

C-J Sports

Boys' basketball

McQuaid at Franklin, 3:30 p.m., 2/6
 DeSales at South Seneca, 6:30 p.m., 2/6
 Bishop Kearney at Edison, 5 p.m., 2/6
 Notre Dame at Southside, 8 p.m., 2/6
 Mooney at East, TBA, 2/6
 Aquinas at Charlotte, 3:30 p.m., 2/6
 McQuaid at east, 3:30 p.m., 2/10
 Aquinas at Monroe, 3:30 p.m., 2/10
 Bishop Kearney at Mooney, 8 p.m., 2/10
 Horseheads at Notre Dame, 8 p.m., 2/10
 Gananda at DeSales, 6:30 p.m., 2/11

Upcoming games:

Mooney at Bishop Kearney, 8 p.m., 2/5
 Southside at Notre Dame, 8 p.m., 2/6
 Mercy Invit. at St. John Fisher Col., TBA, 2/6
 Aquinas at Bishop Kearney, 4 p.m., 2/7
 Mercy Invit. at St. John Fisher Col., TBA, 2/7
 DeSales at Dundee, 10 p.m., 2/7
 Bishop Kearney at Mercy, 7:30 p.m., 2/9

Girls' basketball

DeSales at Honeoye, 6:30 p.m., 2/10
 Aquinas at Mercy, 7:30 p.m., 2/10
 East at Bis. Kearney, 3:30 p.m., 2/10
 Notre Dame at Horseheads, 8 p.m., 2/10
 Mooney at Aquinas, 8 p.m., 2/12
 Northstar at Nazareth, 4 p.m., 2/12
 S. Seneca at DeSales, 6:30 p.m., 2/12

Lady Cardinals press Little Irish into mistakes in league contest

AQ offense sputters in defensive battle

By Richard A. Kiley

Using a relentless press defense to force many key turnovers, the host Cardinal Mooney girls' basketball team rolled to a 41-23 win over Aquinas last Thursday night.

Using the swarming pass he established as a trademark with his two previous Lady Cardinal teams, Coach Scott Morrison prevented Aquinas from getting anything going offensively.

The win upped Mooney's record to 2-0 in the Private-Parochial League and 7-1 overall. The Little Irish fell to 1-2 in the league, 3-2 overall.

A blanketing Cardinal defense is nothing new to teams that play against Morrison. In the last few years, Mooney has always frustrated its opponents with relentless pressure, led by twins Cathy and Theresa Nietopski. The two scrappy guards usually leave opponents seeing double, and Thursday night was no exception. The Nietopskis combined for seven steals between them, and were bolstered by three steals apiece by Lori Padulo and Alisa Brookins.

But in the past, such defensive pressure also proved frustrating for Morrison. Last season, his teams were plagued constantly by foul trouble, and eventually Mooney lost to Edison in the quarterfinals of the sectional tournament. "Last year we picked up stupid fouls; teams would be in the one-and-one before you could even sit down," he said.

The Mooney coach was quick to point out that only one team scored more field goals than his did last year, and that the four losses could be attributed to one thing — unnecessary fouls.

This season, however, Morrison is beaming. In this campaign, he has achieved one thing he had lacked in previous years — experience. And it showed Thursday night. Despite pressing throughout the contest, Mooney stayed out of foul trouble against AQ.

The first quarter set the tone for the rest of the contest, as the Lady Cardinals opened up a 11-4 lead after one quarter.

But the Cardinals didn't live on defense alone. Padulo poured in 14 points in the first half, with many baskets coming from the 15-foot range.

Mooney opened up a 19-8 lead with 4:21 remaining in the half, thanks mainly to Padulo's outside shooting and to the team's inside passing to Tracy Schmidt and Lisa Serio.



Mooney's Lori Padulo goes over teammate Theresa Nietopski's head in third-quarter action at Mooney. The Lady Cards dealt the Little Irish a 41-23 loss.

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

The Cardinals opened up a commanding 23-8 bulge with just more than three minutes remaining, before two free throws by Donna Enright pulled AQ to within 11.

Mooney failed to wilt, however, and went into the locker room with a 14-point lead, after Cathy Nietopski pushed the ball up the floor to Padulo with :05 left. The senior guard then hit nothing but net, to give the Cardinals a 29-15 lead.

Both teams were cold offensively in the third quarter, when Padulo scored the first points with three and a half remaining. Mooney mustered just one more basket in the quarter, as did Aquinas, and held a comfortable 33-17 lead going into the final eight minutes.

The Little Irish, victims of poor shooting down the stretch, never managed to cut the lead to less than 14.

Aquinas' shooting problems stemmed directly from the Mooney defense.

"We want to make them (opposing teams) work for every point they get; we look for a low scoring game," Morrison said. "I build this team defense-out first. Defense creates a lot of offensive opportunities, and we can work into the quick transition game when they miss a shot."

Morrison's team was also tough on the boards, with Schmidt, Brookins, Padulo and Serio racking up at least five rebounds each. That was a switch for the Lady Cardinals, who have been out-muscled off the glass in the past.

With AQ temporarily out of the way, Mooney now sets its sights on Mercy. The two Rochester-area titans were to play Tuesday in a key mid-season battle for the top spot in the all-Catholic division. Unfortunately for Mooney, the game was to take place in the confines of the Mercy gym.

"It always hurts us when we go and play in a gym that size," Morrison said, referring to the cramped quarters of the Lady Monarch gym. "You think you're in a sold-out (Madison Square) Garden when you play there."

Morrison added that his girls have several other rugged contests coming up, as well as two tournaments. Most of these games are away.

"I scheduled six home games and 12 away games this season. I don't know what I was thinking when I made up the schedule," Morrison joked. "At least we'll be used to it (playing in 'foreign' gyms) once the sectionals begin."

That's just another advantage for a coach who is already holding a lot of good cards.

SPORTS BOOSTER DINNER

High School League

Northeast Division
 Holy Trinity 69, Pinnacle Lutheran 66
 Lewis Street (*), St. Ambrose (*)
 St. Bridget 82, St. Boniface 76
 St. Stanislaus (*), St. Mary (Canan.) (*)

Northwest Division
 St. Lawrence 72, St. Charles Borromeo 54
 Sacred Heart (*), St. John (Greece) (*)
 Mother of Sorrows (*), Most Precious Blood (*)
 Holy Cross 65, Our Lady of Mercy 55

Southeast Division
 St. Joseph (Pen.) 107, Oakka 80
 St. Thomas More (*), Faith Lutheran (*)
 Assumption 73, JCC 41
 East Rochester 69, Good Shepherd 68
 St. John (Humboldt) 63, St. John (Fpt.) 58

Southwest Division
 St. Rita 75, Holy Name 54
 St. John (Spn.) (*), St. Theodore (*)
 St. Pius Tenth 70, Holy Ghost 56
 St. Anne 76, Good Counsel 65

Junior High Boys' League

Northwest Division
 St. Rita 48, St. Anthony of Padua 45
 St. Lawrence (*), Most Precious Blood (*)
 St. John (Spn.) 66, Sacred Heart 38
 St. Charles Borromeo 80, St. John (Greece) 50
 Holy Cross 64, St. Thomas Apostle 44
 Mother of Sorrow 64, St. Theodore 61

Southwest Division
 Holy Ghost 52, St. Pius Tenth 16
 St. Anne 45, Good Counsel 44
 St. Boniface 58, St. Helen 42
 Holy Family/Holy Apostles 83, Seton 58

Northeast Division
 Christ the King 67, St. Andrew 52
 St. Salome 56, Holy Trinity 51
 Lewis Street 60, St. Ambrose 45
 St. John (Humboldt) 70, St. Stanislaus 50
 Blessed Sacrament 42 (*), St. Margaret Mary (*)

Southeast Division
 St. Michael (New) 54, St. Patrick (Sen. Falls) 43
 St. Mary (Canan.) (*), St. Mary (Waterloo) (*)
 St. Francis/St. Stephen 70, Blessed Sacrament 45
 St. John (Fpt.) 62, Good Shepherd 50
 CYP (Pitts-Mendon) (*), St. Joseph (Pen.) (*)
 St. Louis (Pittsford) 54, East Rochester 48

Junior High Girls' League

East Division
 St. Michael (*), St. Patrick (Sen. Falls) (*)
 St. Mary (Waterloo) (*), St. Mary (Canan.) 35
 St. John (Fpt.) (*), St. Francis/St. Stephen (*)

West Division
 St. Rita 43, Good Counsel 25
 St. Louis (Pittsford) (*), St. Joseph (Pen.) (*)
 CVA (*), Blessed Sacrament (*)

West Division
 Mother of Sorrows 40, Lewis Street 14
 St. Ambrose (*), St. Charles (*)
 St. John (Spn.) 44, St. Salome 34

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

North Division
 St. Charles Borromeo (*), St. Lawrence (*)
 Holy Ghost (*), Holy Trinity (*)
 St. Helen (*), Mother of Sorrows (*)
 St. Thomas Apostle 24, St. John (Spn.) Blue 20
 St. Pius Tenth B (*), St. Margaret Mary B (*)

South Division
 St. Michael (New) (*), St. Patrick (Sen. Falls) (*)
 St. Mary (Canan.) (*), St. Mary (Waterloo) (*)
 Good Shepherd (*), St. John (Fpt.) White (*)
 St. John (Hum) Wt 53, St. Fran/St. Stephen 32
 CYP (Pittsford) (*), St. Boniface (*)
 St. Mary (Waterloo) #2 (*), St. Louis (*)
 St. Thomas More (*), Pinnacle Lutheran (*)

West Division
 Most Precious Blood (*), St. Anne (*)
 St. Andrew (*), Good Counsel (*)
 St. Anthony of Padua 48, St. John (Greece) 44
 St. John (Spn.) Gold 24, Nativity BVM 22
 Holy Cross (*), St. Margaret Mary #1 (*)

Central Division
 Christ the King (*), St. Joseph (Pen.) Blue (*)
 St. Ambrose Blue (*), Holy Trinity (*)
 St. Ambrose (*), St. Joseph (Pen.) Gold (*)
 St. John Humboldt (Red) (*), St. Stanislaus (*)
 St. John (Fpt.) Red 19, St. Salome 12
 Lady of Lourdes 53, St. Rita 23

Sport Shorts

Larry Mastrella, president of the Aquinas Sports Booster Club, and John Nuccitelli, chairman of the 1987 Sports Celebrity Dinner, have announced the establishment of the Aquinas Sports Hall of Fame. The dinner will take place on Sunday, February 8, at the Diplomat Party House in Rochester at 6 p.m. Four former athletes — two of whom are being honored posthumously — will be inducted during the ceremony.

The two being inducted posthumously are Father Cyril F. Carter, CSB, and Major Don Holleder. Father Carter, who was director of athletics at Aquinas for more than 25 years, died in 1971.

Major Holleder, a 1952 Aquinas graduate, for whom the football stadium at Ridgeway and Mt. Read was named, will also be inducted.

Two area judges, John A. Mastrella and Charles T. Maloy, will also be inducted. Mastrella graduated from AQ in 1930, and later attended Syracuse University, where he excelled in intercollegiate boxing.

Maloy was a tri-star athlete in basketball, baseball and football for the Little Irish.

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