

Controversial goal spurs Cardinals to 3-1 win over Kings

By Richard A. Kiley

Rebounding from a controversial goal in the waning moments of the first half, Cardinal Mooney edged Bishop Kearney 3-1 in a crucial City-Catholic soccer game last Thursday afternoon.

The win for Paul Forte's squad improved its record to 10-2, 6-1 in the league, and avenged a 6-1 blowout by the Fighting Kings earlier in the season.

The disputed Kearney goal was scored with just 5:15 remaining in the first half, when Pat Soricone's shot from the right side of the goal ricocheted off the inside of the right and left post — apparently far enough into the net to satisfy referees Ron Blier and Don Lalka.

If the shot was in, it wasn't by much. "It (the shot) was in when it bounced up top," said Ron Blier, one of the two referees on hand for the game. "When the ball came down, the backspin carried it out of the goal!"

Forte's squad was livid. "Kids being what they are, they were very emotional and were complaining," Forte said of his squad at halftime. "They felt it (the shot) had not gone in. I just told the you have to accept things maturely, and get your mid back in the game."

Forte's advice proved good medicine. His Cardinals came out pressing in the opening minutes of the second half, and it didn't take long for them to even the contest.

Fourteen minutes later, Mooney cashed in on a goal by Mike Briggs off of a direct kick. Peter Mojsey's initial shot was knocked away by Kearney netminder John Tette, but Briggs' sliding shot as the ball was about to go out of bounds found the net.

The Cardinals iced the win with 2:50 remaining when Rob Brunette beat Tette from about 15 yards out. The goal was set up on a perfect pass from Sackda Viravong, who continues to use his hustle to set up his teammates. Viravong led Brunette perfectly, and the senior forward coolly beat Tette to the far side, making the score 3-1.

This year's Cardinal team continues to impress Forte, who was pleased with the way the squad came back after being behind.

"We've come back several times this year. We



Mike Briggs, far right, celebrates with Peter Mojsey after Briggs' goal put the Cardinals ahead in the second half of Cardinal Mooney's match with Bishop Kearney. Cardinal Mooney went on to win the game 3-1.

don't ever get down when we get behind," Forte said. "This team seems to dig deeper when it gets behind; I'm really kind of amazed."

Forte recalled the loss of the Fighting Kings earlier in the season, and tried to put things in perspective.

"Kearney deserved to win the first game. They outthrustled us on practically every game. Mentally and physically they just beat us," Forte said. But I changed a few things between the first and second game . . . position changes . . . and we're playing with confidence now."

Forte added that his team's rollercoaster start might be attributed to his squad's unfamiliarity, not only with each other, but also with their position.

"I always stress to the kids playing freshman and JV, don't get used to playing one position;

you have to be flexible. The team that finds itself quickest is going to be the most successful," Forte said.

"The year we won the states (in 1983), we lost 4-0 to Webster and, boy, it really gave us the incentive. We didn't lose another game," he said.

Deja vu, Coach?

"Well, right now the kids are sharing the ball and working together," Forte said. "They're becoming familiar with each other. Since the Kearney game, some people have also come forward as leaders. (Peter) Mojsey and (Rob) Brunette have really made a difference. And the bench (support) has been great too."

Forte also said the Kearney game proved a learning tool for his team, and a rude one at that.

"I believe you learn a lot more from a loss, as long as you don't make a habit of it," Forte said. They (his players) really did some soul searching (after the first Kearney game) and took it from there."

The Mooney head coach added that his team is "getting closer to 80 minutes of good soccer," just in time for its upcoming game against McQuaid. The Knights and Cardinals are both 6-1 in league play. Mooney nipped the Knights earlier in the season, 2-1.

"He (Lou Boyon) has kids who've been playing together for three or four years," Forte said of his team's upcoming opponent. They (McQuaid) are a very solid team."



A.J. Cosgrove attempts to gain possession of the ball and head on down the field.

Forte added that since his team's recent winning ways, "my pre-game speeches have been getting shorter and shorter."

"I tell them if you can just say you improved a little from the last game, that's great," Forte said. "And they've really been a pleasant surprise; I knew we had a tough schedule, and we continue to improve."

Aquinas' unbeaten streak hits 11 after 2-0 win

In a pivotal Private-Parochial soccer game for both, the visiting Aquinas girls' soccer team defeated Nazareth Academy 2-0 last Thursday afternoon.

Coach Mary Beth Moore's squad remains undefeated an 10-0-1 overall, and 4-0 in the league. Nazareth, enjoying its best season ever this year, drops to 7-3, 3-3 in the league.

Striker Christine Querney notched both goals for the Little Irish, and goalie Donna Enright preserved the shutout with her 15 saves for the afternoon. Both goals were scored in the first half, with the first tally coming with 25 minutes gone. Querney's first goal was set up on a perfect pass by Ellen Frederick.

Querney did it all by herself on the second Aquinas goal, weaving between two Nazareth defenders and then beating goalie Lesley Salladin.

"I was very impressed with them (Nazareth); they were very aggressive," said Moore after the game. "The first 15 minutes we had our hands full . . . we started slowly."

Moore and Nazareth Head Coach Dick Hendrick were not only concerned with the

well-being of their players during the game, but the condition of the field as well.

"It was a wet day for both teams," Hendrick said. "The condition of the field didn't contribute to both teams' play at all. But I'm pleased with the way the season is going. As a whole, the team has been playing well."

Although he and his team would have liked to see a different outcome, Hendrick said his squad is eagerly awaiting the next game against Aquinas on October 14.

"We're looking forward to the next meeting with Aquinas," Hendrick said. We're ready to play them again."

As the season winds down into its final two weeks, Aquinas, Nazareth and Cardinal Mooney are all vying for the top spot in the Private-Parochial division, and Hendrick doesn't think the champion will be decided until the final week.

"It's really tight. Anything can happen at this point," Hendrick said. "Anybody could win this thing, it won't be settled until the last week."

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