

Sports

Kearney laxmen fall to Irondequoit, Penn Yan

By Richard A. Kiley

For two quarters of their non-league lacrosse game against state-ranked Irondequoit last Saturday, May 7, the host Fighting Kings of Bishop Kearney seemed destined to knock off the perennial lacrosse power.

By using a deliberate offense that would have brought a smile to the face of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith — notorious for his stalling, four-corner offense — Kearney stayed right with the Indians in the first half and took a 5-4 lead on Rich Shoap's goal with just two seconds left in the second quarter. Irondequoit, which boasts one of the best offenses in Section 5, was able to muster just nine shots total in the first half to Kearney's 24.

"We knew it would be a close game if we controlled the ball on offense," Burns said after the game. "I told the guys I didn't care if it took a couple of minutes to work a play and get a good shot on goal."

The Kings strayed from their game plan in the third quarter, however, as the Indians scored six consecutive goals to open up a 10-5 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Each team scored twice in the final period as Irondequoit held on for a 12-7 win.

"I think the difference was we didn't get nervous when Irondequoit scored in the first half; we kept our heads," Burns said. "We got down a couple of goals quick in the third quarter and

we started to force our shots."

The Kings (6-5) controlled the ball for the first three minutes of the third quarter, until Irondequoit's Steve Wilt (six goals, one assist) caught fire. Wilt scored the first three goals of the quarter to spur his team's come-from-behind win.

The attacker tied the game at the 6:38 mark of the quarter before giving his team a 6-5 lead little more than a minute later with another goal at 5:37. Wilt tallied yet another goal at 4:23 to give the Indians a 7-5 lead.

Irondequoit's Dave Vinci also had a hand in the third-quarter rally. Vinci finished the game with two goals and two assists.

Shoap had two goals for Kearney, which also received a strong effort from Dave Smith (two goals, one assist). John Hand, Jeff Hall and defenseman Craig Chodak also scored for the Kings. A rarity for a defenseman, Chodak's tally was his second of the season.

Mark Hall continued his outstanding play in goal for Kearney. The junior netminder stopped three one-on-one breaks against the Indians.

Despite his team's third-consecutive loss — all against traditionally strong lacrosse programs — Burns said his team isn't conceding its battle to make the sectionals for the first time in the history of the Kearney program.

"It (the loss to Irondequoit) isn't discouraging; it's just what we needed going into the last

six games of the season," he said. "It shows the kids we can play with anybody."

"We're taking confidence out of it ... we just have to start to get a couple of breaks," said Burns, whose team has dropped consecutive games to Mynderse, Penn Yan and Irondequoit by scores of 10-9, 12-8, and 12-7 respectively.

Against Penn Yan on Tuesday, May 3, the Kings stayed close once again, but were unable to emerge with a win. Kearney trailed 8-6 at the half, before Smith pulled the Kings to within one goal, 8-7, early in the third period. Despite being outshot, 38-28, Penn Yan was able to hold Kearney off for the 12-8 win.

"We've had some close games against some good lacrosse programs," Burns said. "Now we've got to get some wins."

Kearney still has a shot to qualify for the sectionals. Sandwiched in between games against Newark (May 10), Bloomfield (May 20) and Mike Schepis' improving McQuaid team (May 21) are two critical games against Pittsford on May 13 and May 18 and another equally important game against Webster on May 14. Webster nipped Kearney 8-7 back on April 8. Burns believes Pittsford and Webster are two of the teams that are battling with his team for the final post-season spot.

With a recent 8-3 win at home against Sweet Home of Section 6 (Buffalo area), Webster's record stands at 6-6. Pittsford's mark is just 5-7, but the Vikings helped themselves tremendously last weekend with a 4-3 upset of Penn Yan.

"I figure we have to win at least two out of the three games against Pittsford and Webster," Burns said. "We still have a shot to do it."

While the Fighting Kings came up a little short of winning the biggest lacrosse game in their program's history, Cardinal Mooney's junior varsity captured its greatest victory to date.

And it came against Kearney's JV. Craig Kenney's goal — his third of the day, to go with two assists — with 1:30 remaining in sudden-death overtime propelled Mark Mo-

ran's JV Cards (2-6) to a 7-6 win over Rick Schiffhauer's squad.

Mooney, which is competing in its first lacrosse season ever at any level, appeared to have the game won in regulation until Kearney tallied twice in the final :30 of the game to force OT. The JV Kings pulled even with just :06 remaining in the game.

Kenney's goal came on a fast break after the Mooney defense was able to clear the ball. A celebration by the JV Cards immediately ensued.

"The kids were just going nuts ... They really wanted this game," Moran said after watching the thrilling win. Mooney's first win came against Waterloo, 4-1. "Once we scored the first goal of the game the kids knew they had a chance," he said.

The JV Cards led 4-3 at the half and upped the lead to 5-3 on a goal by Jeff Gilbert at the 6:56 mark. Kearney pulled to within 5-4 in the fourth quarter, until Kenney scored at 6:15 to give Mooney a 6-4 lead.

Mooney goalie Greg Philipps played superbly in goal; the Kings outshot the JV Cards 17-16.

Since Mooney's season-opening, 17-3 loss to Penfield back on April 12, the defense has become more stingy.

"Our defense really tightened up in the game against Irondequoit," said Moran, referring to an 8-0 loss to the JV Indians. "Since then we've playing pretty tough."

Moran was able to mark his team's improvement in the second game against Penfield on April 30, when the JV Chiefs prevailed, 11-2. "The (Penfield) coach told me he saw a lot of improvement the second time around," Moran said. "We're definitely improving."

Rematches against Rush-Henrietta, Irondequoit and Newark will allow Moran to see just how much his club has come along. The JV Cards will also see Fairport's JV on May 18.

Mooney will close out the season away from home on Thursday, May 26, against — who else? — Bishop Kearney.

Saints battling for second; Hilton deals Cards first loss

By Richard A. Kiley

It has taken nearly a year and a half, but DeSales' girls' softball coach Pat Luzzi believes he finally has a team with the pitching, hitting and defensive capabilities necessary to battle for a Finger Lakes West league title.

To illustrate how unfair life can be at times, however, the Saints' second-year coach hasn't been able to enjoy the fruits of his labor of late.

Luzzi has been serving as an alternate juror on a criminal trial in Geneva for the past couple of weeks, making it impossible for him to attend games. The DeSales coach even had to miss his team's critical showdown with South Seneca on Monday, May 9.

"My assistant (Judy Murray) filled me in on how we did today," Luzzi said. "It's tough not being there, but it makes it a little easier when the team is successful."

DeSales improved its record to 6-2 for the year with a 5-3 win over South Seneca, nestling the Saints into second place with Honeoye and two games back from Red Jacket.

Freshman Danielle Boncaro continued her impressive pitching, striking out three and walking one batter, to raise her record to 5-1 for the year. Boncaro appears to have fully

recovered from a sore arm problem she had earlier in the season.

"She (Boncaro) is one of the top prospects in the league," said Luzzi, who came to DeSales with a wealth of knowledge from Geneva-area youth softball leagues. "Our walks have been cut down considerably from last year."

On average, DeSales' pitchers gave up 19 walks per game last year. That number has been cut by more than half this spring.

Boncaro is just one of several players making a positive impact for this year's Saints. The hitting of Tara Brague, Mary Kelly Sullivan, Jeneane Donahue, Carin Caraveta and Mary Ellen Chilbert has made DeSales — a Class C school — a force to be reckoned among a league with Class A and B schools. The Saints only losses thus far this season have come against first-place Red Jacket and Honeoye.

In a rematch of the 1987 Section Class AA softball championship game, Hilton defeated Cardinal Mooney, 4-0, in a game played at McAvoy Park on Saturday night, May 7. The loss was the first of the season for Mooney (12-1).

Senior right-hander Kris Beaton of Hilton stymied Paul Forte's club, allowing just two

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Brain Stormers

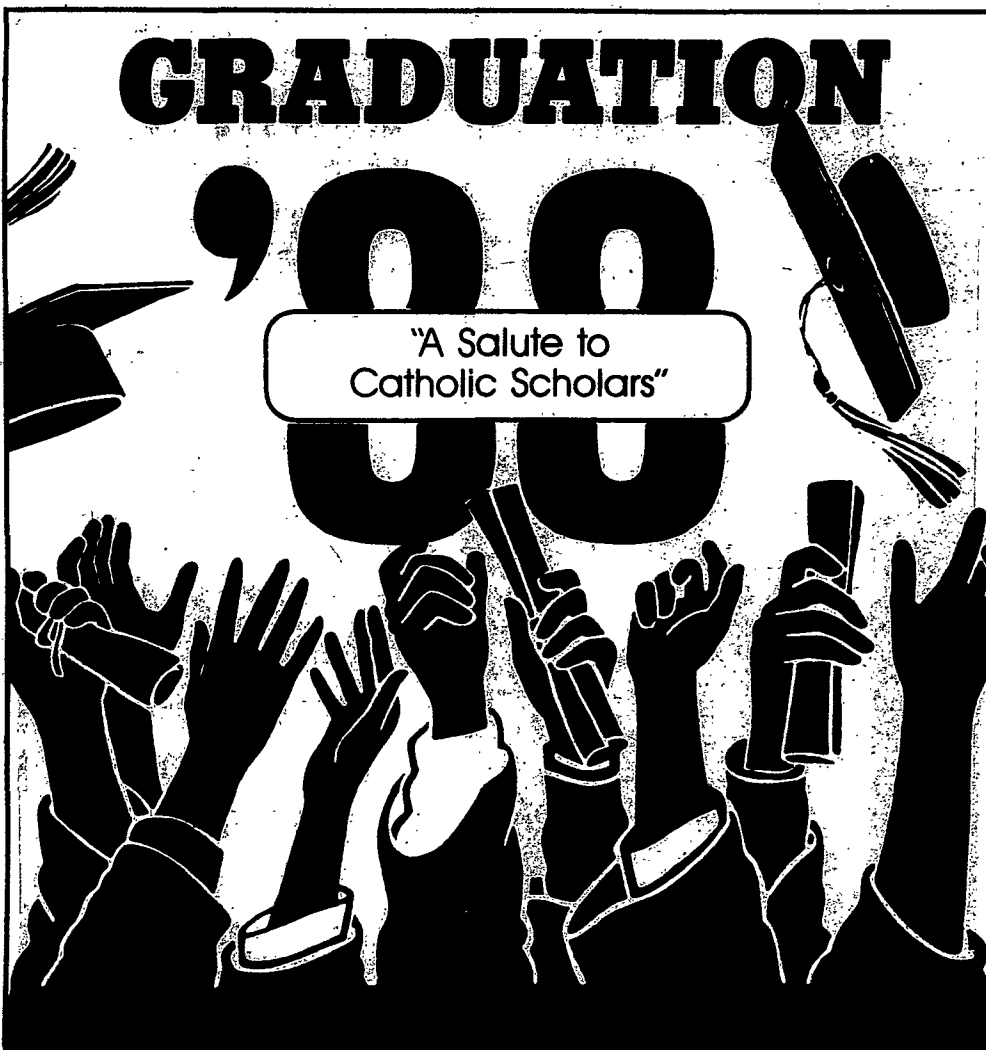
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