

Sports

Cards back in post-season picture; Knights nip Kings, 1-0

By Richard A. Kiley

Several diocesan high school boys' soccer teams solidified chances of gaining sectional berths last week, most notably Cardinal Mooney.

Paul Forte's Cards, coming off a tough loss to Honeoye Falls-Lima two weeks ago, went 3-0-1 for the week to up their record to 7-5-4. The three victories came against Marshall, Aquinas and a forfeit by Franklin, but Mooney's most impressive showing came in a 2-2 tie against unbeaten Greece Athena (11-0-4) in a non-league game at Mooney on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Junior wing Jim Shoniker scored on a corner kick at the eight-minute mark of the second half to forge the tie. The Cards, who jumped out to a 1-0 lead on a goal by Jeff Merkey 10 minutes into the game, fell behind 2-1 late in the first half when Athena's Ron Bonfiglio scored two goals for the Trojans within a three-minute span.

Forte was pleased with the way his players responded to the goals, taking pressure off themselves by scoring early in the second.

"We came out strong in the second half," Forte said. "To take it to a team like Athena took a little pressure off them because they knew they were playing well!"

The Cards' outshot Athena, ranked sixth among Class A schools in the latest Class A state poll, 20-13. Mooney goalie Jim D'Anza played one of his best games of the year, stopping 11 shots. Nick Smith had 17 saves for the Trojans.

The tie — added to the three wins — moved Mooney from No. 15 to No. 9 among schools in the Class A bracket. The top 14 teams in Class A qualify for the sectionals.

Forte attributed his team's turnaround to its ability to be patient amid tough times.



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

McQuaid Jesuit's Mark Paris (17) attempts to tackle the ball from Bishop Kearney's Greg Klebes (3) during a City-Catholic soccer game played Friday, Oct. 14. Both teams played stingy defense until the Knights scored with 1:15 left in the game to win 1-0.

"Last Saturday (against Honeoye) we were at our lowest point even though we played

well," Forte said. "After the wins over Marshall and Aquinas, they (his players) seemed to be

point. We were moving the ball on them, even though we only came up with one touchdown. After that, we didn't have the same intensity?"

ND had 300 yards offensively to Seton's 374. And although the loss didn't affect ND's standing in the race for a division title, D'Aloisio said it was time for his Crusaders to really buckle down with three weeks left in the regular season.

"The loss teaches us that we have to go back to the basics and pay attention to details," he said. "We may see Seton again in a bowl game, so the kids have an incentive!"

Barring a tie, a league showdown between Waverly and Windsor will bring one of the two grid teams down from the undefeated ranks. Notre Dame travels to Whitney Point (3-3) this Saturday, Oct. 22 for a 2 p.m. game, and ventures to Waverly for a game that could have league-title implications on Friday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

"They're all league games now, and two losses puts us out of contention," D'Aloisio said.

Aquinas 20, Mooney 6

The host Little Irish (4-0-1, 4-1-1) led just 7-6 heading into the final quarter, but came through with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to put the feisty Cardinals (0-5, 0-6) away.

Aquinas running back Corey Collins ran for 105 yards on 13 carries and one touchdown to propel the Little Irish, who are still in contention for a sectional berth in Class AAA. East upended Wilson, 38-20, meaning that Chris Battaglia's club still needs some help to have any chance of winning a league title.

Mark Scaldone scored on a one-yard run and Bob Carello added another touchdown on

a 45-yard run to secure the win for AQ.

Aquinas plays at Wilson (2-3, 3-4) this Saturday, Oct. 22. Mooney plays at Bishop Kearney on Friday night, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Kearney 7, Marshall 0

Nick Teta's Kings (3-1-1, 4-1-1) clinched a berth in the Class AA playoffs for the second consecutive year with the win over the visiting Jurists.

Steve Smith scored on a one-yard touchdown in the third quarter, culminating a 76-yard drive for the game's only score.

The other schools to clinch AA berths are defending-champion Canandaigua and Greece Arcadia.

McQuaid 23, Franklin 6

Troy Beason continued to run through opposing defenses in week six of the season, as the McQuaid running back rushed for 168 yards on 16 carries in the Knights' win over the Quakers in City-Catholic football.

The win kept alive slim hopes of gaining a berth in Class AAA for the Knights (4-2).

Beason scored on a 27-yard run in the fourth quarter to give McQuaid a 21-6 lead. The Knights had led by just 7-6 at the half.

McQuaid has a key City-Catholic football game at league-leading East this Saturday, Oct. 22, at 1 p.m.

DeSales

Seton 38, Elmira ND 13

Seton Catholic of Binghamton, ranked fourth in the latest New York State Sports Writers Association rankings, rolled over the host Crusaders in a non-league football game on Friday night, Oct. 14.

The victory avenged last year's 49-43 loss to Notre Dame, a game many returning Seton players remembered well.

Notre Dame (4-2) was plagued by three turnovers for the night.

The game was scoreless until Mike Bernatavitz gave Notre Dame a 7-0 lead in the second quarter. But Seton (5-0) scored 24 unanswered points to take a 17-point lead into the locker room at the half.

To make matters worse, Crusader running back Bob Grosvenor bruised the same knee that had kept him out of action for two weeks. ND coach Mike D'Aloisio elected to keep Grosvenor on the bench for the remainder of the game. That made things extra tough for Bernatavitz, who still gutted out 144 yards on 16 carries.

The Crusaders, who came into the game ranked 12th in the latest New York State poll of Class C and D schools, were able to move the ball against Seton on their first four possessions, but they could only muster the one touchdown by Bernatavitz.

After taking an 8-7 lead in the second quarter, Seton got the ball back on an on-side kick and turned that play into points.

"That (the on-side kick) was the turning

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patient and a little more confident."

Alan Ebertz scored two goals, and Alan Ford scored once as the host Cards blanked City-Catholic opponent Marshall, 3-0, on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

The Cards were equally impressive in a league battle with Aquinas on Thursday, Oct. 13. Ford and Steve Lichtenberger scored in the first half of a 2-0 win to propel Mooney.

The Cards close out the regular season with tough league games against McQuaid (Oct. 19) and East (Oct. 20). If his Cards can maintain the level of play from last week, Forte said they could make some noise come sectional time. "I haven't seen a dominant team in the A bracket," he said. "We've proven lately that we can play with anybody."

McQuaid will be one of the top seeds among Class A schools in the upcoming sectional tournament. Dan Schied's Knights (9-0, 11-2) beat City-Catholic foe Bishop Kearney, 1-0, on a goal by Jay Finigan with 1:15 remaining in the game. The match was played under the lights at Kearney on Friday, Oct. 14.

McQuaid, which drubbed Edison 5-0 earlier in the week, has a five-game winning streak going since it dropped a non-league game to Brighton back on September 24.

McQuaid is currently battling it out with Hilton and Webster for the No. 2 seeding behind Greece Athena in the upcoming tournament.

Like Cardinal Mooney, Aquinas battled Athena tough in a non-league game on Monday, Oct. 10. Pat Iachetta scored nine minutes into the game to give the Trojans a 1-0 lead, but Little Irish goalie Mike Compis blanked them the rest of the way. Unfortunately for AQ and first-year coach Gary LaPietra, the scored stay that way and Athena escaped with the win.

Aquinas and Bishop Kearney are both still alive for berths in Class B-1 of the upcoming tourney.

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