

Weather, errors take toll in grid games

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Diocesan high school football teams playing Saturday, Sept. 16, had to face two adversaries: opposing teams and the weather. Steady rain kept many of the games low-scoring and error-filled.

Typical of the games that day was McQuaid's 3-0 victory over Franklin. The only scoring in the game came in the first quarter when senior Jim Flanagan booted a 37-yard field goal.

The visiting Knights (2-0) threatened several other times, but penalties repeatedly stalled drives, and a 50-yard field-goal attempt fell short.

The rain forced both teams to stay on the ground, where McQuaid enjoyed success. Seniors Jamal Dunbar (24 carries, 131 yards) and Bernie Lipka (20 rushes, 118 yards) provided the bulk of the Knights' 284 yards in offense.

"We ran primarily up the middle," explained McQuaid coach Tom Sprague. "We controlled the line of scrimmage."

Meanwhile, the McQuaid defense clamped down on the Quakers (0-2). Seniors Todd Dorshel and Sam Owens registered 13 and nine tackles, respectively.

"It was one of those days," Sprague remarked. "In games like that, every single fumble, every single fourth down — that could be the game."

Aquinas coach Bob D'Ettore and his Little Irish are still looking for their first win after settling for a 6-6 tie at East. Aquinas is 0-1-1.

The Orientals (0-1-1) got on the scoreboard first in the second quarter. The conversion failed, leaving the score 6-0 until the third quarter, when Little Irish quarterback Heath Rist hit Duane Postell with a touchdown pass. An unsuccessful conversion left the teams knotted at 6-6 for the rest of the game.

D'Ettore noted that simply holding onto the ball was a problem throughout the game, and "knowing that it was that wet, (the Orientals) kept eight or nine guys up on the line to stop the run."

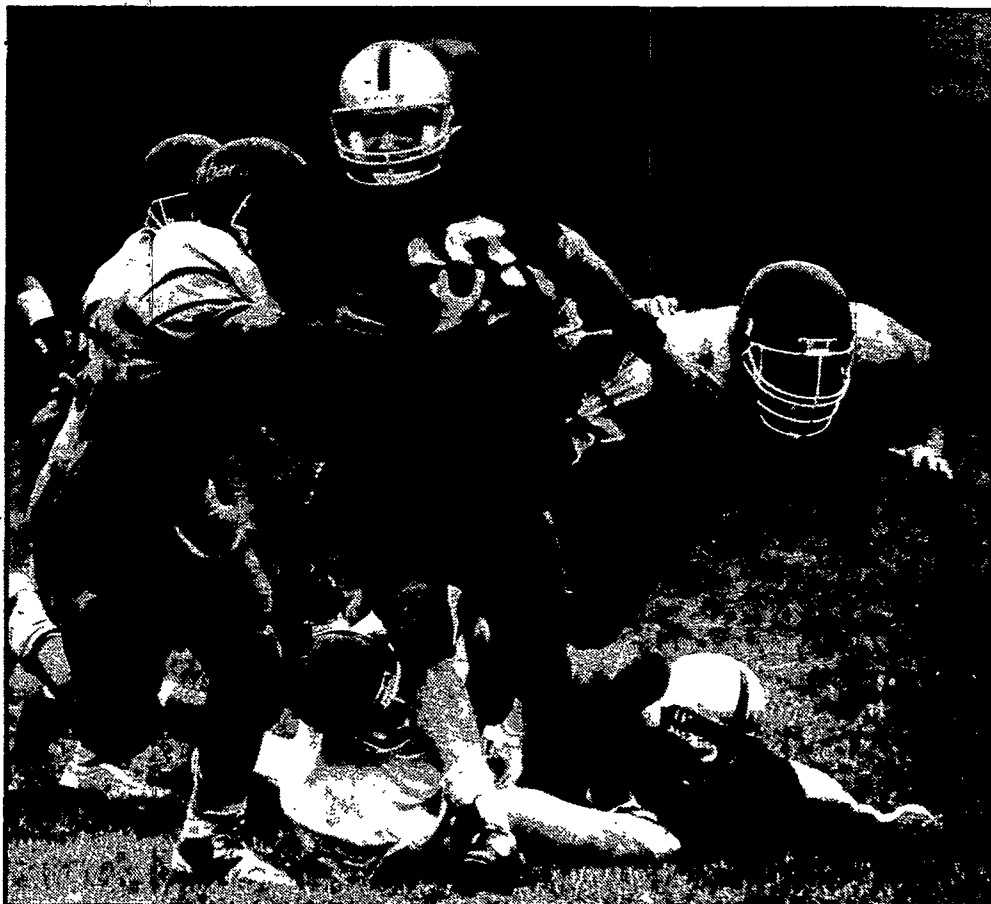
Next Saturday, the Little Irish will look for their first win when they take on Franklin, but D'Ettore cautioned, "They've always got a good team. I'm looking forward to a tough game."

DeSales recorded its first win of the season, downing Dundee 14-0 in a game marred by turnovers — including nine by the Saints. DeSales (1-1) scored in the first quarter after recovering a Dundee fumble on the Scotsmen's 45-yard line. A 44-yard pass play from Saints' quarterback Frank Pane to Jeff Taney set up a three-yard touchdown run by Chris Ike.

In the second quarter, Pane hooked up with Taney for a 25-yard touchdown pass and then again for a two-point conversion to close out the scoring.

Despite the win — and good games out of Pane and Ike (90 yards rushing) — Saints' coach Bob Taney expressed displeasure with the team's offense. He cited the turnovers — seven fumbles and two interceptions — as particularly troubling. One of the fumbles ended a scoring threat on Dundee's eight-yard line.

The coach refused to blame the weather for the miscues, however. "Offensively, it



Christopher Millette

Junior Rene Ingoglia breaks a tackle during a third-quarter run that set up Kearney's second touchdown in a soggy Sept. 16 football game against Ithaca High School. Kearney won, 20-0.

was a terrible game," he said. "We didn't play well."

On the other hand, "From a defensive standpoint, we played a good game," Taney said. Perhaps the best defensive stand of the game came with two minutes remaining in the game. Dundee had first and goal on the seven-yard line, but the Saints kept the Scotsmen from scoring.

Taney hopes that his offense gets in gear next Saturday when the Saints go on the road to take on undefeated Finger Lakes West rival Red Jacket.

Bishop Kearney played its inaugural home game on Saturday and recorded its first win of the season. The Kings downed Ithaca 20-0 in the highest scoring game of the day.

Kearney, which is competing as an independent this year, plays four of its first five games on the road. With a game at Batavia already under their belts, the Kings will travel to Gloversville, Canisius and Midlakes in the upcoming weeks.

Against Ithaca, Bishop Kearney (1-0-1) kept the ball on the ground, grinding out 274 yards. Lamin Massaquoi put the Kings on the board with a four-yard run in the first quarter. Greg Mikell scored on a 27-yard run in the third quarter to give Bishop Kearney a 13-0 lead. The conversion failed.

Most of the damage on the ground,

however, was done by the Kings' Rene Ingoglia, who carried the ball 14 times for 175 yards. Ingoglia's 42-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter put the game out of reach.

The Eastridge transfer was also victimized by two penalties, which negated touchdown runs of 40 and 60 yards.

The Kings' defense — along with the weather — contributed to the victory, holding the pass-oriented Ithaca offense to just 86 yards. "We stopped their running game," observed Kings' coach Nick Teta. "Our secondary did an excellent job of shutting the pass down."

The next task for the Kings will come at Gloversville this Saturday, when they face yet another team that likes to pass.

Oddly enough, the only loss by a diocesan grid team over the weekend had nothing to do with the weather, as host Southside High School came back from a 13-0 deficit to stun Notre Dame, on Friday, Sept. 15.

Instead, coach Mike D'Aloisio attributed the loss to sloppy play. "We played well at times, but the mental mistakes killed us," he said.

Things were looking up for the Crusaders (1-1) in the first half when Mike Mustico scored twice from two yards out in the second quarter. His first touchdown

Continued on page 17

SPORTSHORTS

Nazareth taps Pisano as athletic director

ROCHESTER — Dave Pisano, who played in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization during the 1970s, was recently named athletic director at Nazareth Academy.

A graduate of Brockport State College, Pisano played in the Pirates' farm system from 1973-78. He also earned All-American and All-Conference honors as a football and baseball player at the University of Johnstown, Pa.

While attending Jefferson High School, he earned all-state honors in football, wrestling and baseball.

Before his arrival at Nazareth Academy, Pisano previously taught in the district elementary school system and at Jefferson High School.

Pisano, who will teach physical education at Nazareth, has been the school's varsity softball coach since 1984. At Jefferson, he coached football, wrestling and baseball.

Plattsburgh ace pitcher headed for Fisher in fall

ROCHESTER — Plattsburgh High School standout Tom Maston is heading for the baseball diamond at St. John Fisher College this fall.

Maston, a pitcher/outfielder with a 17-3 Plattsburgh team that won three titles in 1989, batted .320 with two home runs last season. But his real impact was felt on the mound, where Maston achieved a record of 9-0, including three shutouts and two no-hitters. During the course of the season, the 6-0, 162-pound Maston also fired 97 strikeouts and posted a 1.170 ERA.

The team's most valuable player, Maston also won recognition as the Champlain Valley Athletic Conference (CVAC) MVP and as the school's most valuable athlete. He helped lead Plattsburgh to the sectional championship in Section 7, New York State Class B and CVAC tournaments.

"Tom Maston proved to be one of the best pitchers in the state tournament and I'm really looking forward to his presence on campus," said Robert M. Simms, who coached the Cardinals to a 13-6 record in 1989. "He should have a bright future both academically and athletically. I expect him to be a very valuable asset to the team during the next four years."

Another Erie standout coming to Fisher in fall

ROCHESTER — There's an Erie feeling around St. John Fisher College these days, and it's definitely getting stronger. A look at next season's women's basketball roster may give a clue why.

The three-time state champion Lady Cardinals have recently added their third Erie resident to the team. Seneca High School standout Heather Kikola has decided to attend Fisher, where she'll join St. Benedict's Kristen Baginski and Mercyhurst Prep's Susan Heidt courtide in November.

The 5-8 forward averaged 17.6 points, nine assists and seven rebounds last season for a 17-8 Seneca High team that placed second in the Greenville Tournament and fourth in the Erie County League.

"Heather has the talent to contribute right away," said Fisher coach Phil Kahler, who guided the Lady Cardinals to a 28-3 record last season. "She is also an outstanding student."

Kikola won the Amelia Earhart Award and the Erie County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Award. She plans to major in pre-med at Fisher.

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SPORTS TRIVIA

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What one-time Oakland Raiders head coach gained greater fame as a TV broadcaster and beer pusher?

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