

Football

Continued from Page 20

Crusaders, who were ranked 16th among small schools in the state last week. Chenango Forks, a perennial powerhouse from Binghamton, was ranked 10th in the state poll.

Chenango Forks led by just 10-6 at the half, but blew the game open in the third quarter with two more scores. One TD came on a 63-yard run that the ND coach said "took the wind right out of us."

The Crusaders were able to move the ball offensively, racking up 270 total yards on offense. Three turnovers kept ND from scoring more. "They didn't even think we'd score on them," D'Aloisio said after the game.

Chenango Forks turned the ball over five times, but ran for 271 yards plus 170 yards in the air to inflict the most damage by far on the Crusader defense this season.

The Binghamton powerhouse keyed on back Bob Grosvenor, who was held to 60 yards on 16 carries. ND quarterback Kevin Harney (9-18, 2 INT) threw for 137 yards and ran for 40 more.

Scott Long was the leading Crusader receiver, gathering in five receptions for 80 yards.

D'Aloisio and his club must now set their sights on Windsor, a 28-6 winner over a tough Norwich team. The seventh-year coach termed Windsor "a carbon copy" of Chenango Forks. The game marks Notre Dame's homecoming.

Red Jacket 22, DeSales 20

DeSales coach Jim McNicholas and his players came within :04 of winning its first game of the season Saturday, Sept. 26 against host Red Jacket, but came up short when a field goal attempt was blocked in the confusing closing seconds of the league contest. It appeared Red Jacket was going to just run out the clock in the fourth quarter, until the Saint defense forced a turnover near midfield.

DeSales was able to move the ball to deep in Red Jacket territory, but confusion in the game's winning moments ended any hopes of DeSales pulling out a win.

"I wanted to send in a play with :18 seconds left to stop the clock, but our field-goal unit went out (on the field) instead, and the field goal try was blocked," said McNicholas, describing the frantic final moments. "One of my key linemen was out with an injury, and one of their guys was able to get a hand on it (the ball)."

That key lineman was Pedro Rojas, who left the game in the third quarter with a severe concussion.

After Alex Onarato gave the Saints a 7-0 lead with his 14-yard TD run, Red Jacket

scored 16 unanswered points to open up a 16-7 halftime lead. To make matters worse for DeSales, starting QB Mark Walters left the game in the first half with a broken knuckle. But back-up quarterback Ron Cecere engineered two Saint scoring drives in the second half, and the DeSales defense tightened up to make the game close.

The DeSales coach was unsure as to whether or not Walters would be back this Saturday against Batavia Notre Dame. "You hate to see any injury, but I don't think we'll lose much with Ronnie in there," McNicholas said. "We will miss Mark's experience if he can't play."

DeSales' game against Batavia ND, a 27-7 winner over Pembroke last weekend, is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Mercy

Continued from Page 20

league title.

"It's going to be a real close game; the team with the most guts will win," Boughton said.

Morrison is no stranger to pressure-packed games like the one against Mercy, but his team may be. The sixth-year coach endured many losses to graduation in the off-season and only recently has seen a glimpse of what his players are capable of doing. Mooney handily beat an up-and-coming Nazareth team, 5-1, last Thursday, Sept. 24.

"We got on them real quick," said Morrison, whose Lady Cards are 4-1-1 for the season thus far. Mooney's only loss came to Pittsford Mendon in its season-opening game. "We're beginning to score a lot more goals," he said.

Against Mercy, however, the Mooney coach will look to keep Mercy from scoring, something other Section 5 teams have been unable to do.

"Mercy is big and strong; they've got a lot of firepower," said Morrison, who coaches the varsity girls' basketball team at Mooney and is probably more accustomed to describing the Monarchs' hoop team that way. "It's going to

be a battle just keeping them off the board."

Nazareth coach Dick Hendricks is still talking about his team's 5-1 loss to Mooney. He gives Mooney the advantage against Mercy in the run for the title.

"Scott just has so many players to use, and he doesn't lose anything when he goes to his bench," said Hendricks, whose Nazareth club is 2-1-1 thus far this season. "Mooney always seems to find a way to pull things out in the end."

First-year DeSales coach Mike Rood has experienced a little bit of everything in his inaugural season with the Lady Saints.

DeSales' lone win in seven games has come against Romulus, 2-0.

"That's until Romulus had a boy," Rood quipped.

That happens to be Mike Gregorian, whose goal Saturday, Sept. 26, was the only tally of the game as Romulus avenged the earlier defeat to the Lady Saints.

Gregorian's case is still being decided by the Finger Lake West Division, which had not yet ruled whether the Romulus player's talents exceeded those of his teammates.

Although his team has been on the short end of some lopsided scores, Rood doesn't think

McQuaid 18, Mooney 6

Coach Tom Sprague's Knights put themselves in the City-Catholic League title picture with an 18-6 win over winless Cardinal Mooney at Mooney last Sunday.

The Knight running game — which had trouble getting going last week against East — wore down the Cardinal defense as Joe Ritchie rumbled for more than 150 yards, including a 45-yard TD run before halftime.

The McQuaid defense also accounted a touchdown when Terry Quirk pounced on a fumbled lateral in the end zone for a score.

Scott Quinlan's TD toss to Jason Mancuso provided Mooney's only points for the afternoon.

third place is out of the question in the Finger Lakes West.

"South Seneca, Romulus and ourselves are all pretty even; I think we're starting to come around," Rood said.

Steve Weber's Lady Crusaders are currently nestled in fourth place in the Sullivan Trail Conference with a 3-3 record.

That's a marked improvement from the first half of the season last fall, when his Notre Dame team was able to muster just won victory the first time around the schedule.

"We're pretty much where I hoped we would be," Weber said. "We're scoring a lot more."

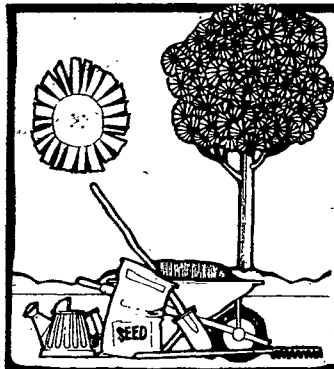
And how. The Lady Crusaders have already scored half as many goals as they scored last season and they still have 11 games remaining in the regular season.

Like DeSales is experiencing this year, ND was on the wrong end of some lopsided losses last season. That has changed too.

Notre Dame's three losses have come to Addison (1-0), Hornell (2-0) and Elmira Free Academy (2-0).

"I've got a lot more speed this year than I had last year," Weber said, "so I've been able to change our style a little bit."

And turn some losses into wins.



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