

Sports



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal
 Kristin Kuhns of Cardinal Mooney heads the ball downfield as Pittsford Mendon's Jenifer Peddicord tries to make a block. The two teams met in the Section 5 Class BB girls soccer finals with the Vikings winning 2-1.

In Class BB final, Mooney loss to Mendon marked by controversy

By Richard A. Kiley

Pittsford Mendon claimed its second consecutive Section 5 girls' soccer crown with a 2-1 win over Cardinal Mooney in the Class BB championship at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School last Saturday, Nov. 5.

Mendon (18-2-1) was scheduled to play Livonia on Tuesday, Nov. 8 to decide the Section 5 Class B representative to the state tournament.

Scott Morrison's Cards, who fell behind 2-0 in the second half, pulled to within one goal with 2:06 left in the game. The Cards tried valiantly to get the equalizer, but couldn't find the net.

One of the most important calls of the game came before it even started. The Vikings won the coin toss and Coach Brenda Gibson elected to play with the wind at her team's back in the first half.

The only goal of an evenly played first half came off the foot of scoring-sensation Shannon McConville. The wind seemed to subside in the second half and proved not to be that much of an advantage for Mooney.

Mendon upped the lead to 2-0 on a controversial goal scored at the 44 minute mark.

Mooney goalie Julie Monfalcone appeared to have possession of a ball in the penalty area, when Erin McConville kicked the ball out of

the Cardinal goalie's hands and into the net.

The goal turned out to be the game winner. "She (Monfalcone) looked like she had her hands on the ball; I was upset with the call but at least he (the official) was in the area to make the call," Morrison said.

Mooney's Kristin Kuhns got the goal to pull the Cards to within one. Kuhns pounced on a loose ball after a corner kick and beat Mendon goalie Anne-Claude Pharamond with a low shot into the net.

Gia Cucinelli had a chance to tie the game just 30 seconds later, but her attempted shot into an open net missed the mark.

Shots were even at 10-10.

The Cards advanced to the championship game with a 1-0 win over No. 2 Pittsford Sutherland (17-3-1) in the first of two Section 5 Class BB semifinal games played at Webster on Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Mendon blanked fifth-seeded Aquinas, 5-0, in the second game. Greg McMaster's Little Irish (13-8) were hoping to beat the Vikings in order to get their third shot at Mooney.

Gia Cucinelli scored the only goal of the game with 10 minutes left in the first half. Cucinelli's goal — the striker's 13th of the year — was set up by Lisa Messura.

Monfalcone was superb in goal for Mooney, turning away 10 Sutherland shots.

McQuaid succumbs to Webster, 3-2, in boys' Class A semifinal match

By Richard A. Kiley

After watching his players lose 3-2 in overtime to Webster Wednesday night, Nov. 2, McQuaid Coach Dan Schied wondered why he was having such a difficult time accepting his third-seeded Knights defeat to the second-seeded Warriors.

The answer finally dawned on him after he reminisced with Joe Kearney, a teammate of Schied's from McQuaid's 1977 soccer team — a 1-0 loser in the semifinals to Cardinal Mooney.

"In 1977, it was the first time a McQuaid team had ever reached the semifinals," Schied recalled. "After the game ... (the loss) wasn't as tough because we knew we had played to our potential!"

The scene after the Section 5 Class A semifinal game at Spencerport field was much different.

A dry eye was tough to find after the Knights' heartbreaking defeat, which was sealed when a shot by Webster's Chris Fantuzzo caromed into the McQuaid goal 1:52 into the second mandatory 10-minute overtime session.

The game marked the third trip to the semifinals for a McQuaid team since 1977, and not one has advanced any further.

"We just didn't play to our potential," said Schied, who graduated from McQuaid in 1978. "A loss isn't as frustrating if you know you played as well as you could have. We've been in the semis three times since the '77 team and haven't advanced. Maybe we'll get there one of these times."

The second-year coach was at a loss as to why his Knights (16-3-1) appeared a bit off of their game against the Warriors.

Was it the delay of the conclusion to the Penfield-Athena game played right before? (The third-seeded Chiefs and the top-seeded

Trojans played through 80 minutes of regulation, two mandatory 10-minute overtimes and two five-minute sudden deaths before Penfield won the best-of-five shootout).

Or maybe his Knights were a little flat after an emotional, 3-0 win over cross-town rival Brighton four days earlier in the quarterfinals.

But Schied, who is a class coach both in victory and in defeat, is not one for excuses. He knows Webster (13-3-4) was hard-pressed during a 2-0 loss to Mooney in the quarterfinals, and that the Warriors sat through the same delay and blistering cold as his team did.

When play began, the Knights had the cold and gusty wind at their backs for the first half, but Webster jumped out to a quick lead when Jeff Kachmaryk scored at the 14:31 mark.

Ensuing goals by Mark Paris and Tim Concannon gave McQuaid a 2-1 advantage at the half, but Laurence Knight pulled Webster even with a goal just 3:09 into the second half.

The score stayed that way until Fantuzzo's goal early in OT.

The loss to the Warriors brought an abrupt end to a season the McQuaid coach believed could have culminated with a state championship, not a sectional defeat.

"It's frustrating, because this team could have been a state champion," said Schied, who will lose 19 of 28 players to graduation.

McQuaid had all the elements to make a run for the state title — namely, balanced scoring, an experienced defensive unit and two excellent goalkeepers. Many players on this year's team had been with Schied since he was coach of the junior varsity three years ago, going 49-6-2 over that time.

Schied took some consolation in the successes this fall. McQuaid placed four players — Chris Teerlinck, Dan Wilmot, Jerry Concannon and Brian Clark — on the first All City-Catholic team. Matt Parrinello, Mark Paris,

Tom Scalera, Kevin Murphy and Mike Boychuk were named to the second all-star team.

And an award Schied takes a lot of pride in — the Sportsmanship Award — was also garnered by his Knights this fall. The award is voted upon by City-Catholic soccer officials.

The McQuaid coach can also take solace in successful junior varsity and freshman programs, spurred by the ascendance of McQuaid teams over the last three years.

"Success breeds success, I saw that in Mooney's program this year," Schied said. "He

(Cardinal Mooney Coach Paul Forte) didn't have the team he's had in previous years, but he's got a winning tradition, and that is very important in sustaining quality teams year after year."

And Schied, like Forte, believes there's more than just winning at stake when it comes to high school athletics.

"I coach more for the lessons learned, not just the victories," Schied said. "What's important is the lessons learned from athletics, and this year's team learned quite a few."

Top four runners finish :16 apart as Monarchs win girls' Class A title

By Richard A. Kiley

He may not have the best runner in Section 5, but Our Lady of Mercy cross country Coach Tim Jones can lay claim to having a collection of five very good ones.

Our Lady of Mercy, ranked 11th among cross-country teams in the latest New York state sportswriters' poll, successfully defended its Section 5 girls' Class A crown in the 60th annual cross country championships at Ultra Technologies Park in Newark last Saturday, Nov. 5. The Monarchs finished with 60 points in the girls' Class A race, well ahead of both Pittsford (85) and Fairport (103).

East High's Deresa Walters captured the girls' Class A race for the third consecutive year, finishing the course in 19:46.8. Walters also won the state title last fall at Old Westbury, Long Island.

McQuaid finished with 149 points in the boys' Class AA race, behind Fairport (62), Greece Athena (81), Webster (85), Pittsford (85) and Penfield (127). Brad Sumner was eighth overall, completing the course in 17 minutes and 16 seconds.

Mercy's win earned the Monarchs a berth in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships in Lake Placid this weekend.

That Jones and his team repeated as sectional champion was no surprise to anybody, but the order in which they finished the course was somewhat unexpected. Mercy's top four runners finished a mere 16 seconds apart.

Romy Muoio, who usually runs fourth or fifth for Mercy, was the first Monarch to finish, with three of her teammates not far behind. Muoio, who was ninth overall, completed the 5,000-meter course in 21:42.7 and was followed closely by Theresa Mack (10th place, 21:48.3), Maggie Whelehan (11th place, 21:51.1) and Laura Young (12th place, 21:58.4).

Allison Adin was Mercy's fifth runner, finishing in 18th place. Sophomore Katie Baumer was 28th for Mercy, while freshman Jenny Smith, who had run her first race at the

Private-Parochial League championship won by Mercy earlier in the week, placed 39th.

Whelehan is the usual frontrunner for the Monarchs and was well out in front of her teammates most of the race until she developed cramps. That's when Muoio took over and set the pace for Mercy.

"The tougher the race, the better she (Muoio) runs," Jones said. "I was told (by his runners) after the race that Romy Muoio was constantly screaming and getting everybody going."

The Mercy coach was pleased with his team's performance overall, especially considering the gusty conditions that made the course more challenging to his runners.

"I've got six excellent runners; everybody else might have four," said Jones, who has a corps of runners that can pick up the slack when another is hurting. "I can afford to lose one, and that's a big reason why we've been so successful."

Jones credited his team's second-consecutive championship to his team's work ethic and strong performance at the Loyal Greenman Invitational in Binghamton a week earlier.

"They've worked harder than previous groups I've had. It makes things a lot easier for me when they come into the season in shape," said Jones, who sets up a steady running program for team members in the summer. "And we were coming off that meet (Binghamton) with a lot of confidence. That course was a lot like the one in Newark."

Now it's on to the states for Mercy, which placed sixth overall last November. The weather conditions in Lake Placid, home of the 1980 Winter Olympics, may prove to be an equalizer for the Monarchs, as they face the best cross country teams from throughout the Empire State.

"This is what the girls have been looking to all year; they're all real excited about going to Lake Placid because of the (Olympic) tradition," Jones said.

Cards on a mission

Mooney whips Waterloo, Palmyra-Macedon to reach girls' Class A volleyball championship

The Cardinal Mooney girls' volleyball team tried to succeed where the boys' volleyball team at Bishop Kearney couldn't, as the top-seeded and unbeaten Cards (16-0) took on No. 2 Wayne (20-0) in the Section 5 girls' Class A volleyball championship at Edison Tech on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Despite a brilliant performance by Kearney's Bernie Bonn, the 11th-seeded Kings fell to top-seeded Penfield, 11-15, 15-2, 15-7, 16-14, in the Section 5 Class boys' volleyball championship match at Fairport on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Bonn, who was named the tourney's most valuable player, had 30 kills in the match against the Chiefs (22-1). Tom Kim had 16 service points for Kearney, which handed Penfield

its only loss earlier in the season.

Junior John Eisenberg had 19 kills to lead the Chiefs.

Michelle Rupert's Cards have been on a mission all season after they lost to Monroe in last year's Class A final. In the semifinals at Edison Tech last Thursday, Nov. 3, Mooney ripped fifth-seeded Waterloo, 15-5, 15-3, 15-6.

Cheryl Lennox paced the Cards with 10 serving points and five spikes. Liz Furey had seven service aces to also lead Mooney.

Against visiting and eighth-seeded Palmyra-Macedon (13-6) in the Class A quarterfinals on Tuesday, Nov. 1, Lennox led Mooney with 12 serving points, while teammate Liz Furey contributed eight points on her serve.