

Sports

AQ, Kearney play to tie; DeSales nips Mynderse

By Richard A. Kiley

The key City-Catholic football game between the Little Irish and the visiting Kings lived up to its billing as a tight, defensive battle between the two unbeaten schools.

Kearney (2-0-1, 3-0-1 overall) was getting a taste of its own medicine for more than three-and-a-half quarters — the Kings came into the game unscored upon — until quarterback Craig Chodak hooked up with Steve Smith on a three-yard pass with 3:52 remaining in the game. Kicker Bill Tehan added the extra point to knot the game at 7-7.

Smith's touchdown culminated an impressive 16-play, 70-yard drive for Nick Teta's Kings, who marched toward the tying score in the pouring rain.

Chris Battaglia's Little Irish (2-0-1, 2-1-1 overall) became the first football team to score on Kearney this season, when Aquinas junior Alcindor Coleman — a 6-foot-4, 280-pound transfer from Marshall — rumbled into the end zone from the one-yard line with seven minutes gone in the third quarter.

AQ appeared to be on its way to adding to the 7-0 lead later in the quarter, but a fumble recovery by the Kings squelched that drive.

Kearney held a slim advantage offensively, outgaining the Little Irish, 153-144. Sophomore Lamin Massaquoi led all runners with 59 yards on 18 carries. Jermaine McGowan was able to muster 53 yards rushing on 18 carries for Aquinas. The almost non-stop rain inhibited what both teams wanted to do offensively.

"The weather made the playing conditions very sloppy," said Kearney head coach Nick Teta. "It really hurt our passing game."

Teta said he continues to be impressed by the play of his defense. "(Aquinas quarterback Jim) Schroeder is a good, scrappy quarterback. We're a very quick team defensively, and that helped us to hold them to seven points."

The game also provided Teta with an idea of how his defense will match up against East, which is the Kings' next league opponent this Saturday, Oct. 8, at 2 p.m. "East has some quick backs similar to Aquinas," the Kearney coach said. "It'll be another tough game for us."

Last weekend, the Orientals came on strong in the second half to fend off Cardinal Mooney, 22-7. John Walker's Cardinals, who held an 8-7 lead at the half over East, will be play host to McQuaid this Sunday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m. Tom Sprague's Knights are coming off a 22-0 win at Edison last weekend.

The league battle against the Orientals will be the first home game for Kearney, which played at Franklin, McQuaid, Batavia and Aquinas its first four games this season.

Aquinas travels to Edison Tech for a game against the Engineers this Saturday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m.

DeSales 7, Mynderse 6

The unbeaten Saints (4-0) were manhandled by host Mynderse on Friday night, Sept. 30, yet they emerged with a one-point win.

After a scoreless first half, DeSales quarterback Ron Cecere scored the only touchdown for the Saints on their first possession of the second half. Cecere sliced through the Mynderse defense to score on an option play that covered 55 yards.

The play marked one of the few times the Saints were able to fend off the bigger linemen from Mynderse.

"We were trying to get the ball outside in the third quarter; we didn't move the ball at all in the first half," said DeSales head coach Bob Taney. "Mynderse was defending the run very well, but we thought we could break one if we turned the corner."

Cecere added the extra point to give DeSales a 7-0 lead.

Mynderse racked up more than 300 yards offensively for the game, but didn't find the end zone until there were three minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Mynderse elected to go for the win by trying a two-point conversion, but failed when lineman Pedro Rojas knocked away the attempted pass, much to the delight of the several hundred fans who traveled from Geneva to watch the upstart Saints.

Despite his team's lackluster performance through much of the game, Taney said he and his club will take the win to stay unbeaten.

"Overconfidence might have had something to do with it, but Mynderse was a solid football team," Taney said. "We just didn't execute. The key was, our defense bent, but it didn't break."

The 4-0 start is still hard to believe for the DeSales coach.

"I never dreamed we were going to be in this situation, but these kids remember last year," said Taney, referring to the Saints going 0-8 in '87. "They're not seeking revenge ... what they really want is to regain respect."

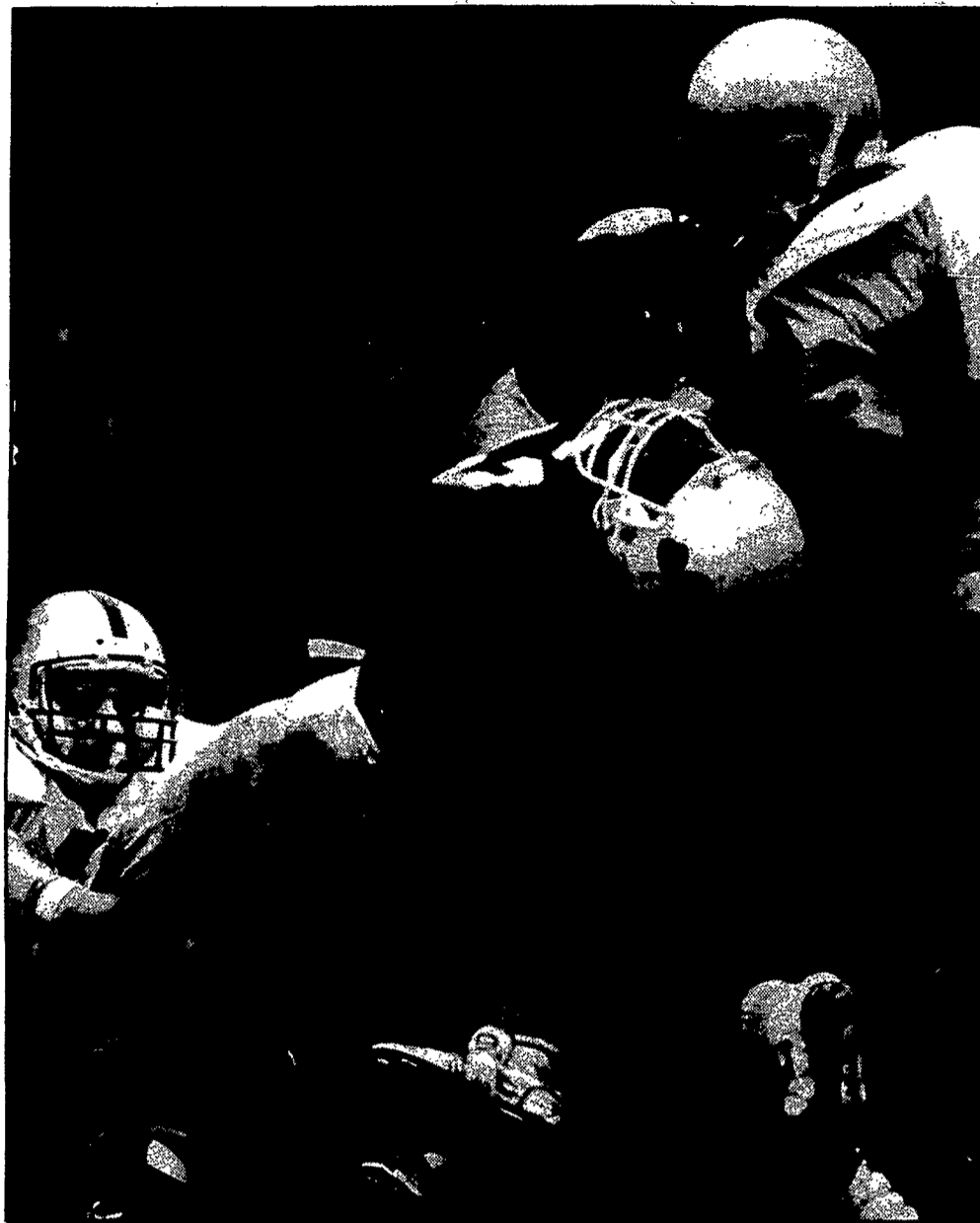
DeSales plays at Marcus Whitman this Saturday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m. The Wildcats scored three unanswered times in the second half to defeat DeSales 22-0 last fall.

Windsor 34, Notre Dame 22

With outstanding two-way player Bob Grosvenor on the sidelines with a strained knee, the Crusaders (3-1, 0-1) came up a little short in their league opener against Windsor.

After sophomore quarterback Mike Bennett gave Notre Dame a 7-6 lead with a two-yard run, Windsor scored two unanswered touchdowns to jump out to a 22-6 lead.

The Crusaders didn't roll over, however, and Bennett rallied Notre Dame again to tie the game at 22-22 before halftime. Two plays af-



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Aquinas' Alcindor Coleman (52) plows through the Kings' defense to score the only touchdown of the day for the Little Irish. The City-Catholic football game ended in a 7-7 standoff.

ter gathering in a 60-yard pass from Bennett (16-for-32, 260 yards, no interceptions), running back Mike Bernatavitz ran the ball into the end zone from the two-yard line to make the score 22-12 with 4:30 left in the half.

Bennett then hooked up with Anthony Wisniewski on the two-point conversion to pull ND to within eight points, 22-14.

Bennett and Wisniewski teamed up again moments later on a 47-yard touchdown play with :01 remaining in the half to cut Windsor's lead to 22-20. The two-point conversion was successful when Rolan Neal took a quick pass from Bennett to tie the game at 22-22.

The game stayed that way until Windsor scored two more times in the fourth quarter to provide the final margin.

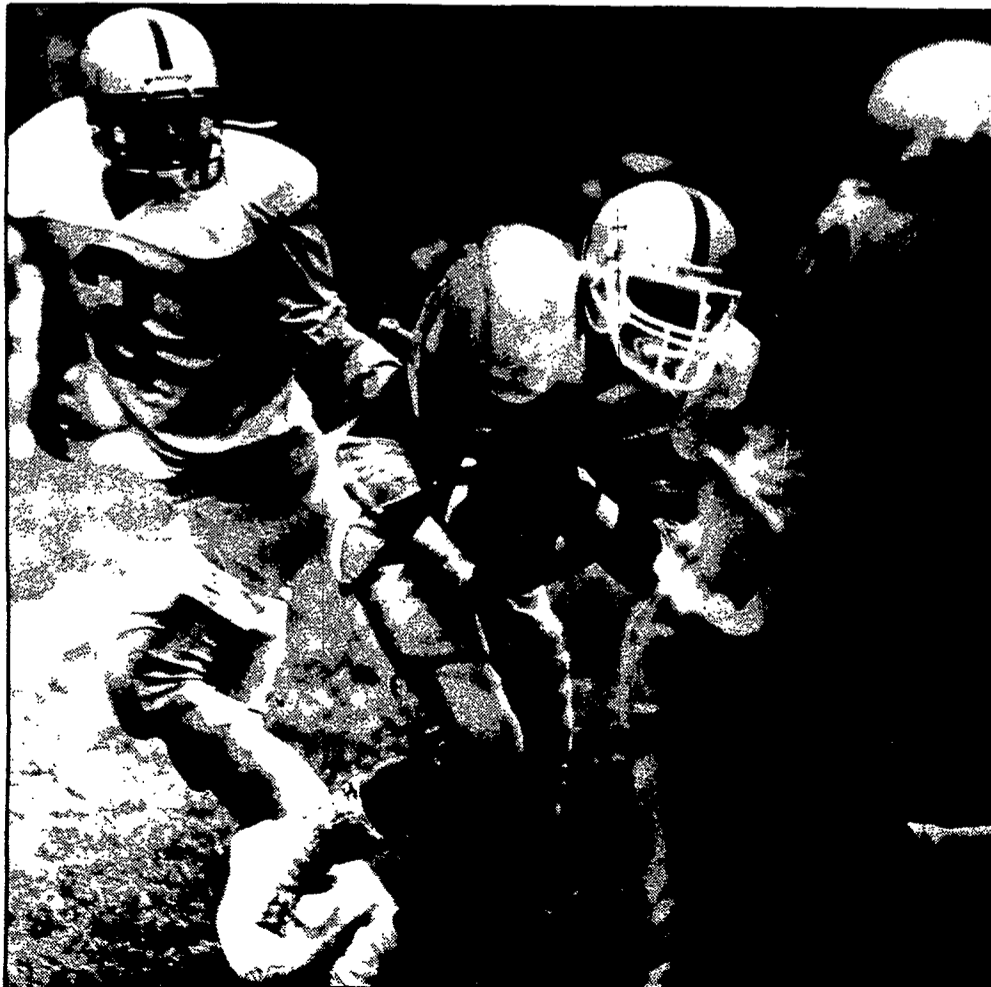
"We just couldn't stop them defensively. We couldn't stop the power game," Notre Dame coach Mike D'Aloisio said after the game. "They were just stronger than we were."

Windsor — a 14-7 loser to ND last year — outgained the Crusaders, 382-349. Bernatavitz was the leading rusher for the Crusaders with 55 yards on 15 carries. Wisniewski caught four passes for 71 yards.

The loss, which overshadowed a spectacular performance by the sophomore Bennett, leaves Notre Dame with little room for error in its remaining league games. The Crusaders are home to traditionally strong Newark Valley Friday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m.

"The kids are resilient. The loss puts our backs against the wall, but these kids will come back," said D'Aloisio, who will keep Grosvenor out of this week's game as well. "We're going back to night games for our next two. We feel more comfortable down here."

The Crusaders will feel even more comfortable with a win over Newark Valley. "The league is well balanced this year. You can win the league title with one loss."



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Bishop Kearney quarterback Craig Chodak (3) hands the ball off to sophomore running back Lamin Massaquoi (9), who led all rushers with 59 yards on 18 carries.

Sports Shorts

Sensational 'soph'

It could be considered an elite group which includes some of the best athletes ever to wear a Nazareth College soccer uniform. Jon Zatyko became the group's first member back in 1982. Graeme Tosh joined the group in 1983, and again in 1984. Rick Roswick also joined the group in 1984. Mike Deckman was added in 1986.

You can count on one hand the number of Nazareth soccer players who have scored three goals in a single game. On Saturday, Sept. 24, sophomore midfielder Dave Knieriemen, a native of Warwick, joined the exclusive club as he scored three goals in the Golden Flyers' 5-0 victory over Utica College.

At 5-foot-6 and 140 pounds, Knieriemen will never be confused for a middle linebacker, yet he's a living example that size isn't a prerequisite for success on the soccer field. After scoring two goals for the Golden Flyers as a freshman, Knieriemen is the team's leading scorer so far in 1988 with six goals and one assist.

"We've got him at center midfield because not only does he score, but he creates plays," Searl said. "He's not just a one-dimensional player. That's why he's elevated his game to

a higher level!"

And how does Knieriemen compare to the other Nazareth players who also scored three goals in one game?

"Very favorably. Zatyko and Roswick were fast players who scored many of their goals on breakaways," Searl said. "Tosh and Deckman were just tremendous players with great skills."

Challenging athletes

The second regional competition of the New York State Games for the Physically Challenged — a program of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation — will take place October 14-15 at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

The first regional competition, held at the college last October, drew more than 200 physically challenged athletes. Organizers are anticipating at least twice that turn out this year.

Physically challenged athletes who are aged 5-21 years old are eligible to compete and will be entered in events with other athletes of the same abilities and ages.

The two-day program offers competition in track and field events at the school's Special Olympics Stadium on Friday, with opening ceremonies scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The Saturday program will feature slalom events on the outdoor track, and swimming events at the Tuttle North Pool.

Call (716)395-5620 for information. A free barbecue for the athletes, their families and volunteers will take place on Saturday — after the competition — from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.