

Sports

Kearney romps, AQ stumbles in season finales before playoffs

By Richard A. Kiley

After ending the regular season on far different notes, Bishop Kearney and Aquinas readied for Section 5 football playoffs this weekend.

Kearney 46, East 6

Nick Teta's Fighting Kings ended their regular season on a resounding note with a 46-6 thumping of the Orientals at East on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Kearney was in control throughout, jumping to a 19-0 lead in the first half before blowing East out in the second half.

The win qualified the Kings (4-2 league, 6-2 overall) for their first-ever Class AA sectional playoffs. Freshman back Lamin Massaquo, who has come on strong for Teta in the second half of the season, scored on rushes of three, four and two yards for Kearney.

Once again, the Kings' offense did not rely on the run alone as quarterback Craig Chodak completed seven of 10 passes for 125 yards. The Kearney quarterback hooked up with tight end Carlos Shippy on a 35-yard pass play in the second quarter for one score.

The Chodak-Shippy combination has been an integral part of the Kings' offense of late. "Chodak's been throwing the ball well, and once you get the ball into Carlos' hands, he's such a big and imposing receiver," Teta said after the game.

As many other teams have also done this season, East stacked its defense to stop the Kings' rushing game and was burned by several big pass plays.

Teta knows that he'll need to keep his team's offense diversified in order to have any chance of beating No. 1 Wilson in a Class AA semifinal game Friday night, Nov. 6, at Fauver Stadium. Kearney is seeded No. 4.

"We've scouted (Wilson) this season; they like to run the wishbone offense," said Teta, whose Kings played Wilson to a 16-16 tie last season. A missed extra point could have won the game for the Kings in their meeting with the Wildcats last year. "We have to prevent their backs from getting into the secondary," he added.

Stopping Wilson's running game should prove a formidable task for the Kings, who have only given up 41 points all season. Senior Burnice Green, who scored three touchdowns and went over the 1,000-yard rushing mark in Wilson's 42-0 win over Marshall last Saturday afternoon, Oct. 31, is the Wildcats' main running back, but certainly not the only one.

Wilson (3-0, 8-0) averaged 390 rushing yards per game this season. Varick Baiyina enjoyed his eighth consecutive 100-yard game as a senior against Marshall last week (15 rushes, 133 yards), and Charles Alexander added 81 yards on only five carries. In all, Joe Camillacci's Wildcats finished with 442 rushing yards and 448 total yards.

Massaquo and the return of Steve "Beaver" Smith, who dislocated his thumb a week prior to Kearney's loss to Aquinas, give Kearney a running game that could mean trouble for Wilson's defense. Teta often rotates as many as

seven backs in a game.

Kearney has also faced larger competition than Wilson this season, a factor which may provide an edge for the Kings.

The Class AA semifinal between Kearney and Wilson is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday night, Nov. 6. No. 3 Canandaigua and No. 2 Newark will play in the other Class AA semifinal game at Fauver on Friday at 6 p.m.

Rush-Henrietta 20, Aquinas 17

All season Aquinas coach Chris Battaglia said his highly touted Little Irish team was no more than average when it was plagued by mistakes. Miscues played a large part in AQ's season-opening loss to Gates-Chili.

Against Rush-Henrietta in the 14th meeting of the regular-season-ending game for both schools, Aquinas looked like just an average football team in its 20-17 loss at home last Saturday, Oct. 31.

Early on that wasn't the case. AQ (6-0 league, 6-2 overall) seemed to have the game well in hand, leading 17-7 in the third quarter thanks to two touchdown passes to Mark Chapman.

But R-H (4-4) turned a Little Irish fumble into a touchdown, and Tim Cox passed four yards to Rod Hassan in the game's final quarter to propel the Royal Comets on to the win.

AQ, which clinched a spot in the Class AAA playoffs with a win over East two weeks ago, will face No. 2 Irondequoit at Fauver Stadium Saturday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. Battaglia, whose Little Irish are seeded No. 3 in Class AAA, didn't seem worried that the turn of events against Rush-Henrietta would affect his team against Irondequoit.

"I really don't think they (Rush-Henrietta) beat us; we beat ourselves," Battaglia said after the game. "We were in control of the game, but then not only did we fumble, but they returned it for a touchdown. Then the momentum sort of swung their way."

Rush-Henrietta also used a little razzle-dazzle against AQ on an 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

"Things like that don't concern me," Battaglia said.

Now the AQ grid coach has to concern himself with Irondequoit, which features potent offensive weapons in David Walker and Rob Snedden. Walker rushed for 172 yards as Irondequoit — ranked 11th in the New York State Sports Writers Association large-school ratings — nipped Gates-Chili 7-6 last Friday night, Oct. 30.

As did Aquinas against R-H, the Braves proved they were not immune to mistakes after two touchdowns were called back because of penalties.

"I've seen (Irondequoit) a couple of times this year; we're just as equal (offensively)," Battaglia said.

The Aquinas-Irondequoit contest is sched-

uled for 6 p.m. at Fauver this Saturday. It marks the first time since 1984, when Dave Whitcomb took the Little Irish to the semis, that AQ has reached the sectionals. The other Class AAA semifinal game between No. 4 Greece Athena and top-seeded Fairport will follow at 8:30 p.m.

ND 35, Waverly 7

The end of the season appears to be the only thing that can stop Notre Dame. The Crusaders' offense continued to roll in a 35-7 win over Waverly last Friday night, Oct. 30, before an enthusiastic Parents' Night crowd at Notre Dame.

But Mike D'Aloisio's squad was eliminated from post-season play when Newark Valley beat Windsor 28-21 last weekend, ending any hopes of an extended season for Notre Dame (6-2 overall, 3-1 league). The Crusaders still have a chance of being co-champions of the Southern Trails Football League if Newark Valley loses to league foe Waverly in its regular-season-ending game.

ND's drubbing of Waverly (4-3-1) marked the third week in a row that the Crusader offense surpassed the 400-yard plateau in total offense.

Notre Dame controlled the offensive line of scrimmage and the ball in this one, grinding out 26 first downs for the night and 410 total yards. Notre Dame has now gained 1,250 offensive yards in its last three wins, and has averaged 342 yards in total offense this season.

The game was never in doubt as the Crusaders led 16-0 after one quarter, 22-0 at the half, and 28-0 after three quarters of play, when D'Aloisio used his reserves. It was the second consecutive game in which the Notre Dame defense shut down its opponent for the first three quarters.

Junior Bob Grosvenor, who surpassed the 1,000-yard rushing mark with 144 yards on 21 carries, scored one touchdown for the Crusaders, and junior Mike Bernatavitz (25 carries, 105 yards) added another. Bernatavitz also accounted for two points on defense when he tackled a Waverly runner in his own end zone. Grosvenor has 1,005 yards for the year, and Bernatavitz has 655.

Kevin Harney enjoyed one of his best games of the season, rushing for two scores (3 rushes, 16 yards) and passing for a third. In all, Harney, who hails from Waverly, passed for 140 yards on 14-for-17 passing and just one interception.

Overall, ND turned the ball over twice. With the win, the Crusaders continued to impress D'Aloisio, who admits frankly that he and his staff weren't sure what this year's team was capable of doing.

"We underestimated our kids a little bit; we weren't sure how they matched up against the other teams' (players)," D'Aloisio said. "We handled Watkins Glen and Edison easily in our

first two games, but it wasn't until after the game against Chenango Forks that we saw how they could handle themselves."

And although D'Aloisio was obviously disappointed to find out that Newark Valley had won, thus becoming the league's representative in an upcoming bowl game, he eagerly awaits next season's accomplishments.

"We're still young in some areas, and of course Grosvenor and Bernatavitz will be coming back," said D'Aloisio, who added that the JV has also been doing very well of late.

But this year's team still has some unfinished business. With a win at Dryden in its regular-season finale, Notre Dame can set a record for the most wins ever by a Crusader team. ND tied the school mark for wins with the victory over Waverly.

The ND-Dryden game is scheduled for Friday night, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

South Seneca 20, DeSales 14

For one half, it looked as if DeSales would gain its only win of the season in its final game. But two South Seneca touchdowns in the second half doomed those hopes as the Saints (0-8) fell, 20-14, last Saturday afternoon, Oct. 31.

Sophomore Chris Ike was a bright spot for Coach Jim McNicholas' Saints, scoring on a 40-yard touchdown pass from junior quarterback Ron Cecere, and running 13 yards for another score.

Cecere, who passed for 290 yards last week against Midlakes, passed for 140 more in the season finale.

South Seneca (4-4) was the preseason pick by many to win the Finger Lakes West Division.

Better days should lie ahead for DeSales, which will return 26 of 33 players next season.

Penfield 21, Mooney 6

Penfield accrued its first win of the season — at the expense of John Heck's Cardinals of Mooney. Bob Barresse paced the victory for Penfield (1-7), scoring on a 70-yard pass play from Steve Moore and running 40 yards for another score for the hosts.

Penfield also received strong running from Mike Butera, who rushed for 105 yards on nine carries, including one touchdown.

Franklin 12, McQuaid 7

It was a bitter end to a disappointing season for Tom Sprague's Knights as host Franklin (4-2, 4-4 overall) forced a key interception late in the game to beat McQuaid (3-3, 3-4-1) 12-7 last Saturday, Oct. 31.

Dion McFarland's interception and subsequent 99-yard run for a touchdown with just under eight minutes remaining in the game made the difference.

A touchdown pass from Pete Clark to Sean O'Neil provided McQuaid's lone score.

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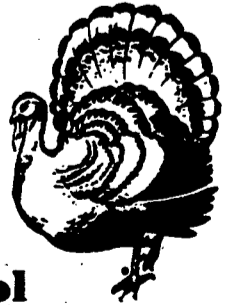
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