

Sports

New coaches, talent abound on diocesan girls' hoop teams

By Richard A. Kiley
As the 1987-88 girls' varsity basketball season gets underway, an air of uncertainty abounds among several diocesan girls' teams that feature new coaches and relatively inexperienced teams.

THAT'S NOT THE CASE at Our Lady of Mercy High School, where third-year coach Kathy Boughton returns a solid nucleus from last year's 14-5 team in addition to a key transfer picked up during the off-season. Although Boughton lost a lot of offense in wing guard Beth Wambach (Harvard), Kerry McCarthy (Ohio University) and Julie Seitz (Ithaca), she has more than enough talent to bring the Section 5 championship back to Blossom Road.

Point guard Julie Buntich, a 5-foot-6 junior transfer from Rush-Henrietta, should prove a more prolific scorer than Wambach, but is still trying to master her two-way game. "She's learning to become a great defensive player," Boughton said. "Julie is my best player off the fast break."

Running the fast break was something the Monarchs — losers in last year's quarterfinal round to Pittsford Mendon — had difficulty with at times as their three-season string of Class AA championships was broken.

Mercy's inside game is in good hands with second-year starter Bernadette Fagan. The 5-foot-11 junior, who transferred to Mercy from Edison Tech two years ago, averaged eight points a game last year and should dominate opposing players even more this season after working out with the Empire State Games team this summer.

Julie Pagliuso, a 5-foot-8 senior forward, is gaining confidence, said Boughton, who also has key returners in seniors Laura Wambach, Jenny Baxter and Joanne Barney. The 5-foot-4 Wambach (6 ppg) is one of the best defensive players in the section and often initiates the fast break. Baxter (6 ppg) a three-year varsity player, will be Mercy's three-point threat in addition to Buntich.

Juniors Therese Mack, Laura Young and

Lisa Ryan as well as sophomores Maggie Whelehan and Kim Caccamise give Boughton good depth off the bench. For the first time ever, Boughton has a freshman, Mary Beth Cleary, on the team. The guard transferred to Mercy from the St. Louis area.

The Monarchs, who opened the season at Edison Tech on December 15, face a tough non-league schedule with the Olympia, Mercy and Brockport tournaments. During the Brockport tournament February 19-20, Mercy will play defending Class AA champion Pittsford Mendon in the first round.

DEFENDING PRIVATE-PAROCHIAL champion Cardinal Mooney "graduated everything but the team bus — and we rent that," according to coach Scott Morrison. Gone from last year's 19-2 team are Tracy Schmidt (11 ppg), Lori Padulo (14 ppg), Alisa Brookins (9 ppg), Lisa Serio and both Cathy and Theresa Nietopski.

Juniors Cheryl Lennox and Margie McGuire provide some experience for Morrison. Lennox is a standout in several sports at the Greece high school, and McGuire singlehandedly turned around the league-clinching game against Mercy last season. Amy Harrison and Dusty Tinsley are also back for the varsity Lady Cards.

Mooney is still one of the stronger teams in Section 5, thanks to a class JV program run by Lori Mattioli. Shannon Barry, Marisa Shackleford, Casey Maxim, Kara Bovenzi, Amy Dry and Michelle Vandeweigh are all up from a 13-5 JV team.

Junior Liz Furey, a volleyball and softball player at Mooney, gives Morrison some height to offset the team's lack of experience.

The Lady Cards, who opened the season with two solid wins over Canandaigua and Dunkirk, will need to continue their stingy defensive play if they want to keep Mercy from regaining the Private-Parochial League title. "Mercy will be strong," Morrison said. "They have to be favored (to win the league); they want to get the title back."

Continued on facing page



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Cardinal Mooney's defense had Kearney's offense under wraps in the second half, enabling the Cards to pull away with a 69-43 win.

McQuaid, Mooney meet in early clash of City-Catholic powers

By Richard A. Kiley

The second full week of games involving diocesan boys' basketball teams provided very few surprises.

Harley-Allendale Columbia transfer student Drew Henderson paced McQuaid with 15 points and 22 rebounds, as the Knights smothered East, 65-43, in City-Catholic play Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Greg Woodard led all scorers with 21 points for McQuaid (3-0), which jumped out to a 7-0 lead early and ballooned its advantage to 33-17 at intermission.

Henderson held East's star center, Tony Scott, to 14 points for the afternoon.

McQuaid was scheduled to battle Cardinal Mooney in a pivotal, early season league battle on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

CARDINAL MOONEY IMPROVED to

3-0 for the year with a 69-43 win over visiting Bishop Kearney on Friday, Dec. 11. After trailing 27-23 at halftime, Ed Nietopski's Cards held the struggling Kings to four field goals in the second half.

Mooney put the game away with a 24-4 third quarter. The Cards were led by four players in double figures. Mike Leonardo's 14 points led the onslaught for Mooney. Peter Mojsej (13), Keith Gaffney (11) and Mike McGwin (10) all contributed for Mooney.

Mike Ruff's Kings (0-3) were led by Bob Nicolay (14) and Rich Davison (12).

DESPITE MIKE COMPIS'S career-high 28 points, Aquinas dropped an 82-71 league contest to host Monroe on Friday, Dec. 11. Mike Dianetti's Little Irish were unable to overcome a 23-10 first-quarter ad-

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OPENING

High School League

Northwest Division Holy Trinity 71, Lewis Street 62 Pinnacle Lutheran 68, St. Ambrose 59 Christ the King, St. Margaret Mary (*) Blessed Sacrament 98, St. Bridget 94	Southwest Division Holy Name 58, St. Salome 41 St. Theodore, Holy Ghost (*)	Northwest Division Mother of Sorrows, St. Lawrence (*) St. John (Greece) 59, St. John (Spen.) 56 St. Charles Borromeo, Most Precious Blood (*) Sacred Heart, Holy Cross (*)	Southwest Division St. Pius Tenth 82, St. Monica 55 Holy Family, Good Counsel (*)	Southeast Division St. John (Humboldt), Assumption (*) St. Joseph (Pen.) 44, JCC 41 Good Shepherd 71, Faith Lutheran 62 St. Thomas More 89, Resurrection 51 St. John (Fpt.) 77, St. Louis 48
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Junior High Boys' League

Northwest Division St. Rita 33, Most Precious Blood 29 St. John (Spen.) (W) 42, St. Lawrence 27 St. Anthony of Padua, St. Charles Borromeo (*) Sacred Heart 48, Holy Cross 32 Mother of Sorrows, St. Thomas Apostle (*)	Southwest Division St. Pius Tenth, St. Theodore (*) Charles House, Good Counsel (*) Seton, St. Helen (*) St. Monica, St. Anne/St. Boniface (*) St. John (Spen.) (B), Holy Ghost (*)	Northwest Division St. Salome 79, St. Margaret Mary 57 St. John (Humboldt), St. Cecilia (*) St. Ambrose 60, Blessed Sacrament #2 38 Lewis Street 65, St. Josephat 28
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Southeast Division
CYP (Mendon) 75, Good Shepherd 43
St. John (Fpt.), Pinnacle Lutheran (*)
Blessed Sacrament #1 64, Oatka 52
St. Louis, St. Joseph (Pen.) (*)

Junior High Girls' League

East Division Blessed Sacrament 37, Good Counsel 29 St. Louis 41, St. Joseph (Pen.) 28 Lewis Street, Seton (*) Christ the King 25, St. Rita 7	West Division St. Pius Tenth 45, St. Theodore 22 St. Ambrose 16, Sacred Heart/Nazareth Hall 8 Mother of Sorrows, St. John (Spen.) (*) St. Charles 34, Holy Cross 15
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(*) No scores reported

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