

Sports

Elmira ND edges Forks, 27-21 DeSales smothers Red Jacket

By Richard A. Kiley

Elmira Notre Dame traveled to one of the most dreaded high school football fields in upstate New York last weekend, and emerged with one of the most exciting wins in coach Mike D'Aloisio's career.

Spurred by the leadership and poise of sophomore quarterback Mike Bennett and the defensive play of Donnie Sheehan, among others, Notre Dame defeated Chenango Forks, 27-21, on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The win by the Crusaders avenged a 36-12 defeat to Chenango Forks last fall.

Forks (2-1), winners of 19 consecutive league games, came into the game ranked third among large schools in the latest New York State high school football poll. Notre Dame (3-0) was ranked eighth in the small-school poll.

Bennett accounted for nearly 100 of ND's 294 yards in total offense, throwing for 74 yards (6-for-9, 0 interceptions) and running for 25 more. He also put his team on the scoreboard first with a one-yard run in the first quarter.

"Mike did an excellent job. For a sophomore quarterback to lead us the way he did was just great," said D'Aloisio, who has led ND to 10 wins in its last 12 games. "To go down there and beat one of the best teams in the state in their own backyard is a tribute to Mike and the whole team."

Forks took an 8-7 lead early in the second quarter. ND then regained the lead when Bennett engineered a 70-yard scoring drive, culminating in a one-yard touchdown run by Mike Bernatavitz to make the score 14-8.

One of the key plays in the drive was a 24-yard pass from Bennett to junior tight end Lee Hayward.

ND bolstered its lead to 21-8 before halftime as Grosvenor scored on a two-yard run. Sheehan set up the score with an interception, one of three turnovers he came up with against Forks.

Chenango Forks trimmed the lead to 21-14 by the end of the third quarter, but Bernatavitz scored his second touchdown of the day on a one-yard run with 10 minutes to go in the fourth quarter to give ND a 27-14 lead. The touchdown proved crucial as Grosvenor, who also plays free safety on defense — sat out the entire fourth quarter due to heat exhaustion.

Chenango Forks' quarterback Todd McCoy quickly took advantage of Grosvenor's absence at free safety when he threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to pull his team to within six points, 27-21.

ND then made its toughest defensive stand of the young season as Forks drove for the tying touchdown with 1:53 remaining in the fourth quarter, but turned the ball over to ND after the Crusaders held them on downs at the 15-yard line.

D'Aloisio saluted his defense after the game. "We had an excellent pass rush when it was fourth and seven and our secondary deserves a lot of credit," he said. "It was a war out there. Both teams were like two heavyweight boxers who wouldn't go down."

Grosvenor rushed for 125 yards on 17 carries over three quarters. Bernatavitz rushed for

68 yards on 15 carries to go along with his two touchdowns.

Forks held a 356-294 edge in total offense. D'Aloisio said the win shouldn't have surprised many people. "We knew they (Forks) were going to be tough," he said. "We don't underestimate our opponents, but we don't want to underestimate ourselves either. We're not a program that should be taken lightly."

Notre Dame opens up its league schedule this Saturday, Oct. 1, at 1:30 p.m. against Windsor, which has lost two consecutive game-breakers to Walton and Norwich in the last two weeks.

Windsor will also be hungry to pay back ND for a 14-7 loss last year.

DeSales 31, Red Jacket, 0

The Finger Lakes West contest between the host Saints and the Indians was supposed to be a real test for DeSales, but it proved to be a walkover.

The defense of DeSales (3-0) smothered the Red Jacket offense, permitting the Indians (2-1) to cross midfield just once in the game. In addition to recovering three fumbles, the Saints' defense made three interceptions — two by Frank Payne.

After giving up an average of 19 points a game last season, DeSales has given up just eight points in three games this season.

Offensively, DeSales was led by running back Chris Ike and quarterback Ron Cecere. Ike carried the ball 17 times for 130 yards, and gave the Saints the only points they would need with a 10-yard touchdown run in the second quarter to make it 6-0.

Cecere continued to throw the ball well for first-year coach Bob Taney, completing 10 of 19 passes for 161 yards and two touchdowns. His first touchdown pass came just before halftime when he hooked up with Jeff Taney on a 15-yard play to make the score 12-0.

DeSales put the game well out of reach with a 15-yard touchdown run by Ike in the third quarter, and a 35-yard touchdown toss from Cecere to Bob Clark to make the score 24-0.

Payne hooked up with Joe Vedora on a five-yard play in the final quarter to provide the final margin for DeSales.

The Saints play at Mynderse at 7:30 p.m. this Friday, Sept. 30.

Bishop Kearney 20, Batavia 0

Kearney's defense has now gone 12 quarters without giving up a single point as the Kings (3-0) blanked the host Blue Devils (1-2) in a non-league game on Friday, Sept. 23.

Sophomore Lamin Massaquoi was the star for Nick Teta's club, mashing on a 60-yard pass from senior quarterback Craig Chodak in the first quarter and on a five-yard run in the third quarter. He also led the Kings' defensive surge with three quarterback sacks.

Steve Smith was another defensive standout for Kearney, making 12 tackles for the night. Kearney racked up 240 yards in total offense.

Kearney will play its fourth consecutive game on the road this Sunday, Oct. 2, at 2 p.m. in a key City-Catholic battle with Aquinas. The game could decide the eventual winner of the

Monarchs top competition at Newark Invitational

Our Lady of Mercy won the girls' team competition at the Newark Invitational last Saturday, Sept. 24, as Tim Jones' Monarchs finished with 77 points against schools comprising Division 1.

Mercy edged runner-up Fairport, which finished with 91 points.

The Monarchs placed three runners in the top 15 at Ultra Technologies Park. Maggie Whelehan covered the 5,000 meters in 21:37 to finish in the 10th spot. The Mercy senior was followed closely by teammate Laura Young (21:46, 11th place) and Therese Mack (21:58, 14th place).

Bishop Kearney placed fourth among Division II teams in the boys' race. The Kings fin-

ished with 112 points behind Hilton (46), Batavia (53) and Greece Olympia (108). McQuaid Jesuit placed seventh with 170 points, while Aquinas (188) and Cardinal Mooney (201) finished eighth and ninth respectively.

Among the top finishers were Kearney's John Sullivan (17:53, 4th place) and Damien O'Connor (18:10, 9th place) as well as Mike O'Brien of Mooney (18:13, 10th place) and Aquinas' Rob DeVinney (18:15, 12th place).

This Saturday, Oct. 1, most of the best runners from Section 5 — and the Northeast and Canada — will be at Genesee Valley Park for the McQuaid Invitational.

Mooney falls in Cardinal Classic final at Fisher

Cardinal Mooney succumbed to Sacred Heart of Buffalo by scores of 15-9 and 15-13 in the championship match of the Cardinal Catholic Tournament at St. John Fisher College last weekend.

Michelle Rupert's Cards, who competed against Sacred Heart in Pool B, had beaten the Buffalo school earlier in the tournament, 16-14 and 15-4.

The two teams advanced to the championship match with impressive wins in the semi-final round. Mooney defeated Mt. Mercy by scores of 15-5, 10-15 and 15-5 to earn a spot in the final.

Sacred Heart was victorious over Cardinal O'Hara in the semis, dropping the first game, 11-15, but coming back to win the next two, 16-14 and 15-11.



WILDCATS WHIPPED — Cardinal Mooney senior Martin Marron attempted to gain possession of the ball from a Wilson defender during the first half of the Cardinals' 11-0 trouncing of the Wildcats last Thursday, Sept. 24.

Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

City-Catholic League

The Little Irish edged Kearney last season, 20-13.

Aquinas 22, McQuaid 0

Chris Battaglia's Little Irish tuned up for the showdown against Kearney with a 22-0 win over visiting McQuaid on Sunday, Sept. 25. AQ has outscored McQuaid 65-7 over the last three meetings between the City-Catholic rivals.

The Little Irish appeared to still be feeling the effects of a tough 10-7 loss to Buffalo St. Joe's early in the game. But after Tom Sprague's Knights (1-2, 1-2) had the better of the play in the first half, Aquinas (2-0, 2-1) came out storming in the third quarter.

Jermaine McGowan earned his two second-half touchdowns with a 12-yard run, culminating a 77-yard scoring drive for the Little Irish.

McGowan (11 carries, 75 yards) reached the end zone again in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter when he scampered 37 yards for a score to make it 12-0. Corey Collins added the two-point conversion and AQ led, 14-0.

Collins added another score for Aquinas when he ran the ball into the end zone from the two-yard line with a little more than a minute remaining in the game.

McQuaid will try and get back on the win-

ning track with a league game at Edison this Saturday, Oct. 1, at 1 p.m. The Knights edged the Inventors, 21-20, last fall.

Wilson 22, Mooney 13

The host Cards (0-3) played their best game of the season by far, but it wasn't enough to tame the Wildcats (1-2) or to notch John Walker his first win since taking over for John Heck. Mooney's Brian Keenan, who had both points of the first half on a two-yard run to give the Cards a 7-0 lead at halftime.

The Wildcats turned the game around in the third quarter, thanks to a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown by Charles Alexander — his first of three scores for the day. The two-point conversion gave Wilson an 8-7 lead.

Alexander, who rushed for 150 yards on 10 carries, increased Wilson's lead to 14-6 on a 60-yard run for a touchdown later in the quarter.

Mooney quarterback Frank Delvecchio pulled the Cards to within a point, 14-13, when he found Keenan open for a 26-yard touchdown play in the fourth quarter. But Alexander put any hopes of a come-from-behind victory by Mooney when he rumbled 40 yards for his third touchdown of the day with 1:30 left.

Mooney plays host to powerful East (3-0) this Saturday, Oct. 1, at 2 p.m.

Sports Shorts

Rosati joins hoop staff

Former Harley-Allendale Columbia varsity basketball coach Jack Rosati is the new junior varsity and assistant varsity coach to Mike Ruff at Bishop Kearney.

Rosati compiled a 59-41 record over five seasons with the Braves, who won the 1986

Section 5 Class C championship with a thrilling win over Geneva. DeSales was replaced last spring by new HAC coach and athletic director Daryl Ravani.

Bowl-for-Breath set

Sponsor sheets are now available for the annual Cystic Fibrosis Bowl-for-Breath, which is scheduled for the week of October 15-22 at bowling centers throughout the Rochester area.

Sponsor sheets may be obtained at all participating bowling centers and Fays Drug Stores, or by calling Kathy at (716)546-5890.