

Lady Saints roll in resounding 64-36 win over South Seneca

Muzzi's squad shoots 32-for-65 from the floor to remain undefeated

By Richard A. Kiley
In his own quiet way, DeSales girls' basketball coach Steve Muzzi has established a dynasty among Class D schools in Section 5.

And although the seventh-year coach of the Lady Saints is somewhat reserved when talking about his success at the Geneva high school, the play of his girls has been coming across loud and clear.

The latest win for Muzzi's squad, which is 11-0 in Finger Lakes West and 13-0 overall, had an exclamation point on it. The Lady Saints shot an impressive 32-for-65 from the floor in a 64-36 divisional win over South Seneca last Thursday night at DeSales.

The win was typical of most victories this season for Muzzi and his girls, who have firmly rooted themselves as titans in Class D in the Rochester area, since the school started its girls' program in 1975. The Lady Saints have been champions in their division in 1975, 1976 and 1985, as well as last year, and look primed to take the title again this year.

Even still, Muzzi is somewhat uneasy when assessing the chances of his team this year.

"It's been great, but we still have to win the division before we do anything else," said Muzzi, who also serves as athletic director at DeSales. "One thing I've got is a nice mixture of experience and young players. I've been lucky in that I've always had a good mixture."

The mixture, which has helped the two-time defending Section 5 Class D champions compile a 50-4 record the past three seasons, has also made DeSales fertile ground for college scouts. Past stars for the Lady Saints have gone on to such schools as Purdue, Penn State and Ithaca, among others.

And this year's team is no different. Babette DeVaney, who poured in 18 points against South Seneca, is being pursued by Ithaca. Her sister Stephanie, who starred in last year's Class C state-playoff loser to Honeoye, is now attending Penn State University.

DeVaney was unstoppable for Muzzi in his team's latest win, which was a relatively close contest until the third quarter.

The two divisional foes traded baskets in the first quarter, before DeSales opened up a 20-10 lead after the first eight minutes.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal
DeSales' Babette DeVaney prepares to shoot during first-quarter action against South Seneca. DeVaney scored 18 points in leading her team to a 64-36 win.

DeVaney scored six of her team's 10 points in the second quarter, as the Lady Saints gained a 30-19 halftime lead.

Despite his team's cushion at intermission, Muzzi was not pleased.

"We didn't play well defensively, especially in the second quarter," said Muzzi, who is assisted in his coaching duties by Frank Pane. "We told them to tighten up defensively in the second half."

His girls did just that, outscoring South Seneca 26-10 in the third stanza to put yet another win in the books. Kris Guinan tallied four of her 18 points in the third quarter, while the other 22 points were spread among six players.

Guinan is another Lady Saint who has been receiving much attention from college scouts. She has been approached by Nazareth and Keuka colleges, and the University of Rochester.

According to Muzzi, Guinan and DeVaney live right down the street from each other, and were instrumental in getting most of this year's squad to attend basketball camp last summer. Seven members of the team attended a camp in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. Mainly because of the extra effort they expended there, the scoring has been evenly balanced this year, Muzzi said.

"They've put a lot of work into it. That camp is like a boot camp," Muzzi joked. "They learned a lot there."

The Lady Saint coach said his players' summer venture has also enabled him to continue with the DeSales tradition of playing an up-tempo game, and to convert points off the transition game.

"I was surprised we got off to such a fast start. Babette and Kris were averaging a lot of points early (in the season), but now the scoring is much more balanced," Muzzi said.

"They've got a lot of experience with the sectional championships."

Despite all of the team's accomplishments thus far, Muzzi is not ready to sit back and become complacent. And he doesn't expect his players to, either.

"It's going to get tougher now as the year goes on. We've still got tough ones coming up against Naples and Bloomfield," said a cautious Muzzi.

The Lady Saints had to overcome a 19-11 halftime deficit before going on to a 43-38 win over Naples, and the January 24 contest against Bloomfield went into overtime before DeSales prevailed.

"But we don't play up any one team more than any other," Muzzi said. "We try to keep things on an even keel."

Keeping things on an even keel suits Muzzi well. He lets his players make all the noise.

Sport Shorts

Kathleen Boughton's Mercy's squad enjoyed a thoroughly successful venture to Lockport of Section 6 (Buffalo area) last weekend, despite splitting two games in the Lockport Invitational.

Boughton's squad handed the 7th ranked Lions of Lockport (New York State High School Girls' Basketball poll) their first loss of the season, 51-45. The win avenged Mercy's crushing loss to the hands of Lockport in last year's regional Class A playoff.

"I feel that when we went to Lockport last year and stopped our goals," said Boughton, whose Monarchs looked unbeatable in the Section 5 Class AA final against Rush-Henrietta, but were then beaten soundly by the Lions just three days later. "This time I had the girls believing that they were just as good as Lockport and told them to just go out there and execute."

Offensively, Boughton cited the play of Beth Wambach (MVP of the tournament), and reserve Katie Doyle. Wambach scored 16 points for the night and Doyle came off the bench to pour in 11 as Mercy overcame a 26-23 halftime deficit.

The Monarchs dropped a controversial 50-49 decision to Sacred Heart of Buffalo in the tourney's championship game, when their opponents hit a desperation bucket at the buzzer with no time on the game clock. Boughton argued the referees' allowing of the basket, after Sacred Heart was able to inbound the ball from its end of the court, work for a shot and then take the shot, all with just :02 remaining.

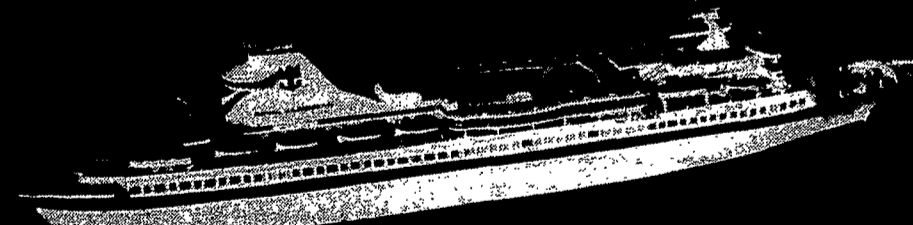
"It was a very long two seconds," said Boughton, referring to the game's final moments. "If you look at the videotape of the game its obvious that the ball is still in her hands when she's shooting; we feel like we won that game."

Dr. William L. Pickett has proclaimed the week of February 23 through February 27 as Bobby Wanzer Week at St. John Fisher College.

Wanzer, the only men's basketball coach in the history of the college, was elected to the National Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts on February 4. He will be retiring as basketball coach after 24 years at Fisher.

A series of special events has been planned, including a student salute to Wanzer on Tuesday, February 24, when the Cardinals finish their regular season against Nazareth College at 8 p.m. in the varsity gym on the Fisher campus.

GET CRUISING



There's a touch of salt in the breeze, and more than just a touch of excitement in the sea air. Whether it's your first cruise or your twenty-first, our staff of experienced cruise counselors can help you choose everything from the best itinerary to what to wear ashore. If you have a favorite ship, we'll give you all the assistance needed to board it; if it's your first time, we'll find the right ship to meet your personal interests and budget.

Don't put off planning a cruise any longer.

Get Cruising Today!

Call us now for Special Group Sailing dates and Discount Sailings in 1987.

Judy Graper Travel

"The Cruise Experts at The Barn Bazaar"
Clover Street at Jefferson Road
Pittsford, New York 14534
(716) 385-3820



THE 1987 DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES ARE IN!

ORDER YOURS NOW BY MAILING THE COUPON BELOW TO:

COURIER-JOURNAL, OFFICIAL DIRECTORY
1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

Enclosed please find my check for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ Directories.

1987 Diocesan Directory Prices	
\$12.00	Single Copy
\$22.00	Two Copies
\$31.50	Three Copies
\$10.00	Each Additional Copy

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make Checks Payable to Courier-Journal Directory
THE 1987 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY is also available at **Conant** and **Trant's** Bookstores in Rochester