

Sports

# Lady Cardinals (9-0) getting little notice; DeSales at .500

By Richard A. Kiley

Despite its impressive accomplishments in recent seasons, the Cardinal Mooney girls' varsity basketball team has had a tough time getting the respect paid to other traditionally strong teams in Section 5.

This year's Lady Cards have jumped out to a 9-0 start, but are still considered the "other" standout team in the Private-Parochial League because of the successes of the hoop program at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

The undefeated start by Scott Morrison's girls has a few people talking, but only a few. That may change after Mooney meets Mercy today (January 14), marking the first meeting between the two Catholic schools since the Lady Cards removed the Monarchs' long stranglehold on the league title last year.

Only a weak showing in the second half against Pittsford Mendon kept last year's potent Mooney team, which finished 19-2, from going on to bigger and better things. And Morrison believes this year's club is even more dynamic on offense.

"We've got more shooters on the floor this year than last year," said Morrison, who had a couple of textbook shooters in Lori Padulo and Tracy Schmidt. "The defense is what is surprising me."

Morrison has always prided himself in his teams' stingy defensive play, but a high turnover of players in the off-season had him wondering how well his inexperienced players could apply the pressure and score like past Mooney teams have done.

"I knew I could count on Cheryl Lennox, Marisa Shackelford and Margie McGuire, but Shannon Barry and Amy Harrison have surprised me," he said.

Barry, who scored a basket in the waning seconds to defeat Penfield in the Hilton Tournament last month, and Harrison have been pleasant surprises for their coach, he still considers Lennox, Shackelford and McGuire the core of the team.

All three played decisive roles in the Lady Cards' most recent win against Walt Gordinier's tough Nazareth team on Thursday, Jan. 7. Shackelford poured in 27 points, and McGuire added 23 points as Mooney defeated Nazareth, 63-44. Lennox was the catalyst on offense, dishing out several nifty assists.

Morrison knows he'll need a tremendous team effort to knock off Mercy, something his squad was able to do twice last season.

"(Mercy's) got the upper hand because they've got three seniors and two juniors," Morrison said.

That may be so, especially since Kathy Boughton's Monarchs (6-1) will be coming off two rugged games in the Mercy Invitational at Nazareth College last weekend. The Monarchs

fell just short in the opening game to Rush-Henrietta and went on to take third place with a win in the consolation game against Utica Notre Dame.

A third consecutive win over Mercy, which narrowly avoided being upset by Donna Scrinario's scrappy Bishop Kearney team on Wednesday, Jan. 6, might finally gain Morrison and his girls a little more attention.

"We're starting to pick up a basketball tradition here; we've been successful now for three or four years," Morrison said. "But I don't feel we're getting the attention we deserve. People are finally starting to recognize us, though."

Since Steve Muzzi took over the reigns of the girls' basketball program at DeSales High School, most of his teams have been at or near the top in the Finger Lakes West Division. Muzzi is in an unfamiliar position this year, however, with his Lady Saints standing 4-4 after a loss to Bloomfield and Honeoye last week.

DeSales' demise began when starting point guard Jeneane Donahue had to undergo arthroscopic surgery in her knee after the Lady Saints' second game of the season.

Since the sophomore has been out of the lineup, DeSales has had difficulty handling its opponents' defensive pressure.

"We've been inconsistent on offense ... we need to start handling the (defensive) pressure better," said Muzzi, whose club was the top seed in the Section 5 Class D tourney last year.

In the Huzzon Bank Tournament December 29-30, Muzzi's girls never came to recover from a 31-16 halftime deficit in a 53-38 loss to Geneva. Stacy Marsteiner, a 5-foot-11 senior for DeSales, was one of the few bright spots for DeSales, scoring 17 points and gathering 11 rebounds.

In the consolation game, the Lady Saints used relentless pressure of their own and the shooting of Becky Broomfield (11 points) to defeat Sodus, 42-29.

"We played a lot better on defense; I was happy with the way we came back from the loss to Geneva," Muzzi said.

After losses to Bloomfield and Honeoye last week, in which DeSales scored 61 points total, Muzzi now realizes this year's team will need to assert itself defensively if it wishes to win consistently.

"I'm not really used to a team having a tough time on offense," Muzzi said. "I'm happy with the play of the defense, but we're not handling the pressure the way we usually did in the past," Muzzi said.

Judging by Muzzi's track record, which includes a Class D title in 1986, it's just a matter of time before his girls get untracked.



Mercy's Bernadette Fagan attempts a shot from in-close as Rush Henrietta's Sherry Anderson looks on. The Monarchs fell to the Royal Comets, 49-47, in the opening round of the Mercy Invitational at Nazareth College last weekend.

Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

## Centers playing big roles for Kings, Knights; ND up and down

By Richard A. Kiley

1988 has already been a good year for Bishop Kearney boys' basketball coach Mike Ruff, who received a late gift in his stocking this Christmas.

Since sophomore center Greg Mikell was promoted from the junior varsity to the varsity ranks, Ruff and his Fighting Kings (2-7) have a modest two-game winning streak.

"We're undefeated in '88 and are going all the way," Ruff said whimsically.

The revived Kings knocked off Newark and Charlotte last week, making their coach look like a prophet after he said Kearney was "going to surprise a few teams."

Mikell has been averaging nearly eight points and 10 rebounds a game for Kearney, and has proven to be the missing ingredient for the inexperienced Kings.

"It's amazing what a couple of wins can do for you," Ruff said. "(The wins) have really helped our confidence."

R.D. Long has also come alive for Kearney; the junior point guard scored 30 points in the Kings' win over Charlotte. Wendell Spiva has been reaching double figures of late, taking some of the scoring pressure off of Bob Nicolay.

Although he is happy to see the team get a couple in the win column, Ruff is keeping the victories in perspective.

"We're still not that deep... but anybody can upset anybody," Ruff said.

Scott Martzloff, McQuaid's big man in the middle, rounded in a big way to an up-and-down tournament in Syracuse by scoring 22 points and pulling down 19 rebounds in his team's 74-46 romp over City-Catholic Division 2 opponent Monroe last Friday, Jan. 8.

Martzloff also registered several key blocked shots for McQuaid (8-1) in the game played at Monroe.

"Scott wasn't pleased with his own performance, and he realizes it's time to start exerting himself," McQuaid coach Joe Marchese said. "He's beginning to realize that if we're going to be successful down the road, he has to be dominating both offensively and defensively."

Just two games prior to the win over Monroe, Marchese opted to take Martzloff out of a contest against Liverpool, after the Knights' center shot just one for six from the field and one for five from the free-throw line. The Knights eventually lost, 74-73.

"We all learned a lot of things from the Christmas tournament," Marchese said. Martzloff especially.

Edison Tech out-rebounded Aquinas nearly two to one on Friday, Jan. 8, as the Engineers rolled to a 74-58 win over the Little Irish (3-6 overall, 2-4 league).

Edison pulled down 45 rebounds to Aquinas' 23, providing second-year coach Mike Dianetti with one of his longer nights of the season thus far. The Engineers attempted 81 shots to the Little Irish's 59.

AQ, which trailed 38-28 at the half, shot a myopic 13 for 44 from the field. Little Irish shooters were eight for 15 from three-point range.

Mike Compisi led all AQ scorers with 11 points. Matt Hill scored nine points, and Dwayne Postell, Mike Tuttle and Mark Spencer each scored eight to pace the Little Irish.

The game marked one of the few times Dianetti wasn't happy with his team's overall play. "I was a little disappointed, but we're young

and improving," he said. "We have played people tough... overall I'm pleased with what we're doing."

Dianetti and his club were dealt a crushing blow this season when star player Mike Whitfield went down with an injury in AQ's second game of the season against Monroe. His players must now deal with the toughest stretch of the season with upcoming games against Mooney, East, Franklin and McQuaid.

Mike Johnston's Elmire Notre Dame team suffered its third loss of the season on Friday, Jan. 8, after the Crusaders (7-3 overall, 1-2 league) fell to host Hornell, 60-52.

Johnston's squad was plagued by few trouble early, and the ND coach had to play most of the first half without four of his starters. In all, ND was called for 24 fouls, allowing Hornell to take 30 free throws. Hornell was

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TO SCOREBOARD		
High School League		
<b>Northeast Division</b> Christ the King, Holy Trinity (*) St. Bridger 96, Pinnacle Lutheran 80 St. Ambrose 70, Blessed Sacrament 69 St. Margaret Mary, Lewis Street (*)	<b>Northwest Division</b> Most Precious Blood, St. Lawrence (*) Our Lady of Mercy, St. Charles Borromeo (*) Sacred Heart, Mother of Sorrow (*) Holy Cross, St. John (Greece) (*)	<b>Southeast Division</b> Resurrection 75, St. John (Humboldt) 68 Assumption 70, Good Shepherd 51 St. Thomas More 55, St. Joseph (Penfield) 35 St. Louis 54, JCC 40 Faith Lutheran 77, St. John (Fpt.) 58
<b>Southwest Division</b> St. Monica 90, Holy Name 83 Holy Ghost, St. Anne (*)		
<b>St. Pius Tenth 85, Good Counsel 73 St. John (Spn.) 80, Holy Family 57</b>		
Junior High Boys' League		
<b>Northeast Division</b> St. Margaret Mary 45, St. Cecilia 30 Holy Trinity 58, St. Ambrose 52 St. Salome 64, St. Joseph II St. Stanislaus, Blessed Sacrament #2 (*) Christ the King 65, Lewis Street 44	<b>Northwest Division</b> St. John (Spn.) Blue 60, St. John (Greece) 40 St. Charles Borromeo 52, St. Lawrence 32 Holy Cross, Mother of Sorrow (*) Most Precious Blood, St. Anthony of Padua (*)	<b>Southwest Division</b> Good Counsel, St. Anne/St. Boniface (*) St. Pius Tenth, Holy Ghost (*) Charles House, Seton (*) St. Monica, St. John (Spn.) Blue (*) St. Helen 82, Holy Rosary 73
<b>Southwest Division</b> Good Shepherd 71, Oatka 66 St. Louis, St. John (Fpt.) (*)		
<b>CYP (Mendon), Blessed Sacrament #1 (*) Pinnacle Lutheran, St. Joseph (Pen.) (*)</b>		
Junior High Girls' League		
<b>East Division</b> Blessed Sacrament 51, Good Counsel 32 St. Louis 34, St. Joseph (Pen.) 24 Christ the King 43, St. Rita 18 Seton II, Lewis Street 4	<b>West Division</b> St. Pius Tenth, Mother of Sorrow (*) St. John (Spn.), Sacred Heart/Nazareth Hall St. Theodore, Holy Cross (*) St. Ambrose, St. Charles	
(*) No scores reported		