

## Sports



Mooney's Cheryl Lennox tags out Mercy's Laura Wambach during a Private-Parochial League game.

Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

## Elmira ND in a battle for sectional berth

By Richard A. Kiley

Before the high school girls' softball season began this spring, third-year Elmira Notre Dame coach Wayne Coburn believed he had one of the top teams in the state.

He still does, even though his Crusaders (8-6) are in jeopardy of not making the sectionals, which begin May 31.

"I still think we're one of the top 10 teams in the state, although our record would not indicate that," said Coburn, who has guided his teams to the Far West Regionals twice in two years.

Coburn is not being unrealistic or biased in his assessment of the Class C Crusaders. With the exception of a 6-5 loss to Corning West in its season-opening game, Notre Dame's losses have come against the toughest competition in the state as well as highly respected Class A schools in the rugged Sullivan Trail Conference.

The Crusaders are coming off a week in which — after falling to league-rival and state-ranked Horseheads — they knocked off state titans in Susquehanna Valley and Vestal. Susquehanna Valley, a Class B school, was ranked No. 1 in the latest New York State Sports Writers' Association rating, and Vestal

has been ranked among the top Class A schools in the state all spring.

ND received timely hitting from Stacey McMail and Lisa Boulas in a 4-3 win over visiting Vestal on Saturday, May 14. The two senior sluggers had two RBI's each as eighth-grader Bobbi McMail recorded her eighth win of the season. McMail yielded 10 hits for the afternoon, while the Crusaders' defense came up big when it had to, something Coburn said has been a trend this season.

"Defensively the kids are playing well. Bobbi McMail isn't an overpowering pitcher so she gets hit by some of the good teams we play," Coburn said.

Against visiting Susquehanna Valley on Wednesday, May 11, both McMails came through once again, as the Crusaders nipped the Class B school 7-6. Stacey collected three RBIs, and Bobbi pitched in and out of jams to record the big win.

Even with the wins over Vestal and S-V, though, ND is not a sure sectional team, mainly because the Crusaders have struggled against opponents in the STC — where ND is now in fourth place.

"We just aren't hitting the ball well. The bottom of the order has to start coming through

for us," Coburn said. "Sure we've had a tough schedule this year, but you can't beat any teams consistently if you're not getting the hitting."

Combine that lack of offense with a lack of team speed and the Crusaders have been unfamiliar with crossing home plate. Notre Dame has been shut out twice this season, and has scored one and two runs in several other ball games. "That's just not good enough," Coburn said.

Coburn would like to see the team's bats come around to take pressure off his pitcher and his defense.

"It (the lack of hitting) puts a lot of pressure on the defense because good teams hit Bobbi," he said. "If we could score five-six runs a game for her we'd win."

ND would also be in the sectionals for sure.

After going 12-1 in their first 13 games, Paul Forte's Cardinal Mooney team has gone 2-2 in its last four.

The two wins came against league rivals Mercy, 11-7, and Nazareth, 15-6, while the two defeats were at the hands of Pittsford Mendon and Gates-Chili.

Mendon used a bases-clearing triple by Beth Riddle in the sixth inning to rally from a 9-8 deficit and beat the Cards, 12-9, at McAvoy Park on Saturday, May 14.

The loss to host Gates-Chili on Monday, May 9, was a real stunner. Gates came into the game with just five wins in 12 games, but handed Mooney an 8-7 loss. Forte's Cards were coming off a 4-0 loss to Hilton just two nights earlier.

Michelle Magin was a one-person team for Gates-Chili, collecting three hits, three RBIs and scoring the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning.

In the 10th Ward Tournament at Edgerton Park last Saturday, May 14, Nazareth Academy fell to eventual tournament-champion Greece Athena, 10-7. Athena went on to defeat Martin Luther King of New York City, 6-5, in the championship game.

Nazareth also fell to Wilson, 7-3, in a non-league game played on Thursday, May 12. Donna Paro's Little Irish of Aquinas fell to Marshall, 25-14, in another non-league game on Wednesday, May 11.

## Knights prevail at tightly contested AQ Relays

While thousands of Rochesterians were joining in the celebration of this year's Lilac Festival last weekend, McQuaid Jesuit was celebrating yet another track and field championship.

The Knights captured the Aquinas Relays track and field championship on Saturday, May 14, with 44 points, nipping six other schools in one of the tightest team scoring contests in the meet's 25-year history. The closest teams to McQuaid were Lockport of Section 6 (34), East (33), Penfield (29), Geneva (28), Amherst Sweet Home (28) and Edison (25). Aquinas finished with eight points. Thirty teams in all competed.

Bob Bradley's Knights officially won the meet when they captured the 3,200 relay at the evening's end. Scott Romanowski, Chris Cusack, Chris Adin and Brad Sumner set a Section 5 best in the relay, finishing in a time of 3:24.1.

Cusack and Sumner were double winners for McQuaid.

Sumner, Adin, Cusack and Mike Hanna recorded the first of McQuaid's three wins by taking the distance medley — which covers 4,000 meters — in 10:28.4.

Shortly thereafter, the Knights' sprint medley team of Steve Branca, Justin Berko-Boateng, Romanowski and Sumner set a meet record with a time of 3:33 to finish first in that race.

McQuaid's 3,200 relay team was also impressive, finishing second to Penfield (8:03.2) with a time of 8:08.9.

Aquinas' Brendan Doane placed second in the individual pole vault event, clearing the same height (13-6) as Fairport's Craig Schaefer but finishing in second on the basis of misses.

— Richard A. Kiley

## Sports Shorts

### Pools wanted

The Northwest Family YMCA is currently seeking pools for its Backyard Swim Program. The program's goals are to expand aquatic safety and to teach various swimming skills and water enjoyment.

Swim classes are taught by YMCA certified instructors with a ratio of five children to one instructor.

Families who allow the YMCA to use their pools will receive free swimming instruction for their children. Call (716)227-3900 for information.

### Swinging at lung disease

Twenty-two Rochester and Finger Lakes area golf courses and one driving range have joined the American Lung Association's Finger Lakes Region, Inc., in fighting lung disease, by becoming participants in the 1988 Golf Privilege Card program.

The card, which is available for a \$20 donation to the association, entitles the golfer to a free round of golf at each of the participating courses and a large bucket of balls at the driving range. The cards represent a \$275 value, and can be ordered in person or by mail from the ALA-Finger Lakes Region, 1595 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14620.

The cards are valid throughout the 1988 golf season. Certain restrictions may apply at particular courses.

### Nicklaus exhibition

Jack Nicklaus will play an 18-hole exhibition round of golf at Blue Heron Hills Country Club in Gananda on Thursday, June 30. Portions of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society and the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation through the Webster-Fairport Elks.

Admission tickets are \$22 each (including tax) and are now available through all Rochester-area branches of Manufacturers Hanover Bank. Tickets will also be available at the pro shop of Blue Heron Hills Country Club.

"The Golden Bear" will tee off at approximately 2 p.m. and finish his round around 5:45 p.m. A sponsors' cocktail party will follow.

A limited number of gold and silver sponsorship packages are still available.

Call (716)385-7770 for information.

### Nazareth nudged in NCAAs

In the opening round of Division III lacrosse playoffs Wednesday, May 11, eight-time defending national champion Hobart College jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead on Nazareth College, cruising to a 17-12 win over the Golden Flyers at Hobart's Boswell Field.

The second-ranked Statesmen took advantage of some costly penalties to Scott Nelson's eighth-ranked team, scoring three of their first five goals as a result of extra-man situations.

Before Nazareth (11-3) could take its first shot on goal, Hobart's Bill Miller, Scott Braden and Kurt Drury found the net. Hobart led 9-3 at the half, and 14-6 after three quarters before the Golden Flyers staged a late-scoring rally to make it close.

The fact that Nelson's club was even in the playoffs was a tremendous accomplishment in itself. The Yorktown, N.Y., native brought the lacrosse program to the playoffs and to the attention of lacrosse followers everywhere in only its third season of existence.

The game brought an end to a sensational season for Nelson and his players, who won their first nine games of the season, before falling to Hobart earlier in the season.

Nazareth was led by junior attackmen Bill Coons (West Henrietta) and Bill Atkinson (Syracuse). Coons was the team's leading scorer for the third consecutive year, and Atkinson became the school record holder for goals scored with 54.

The loss marked an end to the career of senior goalie Rocky Garofalo (Syracuse). The Nazareth netminder finished this season with an impressive 5.38 goals-against average and a .686 save percentage.

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