

C-J Sports

Upcoming games:

Boys' basketball

Aquinas at McQuaid, 8 p.m., 1/30
 Notre Dame at Hornell, 8 p.m., 1/30
 Wilson at Mooney, 8 p.m., 1/30
 Marshall at Bishop Kearney, 8 p.m., 1/30
 Edison at McQuaid, 7 p.m., 2/3
 EFA at Notre Dame, 8 p.m., 2/3
 Jefferson at Aquinas, 7:30 p.m., 2/3
 Franklin at Mooney, 8 p.m., 2/3
 East at Bishop Kearney, 8 p.m., 2/3
 DeSales at Romulus, 6:30 p.m., 2/4

Girls' basketball

Mercy at Nazareth, 5:30 p.m., 1/29
 Aquinas at Mooney, 4 p.m., 1/29
 Hornell at Notre Dame, 8 p.m., 1/30
 DeSales at Whitman, 6:30 p.m., 1/30
 Bishop Kearney at Franklin, 1 p.m., 1/31
 Nazareth at Aquinas, 1 p.m., 1/31
 Mercy at Edison Tech, TBA, 1/31

East at Aquinas, 3:30 p.m., 2/2
 Notre Dame at EFA, 8 p.m., 2/3
 Mooney at Mercy, 7:30 p.m., 2/3
 DeSales at Naples, 6:30 p.m., 2/3
 H.A.C. at Nazareth, 6 p.m., 2/4
 Mooney at Bishop Kearney, 8 p.m., 2/5

Lakesiders suffer scoring drought in loss to Cardinals

By Richard A. Kiley

One could liken the offensive production of the Cardinal Mooney boys' basketball team over the course of four quarters to that of the Dow Jones industrial average in last Friday's wildest day in stock market history.

Up one minute; down the next.

The Cardinals overcame a slow start to ground the Lakesiders of Charlotte, 50-39, in a City-Catholic League contest last Friday at Mooney. The win marked Mooney's seventh victory of the season.

Mooney did well offensively in the first and fourth quarters — scoring 18 and 14 points in each — but struggled through the middle periods.

Coach Ed Nietopski's squad, which now stands at 7-4 overall and 7-2 in league competition, was led by senior Walt Cusick's 14 points. Victor Smith paced Charlotte with 15 points.

"We like to play a patient and controlled offense," Nietopski said. "But our shots came up rather quickly (Friday night), and we're not really used to that."

The Cardinals found themselves down 4-0 early in the opening quarter, after missing their first four field goal attempts. Mooney then scored eight unanswered points to gain the lead, and increased the margin to 16-10 after Kevin Khuns' basket on a nice feed from Kevin Canton. Canton, one of numerous reserves Nietopski used Friday night, spurred the Cardinals' play during the game's early stages.

"Our bench is getting much stronger. We're playing nine and 10 people a game," said Nietopski, who also serves as athletic director at the Greece high school. "We want to make sure our people are seasoned for the second half of the season (and the sectionals)."

Nietopski credited his role players — Canton, Scott Trapp, Pete Leicht, Brian Puffer (who shares the center duties with Mike McGwin), Terry Beattie and Mike Leonardo — with helping to wear down opponents in recent games.

That trend continued Friday night as Mooney and Charlotte played even in the middle quarters, until the Cardinals' dormant offense awakened in the latter stages of the game.

Leading 36-31 entering the fourth quarter, Mooney went on a 10-2 run with three minutes gone to break the game wide open. The turning point came with six minutes remaining in the contest, when McGwin rudely blocked a Lakesider shot. After the



N. Michael Aydogan

Cardinal Mooney's Pat McCann has no intention of giving up possession of the ball as a teammate and a Charlotte player join him on the floor.

ball rolled to Cusick, he led Khuns with a perfect pass, which the senior converted into an easy layup and a 40-31 lead.

Cusick upped the lead to 44-33 with 5:24 remaining, and the game was put out of reach when Keith Gaffney and Rob Hrankowski added two free throws each to make the score 50-34.

The Cardinal defense held the Lakesiders to a lone field goal in the final eight minutes.

"Defensively, the last two or three games we've been playing quite well," said

Nietopski, whose team also held Aquinas' offense in check during a 45-34 win. The victory over the Little Irish wasn't exactly an offensive showcase for Nietopski and his team, however, as the Cardinals scored more points in the fourth quarter (24) than it had in the previous three (21).

"I'd like to see us show more confidence in our (outside) shooting," the Mooney coach said. He also added that sometimes his team is over-zealous from the floor. "I like them to move the defense a little bit; make three or

four passes, and then look for the good outside shot. Sometimes I can't blame them (for shooting early) because the shot is there."

But it is their defense that has the Cardinals at 7-4 and their coach happy with the way things are going.

"We take a lot of pride in our defense. After the game they're impressed with how few points a certain team has scored against us," Nietopski said.

His players' defensive prowess and their tireless work ethic have also pleased their coach.

"You can't underestimate kids and their desire to do something. I have a group of kids that have a tremendous desire and will to win," Nietopski said. "And we're starting to play well together (as a unit). Sometimes that brings other clubs down to our size."

And brings Mooney's stock up.

TOURNAMENT

High School League

Northeast Division
 Holy Trinity, St. Boniface (*)
 St. Bridget 80 Pinnacle Lutheran 63
 St. Ambrose 72, St. Stanislaus 44
 St. Mary (Canan), Lewis Street (*)

Northwest Division
 Most Precious Blood, St. John (Greece) (*)
 St. Charles Borromeo, Mother of Sorrows (*)
 Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Mercy (*)
 St. Lawrence 55, Holy Cross 53

Southeast Division
 St. John (Humboldt), East Rochester (*)
 Good Shepherd, Assumption (*)
 St. Thomas More 71, St. Joseph (Pen.) 63
 JCC, Oatka (*)
 St. John (Fpt.) 63, Faith Lutheran 55

Southwest Division
 St. Theodore 75, Holy Name 45
 St. Pius Tenth, Good Counsel (*)
 St. Rita 73, St. John (Spem.) 58
 St. Anne 60, Holy Ghost 51

Junior High Boys' League

Northwest Division
 St. John (Greece) 53, Sacred Heart 22
 Mother of Sorrow, St. Lawrence (*)
 St. John (Spem.) 72, Most Precious Blood 23
 St. Monica, St. Rita (*)
 St. Charles Borromeo 60, St. Thomas Apostle 30
 Holy Cross 42, St. Anthony of Padua 34

Southwest Division
 St. Anne 64, St. Boniface 53
 St. Helen 43, Holy Family 36
 Good Counsel 56, St. Pius Tenth 29
 Charles House 58, Seton 31
 Holy Ghost 60, St. Theodore 40

Northeast Division
 Christ the King 49, St. Salome 29
 Blessed Sacrament No. 2, Holy Trinity (*)
 St. Andrew, Lewis Street (*)
 St. Margaret Mary 42, St. Ambrose 34
 St. John (Humboldt) 70, St. Stanislaus 41

Southeast Division
 Good Shepherd, St. Joseph (Pen.) (*)
 Blessed Sacrament, St. John (Fpt.) (*)
 St. Mary (Waterloo) 50, St. Patrick (Sen Falls) 41
 St. Mary (Canan), Pinnacle Lutheran (*)
 CYP (Pittsford) Mendon 62, East Rochester 55

Junior High Girls' League

East Division
 St. Patrick (Sen Falls), St. Mary (Waterloo) (*)
 St. Michael, St. Francis/St. Stephen (*)
 Seton, Good Counsel (*)

West Division
 St. Mary (Canan), St. Louis (Pitts.) (*)
 Blessed Sacrament, St. Rita (*)
 CYA, St. Joseph (Pen.) (*)

West Division
 Mother of Sorrow 41, St. Ambrose 23
 Christ the King 33, Holy Cross 22
 St. Charles, Lewis Street (*)

West Division
 St. Stanislaus, St. John (Spem.) (*)
 St. Pius Tenth 46, Sacred Heart/Nazareth Hall 15
 St. Salome 30, St. Theodore 24

5th/6th Grade Boys' & Girls' League

North Division
 St. John (Spem.) Blue, St. Helen (*)
 Holy Ghost, St. Lawrence (*)
 St. Pius Tenth A 52, St. Margaret Mary B 25
 St. Thomas Apostle 30, St. Charles (Greece) 24
 Holy Cross 40, St. Pius Tenth B 13

West Division
 St. John (Spem.) Gold, Most Precious Blood (*)
 St. Andrew, St. Anne (*)
 Good Counsel, Nativity BVM (*)
 St. Margaret Mary #1, St. Anthony Padua (*)
 St. Andrew, St. John (Greece) (*)

South Division
 Good Shepherd, St. Boniface (*)
 St. Patrick (Sen Falls), St. Mary (Waterloo) (*)
 St. Michael (New), St. Francis/St. Stephen (*)
 CYP (Pittsford) 64, St. Mary (Waterloo) No. 2 07
 St. John (Hmbt) Whl., St. John (Fpt.) Whl (*)
 St. Louis, St. Thomas More (*)

Central Division
 St. Ambrose Blue 39, St. Ambrose Gold 24
 St. John (Humboldt) Red, Holy Trinity (*)
 Lady of Lourdes 46, St. Joseph (Pen.) Blue 41
 St. Rita, St. John (Fpt.) Red (*)
 St. Stanislaus 52, St. Salome 42
 St. Joseph (Pen.) Gold, Christ the King (*)

(*) No scores reported

Sport Shorts

McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese and his Knights (11-0) are still unbeaten after two wins last week against Wilson and Jefferson.

Balanced scoring was once again the key for McQuaid, as Glenn Taggart, Greg Woodard and Scott Martzloff led the team offensively.

Barring any future upsets, the February 10 showdown between the Knights and the Orientals of East will decide the City-Catholic League's Division I.

In girls' basketball, Mercy, Aquinas and Cardinal Mooney are all vying for the top position in the Private-Parochial League. The undefeated Monarchs of Mercy handed Aquinas its lone league defeat, 55-51, on January 13. Cardinal Mooney, which remains unbeaten in league play, lost its only game thus far to Fredonia by one point.