

Sports

# Lady Cards still perfect; Elmira ND back on winning track

By Richard A. Kiley

As coach of the boys' soccer team at Cardinal Mooney High School every fall, Paul Forte always looks for his Cardinals to jump on an opponent early and dictate the pace of the game.

Now that he's coaching the varsity girls' softball team at the Greece Catholic high school, Forte is trying to instill that same trait in his Lady Cards.

Unfortunately for Forte, his players have been uncooperative, waiting until the game's latter stages to pull out victories. Forte isn't complaining though. His Lady Cards (9-0) are also unbeaten and ranked 17th in the state among Class A schools, according to the latest New York State Sports Writers Association ratings.

"I'm very pleased; these girls are such hard workers," said Forte, who took over the varsity program from Joette Abbey this year. "They're coming along a lot faster than I thought they would."

He just wishes they would score runs a little faster. In Mooney's latest win — a 9-2 victory over visiting Honeoye Falls-Lima on Saturday, April 30 — the Lady Cards didn't get a runner on base until the fourth inning.

That's because Mooney was just getting

warmed up. The Lady Cards scored four runs in the fifth inning and five more in the sixth to notch their ninth consecutive win. Cheryl Lennox led Mooney with two hits and four RBIs.

As in all of Mooney's wins this season, senior pitcher Noelle Feeney kept HF-L's bats quiet until her teammates were ready to wreak some damage. Feeney held Honeoye Falls-Lima to three hits for the afternoon.

The Lady Cards were also able to win despite their big hitter — Gia Cuccinelli — going 0-for-4. Cuccinelli, the leading hitter on Forte's junior varsity team last spring, is batting .630 with one triple and three doubles.

Donna Paro's Aquinas team (2-2 league, 3-3) has already won more league games than it did all last season, but it hasn't been able to solve Cardinal Mooney. The Little Irish dropped their second league game of the season to Mooney Thursday, April 28, by a score of 8-4. The Lady Cards jumped out to an 8-0 lead before AQ was able to get at Feeney for four runs late in the game.

Behind the pitching and hitting of Sherri Arnell, Paro's club defeated Kearney, 9-4, on Tuesday, April 26. Arnell struck out four and doubled in another run to pace the Little Irish.

Dave Riesenberger's Kings (1-3, 2-5) have

been struggling of late, losing three in a row after a win over Paul Walker's Mercy squad on April 21.

The latest Kearney loss came at the expense of Nazareth, which defeated the Lady Kings 14-12 in eight innings on Monday, May 2. Kearney led 5-2 heading into the sixth inning, before Dave Pisano's club rallied for eight runs in its half of the sixth inning, taking a 10-5 lead.

After Kearney pulled to within 10-7, Nazareth scored two more runs to increase its lead to 12-7. The Lady Kings tied the game in their half of the seventh, only to lose the game in extra innings.

Over in Section 4 Class C, Elmira Notre

Dame (2-3, 4-3) is back on the winning track after losing three of its first five games by a single run.

The Lady Crusaders drubbed Corning East, 16-4, on Wednesday, April 27. In their make-up game against Spencer Van Etten the day before, ND won going away, 15-1.

The games were a far cry from ND's previous contests, which included a 1-0 loss to Susquehanna Valley on Friday, April 22. In the latest NYSSWA Class B poll, Susquehanna Valley is ranked No. 1.

Notre Dame has also fallen to Horseheads — ranked No. 8 among Class A schools — by a score of 6-5.

## McQuaid relay teams thrive at Penn Relays

McQuaid Jesuit's relay teams enjoyed another spectacular weekend, this time at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia.

Bob Bradley's relay teams finished first, third and fifth in relays, which were run last Saturday, April 30. According to Bradley, the results were unprecedented for the all boys' school on Clinton Avenue.

McQuaid's 1,600-meter relay team of Brad Sumner, Chris Adin, Chris Cusack and Scott Romanowski crossed the finish line first in a time of 3:26.7. According to Bradley, the win was McQuaid's first in a Class race at the Penn Relays since 1979.

Sumner gained a sizeable lead for the Knights in the opening leg of the 1,600, with a .50.0 split.

Romanowski finished impressively as well, with a closing leg in :51.1. Delcastle High School of Wilmington, Del., finished more than two seconds behind the Knights with a time of 3:29.

In the 3,200-meter Class race, McQuaid used a late surge in coming from behind and winning its section. The Knights finished third overall in the Class race. Sumner ran a 1:54 split on the last leg to propel the Knights' relay team

(7:55.8) from fourth place to the first spot. McQuaid was nipped by Christian Brothers Academy of Lincroft, N.J. (7:53.2) and St. Jago Academy of Jamaica, British West Indies (7:55.7).

The 10 top-finishing 10 schools from the six morning races competed in the Championship 3,200-relay in the afternoon. The Knights finished fifth with a time of 7:58.8.

In Friday's distance medley relay, Sumner, Romanowski, Adin and Cusack finished fourth — setting Section 5 and state records with a time of 10:22.4.

At the 42nd Geneva Kiwanis Relays, which also took place on Saturday, May 7, the McQuaid team of Justin Berko-Boateng, Steve Branca, Sean O'Neil and Greg Beale edged Franklin by .03 to win the 400 intermediate hurdles in a time of :45.6. McQuaid also won the high jump relay at 17 feet, 8 inches. The Knights finished with a boys' team score of 12, placing fifth behind Geneva (23 1/2), Penfield (23), Fairport (18) and Franklin (16).

Aquinas was the defending boys' team champion.

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## Mynderse nips Kearney in lacrosse

Bishop Kearney's chances of qualifying for the lacrosse sectional for the first time ever were dealt a serious blow over the weekend when Mynderse knocked off Jim Burns' Fighting Kings 10-9.

Kearney (6-3) was coming off a 13-2 drubbing over host Bloomfield on Thursday, April 28, and the Kings had beaten Mynderse 5-4 a week prior to their most recent meeting.

On Saturday, April 30, Mynderse used a six-goal second quarter before holding off the Kings, who face tough games this week against traditionally strong lacrosse programs in Penn Yan and Irondequoit. Irondequoit is ranked 10th in the most recent New York State Sports Writers Association large-school lacrosse ratings, while Penn Yan is ranked 14th among small schools in the state.

In Kearney's lopsided win over Bloomfield, Rich Shoap and Jeff Hall scored four goals each to lead the Kings offensively.

The loss to Mynderse, however, puts the pressure back on the Kings, whose other remaining games come against Pittsford (May 13), Webster (May 14), Bloomfield (May 20) and McQuaid (under the lights on May 21). Pittsford and Webster have had the Kings' number since Kearney joined the lacrosse ranks.

Burns has said all season that it would take a record around 11-5 to qualify for the sectionals. That means the Kings would have to upset Penn Yan or Irondequoit to gain control of their own destiny again, or finish with five consecutive wins to qualify for the post season.

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