

Sports

Crusaders fall in baseball tourney; Saints drop two

By Richard A. Kiley

For the second consecutive year, Elmira Notre Dame met its Waterloo in Williamsport at the annual Elmira Baseball Tournament.

John Cain's Crusaders, who dropped their opening game to the Class A school in last year's tourney, did the same this year, as Williamsport defeated ND, 9-4, on Saturday, May 14.

Elmira Free Academy and Southside will play in the tournament final at a time and place to be determined.

With the exception of the loss to Williamsport, last week was pretty good to Cain's Crusaders (3-5, 7-10). Behind the strong pitching of Kevin Harney, Notre Dame beat Edison 4-1 on Thursday, May 12.

Mike Mesuch had two RBIs for the Crusaders. One of those RBIs came after Craig Milazzo tripled.

In its first test against a Class C school this season, ND blasted Addison 14-5 at home on Wednesday, May 11. Mesuch was the winning pitcher, overcoming four unearned runs in the top of the first inning. Bob Grosvenor and Milazzo both homered for ND.

The Crusaders also showed Horseheads they

could come back, rebounding from 6-0 and 8-2 deficits, and tying the game 9-9 before the game was called because of rain.

Freshman Mike Bennett made good on his recall from the junior varsity when he singled home two runs in the top of the eighth inning to tie the game.

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DeSales coach Frank Payne said his upstart Saints would face some tough pitching the second time around the schedule, and he was right.

DeSales (7-2) struggled last week, losing two of three games against Finger Lakes West opponents. The Saints' fielding experienced jitters on Friday, May 13, committing five errors in the final two innings in a 4-3 defeat to visiting Dundee.

Jim Vedora carried a 3-2 lead into the seventh inning, but the defense abandoned him. Three errors in Dundee's half of the inning enabled the Scotsmen to tie the game, 3-3. Dundee then won the game in the top of the eighth inning with yet another unearned run thanks to two more DeSales errors.

DeSales outlasted host Romulus, 8-6, in a league game on Wednesday, May 11. Frank

Payne Jr. and Joe Vedora combined for the win.

The Saints pulled the game out in the seventh inning with two runs. Steve Vedora tripped to lead off the seventh and scored on a single by Payne. After Jeff Taney was hit by a pitch, Payne scored on a single by Dean Askin.

South Seneca blasted DeSales, 12-2, on Monday, May 9, handing the Saints their first loss of the season. The Falcons roughed up both Joe and Jim Vedora during the win.

Before league play started this week, DeSales held a slim, one-game lead over Naples (6-3) and Honeyoye (6-3).

In City-Catholic League action from last week, Steve Miner struck out eight East batters and allowed only a second-inning single in a 12-0 win for Cardinal Mooney in a game that was shortened to five innings by rain. Jason Terrill collected four RBIs with three singles and Ray Lehner had two triples and four RBIs.

Junior right-hander Dave Zastrow improved his record to 7-0 for the season as Ed Nietopski's Cardinals defeated visiting Edison, 6-2, on Monday, May 9. Rob Hrankowski drove in three runs for Mooney, which also was bol-

stered by Charlie Sciortino's homer.

Aquinas continued its impressive play of late, thwarting visiting Marshall, 6-4, on Wednesday, May 11. Chris Culver drove in the winning runs with a single in the fourth inning.

Rich Pillitter's Little Irish achieved arguably their biggest win of the season thus far with a 13-5 win over visiting Bishop Kearney. The offensive heroes were many for AQ. Mike Germain went 3-for-3, scored four runs and plated three more. Mark Chapman was also 3-for-3 with three runs, and Brian Monteleone collected a pair of doubles and three RBIs as the Little Irish recorded the big league win.

Kearney also dropped a 3-2 decision to Franklin last week.

Behind a strong pitching performance by Byron Schneider, McQuaid Jesuit blanked visiting Edison, 9-0, on Wednesday, May 11. Schneider improved his record to 4-1 for Tim Jordan's Knights.

McQuaid dropped a league game to Franklin on Monday, May 9. The Quakers broke open a 2-2 game in the sixth inning before posting the win.

Bishop Kearney needs help to make sectionals in lacrosse

By Richard A. Kiley

As a result of back-to-back losses to Webster and Pittsford last week, Bishop Kearney will now need some help to have any chance of earning an inaugural trip to the high school lacrosse sectionals.

Until the two crucial losses, the Kings (7-7) were in a position to solidify a trip to the post-season. Webster and Pittsford are two teams Kearney head coach Jim Burns figures are battling with his Kings for the final positions in the upcoming sectionals. The top eight lacrosse teams in the section earn bids to play in the second season.

The Kings' offense sputtered in the second half under the lights at Webster on Saturday, May 14, as the host Warriors broke open a 3-3 halftime tie to defeat Kearney in non-league lacrosse, 8-4.

Burns' team was without leading-scorer Rich Shoap for the entire second half. Shoap, who scored two of Kearney's three goals in the first half, injured his shoulder in Kearney's overtime loss to Pittsford the day before.

"He played most of the first half using just one arm," Burns said. "It was too sore for him to play in the second half."

The Warriors took advantage of the Shoapless Kings over the final two quarters, getting two goals each from Dan Gunther and Brad Stever to break the game open. Webster outshot Kearney 29-20. Dave Smith (two goals) scored Kearney's lone second-half tally.

"All around it just wasn't our day; we're not a one-man team, but not having Shoap in there hurt us a lot," Burns said after the game. "Webster just had a little bit more talent than we

did. Their goals were pretty spread out"

Burns said his team may also have simply run out of gas in the second half, after having endured a grueling 13-11 loss in overtime to Pittsford on Friday, May 13.

The Kings seemingly had that game won in regulation until the Vikings stormed back to tie the contest with three goals in the final two-and-a-half minutes of regulation time. Two of Pittsford's goals came in the final 26 seconds of the fourth quarter, forcing an extra period. The Vikings then outscored Kearney 2-0 in the overtime session. Pittsford's John Chaney scored eight goals for the afternoon.

The non-league battle featured a stirring comeback by the Kings, who found themselves down 5-1 after one quarter. Kearney climbed back into it with four goals in the second quarter.

Dave Smith scored two goals just :10 apart at 1:10 and 1:18 of the second quarter, before Shoap (4:52) and Jon Hand (6:17) brought their team even closer. Kearney trailed, 7-5, at the half.

The scoring tear continued in the third quarter, as Burns' club outscored Pittsford 6-0, to carry an 11-7 lead into the fourth quarter. Jeff Hall scored two goals at 1:32 and 1:52 to tie the game, before Hand scored at 3:04 to give Kearney an 8-7 advantage. Hall gave his teammates a 9-7 lead with another goal at 3:43, and Hand scored at 6:46 and 8:45 to balloon the margin to 11-7 after three quarters.

"I was very impressed with the way we came back from being down 5-1, and that third quarter was one of the best quarters that we have played this year," Burns said.

The Kings squandered the lead in the final quarter, however, as the Vikings staged a comeback of their own. All of Pittsford's goals came on the fast break after Kearney lost control of the ball in the offensive end.

"None of their goals (in the fourth quarter) came on set plays. We had the ball the majority of the fourth quarter, but we just lost it," Burns said.

Burns said the Vikings' fast-break offense began to wear his team down in the game's late stages.

"Their depth really made the difference. I'm running one midfield line, and that takes its toll no matter what kind of shape you're in,"

the Kearney coach observed. "They were running two and three midfields. It's a tribute to the (Kearney) program and the kids for the job they do to be competitive with teams like Pittsford and Webster."

The Kearney coach added that, despite the losses, he and his players are still hopeful for a shot in this year's sectionals.

"Everything is still pretty tight. We have Pittsford away at Pittsford on Wednesday (May 18); anything can happen," said Burns, whose team closes out the regular season with night games at home against Bloomfield (May 20) and McQuaid (May 21). "We'll need some help from other teams, though."

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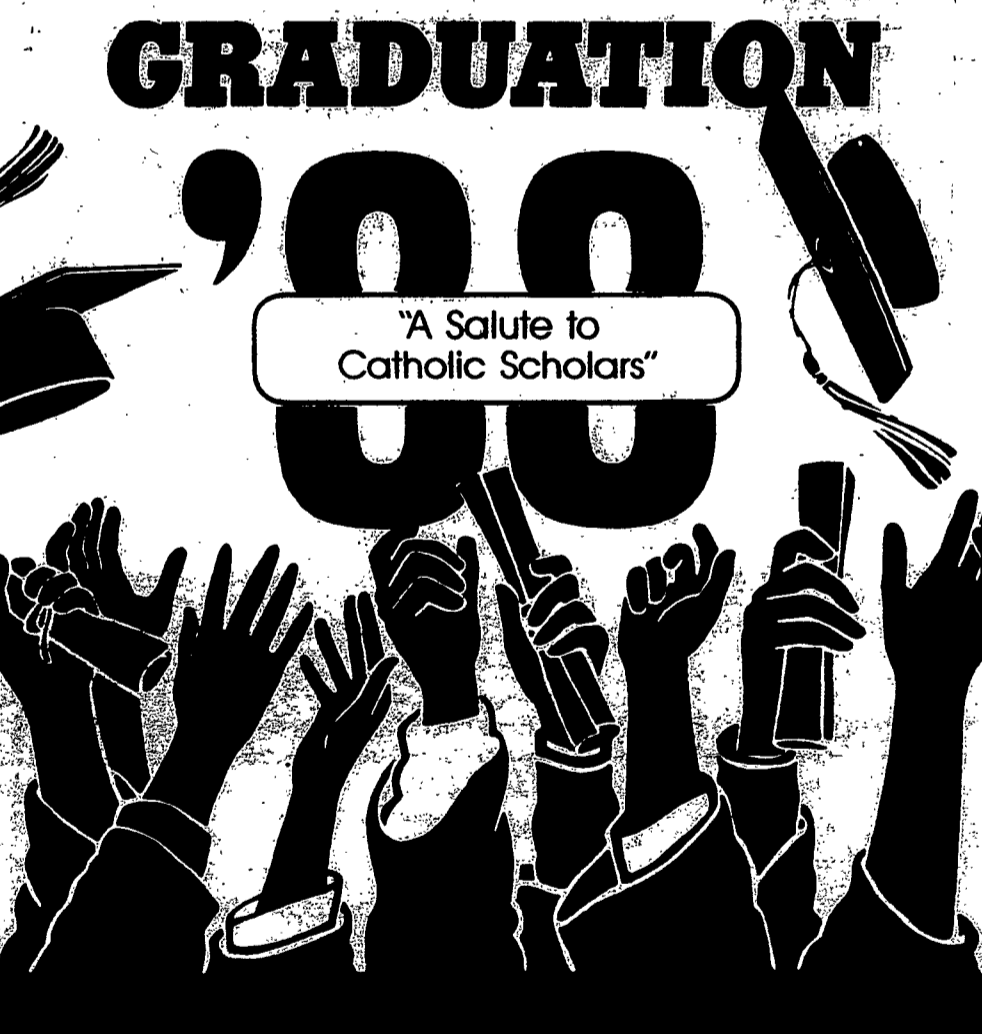
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Space Reservations: May 25 Copy Deadline: May 27 Publication Date: June 2

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