

Sports

Cards seeded third in Class BB, Mercy sixth in A

By Richard A. Kiley

At halftime of his team's Private-Parochial League showdown against Aquinas last week, Cardinal Mooney coach Scott Morrison let his girls know what he thought of their play during a scoreless first half.

"I told them they were as exciting as watching grass grow," Morrison quipped. "We weren't playing with a lot of intensity."

The Cards went on to score three goals in the second half of a 3-0 blanking of the Little Irish, marking Mooney's 12th shutout this fall.

Like Mooney boys' soccer coach Paul Forte, Morrison had the choice to compete in Class A or Class BB in this year's tourney. He opted for Class BB, meaning that his third-seeded Cards (12-1-4) may have to face the likes of top-seeded Pittsford Mendon (15-2-1) or No. 2 Pittsford Sutherland (15-2-1).

But first, the Cards have to get by the winner of the game between No. 6 Greece Arcadia and No. 11 Churchville-Chili (3-14-1). Arcadia — the likely winner — played Mooney to a 1-1 tie in the Cards' season opener. The game will be played at Mooney this Saturday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m.

Morrison's teams have been eliminated in first-round play the last two years, both in quadruple overtime. This year's Mooney team should be able to improve on the showing of the last two because of a tremendous corps of defensive players led by sweeper Joan Graham. Mooney goalie Julie Monfalcone has also been impressive, recording all 12 of the team's shutouts. She has yielded a mere nine goals, the best of any Mooney team ever, according to Morrison.

Morrison views fifth-seeded Aquinas (11-7) and seventh-seeded Bishop Kearney as possible dark horses in Class BB. Greg McMaster's Little Irish, who have been on fire of late, opened up play against 12th-seeded Eastridge (0-16) at Aquinas on Wednesday, Oct. 26. If AQ won that game, it would play at No. 4 Victor (11-6-1) on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m.

Leo Teerlinck's Kings have a strong defensive unit, making Kearney a threat to do something big. If the Kings were to get by No. 10 Newark on Wednesday, Oct. 26, they would have to play Sutherland.

Our Lady of Mercy (8-5-1) is the only Catholic school competing in the Class A bracket. The sixth-seeded Monarchs, who have undergone a lot of changes in personnel recently, opened up against No. 11 Rush-Henrietta (6-11-1) on Tuesday, Oct. 25. Kathy Boughton's Monarchs would play the winner of the game between No. 3 Gates-Chili (12-4-2) and No. 14 Marshall (3-11-1) in the quarterfinals on Friday, Oct. 28.

The loss of Bernadette Fagan to a knee

injury has forced Boughton to move Wendy White to stopper and junior Anna DiSalvo to sweeper. The Mercy coach has also switched leading-scorer Julie Buntich (12 goals) from center to right wing.

Elmira Notre Dame (7-9) is seeded second among only five Class C schools in the Section 4 tournament. Three schools opted not to participate in this year's tourney. Trumansburg (12-1-1) is the No. 1 seed, while third-seeded Charlotte Valley (14-2), fourth-seeded Groton (7-7) and fifth-seeded Franklin (13-5) are the other teams competing.

Steve Weber's Crusaders, who advanced to the championship game before losing last year, open up against the winner of Groton/Franklin this Saturday, Oct. 29, at a site to be determined.

ND, which finished in third place in the Sullivan Trail Conference with a 6-4 mark in the league, was led offensively by Melanie Crisco (nine goals, five assists), Katie Cain (nine goals, four assists), and Heather Lejedal (nine goals, three assists).



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal
Leslie Burst of Cardinal Mooney receives a hug from teammate Kristin Kuhns after scoring the first goal of the Thursday, Oct. 20, game against Aquinas.

DeSales

Continued from Page 12A

The Saints' second consecutive loss takes them out of control of their own destiny. Elba and Romulus have already qualified in Class C and Bolivar (6-1) and Red Jacket (5-2) would be in with wins this weekend against Cuba and Marcus Whitman respectively.

Ironically for the Saints, they could finish one sectional point behind Red Jacket for the final spot. DeSales rolled to a 31-0 win over the Indians back on September 24.

Aquinas 0, Wilson 0

Aquinas coach Chris Battaglia is fit to be tied after watching his Little Irish (4-1-2) turn the ball over six times against the host Wildcats (2-3-1, 2-4-1) in a City-Catholic football game played on Saturday, Oct. 22.

AQ also had a touchdown called back on a clipping penalty.

The tie was one of several over the weekend, throwing a wrench into the high school football playoff picture for many Section 5 teams.

With McQuaid's 23-6 win over East, the Little Irish — who also tied with Bishop Kearney back on October 2 — are the City-Catholic football champions.

Aquinas plays at Gates-Chili this Friday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. The game will have ramifications in the race for the three remaining spots in Section 5 Class AAA. Fairport, which plays Rush-Henrietta this Saturday, Oct. 29, has clinched a spot. The Royal Comets, East and Greece Olympia are the three teams that still control their own destinies.

Gates-Chili, Aquinas, Webster and McQuaid are also vying for possible bids. In the event some teams finish in a tie with sectional points accrued over the season, the Harbin points system — which rates strength of schedule — would be used.

McQuaid 23, East 6

The Knights (5-2) kept alive their hopes for a Class AAA bid with a resounding 23-6 win over previously-unbeaten East (6-1) in a City-Catholic football game played at East on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Senior Troy Beason got the Knights on the scoreboard with a five-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Beason's touchdown was set up by a muffed punt by East two plays earlier.

Kurt Schmitt's one-yard run gave McQuaid a 13-0 lead at the half, and kicker Jim Flanagan upped the margin to 16-0 in the third quarter with a 30-yard field goal.

Keith Gibbs closed out the scoring with a 40-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter to put the Orientals away.

McQuaid plays Brighton this Saturday, Oct. 29. The Knights need a win and a little help from a few other teams to qualify for the post-season.

Bishop Kearney 32, Mooney 6

Bishop Kearney quarterback Craig Chodak and running back Lamin Massaquoi paced the Kings, who scored on three of their first possessions under the lights at Kearney on Friday night, Oct. 21.

Chodak threw for two scores, and Massaquoi scored on a one-yard in the first quarter to give Kearney an early 14-0 lead. Massaquoi, a sophomore running back/defensive back, added another score in the second quarter when he returned a fumble 10 yards for a score.

Mooney (0-7) is still looking for its first win of the season. The Cards will seek that elusive first win when they play host to Marshall this Saturday, Oct. 29.

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