

C-J Sports

SportS horts

Meaningful marathon

In these dog days of August, heated volleyball matches are a common sight on Rochester-area beaches. Here's a chance for all these spikers on the sand to put their skills to good use by participating in the Kidney Foundation of Upstate New York's volleyball marathon. Entitled VolleyRochester, the event is being sponsored by Rochester Community Savings Bank. The marathon will take place on September 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cobbs Hill Park.

Team captains can contact the Kidney Foundation at (716) 244-8893 to receive 1987 captains' kits. Participants will collect pledges from family, friends and co-workers based upon the points scored by their teams. Such prizes as round-trip plane tickets and week-end vacations will be awarded to those individuals who raise the most money.

There are no registration fees, and refreshments will be available all day long. Teams registering early can even request their own hours, with a maximum of three hours of play per team. Celebrity teams like the 98 PXY Powerhitters will be there to do battle, and the PXY Van will provide music for participants and spectators.

Crozier query

A report recently came over National Catholic News Service wire regarding a liturgy team's goal of setting a world record when it takes the field after an inter-division matchup between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros the night of September 15.

Apparently the liturgy team will have a mere 10 hours to transform Dodger Stadium into a setting appropriate for the Mass Pope John Paul II will celebrate there the next day as part of his U.S. visit.

The current record for preparing a stadium for a major event is 22 hours — set when the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum was readied for the closing ceremonies of the 1984 Olympics.

Father Vivian Ben Lima, liturgical designer for the celebration, said he and his team have 10 hours "to set up the liturgical environment for the approximately 61,800 people who will attend Pope John Paul II's September 16 Mass."

According to Father Lima, grass on the field will need to be covered, a platform where the Mass is to be celebrated must be constructed, seating arranged and decorative elements put in place.

Everything possible will be built on wheels and rolled into place from the parking lot, the priest said. Orchestrating the makeover for the stadium will be the result of one year's thought, design and production for Father Lima, an architect who is originally from Hyderabad, India, and who now serves as associate pastor of a California parish.

The Mass is to be a celebration of the unity and diversity of the peoples of Southern California. "Pope John Paul will be the center of attention, the unifying point for diversity of people who will be attending the Mass," Father Lima said.

The procession of the 320 U.S. bishops into the stadium will be one of the most powerful elements of the celebration, he said, adding that their presence is reflected in the liturgical design for the Mass.

"The platform, which is in center field facing home plate, incorporates the angles of a miter," Father Lima said. "And the backdrop behind the platform is in the shape of a miter."

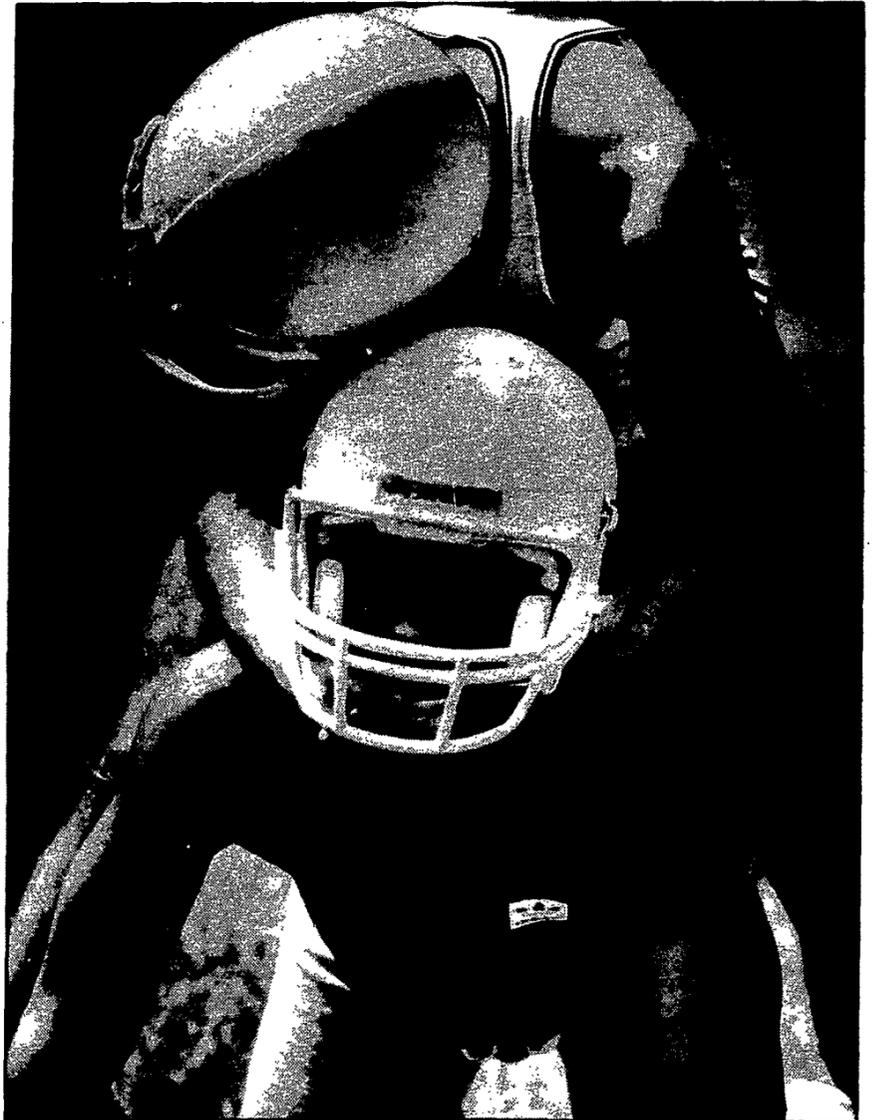
Part of the backdrop, a "wounded cross" which is missing a section on the crossbeam, is meant to remind people of the disunity among Christian faiths.

What I want to know is — with the current baseball controversy regarding corked bats — is anybody going to check the pope's crozier as he steps onto the field?

— Richard A. Kiley

Abrupt end to summer for diocesan grid players

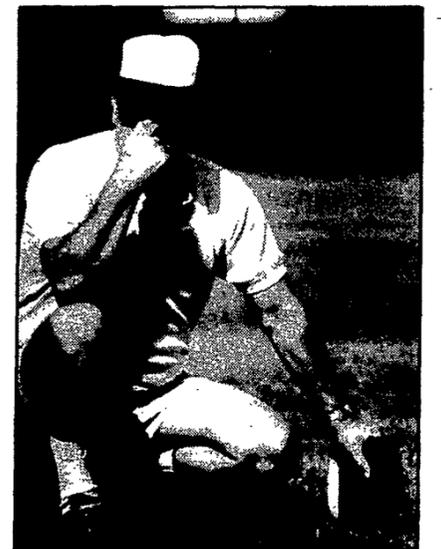
With the start of classes still weeks away, double sessions and grueling workouts took the place of soothing dips in the pool and sandlot baseball games for high school football players, who are competing for starting spots this fall. All six Catholic high schools opened up camp last Wednesday, August 19, as both players and coaches began to ready for the upcoming grid season. For a preview of what teams and players to look out for this year, watch for a preview of diocesan football teams in next week's *Courier-Journal*.



Michael N. Aydogan
Little Irish player Jermaine McGowan shows that some warm-up drills can be a pain in the neck.



Aquinas will need to make some strides over last season's accomplishments in order to battle it out for a playoff spot.



Bishop Kearney head coach Nick Tata wonders whether his Kings will have enough fight in them this season.

DeSales wants girls' soccer on par with basketball

By Richard A. Kiley

For the past decade, just the mention of either the boys' or girls' basketball programs at DeSales High School would cause Finger Lakes West opponents to become anxiety ridden.

Unfortunately, the same could not be said in recent seasons regarding the soccer and softball teams at the small Catholic high school in Geneva.

Last spring, Athletic Director Steve Muzzi gave a much needed shot in the arm to the girls' softball program by hiring Pat Luzzi, who brought to DeSales a wealth of experience from his work with youth softball leagues in the Geneva area and enjoyed a moderately successful inaugural season. Luzzi appears to be on his way to rejuvenating the softball Saints.

Muzzi has now set his sights on upgrading the girls' soccer program, which recently lost coach Mack Spelley when he took a coaching position at Waterloo High School. And he has hired a former assistant to Spelley to get

the program back on its feet.

Mike Rood, who helped Spelley with the junior varsity soccer program two years ago, will now look to pick up where his predecessor left off.

Spelley did enjoy some success in his 10 years as coach at DeSales. The Saints were tops in the Finger Lakes West division in 1982, before they bowed out of the sectional semifinals.

Muzzi and Rood would like to see more years like 1982.

"Steve (Muzzi) came to me and said he really wants to develop the program," said Rood, who is director of the Finger Lakes Private Industry Council. "We're both looking to upgrade the program and (field) a competitive team."

Rood played soccer for Hilton back in the mid '60s, when he was an All-County soccer player for the Cadets before transferring to Brighton High School. He opted to play football rather than soccer at Brighton, before going on to Monroe Community College and later to Kansas State College.

The new coach knows he has his work cut out for him. The Saints are coming off a 5-11 season, and lost three of their top players — Babette DeVaney, Kris Guinan and Nellie Lynch — to graduation. Although they were better known for their play on the basketball court, DeVaney and Guinan could also hold their own on the soccer field. Both were named to the Finger Lakes West second team along with Lynch. Goalie Kathleen Morgan, who kept the Saints close in many games last season, is also gone.

In addition to those key losses, Rood must also compete amid the declining enrollment problem that DeSales and most other high schools are experiencing.

"I'm concerned with the low number of freshman girls (coming into DeSales). We'll probably have to swing juniors back and forth from the varsity to the JV. Other schools do it, so I see no reason why we can't."

Through all the juggling he'll need to do,

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