

D'Aloisio succeeds Johnston at Notre Dame

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

Elmira Notre Dame did not have to look far to fill the head coaching position left vacant in June when Mike Johnston, the high school's basketball coach since 1974, was named the new principal at Odessa-Montour High School.

Mike D'Aloisio, Notre Dame's current football coach and athletic director, and a longtime friend of Johnston, will take over a varsity basketball program with a long winning tradition and lots of potential for next year.

"Hopefully I can continue the (winning) tradition Mike has established over the years," D'Aloisio said shortly after the

school named him basketball coach on Friday, July 7. "This is something I've always wanted to do. I'm really looking forward to working with the kids."

This isn't the first time D'Aloisio has been named Johnston's successor at ND. Last summer he took over the school's athletic director position from Johnston, who was named assistant principal.

And although D'Aloisio has made a name for himself in recent years for the tremendous job he has done with Notre Dame's football program, the Elmira Free Academy graduate also was very successful as the junior varsity basketball coach from 1976-86 when he accrued a record of 127-53 (71 percent winning percentage).

As an assistant to Johnston during the same period, D'Aloisio helped lead Notre Dame's varsity basketball team to the state Class A basketball title in 1978—a remarkable achievement in that ND was a Class B school—and to Section 4 Class C championships in 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980 and 1987. The Crusaders lost to Odessa-Montour, 56-54, in the 1986 sectional final.

D'Aloisio said that he doesn't feel any pressure taking over for Johnston, who compiled more than 200 victories at ND while guiding his teams to 10 tournament championship appearances.

"The only one who puts pressure on me is myself. We (Notre Dame coaches) don't get any pressure from the fans or the parents here," said D'Aloisio, whose record as football coach is 43-30 since he took over the grid program in 1981. "We don't care about the score; hopefully that will take care of itself."

D'Aloisio said next year should be an exciting one for Notre Dame basketball fans. Although the Crusaders lost veteran starters Bob Grosvenor and Mike Bernatavitz along with several other key performers from last year's Class C runner-up team, a glut of talented shooters will return. Among those returning will be talented guard Brian Sheehan and such exceptional shooters as Geoff Woodworth, Mike Bennett, Mike Ramich and Brion Woodworth.

D'Aloisio said his only pressing need is getting "somebody that can bang the boards," although he added that returning seniors Rob Agan and Lee Hayward emerged as strong rebounders late in the season.

"We've got a great deal of talented individuals coming back," D'Aloisio said. "Our biggest strengths will be at the guard and forward positions. This team could make a strong run at a (league) title."

Because of the abundance of returning talent and a solid year of playing experience, the new ND coach said he may "let the kids be a little more creative and free-wheeling" than they were under his predecessor. Fans of Notre Dame's football teams know that D'Aloisio is anything but conservative.

D'Aloisio said that he and Johnston have "very similar defensive philosophies."

The continuity that D'Aloisio provides in taking over the basketball program at ND is a strong factor in his favor. He has known many ND athletes "from the CYO level" on up, and much of his coaching philosophy was developed through his long friendship with Johnston.

"The standard joke in the Binghamton area when Mike and I were coaching basketball together was, 'Don't you guys ever stay home?'" D'Aloisio said.

An illustration of the strong bond between the two longtime ND coaches came last Thursday night, when D'Aloisio was involved in a minor car accident and had to be taken to Arnot-Ogden Memorial Hospital for a head injury.

"Mike was one of the first people to check up on me at the hospital," said D'Aloisio, who wasn't going to let the accident take away the thrill of being named the new basketball coach at ND.

"Now I know what those guys feel like when Mike Tyson hits them," D'Aloisio joked.



Bob Reed of Ellicottville High School drives for a basket Friday, June 30, during a basketball camp at St. John Fisher College. Boys and girls ages 8 to 18 participated in the camp's two sessions, which emphasized fundamentals within a competitive framework.

SPORT SHORTS

ND grad enjoys strong performance in Canada

Mike Hulbert, a 1976 graduate of Elmira Notre Dame High School, won the second biggest payday of his career (\$67,200) at the Canadian Open Sunday, June 25, when he finished two shots behind Open winner Steve Jones.

Jones finished with a final round of two-under-par 70 and a 72-hole score of 271.

Hulbert, who now lives in Orlando, Fla., finished in a three-way tie for second with Mark Calcavecchia and Clark Burroughs. The ND grad finished with a final-round 64 to give him 273 total, 15-under-par on the Glen Abbey Golf Club course.

For Hulbert, whose career earnings are nearing \$800,000, the second-place showing raised his season earnings to \$191,586.

Hole-in-one contest set to help Elmira hospital

The annual St. Joseph's Hospital hole-in-one contest will take place Friday, July 14, from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, July 15-16, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mark Twain Community Golf Course.

A \$1,000 prize will go to the golfer who makes a hole-in-one. Savings bonds will be awarded to the four golfers whose shots land closest to the pin.

A tax-deductible contribution of \$5 will give the golfer six chances at a hole-in-one.

All proceeds from the three-day event are earmarked for the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation.

Call 607/733-6541 for information.

AQ football camp on tap

Aquinas varsity football coach Robert D'Ettore will conduct a grid camp for boys in grades 8-12 from August 7-11 at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester.

The camp, featuring Rochester-area coaches working on conditioning, offensive-defensive, and specialty skills, will run from 6 to 8:15 p.m. Participants should arrive at Aquinas 15 minutes before the camp begins on August 7.

The deadline for registration is July 20. Call D'Ettore at 716/254-2020 for information.

St. Mary's Seton branch plans golf tournament

Seton Branch 85 of St. Mary's Hospital is sponsoring a benefit golf tournament for men and women at the Webster Golf Club on Friday, July 21.

The round of golf at the club, 440 Salt Road, Webster, will be followed by a buffet dinner. The cost is \$35 per person.

Guests can attend the dinner only for \$15.

Tee off times will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A social hour will begin at 4 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Registration and payment is due by July 14.

Call Judy Michael, 716/338-3264, or Katie O'Dell, 442-3533, for information.

Annual 'Track Classic' planned for Rochester

The City of Rochester will sponsor its fourth annual "Track Classic" for women and men, aged seven to adult, on Friday, July 28, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Edgerton Recreation Center, 41 Backus St., Rochester.

Each event is free for participants 18 and under, and \$1 for adults.

Entry forms—which may be obtained from the Bureau of Recreation, City Hall Room 226B or any neighborhood recreation center—must be brought to the meet.

Call the Bureau of Recreation at 716/428-6755 for information.

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS

(716)663-3119
Hrs. Mon.-Fri. 10am-9pm; Sat. 10am-5pm
TEAM UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT
Soccer • Baseball • Hockey • Lacross

We received 10 correct entries identifying the Milwaukee Bucks as the N.B.A. team that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar played with when he won his first championship.

The winner was Mike Lum of Rochester.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

Pervis Ellison was the #1 pick in this year's N.B.A. draft. Who was the #1 pick in the 1988 N.B.A. draft?

A:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____
School: _____

Rules:

Each week, the Catholic Courier, in conjunction with Locker Room Sports will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Catholic Courier. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.
If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF any purchase of \$25.00 or more at Locker Room Sports, 560 W. Ridge Rd.
All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Catholic Courier
Sports Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624

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