

Sheehy again controlled the boards in the third quarter and started to assert herself offensively also. Her six points, combined with four each by Seitz and Paridon, gave Mercy a 50-39 bulge after three.

The barrage continued in the fourth quarter as Mercy pulled away by 19, 62-43,



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Rita LaForce finds herself all alone for this layup shot against Rush-Henrietta.

before Boughton emptied the bench. Paridon left the floor to a standing ovation by the Mercy faithful, one of whom was Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Boughton attributed the win to her squad's outside-shooting clinic as well as the fact that her squad had eagerly awaited a match with Rush-Henrietta all season.

"I know we would have the edge with our

outside shooting," Boughton said, making the understatement of the year thus far. "Paridon and Wambach were tremendous. We wanted to face an undefeated team all season, and we always followed how Rush-Henrietta did."

Sheehy was named all-tournament for Boughton's squad while Malisha Henry (12 points) was tabbed for Rush-Henrietta.

DeSales soars over Eagles, falls to Honeoye in playoff

By Richard A. Kiley

The first of DeSales' loyalists to approach and console the Lady Saints knew exactly what the team was feeling after dropping a three-point decision to Honeoye.

How so?

Because they were members of DeSales' boys basketball team which lost in a hauntingly similar fashion to Harley-Allendale Columbia.

Two weeks earlier in the Rochester Community War Memorial, DeSales' Joe Giorgianni was shooting from the foul line with just six ticks on the clock, only to eventually lose 49-48.

This time, Lady Saint Stephanie DeVaney was shooting from the line with :12 to go with her team trailing, 47-45 at Canandaigua Academy; Thursday, March 13.

The results turned out to be almost identical, right down to the score, when sophomore center Amy Kennerson converted two free-throws down the other end after DeVaney missed the second of two foul shots, in a 49-46 loss.

The game was marred by numerous questionable "no-calls" by both officials and disrespectful taunting during Honeoye foul shots (unsportsmanlike gestures which were never addressed by either official) coming from a large part of the DeSales crowd.

This loss may have been a little harder on coach Steve Muzzi's girls in that they held a seemingly comfortable nine-point lead midway through the fourth quarter. But the



Hurriyet Necdet Aydogan

DeSales' Babette DeVaney and Stacy Marsteiner go up for a loose ball in game against Honeoye. DeSales was defeated, 49-46.

Lady Bulldogs had made it a habit of coming back to win in capturing their Section C title, so they "indulged" DeSales with the same treatment by erasing a 41-32 deficit in the final quarter.

The Lady Saints, who had defeated Honeoye twice by wide margins during the regular season, jumped out to an 11-7 lead in a sloppily played first quarter.

The Lady Saints began to pull away in the second quarter when the DeVaney sisters, Babette and Stephanie, combined to score eight of the squad's 14 points to lead 25-18 at halftime.

The second quarter marked the first of two times that DeSales' Class D tournament MVP Alesha Priebe was knocked to the floor, with no foul called on the play, much to the dismay of DeSales' faithful.

The third quarter was played dead even as Lady Saint forward Kris Guinan poured in 10 of her team's 14 points. At the other end, Shelly Koehnlein began to hit for Honeoye. Koehnlein, a junior guard, pumped in six points of her own but found her team still trailing by seven going into the final quarter.

The turning point of the game came with 5:39 to go, when Priebe was pushed to the floor holding her side. No foul was called. She didn't play anymore, leaving the game with her team ahead 40-38, and no one to replace her ball-handling prowess.

Priebe's loss devastated DeSales, and put added pressure on Babette DeVaney, who was swarmed by Honeoye defenders down the stretch. The Lady Bulldogs pulled away for good with 23 seconds to go, when junior guard Barb Lowe nailed a jumper, giving her team a three-point lead, 47-44.

Koehnlein scored 14 points for the night

for Honeoye with teammate Kris Coon contributing 18 points, nine in the final quarter.

Guinan paced DeSales with 14 points with Stephanie and Babette DeVaney adding 11 and 10 points respectively.

DESALES NOTCHED ITS SECOND consecutive Class D basketball crown by defeating previously unbeaten Greenwood, 54-47, at Alfred Tech on Wednesday night, March 12.

Priebe carried her team with 10 points and an impressive nine assists to garner the Class D MVP trophy.

The Lady Saints mastered the boards offensively and defensively, out-rebounding the smaller Eagles squad, 43-21. Senior forward Stephanie DeVaney was dominating off the glass as she grabbed 14 rebounds.

Teammate Guinan grabbed 12 rebounds of her own while pouring in 15 points.

DeSales was in control all the way, leading 14-8 after one, 31-25 at the half, and 38-33 after three quarters of play.

Greenwood, which finished the season 21-1, was paced by its all tournament selections, Sondra Tracy and Katrina Tracy who combined for 32 of their team's points.

Babette DeVaney added 12 for coach Steve Muzzi's squad.

Named to the all-tournament for DeSales, in addition to Priebe, were both Stephanie and Babette DeVaney.

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