

Sports

Monarchs deal Lady Cards first loss, tie up league

By Richard A. Kiley

When Julie Buntich transferred from Rush-Henrietta to Our Lady of Mercy High School last summer, most everyone thought the Monarchs were a shoo-in to take back the Private-Parochial League title they lost to Cardinal Mooney of the year before.

The emergence of the year before was a little slower in coming than many expected, however, as Buntich strived to learn a new system under a new coach.

Now the junior wing guard is teaching her teammates and Mercy's opponents a thing or two. Buntich's latest "Larry Bird-like" performance came in a crucial Private-Parochial League showdown against visiting Cardinal Mooney on Thursday, Feb. 11, when she poured in 30 points to spur Mercy to a 58-51 win. The win by the Monarchs forced a tie between Mercy (15-2) and Mooney (17-1), for the top spot in the all-Catholic school league. Both teams are 6-1 in league play.

Much of the junior sensation's damage was done in the fourth quarter, when she scored 12 of her team's 17 points. Overall, Buntich shot 14-for-21 from the field with many of her points coming in Mercy's revived transition game.

And the way Mercy coach Kathy Boughton said after the game, class isn't over yet for Mercy's opponents who must try and stop Buntich.

"She still has a ways to go; she holds back at times," said Boughton, whose Monarchs have now handed two teams — the Lady Cards and the Red Raiders of Fairport — their only losses of the season. "When you have a player of that ability, you have to use her anyway you can."

And Boughton did just that. Taking advantage of a zone defense early in the first quarter, the Monarchs were able to jump out to a 16-8 lead after one quarter.

"We expected Mooney to come out in a man-to-man; we were able to penetrate (offensively) against their zone," Boughton said.

Mooney coach Scott Morrison said he opted to play a zone defense in the game's early stages to see how his team matched up against the Monarchs. "Playing man-to-man right away can hurt you," said Morrison, whose team was led by Cheryl Lennox's 16 points.

What hurt Mooney more was poor shooting and careless turnovers, which led to several easy Mercy baskets much to the enjoyment of the charged-up home crowd. Mercy's fast

break enabled the Monarchs to open up a 32-21 lead by intermission.

"We made some adjustments to stop the fast break in the second half," said Morrison, who noted that it was the first time a Mooney team he's coached scored 51 points in a game and lost. "We did stop (points off the fast break) but we didn't stop Buntich."

Mercy's advantage ballooned to as many as 17 in the second half. The Lady Cards were able to whittle the lead to four points on one occasion, but never got any closer.

Morrison called Buntich's performance "the best ball-handling" exhibition he had seen in his years of coaching. "In the fourth quarter it really became evident that (Buntich) was going to do anything to help her team win, he said."

Buntich wasn't the only determined Monarch, either. Laura Wambach scored 18 points for the night on nine-for-13 shooting, while teammates Bernadette Fagan (18 rebounds) and Maggie Whelehan (9 rebounds) helped initiate the fast break by dominating the boards.

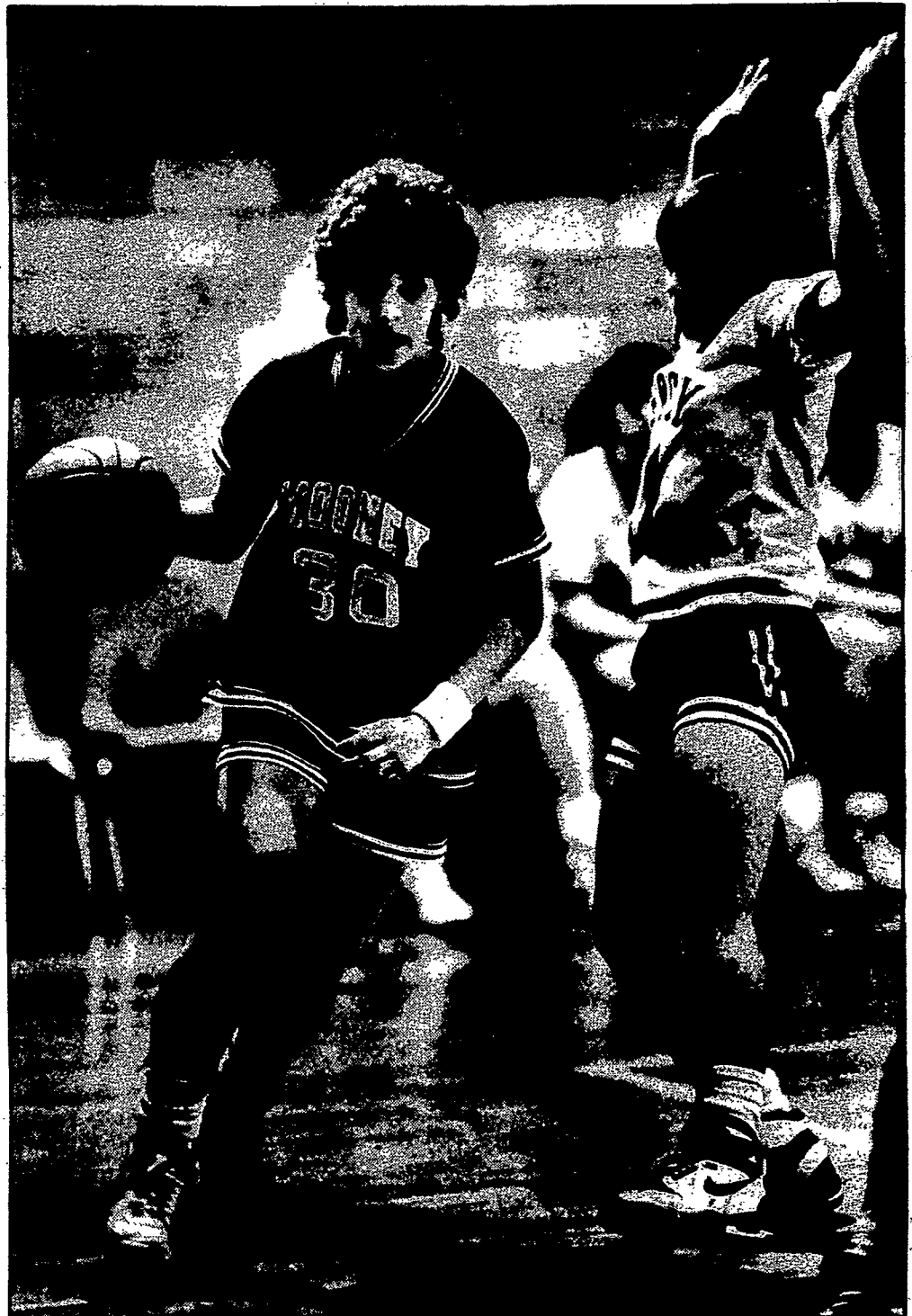
Mercy must now set its sights on Pittsford Mendon (18-0), which is defending Section V Class AA champion. The Monarchs battle the top girls' team in the Rochester area in a first-round game in the Brockport Tournament Thursday, Feb. 18. Tournament-host Brockport and Hornell are the other teams competing.

"It will be our toughest game of the year," said Boughton, who added that she had seen the Vikings play on several occasions this year. "Height-wise I think we match up pretty well, but I think we have more depth. I think my starting three guards might have a little edge too."

MOONEY REBOUNDED FROM the loss to Mercy by whipping visiting Franklin, 47-19, on Saturday, Feb. 13, in a game that saw Tina McLeary score all of Franklin's 19 points.

IN OTHER GIRLS' basketball action last week, Samantha Schramm poured in 16 points and gathered in 13 rebounds as Nazareth defeated visiting Harley-Allendale-Columbia, 56-27, on Friday, Feb. 12. Kathy Doran contributed 11 points, and Amy Budd added 10 points for Walt Gordinier's Nazareth team. Nazareth defeated Jefferson, 38-27, earlier in the week.

IN NON-LEAGUE ACTION, Erika Allen converted on two foul shots with :08 remaining in regulation to give host Wilson a 45-43 win over Dan Bates' Aquinas team (2-12).



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal
Cheryl Lennox drives past Laura Wambach during the third-quarter action of a key Private-Parochial League battle between Cardinal Mooney and Mercy. Despite Lennox's 16 points, the Monarchs defeated the Lady Cards 58-51.

Economic pastoral letter day of reflection planned

A day of reflection/awareness on mysticism, justice and the concrete application of "Economic Justice for All," the bishops' 1986 pastoral letter on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. economy, is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dominican Monastery, 1310 W. Church St., Elmira.

The day, entitled "Making Peace-Doing Justice: Weaving Threads of Faith and Action," is being sponsored by the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, Spirituality Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the diocesan Office of Continuing Education. It will be conducted by Sister Judith Regar, SSJ, and Kathleen Dubel, and will include presentations, reflections and interaction

concerning mysticism and justice and their inter-relationship.

All interested people are invited to attend. The charge will be \$5, plus an additional \$1 for continuing education credit.

For information, call Dubel at (607)734-5893.

Cathedral Mass to mark Scout month celebration

The Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Oretiana Council will celebrate Scout month in February with a special Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the celebrant.

As part of the liturgy, scouts who have earned the Ad Altare Dei and Pius XII Awards

Rites of Election scheduled for three diocesan locations

The Rite of Election for Catechumens, a ceremony that calls forth unbaptized adults seeking initiation into the Church, will be celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at several locations through the diocese during the first week of Lent.

This year the celebrations will take place at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 604 Park Place, Elmira on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 4 p.m.; at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m.; and at St. Mary's Church, 25 Center St., Waterloo on Friday, Feb. 26.

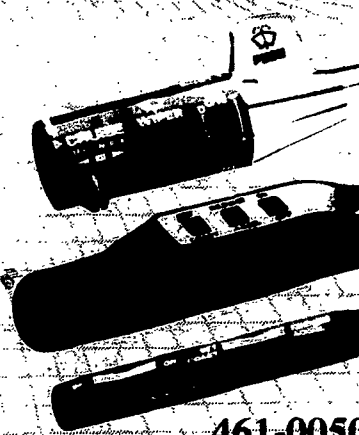
More than 1,000 people have participated in these ceremonies held annually during the first week of Lent. The catechumens and candidates will receive full initiation into the Church during the Easter Vigil Liturgy on Saturday night, April 2.

"We invite and encourage the local parish to be present at this rite," said Maribeth Mancini, who is a consultant for adult education with the diocesan office of religious education. "It is, after all, in the midst of the community that initiation happens."

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