

Football

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Sprague, adding that because McQuaid doesn't have a home field to practice on — the field is now under renovation for the 1988 season — "the passing game has suffered especially." McQuaid's defense, however, is making opposing teams' suffer more.

Aquinas 37, Mooney 6

Aquinas back Jermaine McGowan set the tone of the game early with an 80-yard TD run on the first play from scrimmage and Tony Postell returned a fumble for a touchdown later in the opening quarter as Chris Battaglia's visiting Little Irish (3-1) roared to a 37-6 win over winless City-Catholic rival Cardinal Mooney (0-4) on Sunday, October 4.

The Little Irish offense was as crisp as the weather, jumping out to a 23-0 halftime lead, and they never looked back.

Aquinas has now outscored its opponents 83-6 the past three games combined.

McGowan was unstoppable rushing, amassing 207 yards on 13 carries. The junior back — that's right, he's a junior so he'll be back for one more year — also scored AQ's third touchdown of the day when he was on the receiving end of a 23-yard pass from quarterback Brian Monteleone. A 70-yard run by McGowan set up another score.

Postell's second TD of the day came on a four-yard scamper.

Scott Quinlan scored Mooney's lone touchdown of the day in the fourth quarter when he reached the end zone from one yard out.

Aquinas, which is unbeaten in league play, will face McQuaid in a pivotal game for both teams this weekend.

And Sprague, who attended AQ's dismantling of Mooney, knows his Knights are in for a real battle.

"They (Aquinas) looked like the (Dallas) Cowboys out there," said Sprague, referring to the way Battaglia's Little Irish squad showed

a lot of motion and used countless misdirection plays. "They're going to be tough to defend."

The McQuaid coach added that his club saw the same wide spread set Aquinas uses when his club faced Mooney two weeks ago, but that AQ has the personnel to inflict more damage offensively.

Sprague said the weather may prove a factor, especially if it is not conducive to the Little Irish passing game. "They like to throw the ball and use surprise passes," the Knight coach said. "It would be nice to get the jump on them."

The game is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, at 1 p.m.

ND 14, Windsor 6

In its Homecoming Game, before more than 1,000 wet fans, Notre Dame used a controlled offense in beating Windsor, 14-6, under the lights Friday night, Oct. 2, in Elmira.

The Crusaders displayed the character that championship teams need to have, rebounding from a 31-12 to Chenango Forks just a week earlier.

Crusader coach Mike D'Aloisio's assessment of Windsor as a carbon copy of Chenango Forks proved to be correct.

"Only Windsor is a year away; they were a little younger than Forks," D'Aloisio said after the game. "And we played a lot better this week."

D'Aloisio was more accustomed to the outcome of this week's battle, but he wasn't used to the way he and his team had to go about it. After opening up a 14-6 lead, the Crusaders had to go into a ball-control offense in the second half due to a deluge of rain at halftime.

"When it rains as much as it did, it limited us to what we could do offensively," said D'Aloisio, after his team improved to 3-1 for the season.

What ND likes to do is throw the ball and confuse opposing players with an array of offensive schemes that would make most high school grid teams look ultra-conservative in comparison.

After the skies opened up, though, those

plays were washed away and Notre Dame had to control the ball by using its running game.

"We held our own (in the second half)," said D'Aloisio, who was thinking of how his players were sometimes worn down by using that type of offense in the past. "Going head to head with people hasn't really been one of our strengths in the past."

Thanks to the running of Bob Grosvenor (20 rushes, 88 yards) and Mike Bernatavitz (16 carries, 56 yards) as well as the first-half passing of Kevin Harney (11-for-18, 131 yards), the Crusaders were able to get all the points they needed.

After Windsor opened up a 6-0 lead, ND scored 14 unanswered points on a Grosvenor TD run and a short pass from Harney to receiver Scott Long.

ND did all its passing in the first half, as Harney sprayed the ball all over to Grosvenor (1 reception, 45 yards), John Philipps (four catches, 39 yards), Mark Nicosia (one catch, 14 yards) and Bernatavitz (one reception, 11 yards).

ND had 283 total yards on offense compared to 149 for Windsor.

"We were able to move the ball with a little more consistency this week," D'Aloisio said. "We didn't see the same coverages thrown at us like we did against Forks."

The Crusaders defense, which was still hurting somewhat from the game against Chenango Forks, regained the intensity it had in the first two games of the season to thwart Windsor. Randy Harvey was in on 14 tackles and Bernatavitz, Philipps and Mike Saxe all played well defensively for D'Aloisio.

According to the Crusader coach, a team meeting held earlier in the week enabled his players to get their heads back together after its first loss of the season.

"They worked hard in practice last week; I think that little team meeting helped," D'Aloisio said. "After watching the films of the game, they saw how they moved the ball against them (Chenango Forks), but turnovers came at inopportune times. This week they played like they were inspired."

ND will need the same inspired play against Newark Valley (4-0) this Saturday. ND fans don't have to be reminded of the last time the two teams faced each other in the game termed the "Mud Bowl!" Newark Valley emerged from the adverse weather conditions with a 2-0 win.

The game is scheduled to start at Newark Valley at 1 p.m.

Batavia ND 42, DeSales 14

DeSales coach Jim McNicholas and his Saints are still looking for their first win of the season after Batavia Notre Dame rolled to a 42-14 win at DeSales last Saturday, October 3.

Batavia Notre Dame jumped out to a 34-0 halftime bulge and cruised from there on in. Notre Dame running backs Rob Nenni and Rick Mattice each scored twice for ND (4-0).

DeSales' opponent scored on its first five possessions.

Nenni ran for 145 yards on the ground, and Mattice amassed 87 yards as the running game wore down a smaller Saint defense.

DeSales will look to obtain its first win of the season against Whitman at home this Saturday.

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1 Thess. 4:3, 6b & 8a

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