

Mooney, McQuaid gear for showdown to advance in Class AAA

Little Irish, Kings advance to semifinals after impressive wins

By Richard A. Kiley

All four Rochester-area Catholic boys' soccer teams are holding their own and then some in this year's Section 5 tournament.

Coach Paul Forte's Cardinals were scheduled to meet Lou Boyon's Knights of McQuaid at Spencerport on Wednesday, Oct. 29, to determine which team will advance to the semifinals of the Class AAA tourney. Both teams are 2-0 in Group 1 of the 16-team field, which for the first time ever has a World Cup look to it. The four teams that compile the best win-loss record within the four groups will advance to the semis, so the Mooney-McQuaid matchup could be looked at as a quarterfinal game.

Both teams drubbed Edison by big scores, but had a tougher time against Tom Gillett's East Orientals.

Mike Stevens, a senior forward for the No. 8 seeded Knights, had the winning goal in a 3-1 win over East in a game played at Aquinas Wednesday, Oct. 22.

In their win over the No. 16 seeded Inventors, eight different Knights scored, to propel McQuaid to an 8-0 shutout of Edison.

Cardinal Mooney, meanwhile, has set up the showdown against McQuaid with two

shutouts. Forte's Cardinals began their tournament play on a rather easy note when they ambushed Edison 7-0. Mooney only led 2-0 at the half, before finding the net five times in the second 40 minutes. Sackda Viravong put on an offensive showcase with two goals and two assists in the rout. Mooney also received two goals from junior Dan Kretchmer.

East, a team Mooney defeated twice during the regular season, made some defensive switches in its game against Mooney at Spencerport Saturday, Oct. 25. The Cardinals could muster just one tally against East, and it was a soft goal at that.

Rob Brunette set up the goal when he took advantage of some shabby defensive play in front of the Oriental goal.

Brunette's head shot toward the goal was misplayed by an East defender and then by goalie John Tedesco, allowing Viravong to put the ball into the open net.

"It was a definitely a lapse between the defense and the goalie," Peter Mojsey said after the game. "The defender went over the ball with his foot, and the goalie just missed it (the ball)."

Forte and his squad had to endure a few scary moments with 25:44 left in the game, when Mojsey went down clutching his knee in pain. It was the same knee the junior has been bothered by all year. After sitting down for 10 minutes, he returned to action with a knee brace. It appears he will have to become re-

quainted with the brace he wore through much of the season.

"Mr. Forte told me he better not catch me without the brace," Mojsey said after the game. "The knee is kind of sore," Mojsey said the injury occurred when he was trying to pass the ball to teammate Mike Briggs, and was tackled from behind by an East fullback.

Scott Cortese registered one save to record the shutout for Mooney, which had 12 shots on the East goal.

Forte said his players have had a tough time dealing with the pressure in this year's sectionals, especially because of the No. 1 seeding.

"They've put a lot of pressure on themselves. They want to carry on the (winning) tradition," said Forte, who learned that he had been voted Section 5 Class AAA Coach of the Year over the weekend. "The game is enough pressure. If you worry about the pressure too much you get into a pattern of playing not to lose."

Forte admitted he was somewhat concerned with his team not finishing off its scoring opportunities against East, but he knows things can change quickly. After all, his team was able to finish strong this season despite a slow start.

"A lot of people wrote us off to win the City-Catholic, but these guys have been a real group of workers," Forte said. "I talk a lot more with this group, and we've worked a lot on the basics. The success makes it satisfying because we've worked very hard. They (his players) picked themselves up after three games and are seeing the benefits of the hard work right now."

In looking at the rest of the field, Forte said it looks like a toss-up between No. 4 Greece Athena and No. 5 Hilton in Group 2; No. 10 Fairport in Group 3; and either No. 3 Gates-Chili or No. 6 Spencerport in Group 4.

In the Class B-1 tournament, the No. 4 seeded Fighting Kings of Bishop Kearney have advanced to the semis after a 2-1 win over No. 5 Victor.

Greg Schuber's squad will play No. 1 seeded Pittsford Mendon thanks to Ken Dentino's unassisted tally late in the second half against Victor. Dentino stole the ball for Kearney, now 9-8-2 for the season, and then weaved between Victor defenders before finding net with his



Susan Kost

Mooney's Adam Schwartz is a step ahead of the ball during this play in the first half.



Ray Alves of Mooney looked to move the ball up the field during action in the Cardinals 1-0 win over the Orientals last Saturday night at Spencerport. The win improved the Cardinals' record to 2-0 in Group 1 of the Class AAA tourney.

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