

Saints take two more; rain causing problems

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

DeSales baseball coach Frank Pane must be in tight with Mother Nature because he was one of a few Rochester-area coaches to get in two games between the raindrops last week.

The Saints (7-0) entered this week's action undefeated after beating South Seneca and Naples in Finger Lakes West action last week. DeSales continued to make a habit of coming from behind to win.

DeSales trailed host South Seneca, 3-0, heading into the fourth inning of its league game on Saturday, May 13, but the Saints erupted for six runs in the inning and went on to a 15-6 win.

Paul Priebe was the hitting star for DeSales with three singles and four RBI. Priebe had a two-run single in the fourth inning, and he also scored three runs for the game.

Other players with good offensive games for the Saints were Jeff Taney (two hits, one run batted in), Dean Askin (two hits, one run batted in) and Ron Cecere, who had a two-run double in the fourth inning.

South Seneca pulled to within 6-5 after four innings, but DeSales broke the game open with three more runs in the fifth inning.

The bottom third of the order has continued to hit the ball well for DeSales, as the top and middle of the lineup struggles. Against the Falcons, 10 runs were scored by the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth batters, who also knocked in seven runs.

"I'm getting a lot of production from the bottom of the lineup," said Pane, whose team continued to run successfully with

nine stolen bases against South Seneca. "I hate to see the middle part of the lineup struggle, but at least we're not automatic down below."

Frank Pane Jr., who came on for Jim Vedora in the fourth inning, got the win for the Saints to improve his record to 5-0. Jim McDermott came on in the seventh inning and got the save. DeSales' pitchers combined for eight strikeouts.

In their league encounter with Naples last Tuesday, May 9, the Saints trailed 2-0 before scoring three runs in the fifth inning in their 4-2 win over the Big Green at McDonough Park.

The game featured two of the league's top pitchers in Pane and Naples' Jeremy Caves.

Naples got to Pane early when Shane Allison hit a tremendous two-out, two-run home run in the top of the first inning.

Caves pitched a masterful game — giving up only one hit against the first 12 batters he faced — until the fifth inning. Aaron Mantegna led off the fifth with a walk. The Saints then loaded the bases on a single by Cecere and a successful bunt by Priebe. McDermott walked in one run, which was followed by a run-scoring single by Askin and a two-out walk by Pane to score what turned out to be the game-winning run.

DeSales manufactured another run in the sixth inning with a Naples error, a sacrifice by Priebe, a single by McDermott and a wild pitch.

Pane struck out nine before leaving after five innings. Jim Vedora came in and struck out three batters over the final two innings to get his first save.

The Saints continue to lead the Finger



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

Bishop Kearney second baseman Dave Armanini throws over McQuaid's Andy Dvnoch as he completes a double-play attempt. The two teams met at Silver Stadium for the first of a double-header on Tuesday, May 9.

Lakes West, followed by Honeoye (6-1) and Red Jacket (5-1). DeSales has handed both the Bulldogs and the Indians their only losses of the season.

DeSales has a busy week with games scheduled against Dundee (May 15), Naples (May 17) and Honeoye (May 19). After playing Red Jacket on May 22, the Saints will close out the regular season with a doubleheader against Bloomfield.

As has been the case most of the season, the Saints will continue to see the league's best pitchers the second time around the schedule.

"It seems everybody has saved their best pitcher for us," Pane said. "We've been fortunate this year because we're getting hitting from the bottom of the order."

'Ridiculous' rainouts

In the only action in the City-Catholic League last week, McQuaid beat Bishop Kearney, 6-4, and Aquinas edged Cardinal Mooney, 9-5, in a doubleheader at Silver

Stadium on Tuesday, May 9.

McQuaid's Dave Nientemp had three RBI in the Knights' win over the Kings (4-3, 7-5). It was just the third game in three weeks for McQuaid (7-6, 3-2).

Tony Lo Verdi pitched five innings to get the win for the Knights, who benefited from five errors by the Kings.

Marty Alexander had a two-run double for Kearney. Bill Tehan went six innings and took the loss. He was relieved by Bernie Bonn in the seventh.

Aquinas got three RBI apiece from Brendan Pickett and Alan Schlageter in the Little Irish's 9-5 win over Cardinal Mooney in the nightcap.

McQuaid baseball coach Tim Jordan called last week's rain "ridiculous," adding that the weather and the scheduling problems he's facing this spring are the worst in the 21 years he's been coaching.

"It has been ridiculous. The kids are kind of down," said Jordan, who is also the athletic director at McQuaid. "We practiced inside last week, but you can't get a lot accomplished. You can throw and field a bit ... but you get rusty."

Kearney baseball coach Art Carlisi echoed Jordan's words. "You can't do anything in the gym," said Carlisi, who has had to drop non-league games against Lyndonville, Pittsford Mendon and Victor from the schedule. "We're way beyond being in the gym."

Jordan, who said a game against Edison Tech on Monday, May 18, was also in jeopardy because of field conditions, said he would have to drop six remaining games against Monroe County League teams from the schedule.

The scheduling problem facing Jordan and Carlisi is a common one, as the rain wreaked havoc on all sports schedules last week. The McQuaid coach added that there has been some speculation by Section 5 baseball chairman Don Meyer about changing the dates of the sectional tournament.

This year's finals are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 9-10, at Silver Stadium. A change in the dates for post-season games is a particular concern at McQuaid, which finishes earlier than other high schools.

"June 1 is the last day of classes here, and with exams and proms it's always a problem for the kids," Jordan said.

Many area coaches will try and squeeze a minimum of six games into the regular-season's final two weeks.

Crusaders' conquest

Elmira Notre Dame only played one game last week, but what a game the Crusaders played.

Behind the brilliant pitching of senior Bob Grosvenor, the host Crusaders (2-5, 4-10) upset mighty Horseheads, 4-0, in Sullivan Trail Conference play last Tuesday, May 9. Horseheads beat Grosvenor and ND 6-3 back on April 14.

Grosvenor overcame a shaky first inning in which he escaped unscathed from a few bases-loaded jams to even his record at

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Parish's softball team treks to Toronto, wins big

Dave Herbst, head coach of the seventh- and eighth-grade girls' softball team at St. Margaret Mary's School, and assistant coach Mike Tobin took their team on a road trip out of the country April 29 and 30. St. Margaret Mary ventured to Toronto for a game against St. Timothy's.

Herbst and Tobin arranged the trip with the help of David Desmond, the youth minister at the Rochester parish.

"We just wanted to give the season a little international flavor," Herbst said. "They (his players) have worked so hard, and we promised them we'd take them out of town."

The team has been meeting almost daily since November, sometimes to participate in 6 a.m. runs before school. Herbst said his players — all of whom were strangers to organized softball until last year — seem determined to succeed this spring.

The coach also noted that the planned elimination of seventh and eighth grades at the school, scheduled to occur by 1990, has not dampened the girls' spirits. "The kids were the ones who wanted to meet before school. The girls are using it (the school reconfiguration) as a motivational thing," said Herbst, who is also an assistant strength coach for the varsity football team at Irondequoit High School.

The hard work appears to have paid off. Amid chants of "USA, USA," St. Margaret Mary's exploded for 15 unanswered runs in a 17-3 thrashing of their hosts. St. Timothy's led the game, 3-2, before Sandy



Members of the seventh- and eighth-grade girls softball team at St. Margaret Mary's parish are: (front row) Stephanie and Dana Herbst; (second row) Laura Stockslader, Lisa Mercury, Shana "Sweets" Behan, Sylvia Costa and Sandra "Rocky" Rucinski; (third row) Sammy Wallenhorst, Amy Zimmerman, Jamie Mort, Andrea "Space" Romano, Sara Cusker and Nicole Rousseau; (back row) assistant coach Mike Tobin, Bethany "Hoover" Perry, "Swiss" Kris Boesel, Sharon Gantert, Colleen Quinn, Norma Holland, Melanie Olesinski, Megan "Candy" McCabe and head coach Dave Herbst.

Wallenhorst's two-run homer in the third inning put St. Margaret Mary's ahead to stay.

Pitcher Andrea "Space" Romano struck out six and walked just two batters to get the win. In addition to Wallenhorst, Sandra "Rocky" Rucinski was a force at the plate with three hits. Rucinski also helped turn

two double plays with shortstop Bethany Perry.

The trip to Canada is just one example of Herbst's creative approach to coaching softball at St. Margaret Mary's. He has rented Silver Stadium three times to play the Rochester School for the Deaf only to be rained out each time. He also takes his players to The Battery in Gates to work on their hitting.

Herbst was originally approached to coach seventh- and eighth-grade girls softball at Christ the King Parish, but he started the program at St. Margaret Mary's last year when he found out there was enough interest to start a team.

"This is a very motivated group of kids," Herbst said. "There a real fun group to work with."



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