

# Lady Saints gain Class D final; Mendon tips Mooney, Mercy

By Richard A. Kiley

And then there was one.

Steve Muzzi's No. 1-seeded Lady Saints of DeSales, who compete in Class D, are the lone remaining diocesan girls' basketball team in the Section 5 tournament after Class AA powers Cardinal Mooney and Mercy fell victim to No. 2-seeded Pittsford Mendon last week.

DeSales (20-1) played No. 2-seeded Greenwood (21-0) for the Class D title last Tuesday night, March 10, at Prattsburg High School.

To get to the final game, Muzzi's squad recorded wins over fifth-seeded Bolivar (15-6), ninth-seeded Elba (7-9), and No. 16 Prattsburg (6-12).

Against Bolivar at Hornell Saturday night, March 7, DeSales found itself tied at the half 27-27, and led by just 43-39 going into the fourth quarter.

According to Muzzi, who was recently

named Section 5 Class D Coach of the Year, the Lady Bulldogs' hot shooting enabled them to stay close most of the way.

"They shot 48 percent (26-for-54) and stayed with us," Muzzi said. "We made some (defensive) adjustments in the third quarter to take some of their offense away."

Muzzi and his assistant coach Frank Payne have had to alternate between using a zone press and man-to-man pressure in the sectionals, because of the grueling schedule of three games in five nights his players have had to endure. The flurry of games and the travel necessary in sectional play doesn't allow the seventh-year coach to use man-to-man pressure the entire game.

Kris Guinan led all scorers with 30 points.

Against Elba two nights earlier, the Lady Saints overcame a sluggish start, and went on to drub the Lady Lancers 65-38, in the quarterfinal game played at Pittsford

Mendon High School.

The score was even at 4-4 in the first quarter, before DeSales went on a 15-1 run to close out the first eight minutes with a 16-5 lead.

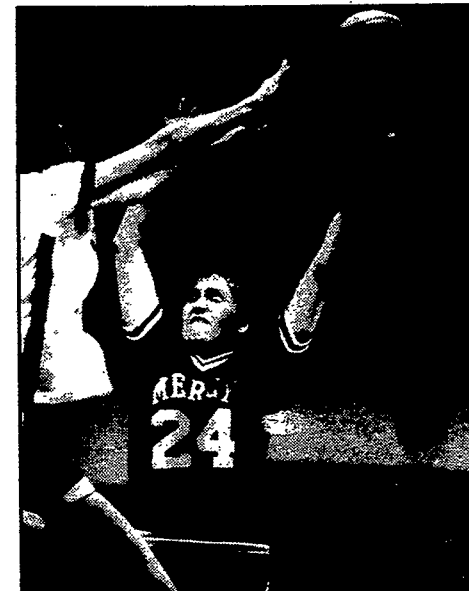
Muzzi's squad then cruised to the win, leading 38-16 at intermission, and 54-30 after three quarters.

Once again, it was Guinan leading the offense as she poured in 25 points for the night. Babette DeVaney (16 points) and Hollie DeMetro (10) also paced DeSales.

The Lady Saints began their sectional play with a 65-49 win over Prattsburg at DeSales. Muzzi's girls opened an insurmountable lead in the second quarter by outscoring the Lady Vikings 21-9. DeSales had led by just 16-14 at one point in the first quarter.

A change in defense in the second quarter, when Muzzi deployed a triangle and two defense to circumvent Prattsburg's outside shooting, proved to be the key to the win.

Guinan led DeSales with a game-high 32 points, on 13-for-26 shooting from the field. Overall, the Lady Saints shot 23-for-63 from the floor, and 14-for-19 from the foul line.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Mercy's Julie Seitz tries to block a pass during action against Mendon.

## Mixed results in title games for ND boys, girls

The Notre Dame boys' and girls' hoop teams each made it to their respective title games in Section 4 Class C, but came away with mixed results.

Coach Mike Johnston's squad captured the Class C boys' championship with a 64-51 win over Tioga Center at the Broome County Arena Saturday, March 7.

According to Johnston, the key to his No. 1-seeded Crusaders' win was keeping Jim Ryder Jr. and Jamie Schweiger, Tioga Center's two main guns on offense, to well below their season and sectional averages.

Notre Dame (17-7) rallied from a 19-4 deficit in the second quarter, outscoring its opponent 14-2 in the final 3:39 of the second quarter, to take a 28-21 halftime advantage. Notre Dame never relinquished the lead in the second half.

Dave Ferris led the Crusaders with 26 points and seven blocked shots.

Notre Dame defeated No. 12-seeded Sidney in a tourney semifinal game on Tuesday, March 3, 70-53. Ferris once again paced his teammates with 33 points, a career high, and seven blocked shots.

Johnston's squad will play the winner of

the Section 3 (Syracuse area) Class C-playoff between General Brown and Beaver River.

Coach Pat Quinn's girls were not as fortunate in their championship game as they lost a heartbreaking 49-47 overtime decision to No. 2-seeded Sidney.

The No. 1-seeded Lady Crusaders had an opportunity to win the game in regulation, but were unable to get the game-winning basket, with two chances in the final :08 of regulation. The match ended 43-43 after regulation time.

Sidney won the game with two foul shots in the waning moments of the overtime period.

Offensively, Notre Dame (17-7) was led by Nat Kozlowski (14 points), Liz Kennedy (12 points) and Lisa Boulas (eight points).

Quinn's girls made it to the final game with a 58-55 win over No. 4-seeded Whitney Point. The Lady Crusaders jumped out to a 20-2 and were never really in trouble the rest of the way.

Kozlowski paced her teammates with 18 points. Kennedy finished with 13 points, and Boulas and Kris Vetukevic added nine and eight points respectively.

tried to pick up the slack for his teammate's absence, and shot a nearsighted two-for-18 from the floor. He finished with six points for the night.

Tony Scott led East with 17 points, but was lost to fouls with 2:11 left. By then, McQuaid was coasting, building up a 63-47 before Scott's early exit.

In Class C, No. 7-seeded DeSales' quest to be able to play in the War Memorial ended last Wednesday night, March 4, with a 68-58 loss to No. 3 Batavia Notre Dame (16-5) at SUNY Geneseo.

Coach Tony Alvaro's Saints led 36-31 at intermission, but were outscored 16-8 in the third quarter.

DeSales, which finished the year at 13-8, was led by Sam DeMetro's game-high 22 points.

## Composure

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Veltz's hands while he was flat on his back. With no one to pass to, he threw it up off the backboard and in. The basket gave McQuaid a 13-8 lead, and let the Orientals know it just wasn't their night.

Woodard was unstoppable as he scored a game-high 26 points against East, which had tamed the big junior guard in the last meeting between the two teams back in February. Included in his offensive showcase was a nearly perfect 16-for-17 night from the foul line.

Rizzo's absence hurt East's highly touted guard Quinn Smith more than anyone else. The Seton Hall-bound Smith consistently

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Scott Morrison's Lady Cardinals of Mooney lost out on a chance to face eighth-seeded Rush Henrietta in the Class AA final at SUNY Geneseo on Wednesday, March 11, when Mooney's offense stayed in the locker room after the first half of the squad's game against Pittsford Mendon.

Mooney led 32-23 at halftime in the semifinal game played at Webster Schroeder Junior High on Saturday, March 7, but could only muster eight points in the second half of a 47-40 loss to the No. 2-seeded Vikings.

Mooney's always-steady defensive game kept the action close as Mendon continued to trail 38-34 after three quarters.

The game featured several bizarre moments, notably when a problem with the clock stopped play for 15 minutes during the third quarter. Morrison, who has compiled an impressive 44-11 record in three years with the varsity girls, said he became aware of the problem after making a substitution.

"I made a substitution with four minutes and something left in the quarter, and the next time I look up there's six minutes left," Morrison said. "We were up by four at the time; it was just amazing."

Morrison was quick to add that he wasn't blaming the loss on the timekeeper's woes. Mooney was plagued, however, by foul trouble most of the game, since the Mooney

coach had to limit the play of standout Tracy Schmidt. Schmidt and Alisa Brookins were eventually lost to fouls in the game's waning moments.

Mendon switched from its usual zone defensive play to man-to-man in the second half, a move that bothered Mooney somewhat, but Morrison said his team's scoring drought was simply a case of missed opportunities.

"(The shots) just weren't falling for us," Morrison said. "We matched up very well with them; it was close all the way."

Mooney gained a chance to play in the semifinal game by beating No. 14-seeded Monroe (8-10), 53-38, and No. 11-seeded Arcadia (11-8), 35-33.

Padulo and Schmidt led Mooney with 19 points and 10 points, respectively, against Monroe. Schmidt and Brookins paced the Cards with 10 points apiece against Arcadia.

After defeating No. 10-seeded Fairport, 58-39, in the first round of their quest for a fourth consecutive Class AA title, the No. 7-seeded Monarchs of Mercy (14-5) fell to Mendon, 60-52, in a quarterfinal game at Pittsford Mendon High School on Thursday, March 5.

Coach Kathleen Boughton's Monarchs stayed close throughout, trailing 12-10 after one quarter, 28-23 at intermission, and 43-36 after three quarters, but were never able to get the deficit under five in the fourth quarter.

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