

Sports

Kings down Cardinals; Crusaders seek post-season berth

By Richard A. Kiley

His team marred by a terrible slump during much of the middle part of the softball season, Bishop Kearney coach Dave Riesenberger said things were getting pretty testy around the Kings' locker room the last couple of weeks.

Riesenberger's girls found the perfect cure last week in a 6-4 win at home over Section 5 champion Cardinal Mooney (9-1, 10-4) on Thursday, May 19. The game was called after five innings due to bad weather and field conditions.

"This is a great win for us. We had a tough stretch there where we lost four or five games in a row," said Riesenberger, who took over the program from Linda D'Onofrio this season after coaching the JV Kings for eight years. "But this one was very satisfying. The girls were feeling a lot better about things after the win over Mooney."

The victory was just what the doctor ordered, as far as Riesenberger is concerned. En-

tering the final week of regular-season play, Kearney is in a battle with several other Class A clubs to earn a remaining spot in the upcoming sectionals.

"This was definitely our best game of the year. It may be just what we need to get in (the sectionals)," said Riesenberger, whose Kings are 5-8 overall and 3-6 in league play.

The win over the slumping Cardinals, who defeated Kearney twice earlier in the season — including a 9-8 thriller at McAvoy Park back in mid-April — was made possible by a five-run fourth inning and a strong pitching performance by Ann Stockslader.

Junior outfielder Jill Newman delivered a key hit in the Kings' rally, bringing home two runs in the fourth-inning with a bases-loaded single off losing pitcher Noelle Feeney. Kearney led 6-0 at that point in the Private-Parochial League contest, before Paul Forte's Cards rallied to make the game close.

The Kings carried the momentum from the Mooney win into its non-league game with

Wilson between raindrops on Friday, May 20. Kearney's bats, which have been relatively silent through much of the season, came alive during a 17-7 win over the host Wildcats.

Kelli Curcio, who Riesenberger said has been his most consistent hitter this season, was a perfect 4-for-4 with four RBIs for Kearney. Stockslader was the winner once again, pitching into and out of trouble against the fiery Wildcats.

A few Private-Parochial League games were played despite the bad weather last week. On Tuesday, May 17, host Mooney staged a five-run rally in the sixth inning to knock off Aquinas, 7-4.

Cheryl Lennox gave Feeney and her arm a rest, striking out seven Little Irish batters. Lennox also produced with the bat, going 2-for-4 with a double.

In another league game played on the same day, second-place Mercy kept pace with Mooney by holding off visiting Nazareth Academy, 6-5. Paul Walker's Monarchs (6-3,

10-4) squared off against the Cards on Monday, May 23. Mooney defeated Mercy 11-7 in the most recent game between the two league foes.

The weather sent both of Elmira Notre Dame's games to the showers last week as Wayne Coburn and his Crusaders looked to nail down a sectional spot. Coburn noted that his girls were ranked fifth among Class C and D schools in the latest New York State Sports-writers' Association poll.

The Crusaders have a deceiving record with eight wins in 14 games. Several of their victories — and defeats as well — have come against the best softball teams in the state.

Saints

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et on Wednesday, May 25.

In what John Cain called his team's best game of the year, Elmira Notre Dame (8-10, 4-5) drubbed Sullivan Trail Conference titan Southside, 11-0, on Tuesday, May 17. Bob Grosvenor allowed five hits in gaining the shutout win.

The Crusaders got to Southside pitcher Andy Granger for 11 runs on 10 hits.

Grosvenor helped himself out by going 2-for-3, including a home run and a double. The Crusader pitcher collected four RBIs and scored three runs.

Jim Ermold, who had three RBIs for ND, went 3-for-4 and scored one run. Mike Mesuch and Craig Milazzo both contributed to the win as well. Mesuch was 2-for-4 and scored twice, and Milazzo collected a pair of doubles and one RBI.

College seeks three coaches

St. John Fisher College is seeking to fill part-time coaching vacancies in soccer and football, Athletic Director Bob Ward has announced.

Ward said the college is looking for a men's soccer head coach as well as offensive and defensive coordinators in football for the upcoming fall season. Each of the part-time positions requires previous coaching experience, although not necessarily on the college level, Ward said.

Those interested in applying should call (716)385-8309 for information.

Pittsford shoots down Kearney's bid for sectional trip

In two wins against McQuaid and Bloomfield last week, Bishop Kearney's lacrosse team devastated the Knights and Bombers, respectively, outscoring them 31-2.

Unfortunately for the Fighting Kings and coach Jim Burns, their game against Pittsford earlier last week proved even more devastating to Kearney.

Pittsford exploded for 10 goals in the fourth quarter in an 18-10 non-league win over visiting Kearney on Wednesday, May 18, ending any hopes the Kings had of making their first-ever trip to the sectionals in lacrosse.

Pittsford led 8-5 heading into the final quarter before Dave Chaney and Peter Russell erupted for two goals each in the pivotal period. Chaney led the Knights with six goals and five assists, and Russell added four goals and three assists.

Dave Smith led Kearney with five goals and one assist. Jeff Hall (two goals, three assists) and Jon Hand (three goals) also played well in defeat.

"The game was pretty even until we started having problems in the offensive end," said Burns, who has coached Kearney to a 22-28 record in his three years. "They scored a lot of quick goals on us. You wouldn't know it by the final score, but we played a pretty solid defensive game ... until the end."

Burns and his players knew exactly what the game's outcome brought an end to as well.

"I haven't collected the equipment yet, but I'm sure I would have gotten a call by now," he said, referring to the fact that sectional seedings in lacrosse came out last weekend. "We definitely had to get this one."

In the opening moments of the first quarter, the Kings looked like they were going to pay the Knights back for a 13-11 overtime loss back on Friday, May 13. With goals by Smith, Hall and Hand, the Kings jumped out to a 3-1 lead.

The Knights recovered, however, scoring four of the next five goals — two coming in the final two minutes — to take a 5-4 lead after one quarter.

Hand scored Kearney's lone tally of the second quarter at 8:46. That turned out to be the Kings' last goal until Smith's goal :19 into the fourth period.

Chaney and Russell weren't going to let the Kings gain any momentum from Smith's goal off the opening faceoff in the fourth quarter, either. Just nine seconds after the Kearney midfielder's goal, Chaney began a string of three consecutive Pittsford goals — Russell had the other two — making the score 11-6.

The Kings were able to pull within 14-10 with three minutes remaining, but the Knights reeled off four consecutive goals to ice the win.

In the end, Burns said, it was just another game in which a lack of team depth inhibited his program from making a trip to the post season.

"Depth is what is keeping us from giving the (Monroe) County schools that final blow," he said. "We've been in every game that we played against them."

Kearney closed out its season with two easy wins over McQuaid and Bloomfield. The Kings' 18-0 win over Mike Schepis' Knights came under the lights in front of nearly 200 fans at Kearney on Saturday, May 21.

Kearney led McQuaid — competing in its first season ever in lacrosse — 4-0 after one quarter, 9-0 at the half and 16-0 after the third period. Shoap (four goals, two assists) broke his school's three-year-old scoring record by notching his 51st goal of the season. Fusari had

held the mark with 50 goals in one season.

Hand (two goals, four assists), Smith (three goals, three assists) and Hall (three goals, one assist) were also impressive during the lopsided win. All rested in the second half as guys like Jeff Faling, Kyle Gross, Mark Schicker, John Piccuch, Brian Hauer and Carl Provenzano found the net.

Schepis' Knights were called for 16 penalties, nine more than they accrued during a 16-0 loss to Kearney back in mid-April.

Against Bloomfield on Friday, May 20, the Kings led 3-1 after one quarter and then erupted for six goals in the second quarter to blast the Bombers, 12-2. Smith (four goals, two assists), Hand (three goals, two assists), Shoap (three goals, one assist), Hall (four assists), Jim O'Leary (one goal) and Kevin Hauer (one goal) all contributed in the win.

Kearney defeated Bloomfield 13-2 earlier in the year.

The Bombers kept the grass from growing in the penalty area as they were called for 15 infractions. Seven penalties came in Kearney's big second quarter, enabling the Kings to build a 9-1 halftime bulge.

"They (Bloomfield) took themselves out of the game with those penalties in the second

quarter," Burns said. "It was their last game of the season ... I don't know what kind of state of mind they were in."

Looking back at his team's season, even if it was ending a little earlier than he would have liked, Burns seemed somewhat awed by what he and his players had accomplished.

"This is definitely the best all-around team I've had in my three years on the varsity," Burns said, adding that 9-8 is better than any Kearney team has done — ever. "Things are really improving. Games against Irondequoit, Webster and Penfield in the past weren't so close. Our program has come a long way."

Burns is looking to "reward" his players' emergence by helping put together a tougher schedule next year.

"I think what hurt us was the weakness of our schedule," said the Kearney coach, who will lose a lot of scoring punch in Hall and Shoap this June. "I've got coaches calling me all the time now ... from Rush, Irondequoit, everywhere."

To make the sectionals next year, Burns may have to take those coaches up on a few more games.

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