

Dodger manager organizes 'relief' for order

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Tommy Lasorda, manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, is going to bat for the Sisters of Mercy of the Union in Nashville.

Lasorda, who last fall guided the Dodgers to the World Series championship, has promised the nuns a "big night of entertainment in Nashville featuring some of the greatest talent in the United States" to raise funds for the construction of a new convent.

Lasorda already has raised some \$50,000 to build the new convent by agreeing to lose some of his 218 pounds in exchange for pledges. Two of his players, pitcher Orel Hershiser and outfielder Kurt Gibson gave him \$30,000 for losing about 40 pounds and the Slimfast company gave

him an additional \$20,000 for his use of their weight-loss program. Lasorda is also scheduled to appear at a Las Vegas hotel, which could net him another \$50,000 for the nuns.

Lasorda told the *Tennessee Register*, newspaper of the dioceses of Nashville and Knoxville, that the fundraiser is scheduled for Nov. 30 at either the Grand Ole Opry House or the Nashville Convention Center.

Lasorda said he hopes to bring together on stage Pia Zadora, Susan Anton, Don Rickles, Hank Williams Jr., and possibly Frank Sinatra.

"We want to put on a great show, but most important I want to see all of you sitting in the front row and looking up with

great admiration and saying, 'This is for all of us' because we love you very much," Lasorda told the sisters June 22 during a visit to the community.

The nuns are being forced to move from their current convent because it has become too costly to keep up and because it is plagued with fire-code violations.

Last fall the sisters kicked off a campaign to raise more than \$2 million to build a new facility. The nuns said they hope to sell the current property for about \$7 million, with funds going to build the new Mercy Ministry Center and convent.

"My goal and dream is to see all of you in the near future sitting, sleeping and eating in a home that befits all of you because

you have dedicated your lives to God," Lasorda told the sisters.

"No matter where I go, I have a great deal of love and affection for the nuns who taught me because they put me on the straight and narrow path of life," he said of the Catholic education he received in his hometown of Norristown, Pa. "I know and appreciate all you do. You deserve nothing but the best."

Lasorda's fundraising efforts are not limited to the nuns. On May 17, Lasorda announced that he had agreed to become spokesman for Catholic Charities' new Caritas Mastercard. Each time the card is used, Mastercard donates a portion of the interest to Catholic Charities USA.

All-league center transfers to McQuaid for junior year

In recent years, McQuaid High School's basketball teams have boasted a number of players who have gone on to receive athletic scholarships to Division I schools.

Jason McKinney hopes to join their company.

McKinney, a 6-9 center who last year dominated the Finger Lakes West League, has transferred from Red Jacket Central School in Shortsville to McQuaid.

McQuaid basketball coach Joe Marchese, who first saw McKinney play in an AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) game in May, 1988, said of the transfer, "He's going to help us, no question about it."

It was at that AAU game, in fact, that McKinney and his mother approached Marchese and talked about transferring to McQuaid. McKinney opted instead to return to Red Jacket for his sophomore year. He averaged 13.2 points, 12.5 rebounds and 5.5 blocked shots per game, and led the team to the Finger Lakes West title with a 15-1 record (18-4 overall). He was named first-team all-league.

McKinney continued to consider trans-

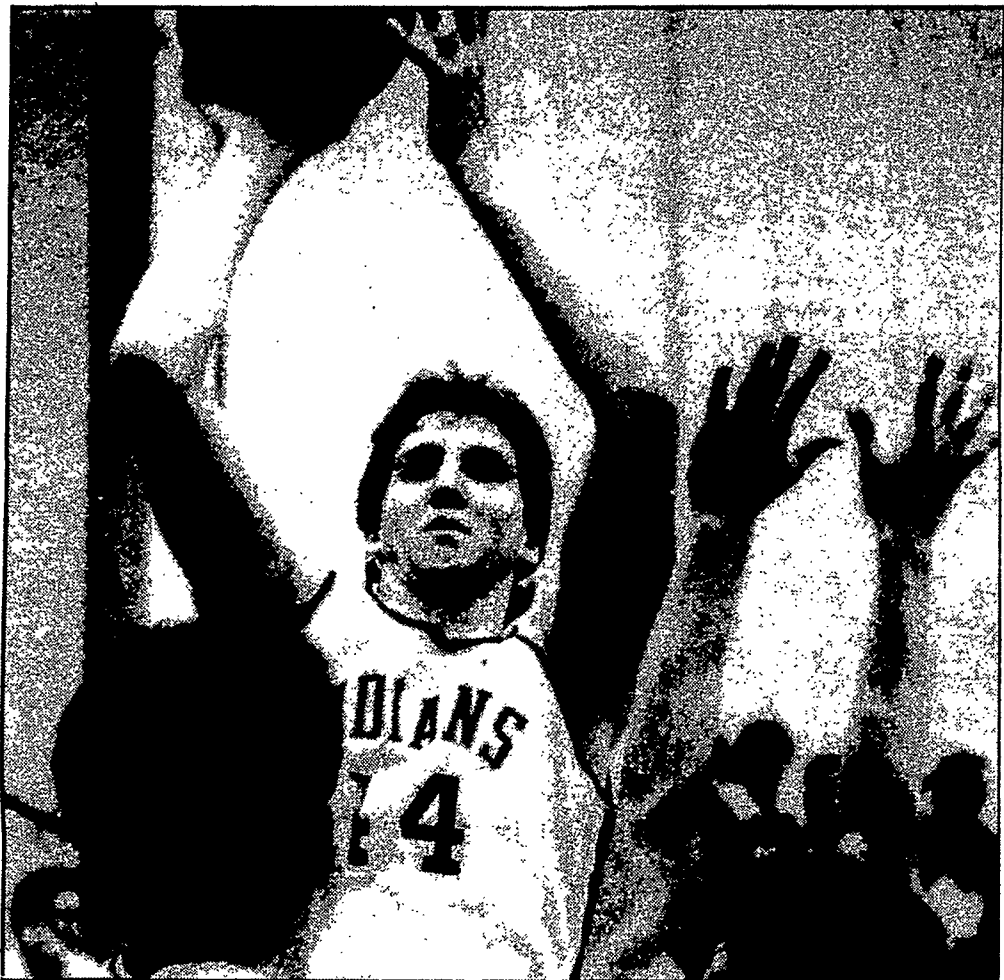
ferring to McQuaid, however, and visited the school twice this spring before registering there for the coming year.

Marchese speculated that McKinney decided to transfer for two reasons. "He's a good student, and wants to prepare himself for college as best he can," he said. "Second, I think he wants to play against some of the best players in the area. He's looking to play Division I ball."

This coming year, East will again be the team to beat in the City-Catholic League, Marchese predicted. McKinney's addition to McQuaid will help the Knights' chances, however, especially since the team will include senior forward Jay Moore and senior point guard Kevin Brown — whom Marchese speculated will be one of the best point guards in the league. Last year, McQuaid finished a disappointing 12-7, after being touted as a contender for the league title.

"I think with Kevin and Mike and Jason, we will do well this year," Marchese predicted.

— Lee Strong



Jason McKinney, a 6-foot-9-inch Red Jacket junior, has transferred to McQuaid Jesuit High School for the coming year. Last year, McKinney led his team to a Finger Lakes West title and an 18-4 record.

Protestant soccer team signs Catholic player amid protests and boycott threats from fans

By Rennie McOwan
Catholic News Service

GLASGOW, Scotland — A traditionally Protestant soccer team has broken with history and signed its first Catholic player.

The action drew protests from some of the team's fans, but was praised by Catholic and Protestant leaders.

The Glasgow Rangers signed Scottish player Maurice Johnston, and Rangers manager Graeme Souness announced the team's sectarian days were over.

Some Rangers fans publicly burned their team-supporter scarves and said they would boycott Rangers games. Others have asked for refunds on season tickets.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think they would sign him," said David Miller, general secretary of the Rangers Supporters Association. "It is a sad day for Rangers. I don't want to see a Roman Catholic at Ibrox (Rangers stadium).... It really sticks in my throat."

The Rev. James Weatherhead, principal clerk of the Church of Scotland, said that if hiring Johnston meant "removal or relaxation of sectarianism from sport, then it is to be welcomed."

The press office for Scotland's Catholic bishops issued a statement that "if this is a breakthrough in sectarianism, then we will obviously welcome it."

Johnston has played for Glasgow Celtic,

the Rangers' predominantly Catholic arch-rivals. He left Celtic to play with a team in Nantes, France, and announced earlier this year that he intended to return to Celtic.

Sectarianism has been part of Scottish soccer for more than 70 years. Rivalry between the Rangers and Celtic fans often has turned into rioting or street fighting.

In the past, Irish migrants to Scotland tended to support either the Rangers or Celtic according to religious allegiance, and this hardened into formal sectarian attitudes. However, many of today's fans have no formal church connection.

Rangers fans chant insulting verses about the pope and the Irish Republican Army. Some Celtic fans — officially disowned by the team — chant support for the IRA and other terrorist groups in Northern Ireland. Rangers fans wave Union Jacks as a symbol of their attachment to the United Kingdom; Celtic fans wave the Irish flag as a symbol of their attachment to Ireland.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has officially condemned the Rangers' reluctance to field Catholic players.

Celtic players recently have been of different religious faiths. Both teams have won European trophies and supply international soccer players to Scotland, England, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

SPORT SHORTS

Olean standout to follow brother to St. John Fisher

ROCHESTER — Following in the footsteps of his older brother, Mike, Olean resident Marcus Venio has decided to attend St. John Fisher College this fall.

A May graduate of Archbishop Walsh Academy, the younger Venio excelled in both football and baseball. As a linebacker, he made the Big 30 all-star team. As a catcher, he was named most

valuable player, taking Archbishop Walsh to a 13-7 record and a second-place finish in the Expressway Conference his senior year. Venio held a .305 batting average — .385 against Expressway competition — with three home runs and seven doubles last season.

Both the football and baseball coaches at Fisher are impressed by Venio. Football coach Ralph Gebhardt said he'll be looking for Venio "to get right in the battle" for a linebacking spot this fall. Baseball coach Robert Simms, on the other hand, believes Venio "will be an outstanding catcher."

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We received 7 correct entries identifying "the spitball" as the pitch Burrell Grimes last legally threw in 1934.

The winner was Jason Okrepkie of Newark Valley.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What was the first major league baseball team to play under the name of a state rather than a city?

A: _____

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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
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