

Saints, Knights, Crusaders off to fast starts

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Finger Lakes West opponents must be wondering if "Saints" is a misnomer for the boys from DeSales.

DeSales has jumped out to a 3-0 record by soundly trouncing its opponents, averaging 79 points per game with a defense that has allowed a mere 45 points per game.

If they keep it up, maybe they should be tagged the "Magnificent Seven."

The Saints, who have just seven players on the varsity, mauled visiting Gananda (1-1) 103-42 on December 6. Every DeSales player scored in double figures, led by Chris Ike's 24 points. Eddie Marsteiner contributed 17 points, and Jeff Taney netted 16. Center Robert McFadden hauled in 17 boards to complement his 14 points.

Host Naples looked as if they were ready to give the Saints a game on Dec. 8. DeSales was clinging to a 28-24 lead at the half, but then exploded in the second half before cruising to a 73-44 victory.

Marsteiner took scoring honors this time, popping in two three-pointers on his way to 20 points. McFadden added 16 points.

The Saints were scheduled to host Dundee (1-2) on Dec. 13.

McQuaid also upped its record to 3-0,

beating host Penfield 72-52 on Friday, Dec. 8.

Jay Moore led McQuaid with 12 points, and Kevin Brown added 11.

Marshall was scheduled to host McQuaid on Dec. 12.

Aquinas (1-1, 2-1) suffered an 86-69 loss at the hands of host Wilson (2-0, 4-0) on Dec. 5. After falling behind 42-27 at the half, the Little Irish battled back to within three points in the third quarter.

But that was as close as Aquinas could get, as Wilson extended the lead to 54-47 at the end of the quarter, and outscored the Little Irish 32-22 in the fourth quarter.

Alcindor Coleman and Dwayne Postell led the Little Irish, each scoring 21 points in the losing effort.

Aquinas also fell behind host Franklin on Dec. 8, trailing 27-25 at the half. But the Little Irish applied a full-court press in the third quarter on their way to a 60-52 win. Coleman led Aquinas with 23 points.

Wilson also gave Bishop Kearney a headache, downing the visiting Kings 80-64.

Kearney (0-1, 1-2) stayed with the Wildcats throughout the first half, and trailed only 43-36 at the intermission.

But Wilson stretched out the lead in the second half, and even put on a stall for the last four minutes of the game.

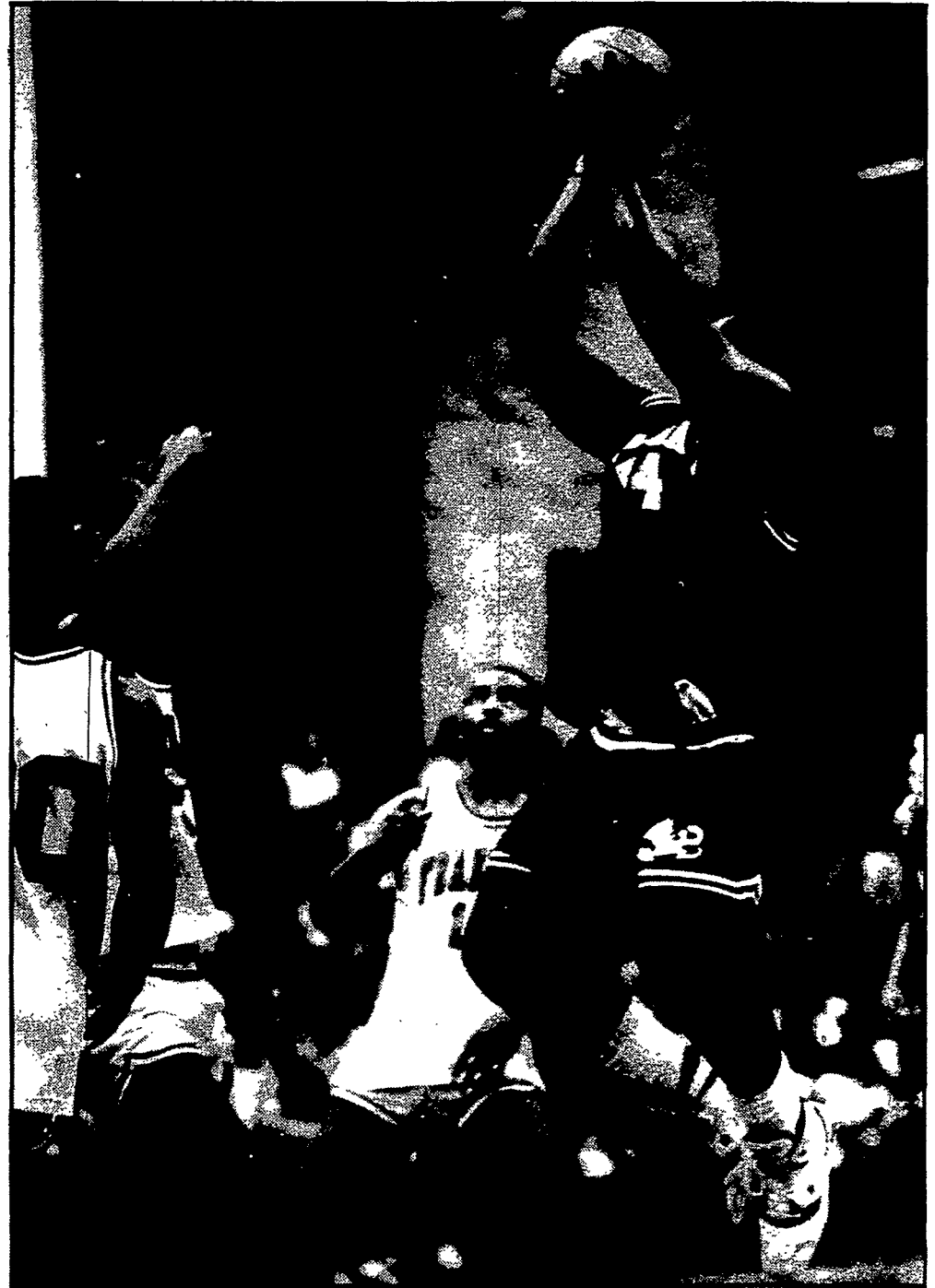
Burt Richardson led Kearney with 20 points. Kevin Pawlak added 17 and Greg Mikell 15.

Elmira Notre Dame remained undefeated, coming back from a 29-28 half-time deficit to beat Trumansburg 71-62 at home on Dec. 5.

The Crusaders switched from a press to a half-court defense in the second half, which coach Mike D'Aloisio speculated took the Blue Raiders off guard.

Meanwhile, the Crusaders — who had suffered a spell of poor shooting in the first half — began to connect after the intermission. Brian Sheehan pumped in 18 of his game-high 28 points in the second half to lead the rally.

Notre Dame center Rick Shaw collected 13 points and 15 rebounds.



Alcindor Coleman goes high in the air for two of his 23 points to help lead the Little Irish to a come-from-behind win over host Franklin, 60-52, on Friday, Dec. 8.

Jack Haley

Nine ND players named Section IV grid all-stars

The Notre Dame football team, which fell to Chenango Valley in the Section VI Bowl 2 game, placed nine players on the Section IV Division IV all-star team — the largest number of all-stars from any one team.

Mike Bennett, a running back and defensive back who earned Most Valuable Player honors in the bowl game, topped the Crusader contingent. Joining him on the team were: Brian Sheehan, Geoff Woodworth, Lee Heyward, Andy Minch, Travis Apgar, Anthony Wisniewski and Blake Pierce.

Girls

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forward Maria Webster and senior guard Missy Creamer as Nazareth tries to improve upon last year.

Coach Steve Muzzi believes DeSales could easily improve on its 10-12 record of last season — if his players can overcome their lack of experience.

At least one player already has plenty of experience. Junior point guard Danielle Boncaro returns after making the all-conference team last year.

The team will also enjoy the return of

5-8 senior forward Jeaneane Donahue, who missed all of last season because of knee surgery.

Also starting will be 5-5 freshman guard Krista DeVancey, 5-8 junior forward Diane Reilly and 5-6 junior guard Beth Anne LeRoux.

In addition to its lack of experience, DeSales lacks an inside game. That showed up during the Saints' home-opening 39-29 loss to Geneva on Dec. 5.

Still, Muzzi is optimistic. "I think we have a lot more depth than we've had in the past," he said. "I think by the end of the year, we'll be a better team than last

year's."

After finishing 11-11 last year, Elmira Notre Dame already appears on its way to improving itself this season. The Crusaders have started the 1989-90 campaign with a 3-1 record, and are among the teams picked to contend for the Sullivan Trail Conference title.

The team lost such key players as Maureen and Melissa Jaskolka and Leah Gruczkowski to graduation, but coach Jeff Sobkowski said that a multitude of injuries last season meant that a number of his girls have plenty of playing time under their belts.

Among those players are 5-5 senior point guard Kathy Lynch, 5-6 junior guard Jenny Fagan, 5-8 senior forward Julie Cox and 5-11 senior center Cara Cleveland.

Those four will start, and — depending on the opponent — will be joined by either sophomore Bobby Jo McMail or by senior Julie Ponzi.

The team will also feature a stingy defense, Sobkowski said. In a 41-20 win at Trumansburg on Dec. 5, the Crusaders held the Blue Raiders to just seven points in the second half. Cox led the Crusaders with 14 points and 12 rebounds. Cleveland collected 14 rebounds and eight points.

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The winner was Robert Anderson of Fairport High School.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What college basketball team holds the record for the most points scored in a half? (Hint: They also hold the record for most shots in a game with 147).

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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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