

# C-J Sports

## AQ continues resurgence; Mooney nips McQuaid to stay on top

By Richard A. Kiley

Much like life, the game of baseball often allows for second chances.

Just ask Aquinas' Brian Monteleone. The Little Irish third baseman committed two critical errors during his team's City-Catholic League game against Bishop Kearney at Silver Stadium last Thursday, May 14. One of the errors came in the top of the sixth inning, with Aquinas clinging to a 7-4 lead.

After fielding a routine ground ball off the bat of Kearney designated hitter Don Weigand, Monteleone threw the ball past first baseman Mike Germain, allowing both Vince Falbo and R.D. Long to score. Weigand eventually came around to score the tying run when the ball sailed into left field after yet another errant throw.

"I haven't seen a play like that since T-ball," joked Little Irish Coach Rich Pillitter after the game.

He had reason to be jovial after Monteleone atoned for his fielding miscue — and then some — when his double in the bottom of the sixth inning scored two runs. Germain — who also committed a throwing error on the play, in which Kearney tied the game — iced the game with a run-scoring single after Monteleone's hit, propelling Aquinas to a 10-7 victory over the Fighting Kings.

Both Monteleone and Germain had three RBIs for the afternoon, to carry the Little Irish.

For Aquinas, the win avenged a 6-4 loss to Kearney earlier in the season. During that game, Pillitter's squad had built a 4-1 lead, but a rash of errors in the outfield led to five unanswered runs for Carm Urzetta's Fighting Kings (12-6, 7-2 league).

AQ (7-13, 6-3 league) was able to overcome six errors at Silver last Thursday, while extending its winning streak to five games.

After the first inning, there were no indications that AQ would need any late-game hitting heroics. The Little Irish roughed up Kearney starter Rich Davison for seven runs in the bottom of the first inning, after Kearney had scored one run in its first at-bat.

Germain delivered a key hit in the offensive onslaught, powering a Davison pitch over the wall of the stadium where the International League-leading Red Wings play. Shortstop Freddie Rogers followed with a key hit leading to three more Aquinas runs and a 7-1 bulge, forcing Urzetta to use Steve Arriola. The senior lefthander had been used sparingly of late after experiencing



Kearney's Don Weigand rounds first base after a wild throw gets by Aquinas first baseman Mike Germain.



Bishop Kearney Coach Carm Urzetta disagrees with a strike call in the fourth inning.

some discomfort in his throwing arm. Arriola struck out Vince Falbo, stopping the AQ assault at seven runs.

Kearney chipped away at the lead, with two runs in the top of the second off Aquinas pitcher Eric Knapp. Aaron Williams led off the inning with a walk, and eventually scored on Pete Wolak's triple to the right-centerfield wall. Kearney closed to within 7-3 after two errors allowed R.D. Long to score.

After adding another run in the top of the fourth, Kearney tied the game with three runs in the sixth — all with two outs. After Vince Falbo reached on an error, Scott Thompson doubled to right field, giving the Fighting Kings runners on second and third with none out.

Wiegand followed with the seemingly harmless ground ball to Monteleone at third, which in turn led to three unearned runs.

"Brian Monteleone played third base as a sophomore and, although he had some

difficulties hitting, he played very well defensively," Pillitter said of the junior third baseman. "He seems to have reversed that this year."

In defense of Monteleone's defensive play, he is not the only one guilty of occasional shabby fielding this season. The Little Irish defense hasn't exactly supported the fine pitching performances by both Knapp and Mark Chapman this spring.

"Eric has pitched some very good ball games for us this year," Pillitter said. "But he's been the victim of shabby defensive play."

Chapman struck out three batters in the seventh, to secure the win for AQ.

The Little Irish resurgence is nothing short of amazing, when you consider the disarray the team was in during the first month of the season. Without the services of Chapman, who was shelved after a recurring arm injury prevented him from pitching during the

initial three weeks of the season, Pillitter's squad dropped 12 of the first 14 games.

Chapman's return and the offensive surge from formerly dormant Aquinas bats, however, have the 13th-year coach and his team in the thick of the City-Catholic League race.

"Our biggest turnaround is (that) we've had more people in the lineup hitting the ball," said Pillitter, when assessing his team's remarkable recovery. "Right now we have at least three or four people making (consistent) contact with the ball."

"Mark Chapman's return as a pitcher has also had a lot to do with it."

In the second game of the twin bill at 500 Norton Street, Brian Puffer's bat and Mike Magans' arm allowed Cardinal Mooney (15-3, 8-2) to retain a slim lead over Kearney and Aquinas in the race for the league crown. Puffer accounted for three RBIs and Magans (7-0) struck out 11, as the Cardinals defeated McQuaid, 6-4.

## Hilton rips Cardinal Mooney, 10-3

### Five-run first inning spurs Cadets in rematch of Class AA title game

By Richard A. Kiley

While Joette Abbey's Lady Cardinals seem to be the class act of the Private-Parochial League this season, the Hilton Cadets may well be in a class by themselves.

In a rematch of last year's Section 5 softball Class AA championship game thriller — which Jim Buck's squad won in 10 innings, 1-0 — the Cadets showed why they have to be considered the odds-on favorite to win the title again. The occasion was Hilton's 10-3 victory over Mooney last Friday night, May 15, under the lights at Gears Park.

Mooney's batters came into the game hitting better than .600. But Bridgette Newman, who blanked Abbey's squad on near-flawless pitching last June, held the Cardinals in check once again. The senior Cadet struck out six batters, and was helped early on with her team's five runs in the first inning.

Hilton juniors Jill Heise and Beth Yoxthimer were the hitting starts for Buck's squad, accounting for two runs each during the non-league game, played before nearly 500 fans.

The Cardinals, who came into the game with a perfect 10-0 mark — 6-0 in the all-Catholic league — were never able to rebound from the 5-0 deficit.

Mooney's lowest offensive production prior to the loss to Hilton was four runs against Arcadia in a 4-1 win. The greatest number of runs scored against Abbey's squad this year was 12 by Bishop Kearney, in a game won by Mooney, 24-12.

The only question mark Abbey began the season with was her pitching. Julie Staub had been the Mooney ace the past few seasons, and her graduation left the Lady Cardinals at a severe loss. But junior Noel Feeney — up from Paul Forte's junior varsity team — and Tracy Schmidt have Abbey sleeping peacefully at night. Until the Hilton loss, opposing teams were batting a mere .157 against Mooney pitching.

Mooney's hitting has been spread around. Seasoned players like Lori Padulo, Schmidt, Julie Kolb, Mary Beth Prognio and Cheryl Lennox have been pounding the ball.

"And the hits haven't been cheap," said Abbey, adding Cathy and Theresa Nietopski to the list of hitters who have come through in the clutch this season.

And while Schmidt has strayed from her normal first base position, teammate Lisa Serio has filled Schmidt's cleats competently. "Lisa has also been a DH (designated hitter) for me."


The Lady Cardinals, however, will need a far superior effort to what they were able to muster last Friday night, if they hope to take the crown from Hilton.

That may be too much to ask, especially while Hilton's Newman shows no signs of slowing down. She has pitched in all 16 of the Cadets' wins this season.

### Women's Guild sets final meeting

The final general meeting for this school year of the Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild is scheduled for May 26 in the school cafeteria, 800 Maiden Lane, Greece.

Call the school office at (716)865-1000 for information.




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Thursday, June 4, 1987



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