

Sports

Bernatavitz powers ND over Valley

By Richard A. Kiley

Elmira Notre Dame came into the pivotal Section 4 Division IV showdown with Newark Valley needing a win to keep alive any hopes of winning a league title.

Mike D'Aloisio's Crusaders, ranked 14th in the latest New York state small-school football poll, did just what they had to do, posting a 6-0 win over the state-ranked Cardinals (1-1, 3-2) on a brisk night at Brewer Memorial Stadium Friday, Oct. 7.

In addition to putting ND back in the league-title race, the victory over traditionally strong Newark Valley was a special one for several reasons.

It marked the first-ever win for a Notre Dame team against the Cardinals, who have always been a thorn in the Crusaders' side. (ND players and fans remember well the infamous "Mud Bowl" game played back in 1986, when Newark Valley nipped ND, 2-0).

The loss was only Newark Valley's second in its last 32 regular-season games, and it also proved to the Crusaders that they can win without All-Twin Tiers running back Bob Grosvenor. D'Aloisio was sitting Grosvenor out for the second consecutive game, after the running/defensive back strained his knee during ND's win over Chenango Forks three weeks ago.

But the win was even more exceptional in that D'Aloisio and his team dedicated the game to former ND star Mike Langan, who has captivated the hearts of city residents by overcoming serious injuries suffered in a car accident back in March 1983. Doctors gave Langan a 5-percent chance of survival after the tragic accident.

The only score Notre Dame would need was appropriately scored by Mike Bernatavitz, a longtime friend of Langan. The score was set up by Geoff Woodworth's 44-yard interception return to the Newark Valley 12-yard line in the first quarter. Moments later, Bernatavitz — who rushed for 117 yards — ran it in from the six-yard line for the score.

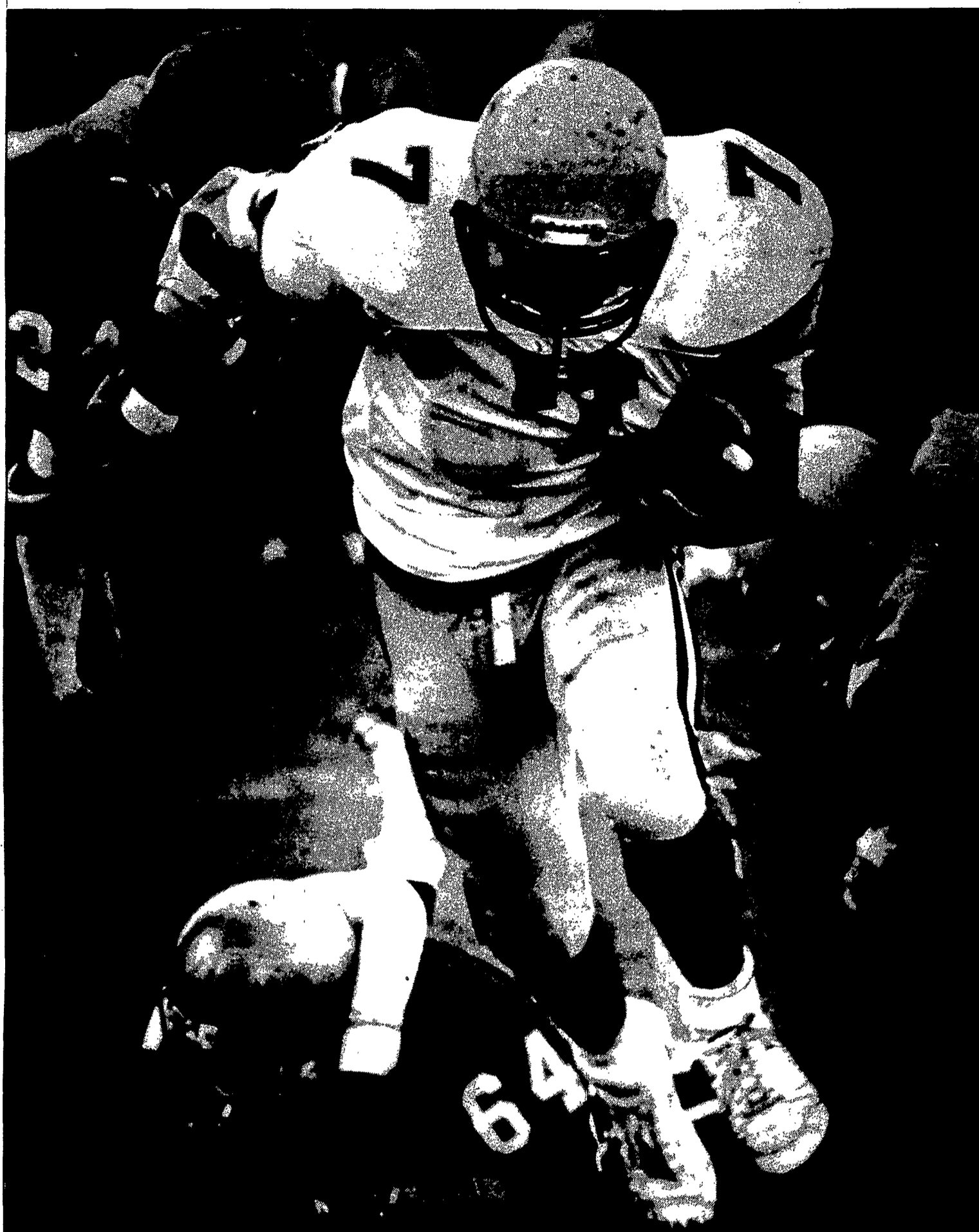
Bernatavitz was the star for ND on defense as well, recording 12 tackles from his linebacker position.

"Michael (Bernatavitz) wanted to score a touchdown in honor of Mike, it just happened to be the winning touchdown," said D'Aloisio, who coached Langan.

The key to the win was the Crusaders' defense, which came up big when it had to all night. Newark Valley was driving for the tying touchdown — and the chance to maybe win the game outright — with five minutes left in the fourth quarter, but defensive end Bruce Elston recovered a fumble by the Cardinals at the ND 24-yard line. Brian Sheehan, who led the Crusaders with 15 tackles, forced the fumble.

The never-say-die Cardinals had the ball at

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McQuaid senior Troy Beason (7) plows through Mooney's offense to score one of the three touchdowns he made during the Sunday, Oct. 9, game. Beason came up with 151 yards for 13 carries, helping the Knights to a 34-6 victory.

Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal



Steve Andiloro (11), a junior for Bishop Kearney, heads the ball up field as the Kings took on Cardinal Mooney Thursday afternoon, Oct. 6. Neither team was able to score during the varsity soccer matchup, which went into two overtimes.

Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Forte, Cards in unfamiliar position as boys' soccer sectionals approach

By Richard A. Kiley

If the sectionals were to begin this week, the varsity boys' soccer team at Cardinal Mooney would not get a post-season berth in Class A.

The top 14 teams will qualify for this year's sectional tournament, and the Cards are 15th among Class A schools in sectional points.

When was the last time that situation existed this late in the season? Well, not in the last 10 years or so. And certainly not while Paul Forte has been at the Greece Catholic high school.

He and his Cardinals have been piling up City-Catholic titles throughout much of the '80s — before McQuaid's emergence in '86 and '87 — and they even won the state crown in Class A back in 1984.

But 1984 seems like 1964 to Forte these days. His Cards began the week with a 4-5-3 record — a respectable 3-1-2 in the league — but they are in danger of not making the sectionals as the team heads into the season's last two weeks.

"I remember that ('84) team scored 93 goals and gave up eight; that seems unbelievable when I think of it now," Forte said.

But putting an epitaph on Mooney's 1988 season would be premature, and any team that doesn't think so will get burned. The Cards have a rich tradition of winning in many sports, and soccer is one of them.

Forte is also a master of getting the most out of his players when it really counts. But he knows time is running out.

"We're just real young; even my seniors don't have a lot of (game) experience," said Forte, who noted that this year's Mooney team has had a knack for playing in tight games. "We've played 12 games so far, and all but two have been decided by a goal."

This year's team has had its share of hard luck, too. In Mooney's most recent game against a Honeoye Falls-Lima team that had won 13 of its 15 games this fall, the Cards led 1-0 only to eventual lose a heartbreaking 2-1 decision.

"That game typified the whole season," Forte said. "We hit two cross bars, had a 10-2 advantage in corners, had a goal called back and missed two penalty kicks."

Forte had a team meeting after the game to tell his club that they were pressing too much. "They're putting a lot of pressure on themselves because of the strong and long tradition of winning. We just haven't been getting the breaks."

Mooney played Marshall on Tuesday, Oct. 11, and has remaining games against Aquinas (Oct. 13), Greece Athena (Oct. 15), Franklin (Oct. 17), McQuaid (Oct. 19) and East (Oct. 20).

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