

C-J Sports

No place like 'home' for Mercy; Mooney proves point early

By Richard A. Kiley

After Mercy's Private-Parochial League game against Aquinas at Ronnie's in Scottsville last Saturday night, April 11, Monarch Coach Paul Walker may wish to adopt the ballpark as his team's new home.

Walker's squad scored early and often in drubbing the Little Irish, 23-1, in a game that proved a rude welcome to the all-Catholic league, for new AQ mentor Donna Paro.

Mercy (2-0) staged an awesome hitting attack, which included three Monarch home runs in the fifth inning alone.

Walker was more impressed, however, with the overwhelming performance given by Monarch pitcher Mollie Board. The senior hurler, whose parents own Ronnie's, struck out nine AQ batters in all, including six of the first seven batters she faced.

Board yielded just one hit for the evening, a bloop single in the early innings, before Beth Wambach came on in the seventh inning to close out the win.

"She (Board) was very sharp," said a pleased Walker. "She was not as effective Friday against Edison, so she wanted to let the team know how well she can pitch for us this year. And I think the whole team responded."

Well, at least the team members who were present. Because of various other commitments, Said Walker, only 11 Monarch showed up for the scheduled night game against Aquinas. Fortunately for him — but unfortunately for the Little Irish — they were his starting 11 players.

The Monarch batters were phenomenal in the fifth inning as Jenni Baxter, Laura

Versprillo and Ana Dupuie all rocketed home runs to ice the win. Baxter's blast was a three-run shot, Dupuie's was a two-run blast and Versprillo's was a solo home run.

Offensive stars for the night included Laura Wambach, who went 4-for-6 at the plate, including a triple; Baxter, who went 4-for-6; and Beth Schaffer, who went 4-for-5.

Dupuie, who catches for Walker, also threw out three AQ runners who were trying to steal.

According to Walker, the run total was not Mercy's highest since he has been with the varsity girls. Two years ago, his club banged out 34 runs in a 34-6 win over — you guessed it — Aquinas.

For Walker, the only question mark remaining is whether Board will be bothered by a hamstring pull, which occurred against Edison in a 9-6 win at Mercy just a day earlier.

Against the Lady Engineers, the senior pitcher struggled somewhat, and it wasn't until after the game that Walker and the rest of her teammates found out she had sustained the injury.

Although the game was played at Mercy, Edison was considered the home team because its own home field was under water.

The Monarchs jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first stanza, upped the margin to 7-3 in the sixth inning, and added two more runs in their final bat to secure the win.

Once again, it was another strong game at the plate for Baxter, who went 3-for-4 for the game with one RBI, and scored one run. Laura Wambach was 2-for-4 for Mercy.

After Easter break, Walker's squad will arrive at the heart of the schedule, which includes

an April 28 game against Penfield and consecutive league games against Nazareth, Kearney, Mooney and Aquinas.

"After those games, I'll have a better idea of what this team is capable of doing," the Mercy coach said.

Cardinal Mooney girls' softball Coach Joette Abbey recently said her squad wants to prove that ex-pitcher Julie Staun was't the only reason for the Cardinals' successes the past four seasons. After the Cardinals' first two games this season, they're doing just that.

Abbey's squad outscored Wilson and Greece Athena by a combined 27-5 last week.

The Cardinals (2-0) are proving their point at the expense of opposing team's psyches.

Mooney is now off until an April 28 contest against Midlakes. The Cardinals will then come to the most difficult stretch in their schedule, with games against Linda D'Onofrio's Bishop Kearney squad, Nazareth, defending Section 5 Class AA softball champion Hilton, Aquinas and Mercy.

Balloons carry the message of child abuse prevention

"It's OK to Say No" was the message on 100 balloons that were released by students at School #12, on April 15 at 10 a.m.

The balloon launch was held in recognition of "Child Abuse Prevention Month." Each balloon contained a "safety tip" designed to teach children and parents some of the rules of personal safety.

The launch was sponsored by an ad hoc committee of local organizations that include the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, Rochester diocesan Youth Ministry, Monroe County Department of Social Services Child Protective Unit, Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Rape Crisis Service, Rochester Police Department, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the South East Area Coalition. Barbara Wager, principal of School #12, has worked closely with the committee on the project.

Sheriff Andrew Meloni and Rochester

Police Chief Gordon Urlacher were also present at the launch, as well as McGruff, the crime-fighting dog.

Fashions sailing into spring

The annual Seton fashion show for St. Mary's Hospital is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at Sibley's Tower Restaurant in downtown Rochester.

The show, which will begin at 11 a.m., will feature a luncheon at noon.

Models — including some Seton Club members — will display many new Sibley fashions for both men and women. The spring outfits will carry a nautical motif.

Tickets are \$20 per person, and may be obtained by calling St. Mary's Volunteer Office, (716)464-3255, or Mary Kay Ward, 248-5381.

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