

# C-J Sports

## Crusaders' rollercoaster ride continues; Saints are struggling

By Richard A. Kiley

The up-and-down season for the Notre Dame boys' baseball team continued last week with a heartbreaking 5-4 loss to host Corning West on Wednesday, May 6. The Vikings staged their game-winning rally in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Crusaders began last week with an exciting 6-3 win in extra innings over Hornell. But what has turned out to be a season of inconsistency continued for Coach John Cain, as his club dropped a game that it was one pitch away from winning.

For the Vikings, the win avenged a 6-5 loss to the Crusaders earlier in the season.

Notre Dame (5-9, 4-3 in the Sullivan Trail Conference) took advantage of a short left-field fence at Corning, building up a seemingly comfortable 4-1 lead on a solo home run by Kevin Harney and a three-run shot by Mike Mesuch.

The Vikings (3-8 overall, 2-4 league), however, chipped away at the Crusader lead with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, before winning the game with two more in their final at-bat.

It was a disappointing way for Notre Dame to begin the final stretch for a decent position in the sectionals later this month.

The Crusaders took the lead they were to hold until the game's last pitch in the top of the second inning. With two outs and no one on base, Harney pulled a 1-0 pitch from Corning pitcher Jim Somner over the left-field fence.

The Vikings answered back, however, with a single run after two outs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Mark Woodhance got the rally started with a single to center field. After stealing both second and third base, the Viking outfielder then scored on Paul Hill's RBI single between second and third base, to knot the contest, 1-1.

The game stayed that way until Mesuch's blast in the top of the sixth inning, but the damage could have been even worse, if not for a Viking defensive gem.

Somner began the Crusaders' half of the inning by throwing eight consecutive pitches out of the strike zone, to put Randy Harvey and Sean Tierney aboard. Woodhance made a key play, however, when he nailed Harvey trying to score from second base on Jim Ermold's single to center field.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Joe Long (5) is tagged out by Tony Rossi, as Long attempts to steal second base in the fifth inning.

That key turn of events was followed by Mesuch's three-run home run, which, much like Harney's solo shot, appeared to be nothing more than a long out to left field — until it cleared the fence.

"We really benefited from that short fence," said Cain, who teaches history at the Catholic high school in Elmira. "The hitting disappointed me today. Without those two

hits, we didn't have much offense."

Crusader pitcher Bob Grosvenor began to show some signs of fatigue as he was roughed up for two runs in Corning's half of the sixth. The sophomore pitcher, who had worked into and out of trouble in earlier innings, was not as fortunate this time, as Corning climbed to within one run, 4-3, heading into the seventh.

Chris Forrest led off the inning with a ground-rule double, and scored on Tim Havert's single to center field, to make it 4-2. Havert scored on a wild pitch later in the inning, pulling the Vikings to within one run.

After the Crusaders went quietly in their half of the seventh, Corning West staged its game-winning rally. Steve Muck got things going with a single to left field. Cain then called on Mesuch to close out the game for Grosvenor. After getting Tony Rossi to pop up to J.P. Bernatavitz at second, Mesuch yielded an opposite-field double to Tim Norman, putting runners at second and third with one out.

Two batters later, Woodhance scored both Viking runners on a single just beyond the outstretched arms of Tierney at first base, to give Corning West the 5-4 win.

The rollercoaster ride continued for Cain's Crusaders on Friday, May 8, when they redeemed themselves with yet another extra-inning affair, this one against league foe Elmira Free Academy. Lee Wisniewski ended the eight-inning contest at Notre Dame with an RBI single, giving the Crusaders a 6-5 win.

DeSales boys' baseball Coach Frank Pane has been waiting for his team's batting to come out of hibernation since early April, but he hasn't had much luck — or offense.

The seventh-year coach and his team, struggling with a 3-6 record, are in danger of not making the sectionals for the first time in recent memory.

According to Pane, his team's lack of offense has made the difference in at least four of its losses. And if that weren't bad enough, the Saints have also been victimized by poor fielding. Included in the six losses are a 4-1 defeat, where all four runs were unearned, and a 6-5 setback, where five of the runs came as a result of fielding miscues.

"I thought going into the season that our

## Notre Dame, DeSales girls jockeying for sectional seeding

By Richard A. Kiley

The Notre Dame girls' softball team has picked up where it left off last year — with the exception of two innings this season.

Wayne Coburn's girls, who after an 8-8 regular season caught fire last spring in the sectionals and defeated Deposit to win the Section 4 Class C crown, are playing fundamentally sound softball again this year. The Lady Crusaders are 7-3 overall and 4-3 in the Sullivan Trail Conference. And according to Coburn, that record could easily have been 9-1, if not for two uncharacteristically chaotic innings for his club of seasoned starters.

Of the three losses — all of which have occurred in the STC — two came against Elmira Southside and Hornell. "We had Southside 8-0 (on May 1) before we gave up

10 unearned runs, and we had Hornell (on May 4) 7-0 at the end of two and eventually lost," said Coburn, whose girls fell in the Western Regional to Wilson High School of Buffalo last spring. "Hopefully, we're back on the right trail now."

That should be safe to say, after Notre Dame crushed Corning West, 20-3, on Wednesday, May 6.

Coburn has a team of standouts, many of whom played on Pat Quinn's basketball squad, which was nipped in the semis of the sectionals last winter. Kris Vetukevich has pitched every inning of every game, and Stacey McMail, Lisa Boulas, Kim Sheehy and Lisa Johnston have been the catalysts at the plate. McMail, the Lady Crusaders' first baseman, counts four home runs and three triples among her offensive efforts and is

really in a groove at the plate, according to her coach, who seemed to shake off the two recent league losses.

"We got off to a good start, but you know they make this game seven innings, and sometimes that momentum goes the other way," said Coburn, whose squad outscored its sectional opponents 36-5 last season.

In fact, Coburn is looking at his team's two recent innings of misfortune and hoping his girls have gotten the mistakes out of their systems.

"The infield is really coming around; hopefully, we've got the worst behind us, and we'll play good ball from here on in," Coburn said.

"We learned," the Notre Dame coach continued. "As long as you learn from your mistakes, you're all right. It's better for them to happen now. It's too late in the sectionals."

And Coburn is also hoping that his players, who were mostly sophomores last season, will use that sectional experience later this month.

"They (his players) understand the game better now; we have to be considered one of the top teams (in Class C)," Coburn said. "We would like to be one of the top four (seeded) teams in the sectionals. That's our goal."

Continued on facing page

DiMaria Travel

1521 MONROE AVE.



271-0100

FOR THE BEST  
IN TRAVEL  
ALWAYS

HAWAII, Oct. 3-17<sup>th</sup>

Acclaimed as Rochester's finest four island tour. Fully escorted from Rochester and featuring our EXCLUSIVE man in Hawaii: Mr. Ed Kahale. Operated by DiMaria Travel ONLY! For information call 271-0100.



BARRE  
CUTLID

... JUST A PLAIN MARKER



TROTT MONUMENTS  
Robert F. Schnacky & Son  
1120 Mt. Hope Ave.

We want to put the quality into the stone, not into the fancy work.

\$540 Plus Cemetery Charge  
with engraving as shown

Meets requirements for Holy Sepulchre, Riverside, Irondequoit and Holy Ghost

Continued on facing page