

Sports

Mooney possesses plenty of talent and depth to defend title

By Richard A. Kiley

Here's a riddle. What do the Cardinal Mooney girls' basketball team and deer throughout New York state have in common? Answer: It's open season on both of them.

And fifth-year coach Scott Morrison, who guided a young but extremely talented Mooney team to the Section 5 Class AA semifinals last year, knows it.

"Last year, we were able to sneak up on some teams. We can't sneak up on anybody this year," Morrison said. "There are many people out there who'd love to beat us; teams can make their season by beating us."

Morrison has 10 players returning from a 21-2 team, which won the Private-Parochial title before losing to Fairport in the Class AA semis.

Mooney is one of seven diocesan girls' basketball teams vying to qualify for sectional play in February.

Morrison was able to "sneak up" on teams last year because he had lost his top seven players from the previous year and no one knew what to expect from the Cards. No such luck for Rochester-area teams this winter, as only guard Dusty Tinsley was lost to graduation from last year's team.

Among the "Terrific 10" returning are Marisa Shackelford and Cheryl Lennox, who are two of the top players in the area.

Shackelford, a 5-foot-11 forward, averaged 17 points and 10 rebounds last season, and improved her game this summer by attending three renowned basketball camps.

Lennox, a 5-foot-8 senior point guard, had 14 points and eight assists. Lennox is the pulse of Morrison's team, which once again will look

to create offensive opportunities off its defensive pressure.

The two standouts for the Cards have already made their presence felt early in the season in Mooney's 57-32 win over Wilson on Thursday, Dec. 8. Shackelford (18 points, 8 rebounds) and Lennox (17 points, 5 assists) keyed the win.

Senior guard Shannon Barry (8 points per game, 4 steals) and senior forward Amy Harrison (9 rebounds) are also returning for their final season, but it will still be several weeks before senior guard Margie McGuire (14 ppg, 8 rebounds) fully recovers from a knee injury she sustained playing soccer this fall.

"She should be back after Christmas," said Morrison, who also coaches the varsity girls' soccer team at Mooney. "That will make a nice Christmas present ... We'll miss her though."

Top reserves for Mooney will be Liz Furey — who, like Lennox, is fresh off a stellar volleyball season — as well as soccer stalwart Joan Graham. Casey Maxim, the Cards' sixth player last year, is also back. Maureen Scheible (known to her teammates and coach as "Mo") and Jill Banaszewski are up from Lori Mattioli's 12-6 JV team.

Rounding out a deep bench are guards Kara Bovenzi, Christine Ryan and Colleen Beghini, as well as 5-foot-10 forward Amy Dry.

In addition to a rugged league schedule, Mooney plays Rush-Henrietta twice, Penfield (in the Hilton Tournament) and Sacred Heart of Buffalo, and may also face Mercy in the Mercy Tournament at Nazareth College.

Despite all the attention his stacked team has already received this year, Morrison knows that his team's press — not its press clippings — could carry the Cards far this year.

"We're not big, so we've got to play a lot of games with a lot of intensity," Morrison said.

OUR LADY OF MERCY will seriously challenge Mooney for the Private-Parochial League, but Kathy Boughton's Monarchs were dealt a serious blow when center Bernadette Fagan tore knee ligaments while playing soccer this fall. Fagan, who was second in scoring for Mercy last winter, had reconstructive surgery earlier this fall and is out for the season.

Although Boughton returns just two seniors from last year's team, one of those is senior point guard Julie Buntich (18 points, 9 rebounds, 6 assists). In Mercy's lone game of the season thus far, Buntich scored 21 points and dished out seven assists, as the Monarchs drubbed Marshall 69-44 on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Junior forward Maggie Whelehan (8 rebounds), and guards Kim Caccamise (8 ppg), Mary Beth Cleary (6 ppg) and Therese Mack (4 ppg) are also back.

Mercy should be bolstered by junior forward Catherine Robinson (18 ppg) and 6-0 sophomore Natalie White, both up from last year's 16-0 JV team. White will start at center in place of the injured Fagan.

AQUINAS HAS ALREADY RAISED an eye brow or two in its first two games of the season. The Little Irish beat Edison 29-25 last week — avenging a 39-13 loss to the Inventors last year — and gave Mooney all it could handle in a 44-39 loss on Monday night, Dec. 12.

monstrous game for the Knights, as he scored 20 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked 11 shots. Henderson had 18 points in McQuaid's season-opening win over Mooney two weeks ago.

McQuaid improved to 2-0, while Kearney dropped to 2-2.

Reggie Wade gave the Kings a taste of what future City-Catholic opponents can expect, pouring in 22 points for the night. Wade was also the iceman for McQuaid at the foul line where he converted eight of nine free-throw attempts.

McQuaid guards Kevin Brown and Matt Parrinello were the offensive catalysts for head coach Joe Marchese. Brown — a 5-11 junior transfer from Rush-Henrietta — had 14 points, five assists and created five Kearney turnovers. Parrinello dished out 10 assists to go along with eight points.

After playing at Aquinas on Tuesday, Dec. 13, the Knights battle Franklin in a game with league-title implications this Friday, Dec. 16.

Over in Section 5 Class C, Geneva DeSales has been finding the going tough early in the season. The Saints (1-2 league, 2-2 overall) dropped their second Finger Lakes West game of the season on Wednesday, Dec. 7, as Honeoye upset DeSales 68-66 in overtime.

The Saints' two losses this season have been



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Julie Buntich of Our Lady of Mercy High School pushes the ball up the court as Marshall's Laurie Noble tries to keep up. Buntich led the Monarchs to a 69-44 victory in the non-league game on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Second-year coach Dan Bates lost a good chunk of his offense (a graduation in Terry Seiler (Rochester Institute of Technology), leading scorer Casey Compisi (12 ppg) and Marita Vieira, but a swarming defense will be a rude awakening for any opponents who think AQ is a pushover.

Key returners include senior forward Michele Cerra and junior forwards Tammy Rice and Kathy Thies. The rest of the starting line-up is dominated by sophomores, led by point guard Mary Radford (averaging 11.5 ppg). Sophomore forward Jill Hutchinson poses an

offensive threat for AQ. Marshall-transfer Amy Reynders should also see some quality playing time. Reynders played on the freshman team at Marshall as an eighth-grader.

Bates is looking for his team to reverse some of the misfortune it had in close games last season, in which nine of AQ's 17 losses were by five points or less.

A VETERAN GROUP of Bishop Kearney players could be a darkhorse in the race for the Private-Parochial League crown: Second-year coach Donna Sortino returns four seniors

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Mercy's Mary Cleary (22) attempts a lay-up, as Marshall's Jamie Hafner (23) tries to defend the basket.

Little Irish battle McQuaid in key City-Catholic clash

By Richard A. Kiley

Aquinas Institute continued its surprising start of the 1988-89 high school basketball season with a 51-41 City-Catholic League win over Cardinal Mooney on Friday, Dec. 9, giving the Little Irish a perfect 2-0 mark in the league and 5-0 overall.

At Mooney, Mike Dianetti's Little Irish were once again led by Paul Kucewicz. The 6-2 senior forward poured in 17 points to go along with 13 rebounds, as AQ wore down the host Cards in the second half.

Kucewicz was crashing the boards on the offensive and defensive ends of the court, where he gathered in seven and six rebounds, respectively. Six of Kucewicz's points came in the third quarter, as AQ ballooned a slim halftime lead to 41-25.

Dwayne Postell and Alcindor Coleman were also impressive for the Little Irish. Postell had 12 points, while Coleman scored 10.

The Little Irish broke open a tight game with relentless pressure in the third quarter, when they held Mooney to three points. At one point in the third quarter, AQ had a 41-25 bulge.

In other City-Catholic League action from last Friday, McQuaid defeated Bishop Kearney, 72-59, in a City-Catholic game played at Kearney.

McQuaid center Drew Henderson had a

by a total of six points. DeSales lost its season opener to Red Jacket, 40-36, on November 30.

Ralph Angelo was a one-man wrecking crew for the Bulldogs, scoring 33 points — including seven of his team's eight points in the overtime period.

DeSales forced overtime when Pedro Rojas (14 points) tipped in a missed foul shot with one second to go in regulation time. Tony Alvaro's Saints trailed the game, 46-39, heading into the fourth quarter.

DeSales, which was paced by Robert McFadden's 26 points, lost the game at the foul line. The Saints were 10-for-25 from the stripe. Honeoye converted 20 of 26 free throws.

DeSales held a big rebounding advantage (46-34) over Honeoye.

The Saints rebounded from the loss to Honeoye by drubbing Harley Allendale Columbia, 71-53, in a non-league high school basketball game at The Harley School on Friday, Dec. 9.

The Saints used a 23-9 third quarter to dispose of the Braves.

Elmira Notre Dame improved to 3-2 for the season with a 76-68 non-league win over Trumansburg on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Mike Johnston's Crusaders were in command for three quarters, but then had to hold off a furious rally by Trumansburg in the



Tim Burgmaster of Cardinal Mooney battles Aquinas' Todd Reynders for a rebound.

fourth quarter.

ND led 60-38 heading into the fourth quarter.

"We were very cold and a little tentative in the fourth quarter ... and they were as hot as we were cold," said Elmira Notre Dame coach Mike Johnston. "They die hard just like we do."

"I was extremely pleased by the way we played in the first three quarters," Johnston ad-

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