

Sports

Saints continue to surprise; Spencerport ousts McQ, Mooney

By Richard A. Kiley

All season long, Frank Payne's young and inexperienced Saints of Geneva DeSales have been surprising their coach. Now, they are astounding the competition in the Section 5 Class C high school baseball tournament.

The Saints' remarkable season rolled on last week as they posted wins over No. 5 Canisteo (14-5) and 13th-seeded Hammondspport. No. 4 DeSales (11-3) took on top-seeded Fillmore (15-2) on Tuesday, June 7, and if the Saints were able to win that Class C semifinal game, they will play the winner of the other semifinal between No. 3 Avoca and No. 10 Pavilion at Silver Stadium on Saturday, June 11.

DeSales knocked off Canisteo 8-5 on Friday, June 3, at Honeoye. Behind the hitting of Steve Vedora, Frank Payne Jr. and Matt Cannon, the Saints opened up an 8-2 lead on the Class C team from the Steuben League before holding off a late rally by the Redskins.

Vedora, one of DeSales' top three hitters this season, hit a triple and drove in three runs for the Saints. Cannon collected three hits to account for two RBIs, and Payne contributed with two hits and two RBIs of his own.

Joe Vedora, Payne and Jim Vedora all pitched for DeSales. Joe Vedora left in the middle of the game, but was used again in the seventh inning to squelch a Canisteo rally. The Redskins scored three runs in the seventh to pull to within 8-5, but left the bases loaded when Cannon ran down a long fly ball to end the game.

"That was a nice catch by Cannon; they would have cleared the bases if that ball wasn't caught," Payne said. "It was one of the best defensive games we've played all season."

Against No. 13 Hammondspport on Tuesday, May 31, the Saints scored two runs in the second inning, three more in the fourth and two additional runs in the fifth inning to whip the Lakers, 7-1, at Geneva's McDonough Park.

Steve Vedora was swinging a hot bat again, driving in three runs with two hits. Cannon laced a double to plate two more runs, as the game was never in doubt.

Payne believed his club has as good a shot as any of the final four going into Tuesday's game, although he rated Pavilion as the favorite. Even though the Golden Gophers were the



Bonnie Trafolet/Courier-Journal

Spencerport's Tony Russo slides around the tag of Mooney shortstop Scott Hylas during second-inning action of the Rangers' 6-4 upset of the Cards.

lowest-seeded team (No. 10) remaining in the tourney, Pavilion pitcher Steve Kosarko has been mowing down opposing batters with a vengeance. He has 27 strikeouts in impressive wins over Honeoye and Lyndonville. Payne had tabbed No. 2 Lyndonville as the favorite before the Class C tournament began.

No. 14 Spencerport established itself as the Cinderella team of this year's AAA classification with wins over two of the three Catholic high schools in the sectional tourney.

The Rangers (10-14) posted a 6-4 upset against No. 6 Cardinal Mooney in the quarterfinals on Friday, June 3, at Gates-Chili High School. Spencerport's Steve Vivian came through with the game-winning hit for the Rangers, scoring Matt Brooks on a single late in the game.

Shawn Pittman came on in relief for start-

ing pitcher Dan Miller to notch the win. Pittman, who got his team out of a bases-loaded-nobody-out jam when he entered the game, went the last four innings for the win over Ed Nietopski's Cards.

Mooney had advanced to the quarterfinal game with a 7-6 win over 11th-seeded Canandaigua. Chuck Sciortino hit a two-run triple as the Cards held off the Braves. The game ended with the bases loaded for Canandaigua.

In Spencerport's first-round game against Aquinas Institute on Tuesday, May 31, the Rangers drubbed the Little Irish 9-0 at home.

Vivian had a two-run single and Pittman yielded only four hits as Spencerport ousted Rich Pilliter's team from the sectionals. Pilliter attributed the loss to a late-season hitting slump, which simply carried over into the sectionals.

"We hadn't been hitting over the last four or five games, and that was the case against Spencerport as well," said Pilliter, whose club finished 18-7 overall after winning the City-Catholic League this year. "Spencerport was peaking at the right time; we weren't!"

The loss marked an end to Mark Chapman's high school career at the Dewey Avenue high school. The Connecticut-bound senior hit .458 to-lead Aquinas this season. Other top hitters were Chris Culver (.329), Freddie Rogers (.321) and Brian Monteleone (19 RBIs).

Edison's John Muhs continued to be a one-man show for the 13th-seeded Inventors this spring. His latest heroics came at the expense of fourth-seeded McQuaid as Edison upset Tim Jordan's Knights 8-5 at McQuaid on Tuesday, May 31.

Muhs got the key hit in a sixth-inning rally with an RBI single and got the win on the mound as well. He allowed just six hits and struck out seven to notch the win for Edison.

McQuaid finished the season 14-7.

It was a short second season for No. 3 Bishop Kearney as well as Art Carlisi's Fighting Kings dropped a 5-3 decision to No. 14 Victor in Class AA action from last week.

Eric Schickler hit two home runs for the Blue Devils, and ended any hopes of a comeback by the Kings when he pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh inning.

"We gave them a break with a key error on an overthrow, and they didn't give us any breaks," said Carlisi, whose team finished the season at 12-7 (9-4 in the City-Catholic League). "That was the difference."

Over in Section 4 Class C, No. 1 Greene ended Elmira Notre Dame's season with a 6-0 win over the eighth-seeded Crusaders on Wednesday, June 1, at Greene.

Left-hander Todd Coleman kept John Cain's Crusaders off balance all afternoon as he allowed just two hits and struck out 12.

Greene scored two runs in the first inning and two more in the fourth and sixth innings to ice the win. Notre Dame pitchers Joe Long and Bob Grosvenor pitched well in defeat, yielding seven hits between them.

Notre Dame, which finished the season at 10-11, had beaten ninth-seeded Whitney Point 7-1 in the first round of the tourney.

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