

# C-J Sports

## Kearney routs Franklin; AQ, McQuaid struggle while Mooney rolls

### Kings run up 17 runs behind Davison's arm, Weigand's four RBI's

By Richard A. Kiley

Before the high school baseball season began two weeks ago, Bishop Kearney Coach Carm Urzetta was worried about his players' pitching arms.

Even with the talents of lefthander Steve Arriola — whose scintillating junior season was followed by a roughing time of last summer — the 16th year Fighting Kings coach wasn't certain of his team's pitching situation.

His problems may have been solved in the form of sophomore righthander Rich Davison, who was one of the top hurlers on the Kearney JV last spring.

The righty's first start on the varsity came last Wednesday, April 15, against Franklin. Just four days earlier, Davison scattered four hits in four innings of relief, as Kearney shut out Eastridge, 7-0.

Against the Quakers, the sophomore showed he could go the distance in a 17-2 win over the City-Catholic foe. The marathon contest featured a five-run fourth inning for Kearney (2-1) and a four-run rally in the seventh inning.

Franklin, which just two days earlier had shut out Tim Jordan's Knights of McQuaid, was victimized by poor pitching that afternoon. All-purpose pitcher Rodney Griffin had blanked McQuaid by striking out 13 batters and yielding just a lone hit in seven innings of work on Monday, April 13. But, unfortunately for the Quakers, the drop off between Griffin's pitching ability and that of the rest of the Quaker staff is significant.

Kearney illustrated that distinction by roughing up three different Quaker pitchers. The Fighting Kings were up 7-0 by the fourth inning, and showed no signs of letting up when they added 10 more over the final three.

Designated hitter Don Weigand was the main offensive force for Urzetta, pounding out a home run and two doubles to account for four runs. Two of Weigand's runs batted in came in the top of the sixth inning, with Kearney already ahead 10-2. Weigand followed a walk by Vince Falbo and a single by R.D. Long with a hard-hit double to right center field. Center fielder Rafael Vargas tried unsuccessfully to make a shoestring catch on Weigand's smash, which plated both Falbo and Long, to make it 12-2.

Two batters later, Weigand struck on an overthrow to the plate, bringing the score to 13-2 after six innings.

Kearney added four runs in its final at bat, thanks to a bases-loaded single by Scott Valyear, and consecutive doubles by Joe Falbo and Stoffel.

What had to make Urzetta even more pleased with his team's outing was the pitching of the Davison. The right-hander, who was in control throughout, allowed single runs in the fourth and fifth innings. After yielding a lead-off home run to the



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

R.D. Long beats the tag of Franklin catcher Randall Ruiz as Quaker pitcher Audley Hendrick looks on.

Quaker's number-nine hitter, Victor Vargas, the sophomore hurler displayed the kind of character that wins games, by striking out two of the next three batters he faced.

Kearney was unable to muster nearly as much offense against a strong Pittsford Sutherland team in a 2-1 loss a day earlier (Tuesday, April 14). The loss wasted a strong outing by Arriola, who whiffed 10 batters in giving up just three hits for the afternoon.

Pittsford Sutherland scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning, when Dave Medill's single brought home Jeff Alaimo. Sutherland, the defending Section 5 Class AA champ, benefited from a strong pitching performance by John Vail.

Vail, who hopes to pitch for LeMoyne College next year, went the distance, allowing just six hits and striking out seven.

After a mediocre showing last spring, Cardinal Mooney Coach Ed Nietopski is looking to rekindle some of the enthusiasm that garnered sectional titles in past seasons. His Cardinals (3-0) are on a roll thus far this campaign.

The latest Mooney win was an exciting 7-6 victory over East High. The Orientals — who had rallied to tie the game at 6-6 with three runs in the top of the seventh — lost the

game in Mooney's home half of the inning, when Rob Hrankowski scored on a wild pitch.

The offensive stars for Nietopski — whom the National High School Athletic Coaches Association recently named Region 1 Coach of the Year in baseball — were Scott Hylas and Dave Brescia. The two Cardinals accounted for five RBIs between them.

McQuaid Coach Tim Jordan agonized through a slew of one-run losses in last year's injury-riddled season for the Knights, and has already had more than his share this season.

Already this season, the 19th-year McQuaid coach has come up on the short end of several one-run contests, including an 8-7 loss to East Rochester and a 6-5 decision to Fairport.

Against the Bombers of ER on Tuesday, April 14, the Knights (2-4) let the game get away in the bottom of the eighth inning. The score was tied at 7-7 when a wild pitch plated Dave Kostecki, giving East Rochester the 8-7 win.

A few days earlier against Fairport (Friday, April 10), the Knights fell in much the same manner. Jordan's squad held a 5-4 lead as it headed into the bottom of the seventh

inning, until the Red Raiders staged a dramatic rally in the home seventh.

Chip Hubler doubled in the tying run for Fairport in the bottom of the seventh inning, and scored on Mark Dedoszek's single.

Jordan's boys showed they could also win the close ones when they took a 7-6 win from Webster on Saturday, April 11. In that Knight victory, Dan O'Mara scored the winning run for McQuaid, with his third run of the game. O'Mara had singled to lead off the inning and, after moving to second base on a sacrifice, scored on Angelo Ponticello's game-winning hit.

The spring campaign has started inauspiciously for Aquinas Coach Richard Pillitter, while the Little Irish eagerly await the return of pitching ace Mark Chapman.

Aquinas dropped its first two decisions of the season to Gates Chili and Pittsford Mendon, respectively.

Against the Spartans at Gates Chili on Thursday, April 9, the Little Irish found themselves trailing 8-0 after the first inning, and eventually lost 15-4.

Playing the Vikings at Pittsford Mendon on April 10, Aquinas was held to four hits in a 7-2 loss.

## Sport Shorts

Mike Dianetti, the young and colorful coach who piloted the Little Irish of Aquinas to the quarterfinals of the Class AA basketball tournament last February, is also gearing up for his annual basketball camp at the high school on Dewey Avenue.

This year's camp will have four sessions. The first session, for boys in grades four through six, will run June 22 through July 3 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; the second session, for boys in grades seven through nine, is scheduled for June 22 through July 3 from noon to 3 p.m.; the third session, for girls

in grades seven through 12, will run from July 6 through July 17 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and the final session, for boys in grades 10 through 12, will also be offered July 6 through July 17 from noon to 3 p.m.

Registration for the camp can be made by contacting Dianetti at (716)254-2020 or 385-2659.

AQ Athletic Director Tom Gigliotti recently announced awards for the winter sports programs at the high school on Dewey Avenue.

For Mike Dianetti's boys basketball team — which fell in the Class AA quarterfinals to the Royals of Rush-Henrietta Roth — Sean Schiano, Jon Luconte, Mike Whitfield and Mark Chapman were all honored. Both Schiano, who asserted himself as

AQ's center late in the season, and Luconte, the spark plug on this year's Little Irish team, were tabbed most valuable players. Whitfield was named most outstanding player, and Chapman was voted most improved player.

Donna Enright was named most valuable player for Coach Mary Beth Sadler's girls varsity club. Tracey Lioi and Marita Vieira were honored as most outstanding and most improved players, respectively.

Rich Wasman was tabbed most valuable swimmer for the mermen at AQ, with Tim Shea named most outstanding. Both Jamey Sutton and Tim Rabideau were voted most improved swimmers.

For the boys' indoor track team, Brendan Doane was named most valuable performer, and Jon Schwab and Greg

George were named most outstanding and most improved runners.

From the girls' indoor track team, Heather Dwyer was tabbed most valuable runner, while Sandy Hofford and Wendy Hurysz were named most outstanding and most improved runners, respectively.

For the Little Irish icemen, Rick Allocco and Gary Barsell shared most valuable honors. Stan Ewing and Jerry Suplicki were named most outstanding and most improved players, respectively. The Rookie of the Year honor was shared by Suplicki and Jeff Nuccitelli.

Chris Freemesser was tabbed most valuable bowler on this year's team, while Steve Gerkin and Steve Colocillo were named most outstanding and most improved bowlers, respectively.

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