

C-J Sports

Quest to dethrone Mooney begins; ND, DeSales vie for consistency

By Richard A. Kiley

The 1987 girls' soccer season could prove to be one of the more exciting and interesting campaigns for diocesan teams that make up the Private-Parochial League. How so? Well, even though one would have to consider Scott Morrison's Cardinal Mooney team the favorite in the five-team division, the Lady Cards are no shoo-in after losing to graduation 15 players from last year's league champions.

And who knows what to expect from new DeSales girls' varsity coach Mike Rood or Steve Weber and his up-and-coming Notre Dame squad. Rood is looking to put girls' soccer on the map at the small high school in Geneva, and Weber's Lady Crusaders are competing in their second season ever.

ALTHOUGH IT WOULD be unfair to say that parity is now the case in the Private-Parochial League, there is really no clear favorite in the division. Morrison's Cardinals do have the edge, however, in that they have a strong program and a great winning tradition in their favor.

The sixth-year coach said farewell to more than half of last year's Mooney team, which captured its sixth consecutive league title. Players who left in the mass exodus included full-backs Cathy and Theresa Nietopski, as well as center halfback Teri Lamphron and striker Marybeth Prognio. The Mooney coach also lost both of his keepers, Tracy Schmidt and Kim Murray, to graduation.

"It's going to take time for us to gel," said Morrison, whose club dropped a 2-0 season-opening game to a strong Pittsford-Mendon team, despite outshooting and outplaying the non-league opponent most of the game. "Our strength will be in our depth."

The Lady Card coach has 28 on the roster at present and will look to use his usual 21 or 22 players over the course of a game.

The defense is still intact from last year's 12-4-2 team, which fell in the quarterfinals to Brighton after drawing a first-round bye. Seniors Alina Martinez and Chris Monfalcon anchor the defense, which should be bolstered with the addition of sophomore Kelly Marron. Senior Meredith Rae and junior Joan Graham give Morrison good midfielders to work with, and senior striker Kim Probst will look to assert herself offensively.

Sophomore Gia Cuccinelli, who averaged a goal a game for Tina Sotile's JV team last year, will see lots of action as a midfielder/striker. Cuccinelli played a key role in the junior varsity, going 18-0 last fall.

Junior Julie Monfalcon gives Morrison above average goaltending. The Mooney coach may also use junior keeper Lori Cunico on occasion.

Despite the massive changeover in personnel off the field, Morrison is not going to change the way his Cardinal teams play on the field.

"We're still going to play an upbeat game; we like to put a lot of pressure on (opposing) teams," Morrison said. "Everybody on the team can score."

And that may make things harder on the opposition as well as on some Lady Cards this season.

"The kids know I can't look for any one player to get the job done, and that makes them work harder in practice," Morrison explained. "And teams won't be able to say they can beat us if they stop this player or that player."

AFTER LIMPING THROUGH most of last season, the Monarchs of Mercy appear ready to give the Lady Cards a run for the money. Second-year coach Kathleen Boughton was able to keep Mercy from falling apart at the seams after a rash of injuries early last season, and has most of her team back and confident.

Even with the loss of Carole Boos (Case Western Reserve University), Beth Wambach and Tricia Reed, Boughton has more than enough in the arsenal to break Mooney's hold on the league title.

All-League standouts Laura Wambach and Andrea Colaruotolo have returned, as has Katie Doyle. In addition to those veterans, Hollis Sims and Wendy White are two new prospects who have been holding their own and then some during the early season.

What makes Mercy so dangerous is that there is no real dominant player, just a solid core of competitors.

"I've got a lot of depth on my bench this year, something that I didn't have the luxury of last year," said Boughton, whose team is off to a 3-0 start after beating Greece Olympia and Penfield in the Penfield Tournament, as well as Brighton in a non-league game. "So far we're doing very well."

Doing very well is something Mercy has not been able to say for itself — in soccer. "These girls aren't used to winning (in soccer)," Boughton said. "At the end of last season we were losing a lot of close games, and I told them then that those games were going to help us."

Apparently, she was right. **ONE OF THREE NEW** diocesan high school coaches on the girls' soccer scene this season is Bishop Kearney coach Sam Fame. Although he has never coached organized soccer before, Fame is no stranger to the game. He is a former part-owner of the now-defunct Rochester Lancers and has been a referee for more than 20 years.

The new Lady Fighting King coach is also very familiar with Kearney; he's had eight children graduate from the Kings Highway school and another one on the way. One of those siblings was his son, Rick, who is playing for the varsity at the University of Rochester as a freshman.

Fame knows he has his work cut out for him after last year's squad, which struggled through the regular season against its divisional foes before it caught fire in the sectionals. Kearney, which was coached by Patsy Tata last season, was the 15th seed in the Class AA tournament — the Lady Kings played mostly Class AAA competition during the regular season — and



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Teams like Aquinas, which found it hard to dethrone Mooney last year, will look to remove the Lady Cardinals' grasp on the title this year.

advanced all the way to the semis before losing to Greece Arcadia.

That feat will be difficult to accomplish this fall, as Fame relies on a slew of sophomores, one of which is his daughter Stephanie. Other players he'll look to offensively will be junior Sherri Bell, senior Katie Berube, and sophomores Chrissy LaBoski and Gretchen Eisenhower.

"I've got a lot of sophomores and juniors whom I'm hoping to build the program with," said Fame, whose team is 1-2 after beating Wayne and dropping games to Livonia and Hilton. "It's going to be a building year because younger girls don't have physical maturity yet."

Kearney will be short on size but not on speed this fall, according to Fame, whose daughter has also run for the Kearney track team. Sophomore Dede Gause, who has also competed for the Kearney runners, should provide her coach with more than enough speed on defense.

The new coach also plans to juggle his lineup a lot until he believes he is getting the most out of his players.

"I'd be happy with a .500 season," said Fame, who has helped with the Kearney track team and boys' soccer team the past couple of years. "I don't feel the losses to Hilton and Livonia are really going to hurt us. It's good to lose, because it gets rid of complacency."

HERE'S ONE FOR YOU trivia buffs. Name the only coach who teaches at one Catholic high school and coaches at another? Give up? The answer is Greg McMaster, who is taking over the Aquinas girls' varsity soccer team after he was assistant to former coach Mary Beth Sadler for two years. McMaster, who teaches at Cardinal Mooney, believes his situation has relieved some of the tension between the two schools.

"I think it has helped the game a lot; it is more of a friendly rivalry now," said McMaster, who is also the boys' varsity swim coach at Mooney. "A lot of the animosity (between the two schools) is gone."

A lot of team members from last year's 14-4-1 are gone too, so the new AQ coach has a lot of new faces to familiarize himself with. The graduation bell tolled for All-League center-halfback Coco O'Donnell, goalie Donna Enright and Christie Querney. To make matters tougher for the new coach, sweeper Ann Frederick transferred to Gates-Chili and fullback Karen Toth is playing for Greece Athena this year.

McMaster does have some key players returning from last year's team, which ran off 11 consecutive wins before tasting its first defeat last fall.

Third-year varsity player Cissy Bell is back as are striker Kathy Thies and sweeper Casey Compisi.

Sherri Arnell, who played goalie for Steve Ward's JV team last season, will also see lots of playing time.

The AQ coach will also use four freshmen players in Linda Oliver, Jill Hutchinson, Jennifer Leonardi and Mollie Meagher.

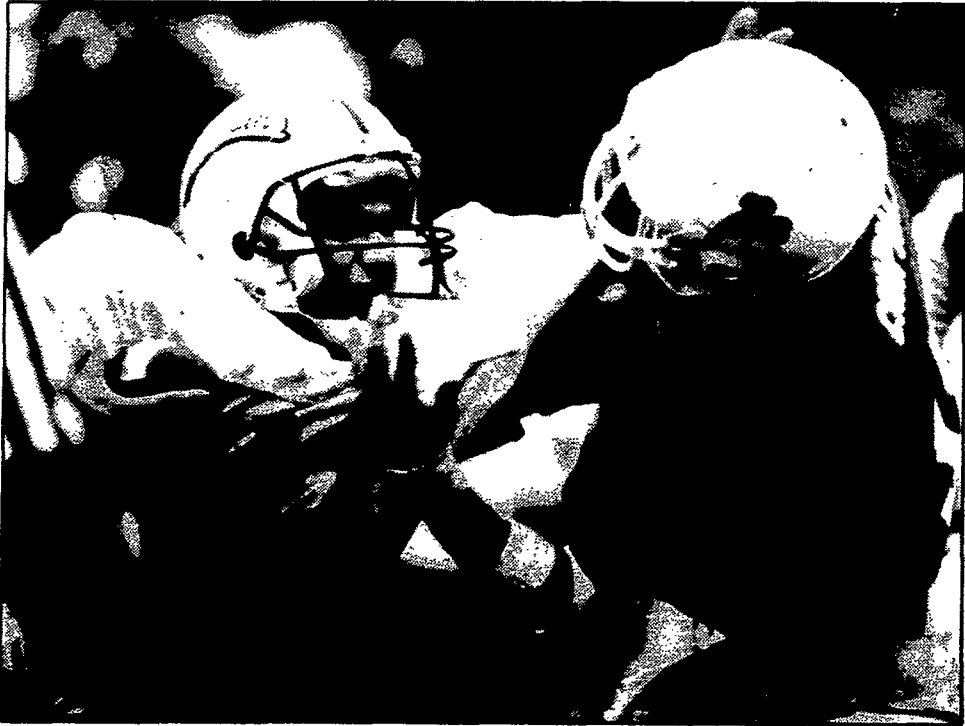
The arrival of new freshmen talent has McMaster believing that the girls' soccer program at AQ has arrived.

"We've built a good foundation here; now we're getting a lot more quality players," McMaster said.

NAZARETH ENJOYED ONE of its best regular seasons in recent memory last fall, only to stumble early in the sectionals. Dick Hendricks' squad was undefeated (6-0) outside of the league, before being upset 1-0 by Midlakes in the first round of the post-season.

Continued from Page 15

Mixed results in season-opening games for diocesan high school grid teams



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Aquinas' Mark Chapman was also busy on defense against the Spartans. Here he takes a stiff one from Gates-Chili running back Rick Rinaldi before making the tackle.

By Richard A. Kiley

The first weekend of high school football provided a mixture of good and bad results for diocesan football teams and fans.

ND 36, Watkins Glen 13

Notre Dame used a relentless offensive attack in cruising to a 36-13 victory at Watkins Glen last Friday night.

Before the season started, coach Mike D'Aloisio believed that his Crusaders had a balanced running and passing game. He wasn't disappointed in his team's season-opening win.

Bob Grosvenor didn't disappoint the numerous college scouts in attendance either, as he rumbled for 133 yards and two touchdowns in 12 carries. Mike Bernatavitz showed the Crusaders are anything but a one-back team by scampering for one TD and 69 yards on eight carries.

Quarterback Kevin Harney also got the job done, going an impressive 10-for-14 (0 interceptions) through the air for 165 yards. Harney's three primary receivers were Jim Ermold (2-75 yards), Scott Long (3-44, including 1 touchdown) and Mark Nicosia (4-47).

In the game's most telling statistic, the Crusaders committed no turnovers, while their opponents turned the ball over seven times.

Defensively, the Crusaders were awesome, yielding a mere 167 total yards — more than 40 of which came on a meaningless pass play late in the game. Watkins Glen was able to muster just 86 yards through the air on 3-for-12 passing.

D'Aloisio's club will now set its sights on geographical rival Edison in the home opener for the Crusaders. Edison was a 28-13 loser to Spencer-Van Etten last Saturday.

Gates-Chili 16, Aquinas 12

Aquinas was shocked in its season-opener when Gates-Chili's Jeff Whitman returned a blocked punt for a touchdown with a little more than a minute left, giving the Spartans a 16-12 upset win over the Little Irish before a disappointed home crowd.

As was the case during the ND-Watkins Glen game, turnovers were a key as Chris Battaglia's Little Irish team fumbled the ball three times.

Turnovers allowed the Spartans to jump out to a 10-0 lead, before AQ recovered and looked to have the game under control.

Rosario Marinaro booted a 30-yard field goal, and Craig Valentine ran one yard for a touchdown to give Gates-Chili a 10-point bulge.

But AQ, which outgained the Spartans 250 to 72 in total offense, was able to regain the

Continued on Page 15