

DeSales' bats come alive in quarterfinal win

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

Throughout most of the regular season, DeSales baseball coach Frank Pane watched his pitchers virtually carry his team to a 12-0 record and its second consecutive Finger Lakes West title.

The pitching was still outstanding in the top-seeded Saints' Section 5 Class D quarterfinal win over No. 9 Savona at Hammondsport last Friday, June 2, but Pane was even happier to see his team's bats come alive.

Matt Cannon, Steve Vedora and Jim McDermott had three RBI each, as the Saints (13-0) routed the Bulldogs (6-8), 15-2.

The win advanced DeSales — trying for its third sectional championship in six years — to the Class D semis against No. 4 Prattsburg (14-3) on Tuesday, June 6, at Cohocton. The four highest seeds advanced to the semifinal round in Class D. Second-seeded Friendship (12-1) and No. 3 Bradford (15-2) were scheduled to play at Hornell in the other semifinal game on

Tuesday.

The two winners will meet in the Class D championship game at Silver Stadium on Saturday, June 10. The time of the game had not been determined as of *Catholic Courier* press time.

Pane knew he would have one of the best pitching rotations in the Finger Lakes West this year, but his team's hitting was sporadic at best. He's now hoping the warm weather will heat up his team's offense, as the Saints come up against better pitching this week.

Cannon has found his groove of late. The Saints' outfielder, who along with three of his teammates was named a first-team Finger Lakes West all star last week, had two doubles and a single in DeSales' romp of Savona.

Cannon hit .360 during the regular season, but he rarely displayed the power that made him one of the league's most feared hitters last year.

Pane is hoping that Cannon will start hitting like one.

"He had some big hits for us in the 17-1

win over Romulus," said Pane, referring to his team's final game of the regular season. "We've been working on our hitting."

The extra work paid off against Savona. In addition to Cannon, Steve Vedora (double, single) and McDermott (single, triple) keyed the offense for DeSales in its 15-run attack.

Frank Pane, Jim Vedora and Joe Vedora went three innings each for DeSales. Pane (9-0) was credited with the win, as he allowed just one hit.

The DeSales coach took a page from last year's preparation for the sectional championship game by inviting Hobart College pitchers — including his other son Michael — to his team's practice on Monday.

Pane said that any of the four teams remaining in Class D can win the sectional title. Friendship has allowed just two runs in its first two sectional games, with one win coming in a 9-0 shutout of No. 7 Belfast. Bradford ripped No. 6 Whitesville, 17-5, to advance to the semis, and Prattsburg

nipped a good Greenwood team, 5-4.

Although Pane said his players don't seem to be feeling post-season pressure, he and his coaches are.

"Everybody in Geneva is expecting us to win because we won a league full of Class A, B and C teams ... Now we're playing Class D teams," said Pane, who has coached DeSales to victory in 28 of the last 31 games. "The coaches are feeling it."

Pane also knows his team has won some games it shouldn't have this year, something he hopes won't catch up to his Saints until next year — at the earliest.

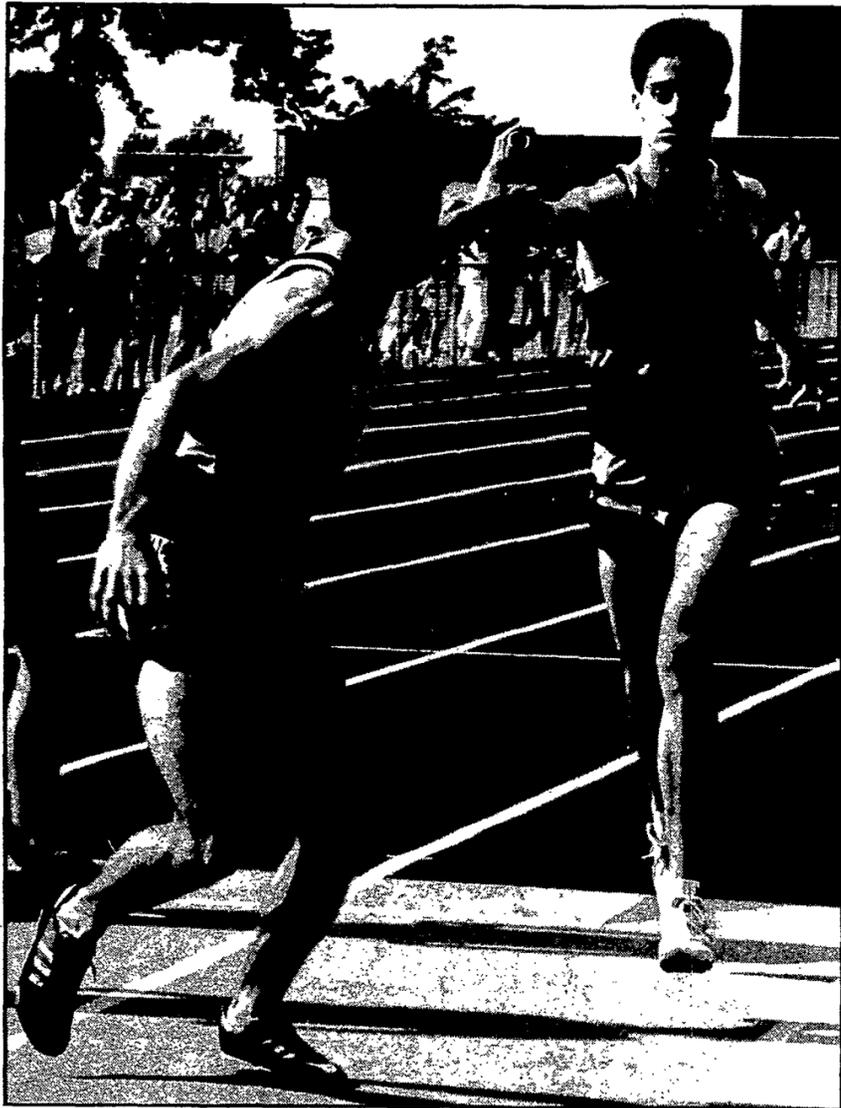
"We've been fortunate ... I worry about the bad breaks coming all at once," Pane said.

In addition to Cannon, DeSales players among those tabbed first-team Finger Lakes West all stars were Pane (.084 ERA, 8 walks in 53 innings, 9-0), Steve Vedora and Paul Priebe. McDermott, Jim Vedora, Ron Cecere and Dean Askin were named to the second team.

No other diocesan team advanced past

Continued on page 22

McQuaid track team awaits ruling to compete at states



McQuaid Jesuit's Mickey Stone (right) passes the baton to Brad Sumner for the final leg of the 3,200 relay at the Meet of Champions in Brockport.

McQuaid's right to compete in the state track championships this weekend rests on the shoulders of a State Supreme Court justice.

A temporary restraining order issued last Friday, June 2, by Justice Harold L. Galloway enabled the Knights to participate in the Section 5 Meet of Champions at Brockport State College last Saturday, June 3.

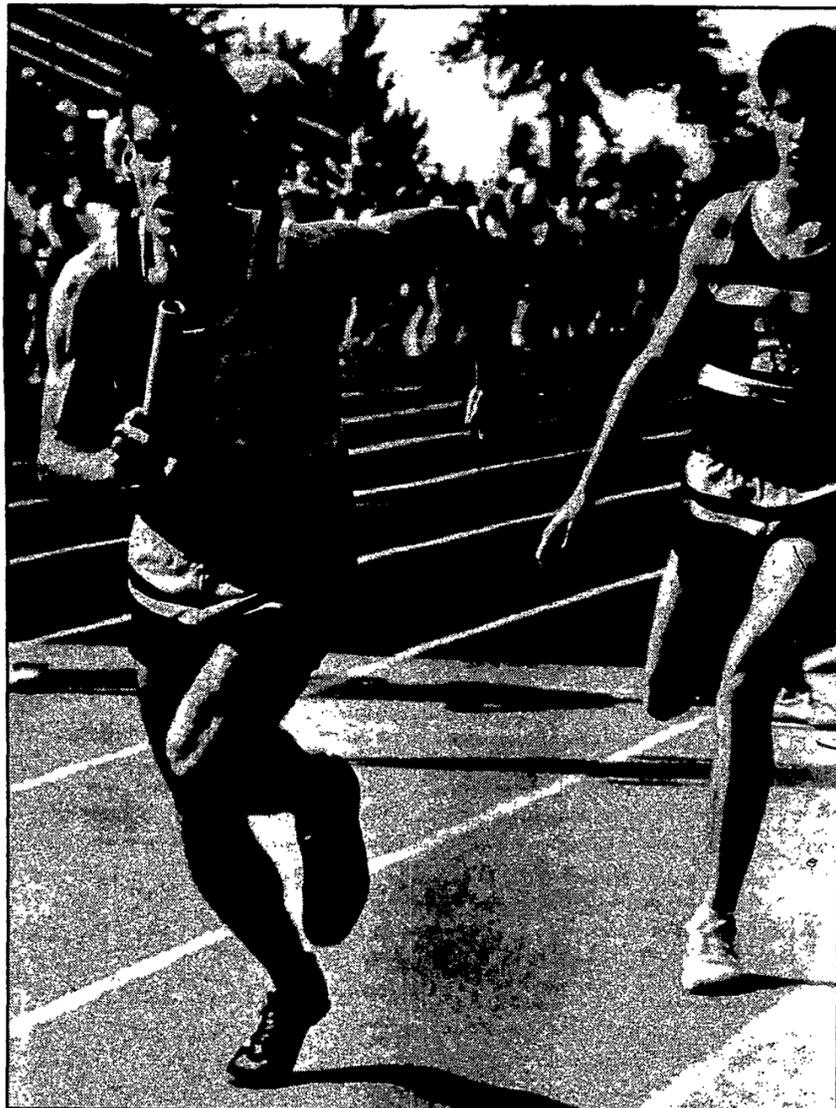
McQuaid sought legal action last Friday when the Knights were ruled ineligible for the rest of the track season by the executive council of the City-Catholic League and the Section 5 executive committee because they had exceeded by one the number of meets allowed during an outdoor track season.

McQuaid needed another court ruling in

its favor on Wednesday, June 7, to run in the state championships at Baldwinsville this weekend. The Knights are the defending state champions in the 3,200 relay.

McQuaid qualified for the states in three events, but will only run in two — assuming that the Knights even get there. Brad Sumner made up a huge deficit in the final 800 leg of the 3,200 relay to win the relay with a time of 7:56.7. Sumner combined with Dave Dugan, Jason Fahy and Mickey Stone to win the 3,200.

Dugan was a late replacement for Scott Romanowski on the first leg of the relay. Romanowski spent much of his energy winning the 400 with a time of :49.0. The McQuaid senior finished the same distance



Sumner began his 800 meters trailing Nathan Sacco by more than 40 yards, but the McQuaid senior eventually passed the Penfield runner on the final turn and won the race by 20 yards.

in :48.4 during an earlier semifinal heat.

But the most exciting race of the day was the 3,200 relay. Sumner, who also won the 800 with a time of 1:54.4, trailed Penfield's Nathan Sacco by about 40 yards when he took the baton from Stone. Sumner ended up passing Sacco on the final turn and beat him by nearly 20 yards.

McQuaid's competing in the Meet of Champions was a victory in itself. The executive committee of Section 5 ruled Thursday, June 1, that McQuaid participated in one too many regular-season meets, violating rules set forth by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

The ruling by the Section 5 board was in accordance with a decision made the day

before by the executive council of the City-Catholic League. The league also placed McQuaid's track team on one-year probation.

The violation apparently occurred Memorial Day, when McQuaid competed in the Eastern State Championships on Long Island. That turned out to be the team's 19th regular-season meet because Sumner had competed at the Eddy Memorial Games at Union College in Schenectady on Saturday, May 20.

Sumner will be able to run in the prestigious Keebler Meet in Elmhurst, Illinois on June 17 regardless of the court decision Wednesday.

— Richard A. Kiley