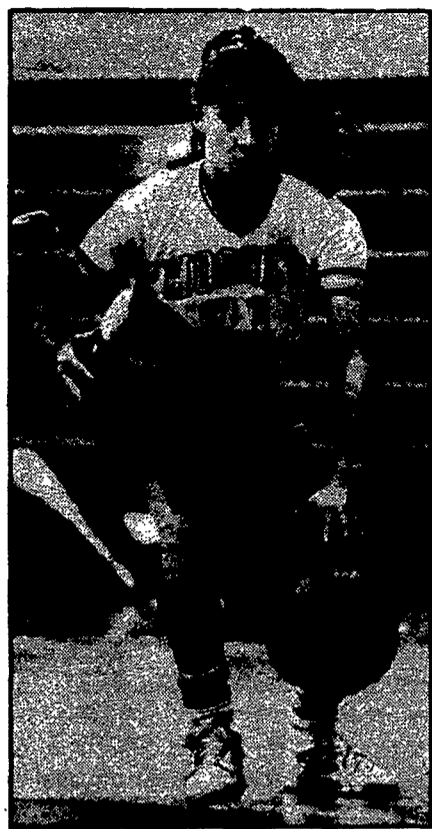




SPORTSHORTS



Shackelford will attend University of Delaware

Marisa Shackelford, one of Section 5's most highly rated girls' basketball players, signed a letter of intent with the University of Delaware during the NCAA's early-signing period. Delaware, a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, has offered Schackelford a full scholarship.

As a junior last year, Shackelford led Cardinal Mooney to the Section 5 Class BB title with a 19.3 scoring average. The 6-0 senior transferred to Bishop Kearney over the summer after Cardinal Mooney closed last June.

Delaware compiled a 23-6 record during the 1988/89 season, winning the ECAC championship. According to Kearney coach Paul Forte, Shackelford was impressed by the university and its basketball program.

According to Forte, Shackelford wanted to sign early to end "all the distractions and the recruiting of the last couple of seasons" so that she could concentrate on her studies and on playing basketball.

The Kearney coach added that the University of Delaware will graduate four front-line players in 1989, meaning that — even as a freshman — Shackelford could step in and make an immediate impact.

Athletic prowess is all in the family at ND

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ELMIRA — On Sept. 19, 1964, Elmira Notre Dame quarterback Mike Bennett passed for 195 yards, completing eight of 11 passes for three touchdowns.

On Sept. 30, 1988, Elmira Notre Dame quarterback Mike Bennett passed for 260 yards, connecting on 16 of 32 passes for one touchdown.

Part of the plot of the next installment of *Back to the Future*?

No, just part of an amazing coincidence at Notre Dame.

Three fathers — Mike Bennett, Sr. (class of '65), Jim Ramich ('63) and Jack Sheehan ('66) — all involved in Notre Dame sports — now watch their sons — Mike Bennett, Jr., Mike Ramich and Brian Sheehan — play sports at the Elmira school.

The youth, are, in fact, all tri-athletes, members of the junior class, and friends. "They're the best of friends," observed Jack Sheehan. "It's a very close-knit class."

The fathers, meanwhile, were either standouts, or involved with tremendous achievements at Notre Dame years ago.

The most decorated of the fathers — and the elder statesman of the group — is Jim Ramich. During his sports career he earned nine letters, three each in football, basketball and baseball.

He was named All-City in football as a running back and in basketball as a forward. Ramich was inducted into the Elmira Football Hall of Fame earlier this month.

The Ramich family provided a constant supply of athletes for Notre Dame between 1959 and 1978, when the youngest of siblings, Stephen, graduated. Current Notre Dame athletic director Mike D'Aloisio quipped that Notre Dame football was down for several years after the last Ramich graduated.

Now the school is enjoying the first of a new generation of Ramichs in the person of Mike. But Mike doesn't play football.

"We lived in North Carolina when I was six," Mike Ramich explained. "Soccer was big down there. We played it in the fall and spring, so I didn't get into football or baseball."

As a sophomore, the younger Ramich was first team All Sullivan Trail Conference in soccer — an achievement he seems certain to repeat this year after leading the league in scoring with 14 goals and five assists.

During basketball season last year, he was the first guard off the bench on a team that lost in the sectional finals. In tennis, he lost as a freshman in the sectional finals as part of Notre Dame's doubles team. As a sophomore, he went to the finals in singles



By an amazing coincidence, Notre Dame High School is now enjoying the accomplishments of three student-athletes whose fathers also contributed to the school's sports history. Front row (from left to right): Mike Ramich, Mike Bennett, Brian Sheehan; second row: Jim Ramich, Mike Bennett, Sr. and Jack Sheehan.

play.

The younger Ramich nearly got a chance to play for both the football and soccer teams at ND this fall. D'Aloisio submitted an application to Section 4 officials, asking them to allow the ND junior to play soccer and to kick for the football team.

"I've seen him kick 50-yard field goals," D'Aloisio said. But members of Section 4's executive committee ruled that he couldn't play both sports.

Mike Ramich said he was aware of his father's accomplishments, but that he never felt any pressure to play sports. "I was always interested in sports," he explained, "not because it was pushed, but because it was just something my family did."

Jim Ramich said that his son's main source of inspiration was the last of the Ramich brothers, Steve.

Steve Ramich moved in with Jim and his family in 1977 because Steve's parents were moving away from Elmira, and Steve wanted to graduate from Notre Dame. That year, he helped lead the Crusaders to the state class A title in basketball.

Mike Ramich — who estimated he was about five years old at the time — recalled, "I used to go to all of his games. It gave me a role model. I used to go downstairs and play basketball and pretend I won the MVP award."

Mike Bennett, Jr., has already won a Most Valuable Player Award. He was named MVP in the Section 4 Bowl Game II, which was played Nov. 11.

Last year, he was named a first-team All-STC quarterback, and after he was converted to running back this year, returned to the all-star team.

As a sophomore starting for the basketball team, he made the conference's second-team. The younger Bennett was also the starting shortstop on ND's varsity baseball team until he broke his ankle.

His father also played infield for the Crusaders, as well as quarterback for the football team. The elder Bennett's 195-yard game — a 26-7 win over Southside — stood as the city record for more than a decade, coming in an era when high school teams primarily relied on a ground game.

Mike Bennett Sr. went on to coach Catholic Youth Organization basketball, Little League baseball and Small Fry football.

ball. He brought his son to many games.

"I didn't push him, he just started playing," Mike Bennett, Sr. said. "I guess he was around it so much he just became part of it."

Jack Sheehan modestly assed his sports career as "a participant in many, star in none."

Still, he played a part in Notre Dame football history. In 1966, he played for a Crusaders' team that went 7-0-1 — the only undefeated grid team in the history of the school. In addition to earning a varsity letter for football, he picked up letters in golf and baseball.

Brian Sheehan is likewise modest about his own athletic accomplishments. But others have recognized his abilities and achievements.

The Notre Dame junior has been a defensive standout in football — recording 15 tackles in the bowl game this year — earning first team honors in the conference and honorable mention on the Twin Tier all-star squad. He also plays catcher on the baseball team.

But where Brian stands out is on the basketball court. The Crusaders' point guard earned first-team All-STC honors last year. Notre Dame lost in the Section 4 Class C finals.

Brian attributed his interest in sports to his father's encouragement and support over the years. "He got me into Little League and he came to all the games," Brian said. His father also attended all of his basketball games, and often offered Brian advice after games.

The three fathers might also be able to give their sons advice about sports in later life — especially if they have dreams of turning their high school achievements into professional careers.

Jim Ramich went on to star in football at Union College. Now, he's content to play a "bad game of golf and tennis," and to jog. Jack Sheehan didn't play sports in college, and now enjoys playing golf.

Mike Bennett, Sr., meanwhile, turned to coaching as his way to continue his love for sports. Coaching has been "a way of giving back what I know," he said.

Athletics, he explained, is a way to teach young people about life — particularly one important lesson.

"I believe if you learn to lose gracefully, then you'll always be a winner," he said.

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We received 6 correct entries identifying 1974 as the last time the Oakland A's won the World Series.

The winner was Rob Anderson of Fairport High School.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What Buffalo Bills quarterback holds the single season record for the most yards passing?

A: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

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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.

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