

Mooney

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Padulo, allowing Loughlin to score from third to pull Hilton to within two runs. A double steal again put runners into scoring position — a gamble that paid off when yet another Mooney error allowed Merritt to come home from third, making it 6-5.

"I really felt responsible for them getting back into the game after my error and a couple of other (teammate) errors," Padulo said. "I had a little moment of doubt."

Those doubts surely increased after Padulo and her teammates went in order in the top of the fifth, and Hilton pulled even in the bottom of the inning. Heise led off with a single to left field, and later scored on a throwing error by Mooney catcher Marybeth Prognos, to tie the game, 6-6.

"I said to myself, 'Oh no, not another one of these games,'" said Cathy Nietopski, referring to the extra-inning contest last June.

Padulo echoed her teammate's sentiments, but said words of encouragement by Abbey also came at the right time.

The Mooney coach's urging worked: The Cards scored what turned out to be the game-winning run in its very next at-bat, as Cheryl Lennox slapped a single to center field to score Theresa Nietopski, giving Mooney a 7-6 edge.

Three more insurance runs in the seventh inning secured the win for the three-time, Private-Parochial League champ. Serio's grounder found a hole in the infield, scoring Kolb from third base for one run, and Cathy Nietopski plated two more.

For Buck, whose team had been ranked fifth in the state prior to the championship-game defeat, it was a rough ending to an otherwise brilliant season.

"You've got to give all the credit to Mooney; we came back and tied the game at 6-6, but they've just got such good hitters," Buck said.

The Hilton coach called Newman's season

"more outstanding than last year," despite the Cadets' not winning the title.

"She had 40 consecutive victories; she was bound to have an off night ... and it might as well be Mooney. They deserve it."

Buck shrugged off the effects of the long delay before the Class AA game, saying, "Both teams had to endure it."

"I can't believe it helped either team, though," he said.

All of the Mooney players were able to talk about the disappointments of the previous games to Hilton, and how they served as learning experiences for this year's championship season.

"We were thinking about last year's game, and how terribly we played in the game earlier this year," said Padulo, who, along with Cathy Nietopski, will attend Monroe Community College in the fall. "We didn't really play up to potential. But we thought we had a real strong defense and pretty good bats. Our only question mark was Noelle."

Feeney, a junior, did experience control problems throughout part of the season, but showed no signs of any problems in four sectional wins.

"She started off (the season) real good, but in the middle of the year she walked a lot of people," Padulo said. "But I thought she pitched really great in the sectionals, and she pitched a great game against Hilton. It helped to get a lot of runs for her."

"This win made up for last year's (loss)," said Mooney catcher Marybeth Prognos, who was named tournament MVP. "We knew we could do it this year because of all the seniors."

In the end, it was Mooney's offense — and a slew of .400 plus hitters — that proved too mighty for Newman and Hilton.

"We knew people would be able to hit (this season)," Prognos added. "And last year our defense never really got tested until the Hilton game."

In addition to Prognos, who will be attending Ithaca College in the fall, other Mooney

players selected to the all-tourney team were Schmidt, Feeney and Kolb. Noticeable non-selections were Lennox, who hit close to .600 this season and came through with the game-winning RBI against Hilton, and either Cathy or Theresa Nietopski.

Named from Hilton were Newman, Heise, Berback and Loughlin.

Two other pitchers, Irondequoit's Jeri Maerz and Webster's Liz Helbig, were also tabbed.

Mooney earned the right to play Hilton in the title game by beating No. 3-seed Irondequoit, 6-2, in a semifinal game played at McAvoy Park last Wednesday, June 3.

In that game, Theresa Nietopski collected three hits, including an RBI single in the fourth inning.

Mooney had nine off of Maerz, a gutsy junior lefthander who will be back for Tom

Zacardo's Braves next season.

Padulo and Prognos both had two hits for the game, in which only one of the Cards' six runs was earned.

Theresa Nietopski scored Mooney's first run in the bottom of the first inning when she came all the way around to score on a Lennox pop-up, which was misplayed in the Irondequoit infield.

Kolb scored Lennox on a single to right center field, to give Mooney a 2-0 advantage.

Abbey's girls added another run in the second on Prognos's RBI single, to up the lead to 3-0.

The Braves scored a single run in the top of the fourth inning, but the Cardinals added an insurance run in their half of the fourth, when Theresa Nietopski's double scored Marge McGuire from first base. Nietopski came home on another Prognos base hit, giving Mooney an insurmountable 5-1 lead.

scored three more times in the top of the seventh inning, to balloon the lead to 11-5. One of those runs came on Meg Thompson's solo home run. Thompson drove in three runs for the day.

McMail scored ND's final run in the seventh. In all, Streeter, a senior who has pitched in 15 of Wilson High's 16 wins this season, scattered nine hits.

Crusader pitcher Kris Vetukevic yielded 13 hits, with the real damage occurring in the top of the fourth inning.

"Wilson will win the state championship again; there's no doubt in my mind," Coburn said.

Wilson (16-5) played St. Lawrence (17-3) of Section 10 on Saturday, June 6, at Katkville. St. Lawrence advanced to the state semis with a 14-5 win over General Brown of Section 3.

In addition to McMail, other Crusaders named to the All-STC team were Sheehan and outfielder Mare Hardiman.

Three other players — Vetukevic, Johnston and Lisa Bouldas — were named to the second team.

Notre Dame

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tom of the lineup too," Coburn said. "When you're in a championship game, your bottom hitters have to get those runners (in scoring position) home. We could have scored at least six more runs (for the day)."

After going quietly in the fourth, Notre Dame had a chance to gain some ground in its half of the fifth inning, but once again failed to get the key hit when needed.

The Crusaders had already cut the margin to 8-5 and had the bases loaded with none out. But a pop fly to short center and an inning-ending double play kept the Crusader damage minimal.

"That (not scoring with no outs and the bases loaded), probably more than anything, took the wind out of our sails," Coburn said.

After the controversial series of events in ND's half of the sixth inning, Wilson High

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