

14th annual girls' soccer tournament, Kearney is sole survivor of Private-Parochial Division

By Richard A. Kiley

The second season has not been kind to Catholic girls' soccer squads in the Rochester area. Gone are the ladies at Cardinal Mooney, Aquinas, Nazareth, Mercy and DeSales, leaving the Lady Fighting Kings of Bishop Kearney as the sole survivor of the Private-Parochial Division.

With all due respect to its fallen Catholic rivals, the most shocking defeat was Mooney's loss to No. 6 seeded Brighton. Brighton advanced in the tourney to play Coach Scott Morrison's girls by beating Canandaigua earlier.

Morrison's No. 3 seed endured a harsh blow before its game even started when senior Marybeth Progno was felled by a knee injury as she was taking warm-up shots.

According to the fifth year girls' varsity coach, Progno reinjured the knee, which kept her out of action much of the latter part of the season, as she was doing square-through drills. "She went to kick the ball and just twisted her knee."

Progno has been an inspirational leader for the Lady Cardinals this season, and appeared to have the injury licked when she played a strong game against Aquinas last week. Her second half goal against the Little Irish was key in her team's clinching of the Private-Parochial championship.

"As the game went on, the injury (to Progno) really didn't become a factor, although it would have been nice to have her to play," Morrison said.

Senior striker Gail Regenstreif was the catalyst in Brighton's 2-1 overtime win over Mooney, which received a bye from first-round play because of its high seeding.

Regenstreif's first goal was a perfect shot from about 20 yards out over the outstretched arms of Cardinal Mooney netminder Tracy Schmidt.

Teri Lampron tied the contest when she was awarded a penalty kick, and perfectly placed her shot in the righthand corner of the goal, knotting the contest at one.

The score remained that way until the first overtime, when Regenstreif tallied again. Despite outshooting Brighton 25-15, the

Lady Cardinals couldn't get the equalizer.

Morrison attributed his team's slow start in the game, not only to Progno's injury, but to the fact that his girls had to sit out the tournament's first round.

"I don't like sitting around for eight days waiting to play," said Morrison, who would have liked to play right after the season ended following his team's 3-0 shutout of Aquinas. "But that's the way it (the tournament) is set up. It's good to get a bye if your banged up or tired, but because we have so many players, I would have been ready to play right away."

Morrison added that even though his squad had a full-game scrimmage against Lori Jaros' junior varsity squad during the week before the Brighton game, "it's just not the same."

After the loss, Morrison said the players he felt most sorry for were his starting seniors.

"They worked so hard and really gave it their all," Morrison said. "But they will realize what a successful season it's been when they look back in a week. Right now, the loss is the only thing sticking in their minds."

Morrison can take some consolation in the fact that he will be inheriting many players from Jaros' 16-0 junior varsity squad. He still feels at a loss though.

"Looking back, this was one of the most enjoyable seasons if not the most enjoyable," said Morrison, citing as highlights his team's winning the Arcadia Tournament as well as the Private-Parochial crown. "It was so rewarding because of the effort, the team effort, and the attitude. This team was so close; it was like a family. The group that is graduating really gave them (next year's players) a perfect example. Tradition doesn't allow for mediocrity (at Mooney), and they showed if you keep your nose to the grindstone you'll be successful."

Aquinas fell to Arcadia on Saturday, October 25, after beating North Rose-Wolcott 1-0 on Wednesday, October 22. Coach Mary Beth Moore turned down the home field advantage against North

Rose-Wolcott because of the condition of the field at Aquinas.

It didn't seem to matter though, as Aquinas' Kathy Thies scored the winning goal with 1:34 left to play. Thies' goal was assisted by Jennifer Catone, whose initial shot hit the crossbar and then rebounded back to Thies.

The Little Irish once again received strong goaltending by Donna Enright against their No. 14 seeded opponent.

Against Arcadia, which was seeded No. 6, the No. 3 seeded Little Irish squad was victimized by three goals by Sandy Clementi. Those crucial scores were Clementi's first goals of the season. Arcadia dominated play in the quarterfinal game, outshooting Moore's squad 24-8.

Arcadia goalie Diane Zehr made five saves for Arcadia, now 14-6 for the year.

It was a tough ending to the season for Moore's club, and the coach attributed the somewhat quick exit from the sectionals to a number of factors.

"We had a tough finish to our schedule, and I had a couple of key injuries down the stretch," said Moore, citing ailments of Karen Frantz, whose been out for weeks, and Jennifer Querney. "It seemed like we couldn't generate anything offensively the last few games of the season, but I'm proud of what they accomplished."

And she should be. The Little Irish girls' soccer program has arrived, and Moore should enjoy all the credit she deserves.

Bishop Kearney Coach Patsy Tata had all but written off the 1986 season after his team tied Our Lady of Mercy High School in the last game of the regular season.

"I collected all the jerseys after the game, figuring it (the season) was over," Tata said. After he received a call from the Class AA selection committee, Tata had to scramble to round his players up.

Since then, Kearney, which compiled a 2-8-3 record during the regular season, has been nothing short of spectacular. The Lady Fighting Kings "upset" Victor 2-1, before disposing of Midlakes 2-0. Tata questioned

whether the win over the Blue Devils should be considered an upset. While Kearney squared off against mostly Class AAA competition this year, Victor was compiling a 15-3-1 record over mostly Class C and Class D schools.

"We've had a nothing-to-lose and nothing-to-gain attitude," said Tata, who added that his squad had been plagued by personality problems all year. "I had to change my (offensive) line all season, and that probably didn't help us, but we're playing well now."

Tata received goals from Kathy Sztanco and Wendy Maher in the win over the host Blue Devils. Kearney goalie Pam Budden-deck played a key role in the game as she stopped a disputed penalty shot by Victor in the second half.

Against Midlakes, Jennifer Flanagan scored one goal and assisted on another, as Kearney upended its opponent 2-0. Kearney outshot Midlakes 18-9.

Flanagan's goal was scored after a direct kick from about 30 yards out found the net. The senior halfback then assisted on Linda Nienhus' second half tally. Nienhus has come forward as a leader for Tata in the sectionals. The transfer student from Rochester Christian Academy has given Kearney an extra boost offensively.

Midlakes advanced to the quarterfinals with a 1-0 upset over Dick Hendricks' Nazareth squad (9-5).

Kathy Scherbyn's goal midway through the second half was the only goal scored as No. 10 Midlakes edged No. 7 Nazareth.

No. 5 Brockport blanked Kathy Boughton's Monarchs 3-0, thanks mainly to Besty Balling's two goals. Brockport scored another goal late in the second half when Tricia Finkbeiner notched a penalty kick to ice the game.

Brockport upped its record to 13-5-1 for the season, while Boughton's Mercy squad finished at 4-11-1.

The Lady Saints of Geneva DeSales fell to a talented Arkport squad 5-1.

DeSales, seeded No. 11, finished the year at 5-9. No. 6 Arkport improved to 12-5-1.

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