



All eyes were on the ball on this play as Stephanie Fame of Bishop Kearney and AQ's Ann Frederick battled for possession during action from last Thursday's Private-Parochial contest between the two rivals. Fame prevailed on the play, but the Little Irish won where it counts, 5-0.

Little Irish girls repay old debts in soccer pairing against Kearney

By Richard A. Kiley
After Aquinas' 5-0 shutout over Bishop Kearney in a Private-Parochial girls' soccer game last Thursday, Little Irish Coach Mary Beth Moore and her squad knew exactly what the fallen Lady Fighting Kings were going through.

The effort was there, but Kearney was just shorter on talent.

Moore has been there before, and then some. But as the song goes, that was then and this is now.

After enduring a 0-17 inaugural season after Aquinas went co-ed, and sub .500 seasons in more recent years, the Little Irish girls' soccer program is unbeaten this year at 5-0-1 as of press time.

"The kids deserve the credit," said the coach, who has taught English at Aquinas for six years. "When we went 0-17, all 13 of them were back here the next season. Moore added that her Aquinas teams have made the sectionals three of the past four years.

She attributes this season's success to her players' hunger and desire to erase some of those not-so-fond memories from the program's earlier years.

"This is the last shot for some of the kids," said Moore, referring to such seniors as Jennifer Catone, Christine Querney and goalie Donna Enright. "They've been together as a unit for four years and want to go out as winners."

Already leading 1-0 on Coco O'Donnell's early tally, AQ upped the lead to 2-0 with a brilliant goal at three minutes to go in the first half.

O'Donnell hustled to keep the ball on the Kearney side of the field and dropped a perfect ball to Jennifer Querney. Querney then passed the ball to her sister Christine, whose shot was placed high and inside the right goal post.

Later, with Aquinas up 4-0, senior halfback O'Donnell notched a hat trick with a little more than one minute remaining in the contest, when her turn-around shot sailed past a diving Pam Buddendeck.

Enright was aided by the strong backline

play of Karen Frantz, Jennifer Querney, Karen Toth and Ann Frederick. The "fabulous four" remained cool and composed in front of Enright when the action in front of the Aquinas net got heated.

Don't let all this praise deceive you into thinking this team is perfect — on the contrary, Moore sees lots of room for improvement. Although she did call the game against Kearney the team's best display of skill to date.

"We still make lots of mistakes; there's a lot we have to work on," Moore said.

Yet, those words could be disheartening to a team that's off to such a great start.

"I don't think so. You have to set goals. We set them in the Webster Tournament," Moore said. Aquinas came out of that tournament with the only "blemish" in its campaign thus far, a tie game against a tough Palmyra-Macedon squad. Moore said she was proud of the way her team played against Pal-Mac, coming from behind to tie the game and send it into overtime.

Until this year, erasing deficits had not been a Little Irish specialty.

"In close games in the past, we would always give teams a good game, but never had enough to upset them," said Moore, who is assisted in her coaching duties by Greg McMaster.

Though some may consider Aquinas' period of mediocrity to have been brief — the school implemented girls' soccer when it went co-ed in 1982 — Moore saw it as endless.

"I've got the feeling those teams just don't like us," said Moore. Her statement was illustrated by the sometimes chippy play during the game against Kearney. "They think we haven't paid our dues because we've only been around for five years. But it's been a long five years."

And after paying the price, the Little Irish are doing a little paying back of their own this year. And right now, Moore is enjoying the fruits of that five-year wait — a strong, experienced squad that's playing a sound game both offensively and defensively.

Cardinals rebound from Kearney "fiasco" to blank East

By Richard A. Kiley
Cardinal Mooney's Mike Karpenko summed it up best during his team's 3-0 win over East in a pivotal City-Catholic soccer game last Friday afternoon.

Jogging to the sidelines after giving his team a 2-0 lead, he was asked by a curious fan how he felt after the score.

"It feels like back in the old days," the Mooney forward replied.

Regaining the form that propelled them into the Section 5 Class AAA soccer final last year, the Cardinals outthrust and outplayed a better-than-mediocre East squad rather handily. And don't let the Orientals' 2-4-1 record deceive you either. This East team was skillful and physically tough.

On this day though, the Cardinals were better — just like the old days. They somewhat resembled last year's sectional finalists, who combined a strong offensive showing with a tight defensive effort. And even though Head Coach Paul Forte played down the win a little — "We're getting there" he said afterward — the Cardinals impressed East mentor Tom Gillett.

"Mooney's always tough," said Gillett, who coached the Orientals to a 13-7 record last year. "Paul (Forte) always does a good job with them; they were the better team today. (Peter) Mojsej and (Rob) Brunette played very well. But we look forward to playing Mooney again over at their place; maybe the outcome will be a little different."

Not if Mooney puts together the effort it did last Friday. Forte, who earlier this season against Williamsville North (Buffalo area) notched his 100th coaching victory at the Greece high school, was pleased with the win — although he wasn't ecstatic.

"It (the win over East) was one of our best overall games; I'd say one of our steadiest," Forte said. "I don't remember any let-downs."

None were to be had in the shutout of East, a win which upped the Cardinals' record to 5-2 this season.

Mooney fans were pressed to ask themselves how this Mooney squad — on this day — could shutout a fair East team, but lose embarrassingly to Bishop Kearney 6-1.

Lavery memorial golf tourney to tee off at St. John Fisher

The Rev. Charles J. Lavery Memorial Golf Tournament will take place Wednesday, October 1 at the St. John Fisher College executive course (par 33). Father Lavery built the course during his presidency. An entry fee of \$100 per person will go the

just three days earlier. "It's too early to give a pattern to this season," Forte said. "We're young, and consistency comes with experience. The important thing is that they showed they could come back after (the loss to Mendon and the Kearney fiasco.)"

And about that "fiasco" coach? "It happened. Bishop Kearney played very well and we played poorly," Forte said. "I think it was just a case of their (Kearney) having more desire, and once they got their momentum going, it was tough stopping something like that. That was the first time they beat us in six years."

"That game was sandwiched in between three shutouts," Forte continued. "They were only up 1-0 at the half and just opened it up in the second half, and that depleted us a little. I think we just drifted into the Twilight Zone or something, but when things go like that you hope they get it out of their system. If things are going to go bad, let it all happen in one game."

Last Friday, though, Mooney played almost flawlessly.

The game was scoreless until Mooney tallied twice in the last 15 minutes of the half.

Peter Mojsej opened the scoring with a nifty goal with 14:31 remaining in the half. He took advantage of a defensive mistake by Oriental defender George Stathopoulos, who overplayed the ball and allowed Mojsej to get off the shot. The shot from about 30 yards out surprised East goalkeeper John Tedesco and found net to make the score 1-0.

Mooney took advantage of some shaky goaltending once again just over five minutes later when Karpenko's shot eluded Tedesco to make the score 2-0. The goal was made possible by a perfect feed from Sackda Viravong, an exchange student who has made quite an impression on both Forte and his teammates.

Rob Brunette closed out the scoring with 7:55 left in the game, when his direct kick sailed over a wall of East defenders and directly into the wide-open right hand side of the net. Brunette had most of the net to shoot at after Mojsej faked as if he were going to take the free kick.

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Joking with his teammates after the goal, Mojsej said "I told him (Brunette) if he didn't make this, I don't know."

The shutout was preserved by Mooney goalie Scott Cortese, who made a clutch save on a direct kick by East's Max DeSantis, with three minutes remaining.

The Cardinal goaltender had 11 saves in all.

The defensive play by the Mooney back line also deserved credit for the blanking — especially the play of Ray Alves and Todd Leary.

"We made a switch after the Kearney game," Forte said. "I moved Alves to the outside and Leary back as a sweeper. I think Leary is going to be a great one before he graduates; he's just a junior. Games like this (the win over East) really give him confidence."

That appears to be the pattern with many of the players on this year's Cardinals' soccer team. When they're confident, they win.

And Forte is confident his team will have a better showing against Kearney next time around.

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