

C-J Sports

Knights gain top spot after 3-1 win over Cardinals

By Richard A. Kiley
Round 1: McQuaid

The first head-to-head matchup between Cardinal Mooney and McQuaid since the Knights' stunning come-from-behind win in last year's sectional quarterfinals once again went to McQuaid, 3-1, in a game played at Mooney on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

All the scoring was done in the first half. Two goals :30 apart by Tom Prane and Dan Wilmot were the difference for Dan Scheid's club, which stands at 6-2 (3-0 league) this season. Wilmot got credit for McQuaid's second goal when he was the last player to touch the ball after a shot caromed in off of a Mooney defender.

"Those two goals were the difference," said Mooney coach Paul Forte, whose club was 5-3 (2-1 league) after beating Aquinas and Athena later that week. "We carried the play in the second half, but we couldn't score . . . McQuaid is an excellent team."

Wilmot's second goal of the game when the ball carried in off of Mooney keeper, Pat Corrigan after the shot hit the goal post flush on.

Even without a large crowd on hand, the league contest had all the intensity of a sectional game. That pleased Scheid, whose club was coming off tough games against Pittsford Sutherland and Aquinas.

"Considering the time of year . . . I thought the boys played as well as they could play," said Scheid, who took over the varsity this season for Lou Boyon. "We played much better in the first half than we did in the second (half), but it's tough to ask them (his players) to play at the same level considering the number of games they play."

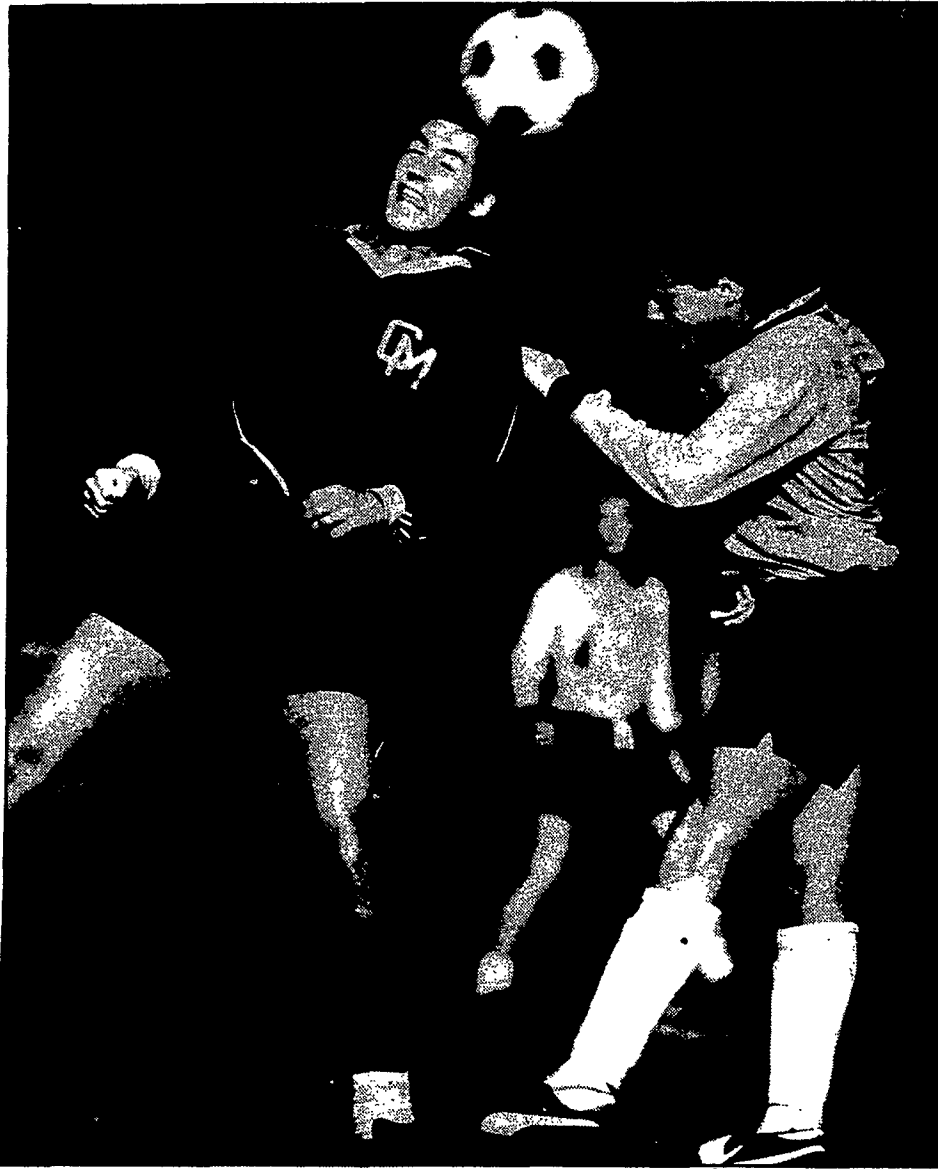
"When we play to our potential . . . we're tough to beat," Scheid added.

McQuaid followed up the win over Mooney with a 3-0 victory over Edison.

Forte's club rebounded from the loss to shut out Aquinas, 1-0, on Thursday, September 24, and Greece Athena, 2-0, on Saturday, September 26.

Thus far this season, all of Mooney's wins have been shutouts.

Against Emilio Monti's Little Irish, the



Bonnie Trafolet/Courier-Journal
Mooney's Peter Mojsej (left) has a head up on McQuaid's Brian DeJoy as the Cardinal midfielder looks to keep the ball in Knight territory. McQuaid nipped Mooney in the key early season battle, 3-1.

Cards waited until just :40 was left on the clock, when Greg Mueller found the net for the only goal of the game.

Mueller's goal was assisted by Peter Mojsej, who led his teammate perfectly and then watched as the senior midfielder scored from 25 yards out.

After the 2-0 win over Athena on Saturday, a game in which Mooney outshot its opponent 14-9, Forte tried to assess his team's performance to date and put the season into perspective.

"We're still trying to get used to each oth-

er; we've had a few bad breaks," said Forte, whose team's three losses occurred by one goal. "But everybody in the A Section is capable of winning it (the sectionals) this year and that is reflected within our league."

Forte believes that because some teams in the City-Catholic League have "pulled even" with his Cardinals in terms of talent this year, it may be the toughest season in recent campaigns for clinching yet another league title.

"Other teams seem to be catching up to us," Forte said. "It's going to be real battle." Especially with McQuaid.

Mercy making run at Mooney; ND, DeSales gaining respect

By Richard A. Kiley

All eyes this week will be on the pivotal Private-Parochial League game between Cardinal Mooney and Mercy, which is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at Mercy.

It's the kind of game that could serve as a springboard to a championship season.

Both teams entered the league battle eager to gain the advantage in the quest for the league title. The two will meet again on October 22 — the last game of the season for both Catholic schools.

Kathy Boughton, who is familiar with having successful basketball campaigns, is still trying to get her players used to the feeling of being unbeaten in soccer.

"These kids have never felt what it was like to be 7-0; they've been at the other end of it, though," said Boughton, whose club has outscored its opponents by an astonishing 33-4.

Offense has never been one of Mercy's weaknesses. Even during losing seasons the Monarchs had the knack for scoring. The only problem was that Mercy couldn't keep other teams from doing the same — and more often.

"I think the key to our start this season has been our defense; we've got real speed back there," said Boughton, who coached the Monarchs to a 4-9-1 mark in her first season as varsity coach last fall. "Our offense has always been our strong point, but this year the defense understands the game more. Last year we didn't know how to mark players and play defense when the ball was in our end."

What a difference a year makes. This year, goalie Andrea Colaruotolo has been complaining of loneliness watching her teammates bombard opponents' goal.

That has been a luxury the senior keeper has never had.

"Andrea has really had to work to get where she is now," said Boughton, who called her keeper one of the best if not the best in the section. "She'll play college . . . probably a Division II school."

Right now, the Mercy coach and her players have their eyes on Scott Morrison's Mooney team, which like the boys' varsity team at Mooney is gunning for its seventh consecutive

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No real surprises in third weekend of football for diocesan grid teams

By Richard A. Kiley

With the exception of the Notre Dame-Chenango Forks game last Friday night, there were no real surprises in the third weekend of high school football.

Aquinas 19, Edison 0

Aquinas' defense played its second consecutive near-flawless game before a sun-splashed home crowd, as the Little Irish (2-1) roared to a 19-0 league win over Edison Saturday, Sept. 26.

Mark Chapman accounted for all three AQ touchdowns, scoring on a six-yard run, a 65-yard punt return and a 45-yard pass from Little Irish quarterback Brian Monteleone.

A shoo-in Division I prospect, Chapman has benefitted from Chris Battaglia's wide-open offense this season. Because Aquinas has above average offensive weapons in Chris Culver, Corey Collins and Tony Postell, Chapman has had more room to strut his stuff before frustrated opposing defenses and interested college scouts.

"A lot of things Mark did (against Edison) were because of what Corey (Collins) and Jermaine (McGowan) did," Battaglia said, adding that McGowan accrued more than 60 of the 230 total yards for the Little Irish offense. Culver was also a main component in the arsenal, accounting for more than 80 yards in all.

"They had to stop all them," Battaglia said. The AQ defense was able to keep the Inventors offense in check, yielding a mere 74 total yards. The defensive surge was led by John Messura and Matt Gerhardt's 10 tackles apiece.

During the last two weeks, Battaglia's club has shown no ill effects from its season-opening loss to Gates Chili. The third-year

coach grid coach said he'll make sure that trend continues.

"I told them we lost that game because we gave up the ball and that we had to go to work," Battaglia said.

Aquinas, 2-0 in league play, will now go to work this Sunday against Cardinal Mooney at Mooney at 2 p.m.

Kearney 50, E. Syra-Minoa 0

Aquinas wasn't the only diocesan high school flexing its muscles defensively last weekend. Nick Teta's Fighting Kings rolled to their third consecutive win without a loss in the 1987 season, by drubbing visiting East Syracuse-Minoa, 50-0, Saturday Sept. 26. Kearney proved an ungracious host, cashing in on several of its opponent's turnovers.

The Fighting Kings were equally impressive on offense, as eight different players reached the end zone.

Quarterback Tim Englerth threw for one score, and even the Kearney defense joined in on the fun when Bill Oberlies ran back an interception more than 100 yards.

Kearney is 3-0 overall, and 1-0 in league competition.

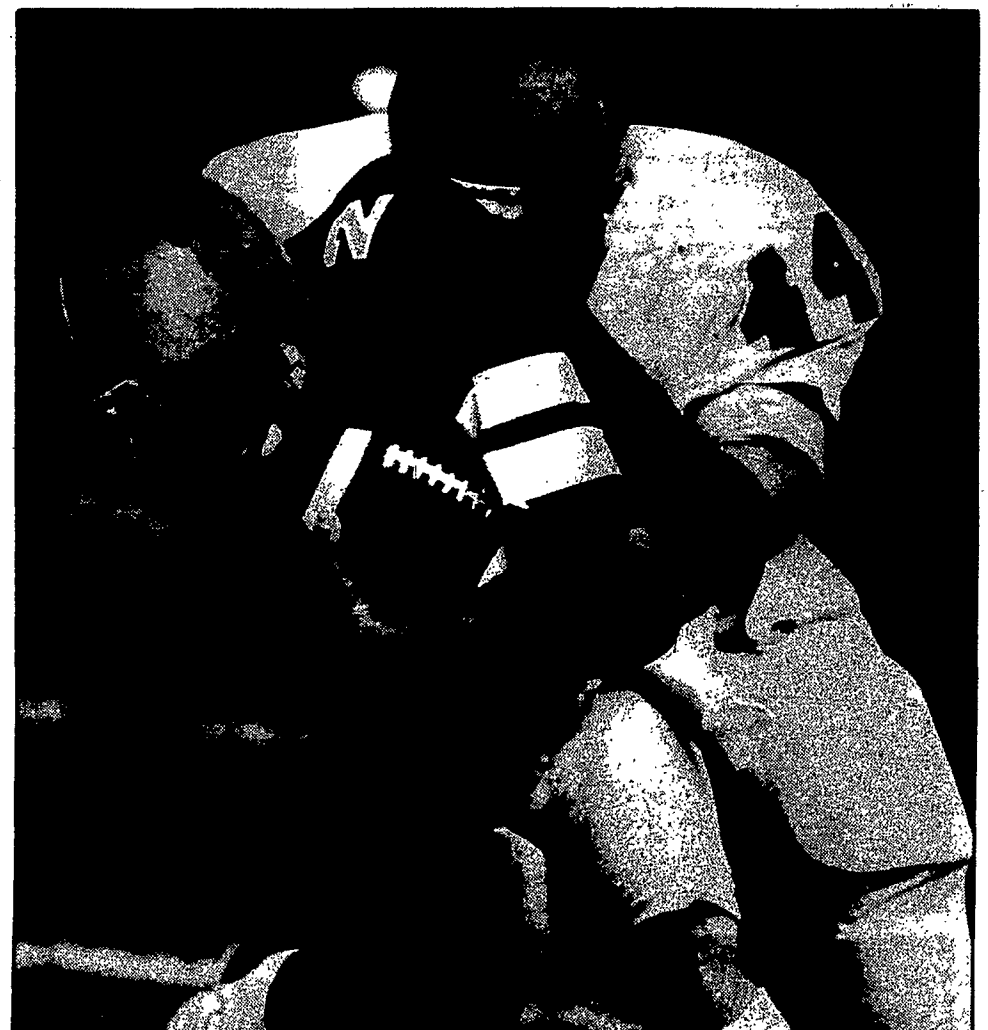
Chenango Forks 31, ND 12

The fact that Notre Dame's Crusaders got beaten by a strong Chenango Forks wasn't completely surprising. The way they lost was unexpected, however.

After two impressive wins in as many weeks, Notre Dame was brought back down to earth by a humbling 31-12 loss in front of its home crowd Friday night, Sept. 25.

The tables were turned on Mike D'Aloisio's

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Bonnie Trafolet/Courier-Journal
McQuaid's Steve Schott is wrapped up by Mooney's Scott Hylas during action from the first quarter of the Knights' league victory over the winless Cardinals.