

Sports

McQuaid finds going tough; Kearney primed for Mynderse

By Richard A. Kiley

As expected, the McQuaid varsity lacrosse team is finding the going tough in its inaugural season. After their 13-0 loss to Bishop Kearney last Saturday, April 16, the Knights (0-4) have been outscored 65-4 in their first four games.

"We're obviously not expecting too much, being a first-year (varsity) program; it's matter of time, right now we're a little overscheduled," McQuaid coach Mike Schepis said. "The attitude of the team has been fantastic."

Not surprisingly, Schepis said he has seen the most progress on defense and at the goalie position. He called the defense, which is led by burly eighth-grader Brandon Piccavetto, much improved since the season began.

Netminder Matt Rizzo, who has played the bulk of the games thus far for McQuaid, stopped 27 of the 36 shots he faced against Jim Burns' Kearney team. Four of his stops came during one-on-one situations.

Progress came as early as the second game for McQuaid. After a 16-1 loss to Irondequoit in their first-ever varsity game, the Knights held the powerful Fairport Red Raiders to a mere two goals after one quarter and six tallies the entire first half. Clay Berardi tended goal the first half against Fairport.

Unfortunately for McQuaid, Fairport's offense was unstoppable in the second half, as the Red Raiders found the net 13 times.

"Right now I'm not looking at final scores,

I'm looking at getting all my guys playing experience," said Schepis, who has emptied the bench in the third and fourth quarters to get all 33 of his players into the game. "We've played some real good quarters, and I've told them that we have to put four good quarters together if we want to win."

Offensively, the highlights for McQuaid have been few and far between. Freshman attacker Steven Paul scored the lone goal against Irondequoit, and senior David Holtby scored McQuaid's only goal against Fairport. Against Pittsford in a 17-2 loss, senior midfielder Gerry DiMarco tallied both times for the Knights.

Schepis has seen progress in winning faceoffs. After losing 11 of 16 against in their opener and 12 of 17 against Fairport, the Knights have won nine of 21 faceoffs and eight of 18 against Kearney.

The lax season has been going a lot more smoothly for Kearney (4-2), but the Kings have still yet to beat what Burns calls an established lacrosse program. The Kings could get that elusive victory when they play Mynderse this Saturday, April 23. Mynderse holds its own against tough Finger Lakes opponents like Penn Yan and Canandaigua.

"This is one we really need if we want to start on our way to making the sectionals," Burns said. "We need to prove ourselves by beating an established team."

A loss to Penfield on April 14 was sandwiched in-between wins over Waterloo and



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

McQuaid's defense couldn't stop Kearney's John Hand (left) from scoring four times.

McQuaid. The Kings trailed 3-1 at the half and by just 5-2 after three quarters, but couldn't get their dormant offense in gear during the fourth quarter to pull out a win.

Rich Shoap scored three times for Kearney while John Hand (two goals, two assists) and Jim O'Leary (two assists) also played well in defeat.

Against McQuaid in a game in which the

Kings outshot the Knights 53-15, Hand scored four goals to go along with four assists to lead Kearney to the shutout win. Shoap, the leading scorer thus far this season for Kearney, added four goals and two assists. Dave Smith (two goals, one assist), Jeff Hall (one goal, three assists) and defenseman Craig Chodak (one goal) also contributed offensively. Goalie Mark Hall registered the shutout.

Softball

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coaster ride for AQ, which has beaten Arcadia and Edison while falling to Mooney and Midlakes.

After her team fell 13-5 to Mooney last week, Paro said her team is looking forward to the increased number of league games.

"The whole team can't wait to get back at Mooney," she said.

OVER IN CLASS C, DeSales coach Pat Luzzi returns a team without a proven battery for the second year in a row. He lost pitcher Stephanie DeVaney and catcher Michelle Trotta to graduation two years ago, and lost pitcher Kris Guinan and Babette DeVaney to graduation last June. Guinan was also a terror at the plate, hitting .450 with five triples and two doubles. DeVaney (.322) led the Lady Saints with four home runs for the season.

Luzzi will be depending mostly on freshman Danielle Boncaro on the mound this year, hoping to drastically reduce the team's 166 walks over 15 games last season. "She's got excellent control, and she's working on developing her speed," said Luzzi, who has coached in the

youth leagues in Geneva for many years. "We can't give up an average of 19 walks per game and expect to win."

The DeSales coach is also hoping junior pitcher/outfielder Mary Ellen Schilbert will help keep opposing teams from walking around the bases.

Senior Carin Caravita returns for her swan song. The second baseman hit .404 last year with two home runs. Luzzi is also moving 5-foot-11 Stacey Marsteiner from the outfield to first base, and hopes her bat will come alive in just her second year playing softball. Moira Connolly is also back from last year's 7-7 team, which lost in the first round of the sectionals to Whitesville.

The graduation of some key seniors and the transfer of several others to Geneva-area public schools may delay Luzzi's task of establishing the softball program at DeSales, but he believes it's just a matter of time before the Lady Saints start paying back their Finger Lakes West opponents.

APPARENTLY WINNING the sectional title for two consecutive years isn't good enough anymore at Elmira Notre Dame High School. The Crusaders are primed to take it all this season.

Last June, Notre Dame was cut off at the pass for the second year when it fell in the Far West Regionals of the state tourney. Third-year coach Wayne Coburn believes he may have one of the top teams in the state this year.

Those are pretty strong words from a coach who lost his starting pitcher and three speedy players who had a hand in a lot of last season's successes. Fourth-year starting pitcher Kris Vetukovic has graduated, as have catcher Kim Sheehan, Lisa Johnston and Mary Hardimail.

Returning from last season's 14-7 team are senior Jennifer Dewey, who will move from right field to catcher this year. Senior slugger Stacey McMail is back with her hot bat. McMail is batting .600 already for ND (2-1),

picking up where she left off last spring. The all-league player finished tied in the Sullivan Trail Conference with seven home runs and hit .340 overall.

Nat Kozlowski is also back for her senior season, as are Lisa Boulas and Tina Maloney. According to their coach, Maloney and Boulas are capable of hitting over .400.

The emergence of eighth-grader Bobbi McMail is what has Coburn optimistic, though. McMail threw on the junior varsity as a seventh-grader and has the pitching tools to keep opposing teams from scoring runs.

After opening the season with a disappointing 6-5 loss to Corning West, ND has pummeled Odessa-Montour, Elmira Free Academy and Spencer Van Etten.

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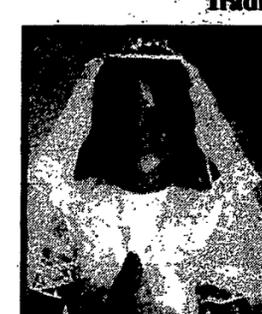
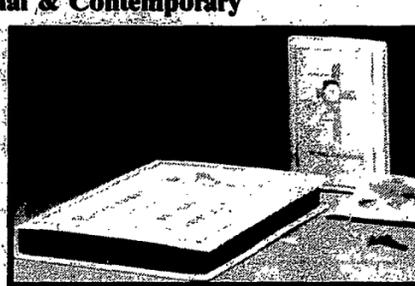
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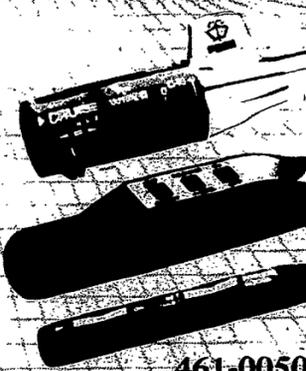
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