

The boys of spring are back

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

Can any diocesan high school baseball team equal what DeSales accomplished last season? The Saints — a team made up of mostly freshmen — finished the regular season tied with Naples for first place in the Finger Lakes West, and then marched away with the Section 5 Class C title.

Although not one other diocesan school advanced past the second round of the sectionals last spring, several Catholic schools appear to have what it takes to compete for sectional patches this time around.

Bishop Kearney coach Art Carlisi had more than his share of bad breaks last season, his first on the varsity after taking over for longtime coach Carm Urzetta. The Kings were vying for their second consecutive City-Catholic League title until a demoralizing late-season loss to Franklin.

Kearney (13-7) was then beaten in the first round of the sectionals by Victor, 5-3, in a game which saw Victor pitcher Eric Schickler hit two home runs and pitch out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh inning. Kearney's Brian Reed ended the game with a line drive right to Schickler's glove.

The Kings should be strong contenders for the Catholic-division title this season, despite the loss of Reed and catcher Paul Viola (.426 batting average) to graduation, along with the transfer of shortstop R.D. Long (.299) to Webster.

Carlisi has a wealth of pitching returning, including Rich Davison (6-3) and junior Marty Alexander (4-2). Alexander was also a force with the bat, hitting .462 with two HRs and 19 RBIs.

Junior Bill Tehan (2-1) and senior Bernie Bonn, who will be the main reliever for the Kings, give Carlisi an impressive rotation.

Two seniors, All City-Catholic center fielder Vince Falbo (.286) and third baseman Tim Dieter (.290), provide power for the Kings. Junior shortstop Dave Armani, who led the JV in hitting, should also make his presence felt at the plate.

Eastridge-transfer Rene Ingoglia, who has already shown BK fans his athletic ability on the football field and the basketball court, will play the outfield or second base. "He's a natural," Carlisi said.

The goal for this year's team is simple, according to Carlisi. "We want to win the City-Catholic League. The loss to Franklin last year devastated us," he said. "If we win the league title, the rest is dessert."

The Kings face a steady serving of Monroe County schools before their first league game against Edison at home on April 19.

Cardinal Mooney coach Ed Nietopski



DeSales players, shown here celebrating their sectional title last June, will look to contend for another championship this spring.

lost much of his offense last June with the graduation of lead-off hitter Dave Brescia (.320), clean-up hitter Rob Hrankowski (.340), catcher Pat Corrigan (.340) and right fielder Scott Quinlan (.318), but the 25th-year coach has two aces in his hand.

Senior Dave Zastrow (8-2) and junior Steve Miner (6-2) are two of the league's best pitchers, making the loss of offensive firepower a little easier to take. Nietopski also lost shortstop Greg Wachala, who took his good range and .320 batting average to Greece Athena.

In addition to Zastrow and Miner, the Cards have capable hurlers in senior John Carnevale, sophomore Todd Malanowski, up from the JV, and left-hander Dan Uebelacker.

Charlie Sciortino provides the most experience in the infield for Mooney, which lost in the second round of the sectionals to Spencerport last June. The senior third baseman hit .360 last season. Senior outfielder Scott Hylas (.380) also returns, but Mooney is very young at other key spots.

McQuaid coach Tim Jordan will not have five of the big bats that helped inflate the team batting average to .324 — the best Jordan has seen in his 20 years at McQ — but the return of several other sluggers and three excellent pitching arms make the Knights a strong contender.

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Coaches tab St. John Fisher's Susan Heidt to 1989 Kodak All-America Basketball team

Susan Heidt, a junior forward with the St. John Fisher Lady Cardinals and the school's fourth all-time leading scorer, was named last week to the 1989 Kodak All-America Basketball First Team.

Heidt was named to the 10-member squad of Division III players by the Women's Basketball Coaching Association. The Erie, Pa., native is the fourth Fisher player to receive the honor in the seven years since Kodak and the group of coaches have selected the lower-division teams.

The other winners were Donna Blancato (1983), Robin Mortensen (1982, 1983) and Louise McDonald (1988).

The Lady Cardinals led by Clarkson and Stonybrook in the NCAA East Regional. "(Heidt) was an exceptional basketball player the whole year, and she carried us to where we were," said coach Phil Kahler. "I have nothing but praise for the job she did all year long. She did everything I asked of her."

Heidt was a key member of the team that finished the season 28-3 and won the New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association title. The championship marked the third consecutive title for the Lady Cardinals.

She was named most valuable player in the tournament.

Heidt, the team co-captain, averaged 25.1 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. She shot 55.6 percent from the field and 79.8 percent from the foul line. The final NCAA poll ranked her second in the nation in scoring, seventh in field-goal percentage and 15th in free-throw shooting.

In addition to her selection to the All-America team, Heidt was named the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III player of the year. She was one of only five women in the nation to be nominated as Champion Products Player of the Year.

Heidt this season set the school's single-season scoring record (753) and free-throw mark (213).

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