

Sports

Sports Shorts

Division III dynamos

Hats off to the undefeated St. John Fisher Cardinals women's basketball team, which is presently ranked No. 1 in the nation in the NCAA Division III standings.

The Lady Cardinals, owners of a 12-0 regular-season record, have been outscoring their opponents by an average of 43 points per game thus far this season. Led by senior guard Louise MacDonald (15.1 points per game) and senior center Shelly Bayhurst (14.8 ppg), the Cardinals have dismantled each and every opponent they've faced.

"It's a tremendous compliment to the young ladies as well as the school, and we hope to continue on doing as well as we have been," head coach Phil Kahler said. "It's nice to be No. 1 — that's what everyone strives for."

Kahler, the NCAA's winningest active coach in Division III, with a career record of 311-67, admits that being ranked No. 1 could pose some problems for his players, but he says he is confident they will be up to the task.

"(Our competition) will be playing harder — they'll be up for us — but that makes us play harder, too," he said.

The Lady Cards were last ranked number one in the nation in 1979.

Noble Knights

McQuaid Jesuit senior Marc Dovi recently became the 18th winner of the Vince Lombardi Memorial plaque at the Knights' cross-country awards dinner.

The Lombardi award, which is voted on by team members and coaches, goes annually to the runner who is most exemplary in his devotion to his faith, team and sport.

A four-year runner and three-year letterman, Dovi was co-captain of the '87 Knights, who won invitationals at Newark and Binghamton and stretched their City-Catholic unbeaten string to 16 years. Dovi also coordinated the team's annual 25-Hour Charity-Relay during the summer, raising nearly \$800 for the Leukemia Association.

Dovi is part of a vanishing breed among high school athletics. All four years he has been active in student government in addition to being a member of the National Honor Society. Dovi was also one of McQuaid's panelists in the "Brainstormers" competition. Right now he is planning to attend Ithaca College, where he expects to be a communications major.

"He's the kind of person the Lombardi award was made for — a great competitor and team man with tremendous spirit and

Continued on Page 15



Foul-shooting clinic propels Lady Cards

By Richard A. Kiley

After watching his nationally ranked Orangemen once again struggle at the foul line during a 51-50 loss to the University of Connecticut over the weekend, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim may want his players to stop in at Cardinal Mooney this week to see how its done.

In Mooney's 56-49 Private-Parochial League win over Mercy last Thursday, Jan. 14, the Lady Cards (10-0, 3-0 league) iced 17 of 24 free throws to thwart the Monarchs (3-1, 7-2) and gain an early edge in the race for a league title.

Individually, Margie McGuire was nine-for-10 from the line for Mooney, while Shannon Barry and Cheryl Lennox each notched three from the stripe.

The win enabled Mooney to gain something it had been lacking: respect.

"We proved to other people we can play with the best teams around," said Mooney coach Scott Morrison, who just watched his team beat Mercy for the third consecutive time.

In front of a packed-in home crowd, the Lady Cards roared out to an 11-4 lead, only to see the Monarchs pull ahead 13-11 at the end of the quarter.

Mercy was able to maintain its scoring surge in the second quarter, thanks to the inside play of Bernadette Fagan and the outside shooting of Julie Buntich. Fagan scored 11 points in the first half alone to ignite her team to a 25-17 halftime lead.

"Some of my big people got into foul trouble in the second quarter, so I had to switch to a zone (defense)," Morrison said. "The experience of (Mercy's) guards allowed them to pull away from us."

A steal and a subsequent basket by Buntich early in the second half increased the lead to 27-17, but Mooney kept its composure and was able to regain the lead after three quarters, 31-30.

A defensive switch by Morrison — back to man-to-man — keyed the comeback. "Our man-to-man defense didn't allow them to get the ball into Fagan," Morrison said.

Mercy's center was able to score just three points during the entire second half. Mooney's aggressive defense also led to several steals for the Lady Cards down the stretch.

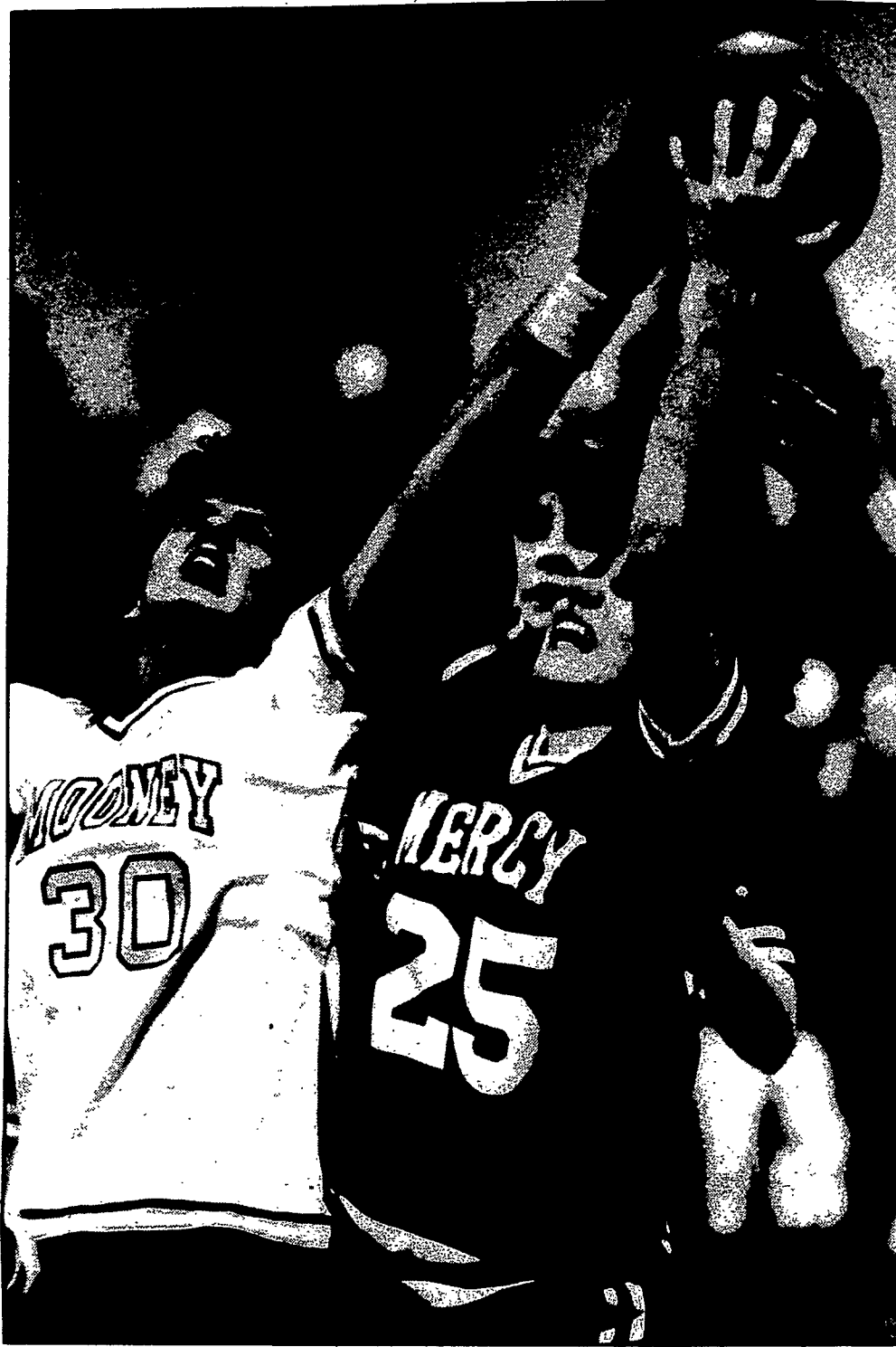
Marisa Shackelford scored 19 points and pulled down 14 rebounds to pace Mooney. McGuire finished with 15 points in addition to her five critical steals.

Cheryl Lennox also played a key role in the win, pouring in 14 points to go along with six steals and eight assists.

Despite the loss — Mercy's second this season — Monarch coach Kathy Boughton isn't panicking. Losses in January don't bother the Mercy coach like ones in February.

"Every time we lose, like we did in our tournament, it seems to help us in the end," Boughton said. "It wasn't a blow out so I'm not really worried."

Her club rebounded from the loss to Mooney by beating Walt Gordinier's Nazareth team, 58-38, on Saturday, Jan. 16. During the league win over Nazareth (6-5), the Monarch coach was able to use several combinations of



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Mercy's Julie Buntich (right) battles Mooney's Cheryl Lennox for a rebound during the Lady Cards' 56-49. The undefeated Lady Cards have now beaten the Monarchs three consecutive times dating back to last season.

players — something that may help her as the season progresses.

Buntich led Mercy with 20 points while Fagan contributed 19 against Nazareth.

THE GIRLS AT AQ are not winning much this season, but that's not to say the Little Irish have been playing dead, either.

Dan Bates' club is 1-9 overall this season, but the last six losses have been by seven points or less. AQ's lone win came against Nazareth, 58-54, back on December 21.

Bates, an assistant to football coach Chris Battaglia in the fall, has been receiving

balanced scoring from Kacey Compisi, Terry Seiler and Marita Vierra, who are all averaging about eight points per game.

The AQ coach can take heart: Andy Paling's JV team is 7-3 and going strong against other Catholic school's JV ranks.

THE LADY SAINTS at DeSales improved to 7-3 overall (3-2 league) with a resounding 51-25 win over visiting Dundee last Saturday, Jan. 16.

Steve Muzzi's girls were paced by center Stacy Marsteiner, who poured in 13 points. Michelle Hughes added 11 for DeSales, which is on a mini three-game winning streak.

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MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
 What was the name of the musical duo comprised of John Belushi & Dan Ackroyd?

A: _____

Rules:
 Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave. All entries must be received within seven days of this papers issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal Music Trivia
 1150 Buffalo Rd.
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We received 6 correct entries identifying the diameter of a golf hole as 4 1/4 inches.

The winner was Bob Beckerman of St. Ann's

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:
 How many clubs must an NHL team defeat in the playoffs to win the Stanley Cup?

A: _____

Rules:
 Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the Athletes Outlet will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn. If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$5.00 OFF towards any purchase at either of the two Athletes Outlet locations: Long Ridge Mall, next to Sears, or Perinton Square Mall. All entries must be received within seven days of this papers issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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