

Battle for Private-Parochial title comes down to final week of play

By Richard A. Kiley

The clouds that rolled in after a pivotal Private-Parochial League girls' softball game last Wednesday symbolized the nebulous situation created by the game's outcome.

As the two Catholic rivals, Bishop Kearney and Cardinal Mooney, entered this last week of regular season play, a win or loss either way could have decided the champion of the five-team league.

As a result of their 2-1 come-from-behind

victory over the Cardinals, coach Linda D'Onofrio's Lady Kings have the upper hand for the title with a 4-1 record in league play and 7-4 overall.

But Joette Abbey's team — defending league champions and 1985 Section 5 Class AA titlists — are not conceding easily.

Two days after the tough, one-run defeat to Kearney, the Cardinals (5-2, 10-4) registered an impressive 81 victory over a recently revitalized Nazareth squad.

The win really put the heat on the Lady Kings who, weather pending, still had to do battle with both the Lady Monarchs of Mercy and Nazareth this week.

"Where it stands now, if we win Mercy and Nazareth, we would take the title," D'Onofrio said. "Should we lose either game, we could have co-champions."

D'Onofrio has nothing to worry about if her squad can muster the same effort against its upcoming opponents as it did against Mooney this year. (Kearney also won 11-9 back in late April.)

The game, however, began rather inauspiciously for the Lady Kings.

Junior pitcher Ann-Marie Rivaldo was plagued by wildness in the bottom of the first inning, resulting in Mooney's lone run for the day.

Rivaldo walked Cathy Nietopski to start Mooney's half of the first inning. Two outs later, Nietopski moved to third on a wild pitch and eventually scored when the ball got away from senior catcher Josie Raimond, to make the score 1-0.

The score remained that way until the top of the fifth when Kearney staged its dramatic comeback.

Buffy Hodgetts began the inning by reaching first base on an error. Mooney ace Julie Staub then walked Julie Natale, giving Kearney runners at first and second with no one out.

After Kelli Curcio was called out on strikes, freshman Melanie Lipa lashed a single to rightfield to score Hodgetts, and when Mooney rightfielder Julie Kolb bobbled the ball, she enabled Natale to take third and Lipa second.

Lipa's hit was only fitting for the Lady Kings, who had squandered earlier scoring opportunities. The freshman's persistent attitude has proved a positive influence on this year's team, according to D'Onofrio.

"Melanie's double was the key hit for us. She has a great deal of natural talent and doesn't get down when things aren't going well,"

D'Onofrio said. "She's a good influence on the young kids coming up."

Kearney loaded the bases when Janine Berube bunted back to Staub, who fooled no one when she faked a throw to first base, trying to catch Natale off-guard at third.

On the ensuing pitch, Natale walked in from third when the ball got by Mooney catcher Mary Beth Progro and trickled out of play.

"I would have rather seen it (the winning run) scored differently," D'Onofrio said. "I felt badly . . . but that's the game."

Any hopes of a Mooney comeback were dashed in the bottom of the seventh, thanks to what may have been a game-saving catch by Lady King junior centerfielder Molly Dillon.

According to D'Onofrio, the junior's exciting play is the reason some seasoned veterans are viewing Kearney softball from the bench this year.

"Molly is new to the team. She has been a real spark plug, taking over where some veterans have slacked off."

D'Onofrio is somewhat fearful of how her "Jekyll-and-Hyde" team will play this week. After all, Mercy dealt her squad its lone defeat in league play.

"Mercy is more a geographic rival," D'Onofrio said. "It creates good competition, but unfortunately we create mistakes against them also."

Overall, the 11th year coach is perplexed by the rollercoaster season thus far, but she hopes her team will keep the ride going for awhile yet.

"It's been a very unpredictable season. Whenever we seem to get the pitching, we don't get the hits. And whenever our pitching is not there, our hitting is," D'Onofrio said. "We just haven't gelled yet (consistently) like the two Mooney games."

"If we can put all the mistakes behind us, I gotta believe they're unstoppable. If not, they're not gonna look too good." Only time will tell.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Kearney catcher, senior Josie Raimond, goes after a foul pop behind home plate.

Vikings crown Fighting Kings 13-4 in non-league lacrosse action

By Richard A. Kiley

The records are almost identical, but the teams appear to be going in opposite directions.

Pittsford's 13-4 ripping of Bishop Kearney (4-8) in a non-league lacrosse game last Thursday illustrated the courses the two teams seem to be taking.

After finding themselves down 1-0 to the Kings after Joe LaRocca's goal 3:08 into the game, the Vikings (5-9) scored five unanswered goals to avert any hopes of a Kearney victory.

The scoring dialogue began just more than a minute after LaRocca's goal when Pittsford midfielder Rich Kievit pumped one in at the 5:45 mark of the first quarter.

After winning the ensuing faceoff, it took just 32 seconds for the Vikings to take the lead for good, when Scott Daniels scored the first of his two goals for the game. (Daniels also added two assists for his teammates.)

The last two and a half minutes were really demoralizing for the King laxmen as Pittsford tallied three times. The last goal came with just ten ticks on the clock, when David Russell scored the first of his two goals for the Vikings.

Russell's speed proved too much for the inexperienced Kearney defense. The attackmen would have had a bigger day than he did if it were not the several occasions he hit the goal pipe.

With the score still 5-1, Kearney's Eric Haas, one of the few bright spots on Jim Burns' club this year, rifled one into the Viking net 1:27

into the second stanza.

The goal was quickly answered by Daniels, however, who walked through the Kearney defense and found an opening in the goal, giving the Vikings an insurmountable 6-2 lead.

Kearney's inability to win faceoffs and to pick up ground balls was directly related to its being able to only take eight shots on the Viking goal in the first half.

The prettiest goal of the day came just 1:55 into the third quarter when Dave Friedman's back-hand, scooper shot found the net, giving Paul Wilson's squad a 7-2 advantage.

After Kearney climbed to a question four goals, Kievit took advantage of a questionable play by both the Kearney goaltender and defense.

The midfielder found himself all alone in front of the net when the entire King defense swarmed to the ball behind the cage.

Kievit took a pinpoint feed from Russell and lofted it into the open net, to up the lead to 8-3.

The Vikings went on to outscore the Kings 5-1 in the final quarter, which was marred by unsportsmanlike behavior on both squads.

In Kearney's case, the chippy play was more a result of frustration than anything.

Even Fighting King coach Jim Burns received a bench minor penalty when he questioned an official for allowing the Vikings to make a late substitution after they called a timeout.

It hasn't exactly been a banner year for Bishop Kearney lacrosse.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Eric Haas fends off a Pittsford defender as the Kearney midfielder heads downfield. Kearney lost the May 15th game 13-4.

Football coaches assigned for annual all-star game

Local coaches have been assigned for the fourth annual Eddie Meath All-Star Football

Annual Aquinas hoop camp scheduled for end of June

Under the direction of coach Mike Dianetti, Aquinas Institute will present its annual basketball camp this summer. The camp will be at Aquinas, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester, and will be staffed by local high school and college coaches.

Sessions begin on June 30 and end July 25. Dianetti will stress both offense and defense, as well as team skills.

The sessions cost \$65 per person and will include a shirt and refreshments.

Contact Dianetti at (716)254-2020 or 663-1615 for reservations.

Game, which will be played on Saturday, August 2, at the University of Rochester's Fauver Stadium. Tickets for the 8 p.m. game may be purchased prior to the game at any Perkins Restaurant or at the gate the night of the game.

John Heck (Cardinal Mooney) has been named head coach for the West Team. He will be assisted by Tom Woodruff (Oakfield), Bob Ellis (Brockport), Jim Briggs (Gates) and Dennis Leyden (Attica).

Mike Foster (Canandaigua) has been named head coach for the East Team. Assisting him will be Dom Vitticore (Red Jacket), Ben Nix (Franklin), Tom Sprague (McQuaid) and Jeff Crane (Brighton).