

Sports

Mooney mauls Mercy; ND falls in Class C final

By Richard A. Kiley

Any softball teams which thought Cardinal Mooney's late-season slump meant that Paul Forte's Cardinals were ripe to be upset in this year's Section 5 Class AA softball tournament were sadly mistaken.

Just ask the Monarchs of Mercy, who were biting at the bit to play the defending sectional champs. Mooney had narrowly escaped defeat in 4-3 and 11-7 regular-season wins over Mercy in the last two meetings between the two Private-Parochial League foes, and word had it that students at the Blossom Road school were confident of an upset this time around.

That confidence turned to dismay at McAvoy Park on Friday, June 4, as the third-seeded Cardinals (20-4) ripped No. 6 Mercy, 18-0, in the Class AA quarterfinals.

Cheryl Lennox had four hits and eight RBIs for Mooney, which was also bolstered by Margie McGuire's five RBIs. Dawn Pickering scored four runs for Mooney, which jumped on Mercy (12-6) for three runs in the first inning, six more in the fourth and seven in the sixth.

Noelle Feeney yielded just one hit for the Cardinals — a third-inning single by Julie Buntich. She struck out two and walked four, propelling Mooney into the semifinals against No. 2 Webster. The Cards-Warriors game was scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, at McAvoy Park.

Top-seeded Hilton (21-0) and No. 5 Irondequoit were scheduled to play in the other semifinal game at McAvoy Park on Wednesday, June 8. The Class AA championship game will be played on Friday, June 10.

Forte, who believes his team may be peaking again after struggling through the late stages of the regular season, said the Monarchs seemed a little over-anxious for their quarterfinal showdown against his Cards.

"They were so uptight; we wanted to win too, but we don't get overly emotional for any game," said Forte, whose team was voted the Sportsmanship Award last week among Private-Parochial League, City-League and independent teams. "Nothing seems to bother this team."

Feeney kept the Monarchs from staging any semblance of a rally, something Forte is delighted to see as the senior pitcher tries to pitch the Cards into the finals for the second year in a row.

"She was in control of herself and around

the plate the whole game," Forte said. "I've been telling her that she doesn't have to strike these people out ... trying to get her to take the pressure off of herself."

The Cards-Warriors game on Tuesday featured a showdown between Feeney and Webster pitcher Liz Helbig. Helbig pitched a one-hitter in Webster's 4-2 win over No. 7 Greece Athena on Friday, June 3, and held No. 15 Nazareth Academy to just two hits in the Warriors' 21-1 win over Dave Pisano's club on Tuesday, May 31. Webster's offense was equally impressive, as the Warriors rocked Nazareth pitching with 24 hits.

Mooney advanced to the quarterfinals against Mercy with a 10-5 win over Gates-Chili on Tuesday, May 31. Lennox and Julie Kolb had three hits and two RBIs for Mooney, which lost to the Spartans 9-8 back on May 9.

Paul Walker's Monarchs made it to the quarterfinals by beating No. 11 Penfield as winning pitcher Jenni Baxter and Julie Buntich had three hits each.

In the AA classification, Hornell's Kim Glover had two hits and four RBIs in the third-seeded Red Raiders' 18-2 win over 14th-seeded Bishop Kearney at Geneseo on Tuesday, May 31. Dave Riesenberger's Kings ended the season with a record of 8-11.

Over in Class D, No. 3 DeSales finds itself in the semifinals after wins over No. 6 Rushford and No. 14 Romulus. Against Rushford on Friday, June 3, the Saints rallied in the late innings to beat the Tigers in eight innings, 8-7, in the quarterfinal game at Cohocton.

DeSales coach Pat Luzzi was awaiting the outcome of another Class C quarterfinal game to see who his Saints would be playing in the semis at Cohocton on Tuesday, June 7. Friendship took on top-seeded Avoca in the other semifinal game.

Rushford led DeSales 7-4 after five innings of play last Tuesday, only to have the Saints tie it up the sixth. Winning-pitcher Danielle Boncaro delivered a two-run home run for the key blow in the Saints' rally.

Boncaro also had a big part in the winning run in the eighth inning, scoring on Carin Cariveta's sacrifice fly after the DeSales pitcher tripled.

Boncaro had 10 strikeouts and four walks to notch the win.

In her team's 21-5 win over No. 12 Romulus on Tuesday, May 31, Boncaro had four hits and four RBIs in the win. The all star freshman

place Spencerport (3:30.80) and third-place Canandaigua (3:31.8).

The same four runners won the 3,200 relay with a time of 8:07.6, easily finishing ahead of East Rochester (8:13.2) and Pittsford (8:17.9).

Also qualifying in this weekend's state meet were McQuaid's Justin Berko-Boateng, who leaped 21-10.5 in the long jump (second place), and 44-9.25 in the triple jump (third place), and Aquinas Institute's Brendan Doane. Doane finished third in the pole vault, but his 12-6 effort was good enough to qualify for states.

Young headed an impressive field in the 400 meters, finishing with a time of :59.33. The Mercy junior was also a part of the 1,600 relay team — Nikki LaMagna, Shannon O'Neill, Susan Mazurowski and Young — which took that relay in 4:08.32.



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal
Mooney's Patti Heydens reaches second base before Mercy shortstop Julie Buntich can apply the tag. The third-seeded Cards drubbed the Monarchs 18-0.

pitcher also had seven assists and one put out defensively.

Over in Section 4 Class C, No. 2 Notre Dame dropped a 3-0 decision to top-seeded Deposit in the championship game at Eldridge Stadium in Elmira on Saturday, June 4.

Wayne Coburn's Crusaders (11-7) could muster just five hits for the afternoon, wasting a good pitching performance from Bobbi McMail. The eighth-grade pitcher yielded just seven hits to Deposit, and did not give up an earned run.

"We really didn't have the physical tools to hit (Deposit's) pitcher; she had pretty decent stuff," said Coburn, whose team was rated as high as fourth among Class C and D schools in the state this spring. "We had a tough time hitting pitchers with good velocity all season."

The season was a good one for ND. In addition to being ranked among the state's best most of the season, the Crusaders ended Southside's 15-game winning streak and also knocked off state-powers in Susquehanna Valley and Vestal.

Heck steps down; weighing 'professional options'

John Heck, who has coached football at Cardinal Mooney High School for the past three seasons, resigned from his coaching post last week.

John Walker is the new varsity head football coach at the Greece high school, according to Athletic Director Ed Nietopski.

Heck accrued a three-season mark of 10-14-1 at Mooney, including a 1-6-1 record last fall. Heck replaced Cy Resch in 1985 after coaching Honeoye Falls-Lima for six seasons.

"I'm really excited about a few professional options that I'm considering," said Heck, who believes the football Cardinals will rebound from last season's difficulties with a strong season this fall. "Hopefully, I will finalize my

plans in the immediate future."

Nietopski said he regretted Heck's decision to leave.

"He is not only a good football coach, but he is a caring individual who has contributed much to the development and growth of our boys," Nietopski said. "He has shown compassion for his players, instilled pride in their performance and has brought Cardinal Mooney football back. We will truly miss him."

Walker, an English teacher at the Greece high school, coached varsity cross country and wrestling this school year. A 1970 graduate of Mooney, Walker attended Edinboro (Pa.) University, and was an assistant for four years at Conneaut Lake (Pa.) High School.

Sumner, Young propel relay teams

McQuaid Junior Brad Sumner and Mercy Junior Laura Young will represent their respective schools at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships this Friday and Saturday at Baker High School in Baldwinsville (near Syracuse) after running impressively at the state qualifiers last weekend.

At Geneseo State, Sumner won the 800 meters in 1:56.98, in addition to having a leg in Bob Bradley's Knights two successful distance relays. Sumner said after the race that he will not run in the 800 at the states, as he focuses his efforts on the relays.

McQuaid's 1,600 relay team of Scott Romanowski, Chris Adin, Chris Cusack and Sumner finished in 3:22.53 to beat out second-

place Spencerport (3:30.80) and third-place Canandaigua (3:31.8).

The same four runners won the 3,200 relay with a time of 8:07.6, easily finishing ahead of East Rochester (8:13.2) and Pittsford (8:17.9).

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Saints

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