

Sports



HEADS-UP PLAY — Gia Cucinelli, Cardinal Mooney's top scorer last fall, uses her head to keep possession of the ball during the Cards' 1-1 tie with non-league foe Greece Arcadia on Thursday, Sept. 8. Look for extensive coverage of diocesan girls' soccer teams beginning in next week's issue.

Knights should defend title despite loss of key personnel

By Richard A. Kiley

The marquee players may be gone, but McQuaid Jesuit may still have the talent to get to the big show in soccer.

Sure, Tom Prame (26 goals) may have taken his magic foot to the University of Rochester, and other much-talented players such as P.J. Mooney (Ithaca), Brian DeJoy (Ithaca), Justin Berko-Boateng, and Mark Ungerer may have graduated, but Dan Schied's Knights are simply reloading, not rebuilding.

Yet Schied is hesitant to admit it.

"I guess we have to be the favorites to take the league title, but none of the other teams can be taken lightly," said Schied, referring to Catholic rivals such as Cardinal Mooney, Aquinas and even a young Bishop Kearney team. "This is a nice, balanced team. I don't think the papers will be writing features about any one guy like last year, but we have a balanced team like the one two years ago."

That earlier McQuaid team went all the way to the Section 5 Class AAA semis in soccer before falling 3-0 to Gates-Chili. Schied isn't predicting a repeat performance of '86, but his club appears to have the personnel to take the league title for the second consecutive year.

Jerry Concannon and Dan Wilmot were named most valuable and best attacker at the Wayne Tournament last weekend as the Knights were victorious over the host Eagles, 2-0, in the championship game. Wilmot and teammate Damian Shields scored the goals for McQuaid.

Kevin Murphy, one of three senior goalies on the team — Mike Boychuk and Bill Thomas are the others — recorded the shut out. Last season, Murphy was 9-1, while Boychuk was 9-2 as the two juniors split time tending goal. Schied said he is undecided as how he will handle the three-goalie situation this fall.

The Knights advanced to last week's Wayne Tournament final game by whipping Fairport, 4-2. Schied's club had a comfortable 3-0 lead at intermission, but found itself leading by just 3-2 early in the second half before squelching the Red Raiders.

Schied's Knights endured a truer test against Pittsford Mendon, the top-ranked Class B school in the state, earlier in the week. Despite the result — a 2-0 win by the Vikings — the second-year McQuaid coach was impressed by his team's effort.

"I wasn't real pleased with our early play, but I liked what I saw after we settled down," he said. "I think this team will start out slowly and hopefully we will peak late in the season."

The Knights (18-3 in '87) peaked late last season, but unfortunately for them, it was a little too early. After a stunning 4-0 win against eventual Class A state champion Hilton with two weeks left in the regular season, McQuaid's play was inconsistent.

Schied's club was eventually nudged out of a wild card spot by Cardinal Mooney in the sectional round-robin tournament. The two Catholic schools had identical 2-1 records in the three games, but Mooney scored one more goal than McQuaid and advanced as a wild card team.

Cardinal Mooney coach Paul Forte lost everything but the team bus to graduation last June. Included in the mass exodus were key offensive weapons such as Peter Mojsej (Rochester Institute of Technology) and Sakda Viravong (Buffalo State), as well as sweeper Todd Leary, midfielder Adam Schwartz and goalie Chris Kehoe.

Defense appears to be Mooney's strength this season with the return of senior co-captain Allan Ford as well as senior fullback Jeff Merkey, junior co-captain Jim Shoniker and senior defenders Kevin Cosgrove and Greg Czarniak. A pre-season leg injury kept Czar-

niak from playing last fall. Senior fullback Sean Trapp — hurt in a game against Horseheads — won't help matters, however.

Offensively, senior Allan Ebertz (eight goals) and two players up from the junior varsity should help ease the loss of Mojsej et al. Sophomore Tony Floreano and junior midfielder Steve Lichtenberger are dangerous around the net. Lichtenberger was one of the leading scorers on the JV last year.

Trying to replace Kehoe in the goal will be junior Jim Danza, as well as Pat Corrigan and Mike Reinschmidt.

In all, 16 of the 25 players on the Mooney roster are underclassmen.

"We can be a good team; there is a good blend of offense there," Forte said. "Right now, they're just not used to playing with each other."

A trend Forte would like to see his players soon change is squandering leads. The Cards have jumped out to two-goal leads in each of their three games thus far, only to have two of those opponents — Greece Olympia and Horseheads — come back and tie them. A late goal in a 3-2 win against Brockport, which trailed 2-0 at one point, avoided a similar fate.

As always, the Mooney coach has stacked the schedule with tough non-league opponents such as Mendon, Greece Athena, Honeoye Falls-Lima and Hilton.

"If you play patsies early and win you get a false sense of security," said Forte, who added that his club will have a tough time winning back the league crown from McQuaid. "They (the Knights) are the team to beat. Last year their emphasis was on speed, but this year they look like a bigger, more physical team."

OVER IN SECTION 4 Class C, Notre Dame has found the early going a little rough. Henry Ferguson's Crusaders went winless in their first three games of the season, but trounced Greene, 7-0, in a non-league contest on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Ferguson's club lost to Corning 4-1 and 2-1 to Alfred-Almond in a shootout at the Corning Cup tourney before falling to Trumansburg, 5-0, Wednesday, Sept. 7.

The Crusaders took their frustrations out on Greene, however, as Mike Ramich scored three times. Ramich and midfielder Eric Breeman should be the players to watch for ND this fall.

Louisville Catholic school places two swimmers on Olympic team

By Joseph Duerr and Roy J. Horner

Louisville, Ky. (NC) — When the women swimmers take their marks at the Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, Louisville's Sacred Heart Academy will be represented by two of its graduates.

Mary T. Meagher, 23, holder of the world record in the 100-meter butterfly, will swim in two butterfly events and the medley relay. Meagher thus has a chance to equal her three-gold-medal performance in the 1984 Olympics.

Leigh Ann Fetter, 19, is new to the Olympics. Although she was in training for the 1992 games, her second-place finish at the Olympic trials in the 50-yard freestyle put her on the team.

The U.S. Olympic swim team includes the top two finishers in each of 13 events. The women's team has 19 members.

Floy Meagher said her daughter is more relaxed now than she was before the 1984 Games in Los Angeles.

"I think she is looking forward to it more," Mrs. Meagher told *The Record*,

Louisville's archdiocesan newspaper. "She is not going through the same nervousness. She's quite relaxed. I think she will perform well."

If long-distance dialing were an Olympic event, the Fetters of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Louisville would win a gold.

"My phone bill is unbelievable," Sherl L. Fetter, Leigh Ann's father, told *The Record*. "Leigh Ann is one of those that when you get on the phone with her, you can't hardly get off. She just keeps on talking."

The phone calls have been times of progress reports, not only about Fetter's swim times, but about her attitudes and emotions as well.

"She's up," her dad said.

For the Fetters, late August was a rush to get airline and hotel reservations in Seoul. Their daughter's place on the team was a pleasant surprise.

Ms. Fetter, a sophomore at the University of Texas, has been competing on a national level for only three years. She was preparing for a spot on the 1992 women's swim team.



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