

C-J Sports

Boys' basketball
 Wilson at Aquinas, 8 p.m., 2/13.
 Franklin at Bishop Kearney, 8 p.m., 2/13
 Notre Dame at Corning West, 8 p.m., 2/13
 DeSales at Naples, 6:30 p.m., 2/13
 Williamson at Notre Dame, 8 p.m., 2/16
 Marshall at Aquinas, 7:30 p.m., 2/17
 Mooney at Edison, 8 p.m., 2/17
 McQuaid at Bishop Kearney, 8 p.m., 2/17
 Dundee at DeSales, 6:30 p.m., 2/17
 End of regular season

Upcoming games:

Girls' basketball
 Northstar at Nazareth, 4 p.m., 2/12
 Mooney at Aquinas, TBA, 2/12
 South Seneca at DeSales, 6:30 p.m., 2/12
 Mercy at Lockport Tournament, TBA, 2/13
 Corning West at Notre Dame, 8 p.m., 2/13
 Bishop Kearney at Edison Tournament, TBA, 2/13
 Mooney at Arcadia, 1 p.m., 2/14
 Mercy at Lockport Tournament, TBA, 2/14
 Bishop Kearney at Edison Tournament, TBA, 2/14
 Aquinas at Monroe, 1 p.m., 2/16
 DeSales at Red Jacket, 1 p.m., 2/16
 Franklin at Bishop Kearney, 1 p.m., 2/16
 Bishop Kearney at Mooney, 8 p.m., 2/17
 Notre Dame at Edison, 8 p.m., 2/17
 Mercy at East, TBA, 2/17
 Nazareth at Edison, 12:30 p.m., 2/17
 Bloomfield at DeSales, 6:30 p.m., 2/18
 Nazareth at Mooney, 7:30 p.m., 2/19
 Bishop Kearney at Webster Tournament, TBA, 2/19
 Aquinas at Marshall Tournament, TBA, 2/19

In Private-Parochial League,

Cards deal Mercy 41-38 loss to gain upper hand in title race

By Richard A. Kiley

Our Lady of Mercy basketball coach Kathleen Boughton might have thought she was experiencing *deja vu* last Tuesday night, February 3, in a thrilling game against Private-Parochial foe Cardinal Mooney.

The second-year coach, a graduate of Mooney, was a member of the Lady Cardinal basketball team when it upset the Monarchs back in 1979. Only this time, she was on the opposite sideline.

The night belonged to Mooney Coach Scott Morrison and his group of veteran players, as the Lady Cardinals upset Mercy, 41-38, in a game that had all the intensity of a sectional final.

It marked the first time in at least five years that Mercy had dropped a contest in the all-Catholic league.

The game saw Morrison once again unleash his press defense, which resulted in 12 steals for the night. But it was his squad's ability to get the job done offensively which proved to make all the difference.

The Lady Cardinals set the pace in the first quarter, jumping out to an 8-0 lead over the previously unbeaten Monarchs. Included in the offensive barrage in the opening three minutes was a pretty, one-handed layup by Cathy Nietopski, who is noted more for her defensive prowess than her offensive capabilities.

Mercy recovered to pull within four points at 14-10 after the first quarter.

Mooney was able to maintain a six-point lead in the second quarter, despite having both Theresa and Cathy Nietopski on the bench. Morrison chose to sit the two twins for a three-minute stint and rest them after the quick start.

He replaced the two seniors with Marge McGuire and Cheryl Lennox, both of whom are sophomores. McGuire played a steady defensive set, and Lennox had an assist on Tracy Schmidt's basket to make the score 18-12.

"My bench was the key part of the ball game," said an ecstatic Morrison after the game. "Marge McGuire and Cheryl Lennox were both super. They worked really well together. Lisa Serio also came in and played well when I gave Alisa Brookins a rest."

The Monarchs only found themselves down 20-18 at the half, despite being outplayed during most of the first 16 minutes.

"I've seen Mooney two times this year, and I've never seen them shoot the ball as

well as they did in the first half," said Boughton, whose Mercy team fell to 7-1 overall, 3-1 in the Private-Parochial League. "We were still up psychologically at the half, but I knew things had to change."

The second half was nip and tuck the whole way, with the Lady Cardinals clinging to a 30-29 lead after three quarters.

Boughton's squad then took its first lead of the game with less than seven minutes remaining, when Laura Wambach nailed a perfect baseline jumper to make the score 31-30.

Mercy's Beth Wambach later tied the game at 36-36 on a three-point play with 3:50 left, but her team didn't score again until 19 seconds remained in the contest.

In the meantime, Brookins hit two clutch shots inside the paint for Mooney, and teammate Lori Padulo added a free throw. The tally of both of their scores helped Mooney regain the lead, 41-36.

Beth Wambach hit a fall-away jump shot with time running out, but it proved to be too little, too late for her teammates.

Not surprisingly, Morrison termed the victory his biggest ever.

"This is the biggest win of my career, without a doubt," said Morrison, whose team lost only once this year, 46-45 in a contest with Fredonia. "This year I knew I had the best chance of beating them with seven seniors, and they all played JV for me. They've been through the ropes."

"They don't make the mental mistakes," said Morrison of his seasoned club. "Sure, we make physical mistakes, like bad passes, but no mental mistakes."

The Mooney coach was also pleased with his team's offensive balance, as Theresa Nietopski and Tracy Schmidt led the team in scoring with 10 points apiece, and another 21 points were spread over four players.

The win was even sweeter for Morrison because it happened in Mercy's gym. "It's always nice to win away, and right now we're in the midst of eight tough ball games," he said. "But we don't want to get too high after the victory. We've still got Wilson with (standout player) Michelle Harris, and some other tough games. We have to play with intensity to win; if we get lazy, we're in trouble."

Boughton said she will use this loss much like the ones her team suffered last season at the hands of Notre Dame of Utica and East.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Cardinal Mooney's Alisa Brookins is sandwiched between Bernadette Fagan and Kerry McCarthy, as Brookins dishes the ball out to a teammate during first quarter action.

Last year's Mercy team still went on to win the Section 5 Class AA title.

"We found out last year (against Notre Dame and East) that things don't always go our way," Boughton said. "Mooney deserved to win."

Boughton pinned the loss on her team's offense — or lack of it. "We only shot 31 percent, and that's the lowest (shooting percentage) this year."

The Mercy coach was pleased, however, with the play of Julie Sietz and Edison transfer Bernadette Fagan. The two Monarchs had 16 and 13 rebounds respectively.

Boughton isn't giving her team any time to lament over the defeat. The Mercy Invitational at St. John Fisher College took place this past weekend, with such old Mercy nemeses as Rush-Henrietta Sperry, Notre Dame of Utica and Sacred Heart of Buffalo. Sacred Heart is defending Class C state champ.

"The Mooney game is behind us now," Boughton said. "We just couldn't play our game with the two Nietopski twins pressing us, and the small gym hurt us also. But I don't think we'll have any problems like that the next time we play them."

The two teams will do battle against on the last game of season, February 24.

WINNERS

High School Boys

NORTHEAST DIV.		NORTHWEST DIV.	
W	L	W	L
1) St. Ambrose	10 0	1) Holy Cross	9 1
2) St. Bridget	8 2	2) St. Charles	8 2
3) St. Stanislaus	6 3	3) St. Lawrence	8 2
4) St. Boniface	6 4	4) Sacred Heart	6 4
5) St. Mary (Canan.)	2 7	5) Precious Blood	4 5
6) Pinnacle Lutheran	2 8	6) St. John (Greece)	2 8
		7) Mother of Sorrow	1 8
		8) Lady of Mercy	1 8

SOUTHWEST DIV.		SOUTHEAST DIV.	
W	L	W	L
1) St. Pius Tenth	10 0	1) St. Thomas More	9 1
2) St. Theodore	7 3	2) St. John Humboldt	9 1
3) Good Counsel	6 4	3) Assumption	7 3
4) St. Rita	5 5	4) St. John (Fpt.)	7 3
5) St. Anne	4 5	5) St. Joseph (Pen.)	5 5
6) Holy Ghost	4 6	6) JCC	5 5
7) St. John (Spen.)	3 7	7) Faith Lutheran	3 6
8) Holy Name	0 9	8) East Rochester	2 8
		9) Good Shepherd	1 9
		10) Oatka	1 9

Jr. High Girls

EAST DIV.		WEST DIV.	
W	L	W	L
1) St. Louis	10 0	1) Mother of Sorrows	11 0
2) Blessed Sacrament	10 1	2) St. Charles	9 2
3) St. Patrick	9 2	3) St. John (Spen.)	8 2
4) St. Mary (Waterloo)	7 4	4) St. Pius Tenth	8 3
5) St. Mary (Canan.)	6 4	5) St. Salome	7 4
6) St. Michael	6 5	6) St. Ambrose	4 6
7) East Rochester	5 6	7) Sacred Heart	4 7
8) St. Rita	4 7	8) St. Theodore	4 7
9) St. Joseph	4 7	9) Holy Cross	3 7
10) St. Francis/St. Stephen	3 8	10) Christ the King	1 8
11) Good Counsel	1 10	11) Lewis Street	1 9
12) Seton	0 11		

Jr. High Boys

NORTHWEST DIV.		SOUTHWEST DIV.	
W	L	W	L
1) St. Charles	11 0	1) St. Anne	11 0
2) St. John (Spen.)	10 1	2) Holy Ghost	10 1
3) Sacred Heart	8 3	3) St. Monica	9 2
4) Holy Cross	7 4	4) St. Boniface	8 3
5) St. John (Greece)	6 4	5) Charles House	6 5
6) Mother of Sorrow	5 5	6) Good Counsel	5 6
7) St. Rita	3 8	7) St. Helen	5 6
8) St. Lawrence	2 7	8) Holy Family	4 7
9) St. Thomas Apostle	1 7	9) Seton	2 8
10) St. Anthony	1 9	10) St. Pius Tenth	1 10
11) Precious Blood	0 9	11) St. Theodore	0 10

NORTHEAST DIV.		SOUTHWEST (EAST) DIV.	
W	L	W	L
1) St. John Humboldt	10 1	1) St. John (Fpt.)	9 1
2) St. Marg. Mary	8 2	2) CVP	8 2
3) Lewis Street	8 2	3) East Rochester	6 4
4) St. Ambrose	7 3	4) St. Louis	6 4
5) Christ the King	6 4	5) Pinnacle Lutheran	4 6
6) St. Salome	4 5	6) Good Shepherd	3 7
7) St. Stanislaus	3 5	7) St. Joseph	1 9
8) Holy Trinity	2 8	8) Blessed Sacrament	0 10
9) Blessed Sacrament #2	1 9		
10) St. Andrew	0 10		

SOUTHWEST (WEST) DIV.		W L	
1) St. Michael (Newark)	10 0		
2) St. Francis/St. Stephen	8 2		
3) St. Mary (Waterloo)	5 3		
4) St. Mary's (Canan.)	4 6		
5) St. Patrick (Sen. Falls)	2 8		

Sport Shorts

Some girls' hoop notes:

Hats off to the Lady Saints of DeSales, who are off to an 11-0 start. Coach Steve Muzzi, who is also athletic director at the Geneva high school, has his girls playing excellent ball, even without the services of Alisha Priebe.

The Bishop Kearney girls' basketball program was given a well-deserved boost under Joe Kenney this past weekend. Kenney and his girls, who struggled through a dismal 6-12 season last year, edged a strong Aquinas team, 39-35. The win, which improved the Fighting Kings' record to 4-4 for the year, is a real confidence lifter for the second-year coach and his scrappy team.

This year's Aquinas Sports Celebrity Dinner was nothing short of first-rate, with the head table Jerry Flynn and the rest of the coordinators put together.

Only one problem: how will they top it next year?