

Sports



Aquinas third baseman Mike Germain loses control of the ball after trying to put the tag on Jason Terrell of Mooney. Terrell was called out on the play. Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Mooney, Kearney meet in pivotal league battle

By Richard A. Kiley

The winning streak is still alive — barely. Cardinal Mooney (3-0, 8-0 overall) needed some late hitting heroics by Scott Hylas to propel Ed Nietopski's Cards over Aquinas, 7-6, in City-Catholic League baseball action at Silver Stadium on Sunday, May 1.

Hylas' two-out, run-scoring single in the top of the seventh — his fourth hit of the day and third RBI — proved to be the difference, as Rich Pillitter's Little Irish (2-1, 9-4) faltered yet another time in the late innings. In all four AQ losses thus far this season, the Little Irish have squandered seemingly comfortable leads. Pitcher Mark Chapman was the victim this time around.

"We've been experiencing some wildness lately and we're leaving too many people on base," said Pillitter, whose club left six men on base in the final three innings against Mooney. "We need to get more production from the bottom of the order; Chapman can't do everything."

Not capitalizing on men in scoring position also cost Aquinas in a 5-4 loss to Canandaigua just the day before.

"We just have to learn to win games like this one; against the better teams, once we've gotten the lead ... we've played not to lose," Pillitter noted.

Judging by its undefeated start, Mooney has to be considered one of the better if not one of the best teams around Rochester right now. The Cards chipped away at a 6-2 Aquinas lead before Hylas delivered the final blow in the seventh.

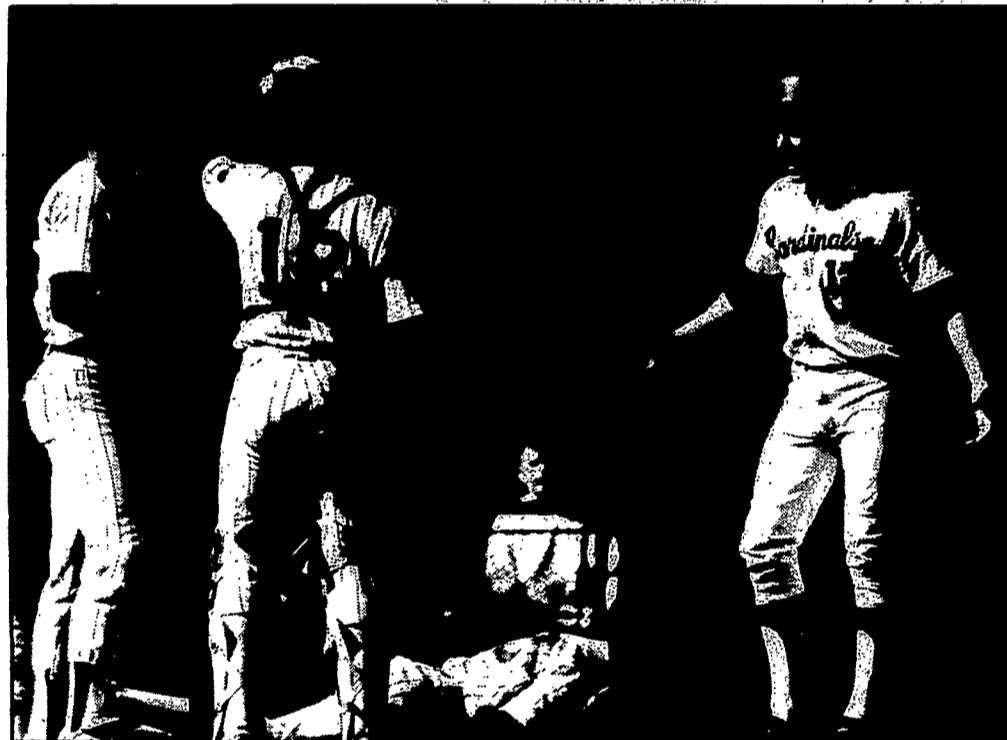
"This was a typical Catholic high school game," said Nietopski, whose team's start is anything but typical. "Chapman pitched a good game; he's a strong thrower. We just got the hits when we needed them."

Mooney ace right-hander Dave Zastrow improved his record to 5-0 with the win, which was made possible by some clutch hitting from some unlikely heroes. Hylas' hit plated Charlie Sciortino, who had doubled and taken third on a towering fly ball off the bat of Rob Hrankowski.

Aquinas took a 6-2 lead with a four-run fifth inning, before the Cards answered back with five runs of their own in the sixth. Jason Terrell, who has played only sparingly this year, knocked in the tying run with a double.

"It's been a different guy every day," Nietopski said.

The loss ended a what turned out to be a tough week for Pillitter. In addition to already losing one pitcher to tendinitis, AQ was dealt a more serious blow when pitcher/outfielder Brian Monteleone was hurt in a car accident.



Aquinas players Mark Chapman (left) and Chris Cuiver come to the aid of injured third baseman Mike Germain, who was injured after a hard slide by Cardinal Mooney's Jason Terrell. Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Whether the All-City Catholic senior will be able to return is uncertain.

The first game of the Catholic high school doubleheader at 500 Norton Street featured another Catholic high school barnburner. Bishop Kearney improved its season mark to 7-2 (5-0 league) with a 3-2 win over McQuaid Jesuit (2-2, 5-3).

Junior Rich Davison continued his two-season domination of opposing teams, running his winning streak to 11 games after taking over for starting pitcher Marty Alexander. Art Carlisi, who took over for Carm Urzetta as coach of the Kings this season, chose to lift Alexander (2-1) in the top of the seventh in-

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MacPherson to speak

Dick Cerone, Section 5 football chairman, recently announced that Syracuse University football coach Dick MacPherson will be the guest speaker at the Eddie Meath All-Star Game banquet on Friday, August 5. The banquet, which is open to the public, will take place at the Marriott Holiday Inn in Henrietta and costs \$10 per ticket.

The all-star game, which will take place on Saturday, August 6, will feature outstanding graduating seniors from throughout Section 5.

In a somewhat related matter, word has it that Cerone will meet with other sectional chairmen in June in an effort to establish inter-sectional football games next fall.

Last year the state board voted in favor of allowing grid teams to play an 11th game beginning next season. Cerone, however, has had difficulty finding opposing sections to meet Section 5 representatives. The logical choice would be Section 6 (Buffalo area), but that section recently lengthened its season to 10 games this past September.

Section 3 (Syracuse area) teams have been brought up as another possibility, but apparently officials from there are negotiating with officials from the Albany area.

Sports Shorts

What a Knight

Chalk up yet another accolade for McQuaid Jesuit High School basketball player Greg Woodard. The 6-foot-6 senior has been selected as the Naismith High School Basketball Player of the Year for the State of New York.

Woodard, who will attend Villanova University on a full scholarship next fall, was chosen by a nationwide poll of sportswriters and by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. McQuaid Jesuit principal Father Paul Nochelski, SJ, and head coach Joe Marchese will present Woodard with the award at an assembly at McQuaid on Thursday, May 19.

In a related matter, players and coaches from the varsity, junior varsity and freshman basketball teams at McQuaid will hold their annual banquet on Tuesday, May 10, at The Party House on Beahan Road. Rollie Massimino, head basketball coach at Villanova, will be the featured speaker.

Crusading coach

Tom Landry, head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, will be the featured speaker at a Greater Rochester Billy Graham Crusade rally at The Dome Center, East Henrietta Road at Calkins Road, Rochester on Saturday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Landry is recognized as one of the great football coaches of all time. Special music will be provided by the Brown Brothers Quartet. A continental breakfast will be provided. The event will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.

The first and only head coach in Cowboys' history, Landry has guided his team to a league record 20 consecutive winning seasons (1966 to 1985) and five Super Bowls. The Dallas Cowboys have been to the playoffs 18 of the past 21 years.

Born in Mission, Texas, Landry played with the New York Yankees of the All-American Conference before joining the NFL's New York Giants. He was top punter and defensive half-back for the Giants through 1955, the last two years as player coach. He earned All-Pro honors in 1954.

Landry devotes much of his spare time to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and serves on the Board of the National FCA. He was chairman of the 1974 Southwest Texas Billy

Graham Crusade.

Tickets are \$3 and are available through the Crusade office. Call (716)427-8025 for information.

Hoop camp

Mike Dianetti, varsity basketball coach at Aquinas Institute, will direct a basketball camp for boys from June 27 to July 9.

The camp, which will be held at Aquinas, will be broken up into three sessions: Session I, for grades four-six, will run from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; Session II, for grades seven-nine, will take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and Session III, grades 10-12, will run from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to Dianetti, other Rochester-area high school coaches and college players will help staff the camp.

Participants will develop offensive and defensive skills both through drills and game situations. The camp will offer a small camper-to-coach ratio, videotaping, written evaluations to each camper and an end-of-camp party.

The cost of the camp is \$75 per person for each session, and includes a shirt and daily refreshments. Call (716)254-2020 or 385-2659 for information.

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