

Nazareth tops league opponents

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

The Private-Parochial League is living up to pre-season predictions thus far with nip-and-tuck league contests. Nazareth continued to lead the pack heading into the month of May.

Meanwhile, DeSales and Elmira Notre Dame each broke even for the week.

Nazareth (2-0, 7-1) avenged its lone loss of the season, defeating previously unbeaten Martin Luther King of New York City (7-1) 15-4 in the championship game of the 10th Ward Tournament on April 28.

The New York City team beat visiting Nazareth 12-6 on April 7. In that game, sophomore pitcher Lenore Suraci struck out seven batters through four innings, but fell apart in the fifth inning when she allowed 10 runs.

Suraci (5-1) remained effective throughout the game this time around with 10 strikeouts. Tournament Most Valuable Player Amy Attridge, who pitched Nazareth to a 15-9 win against Marshall earlier in the day, hit two triples and drove in six runs against Martin Luther King.

Although winning the tournament and avenging the loss to MLK was satisfying, Nazareth players also enjoyed two key wins earlier in the week — victories that could have longer-term impact on winning the Private-Parochial League title.

Suraci's sacrifice fly in the seventh inning gave visiting Nazareth a 10-9 victory over league-rival Bishop Kearney (0-2, 2-4) on April 25. The Nazareth pitcher struck out five batters over the last three innings to hold the Kings in check after Kearney had taken an 8-7 lead in the fourth inning. Kearney pitchers helped Nazareth's cause by giving up 14 walks.

Suraci was plagued by walks during a game at Aquinas (1-2, 1-3) on April 24, when she issued 11 free passes. Instead of relying on her arm for a win, however, she turned to her bat. Suraci went 4-for-5 and drove in five runs at AQ, as Nazareth pulled out a 20-17 win.

Renee Gambitta also had a stellar day at the plate, rapping out five hits in five at-bats and collecting six RBI.

Nazareth must now gear up for rematches at home against Kearney (May 2) and Aquinas (May 4), and for a visit by DeSales May 5.

In addition to playing Nazareth during the past week, Kearney and Aquinas staged their own battle April 26, with the visiting Irish winning 14-12.

The Kings scored six runs in the first inn-



Aquinas Institute's Stacy Pullinzi slides into home in a cloud of dirt April 26, beating the throw to score and helping the visiting Irish beat league-rival Bishop Kearney, 14-12. Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

ing, but the Irish fought back to take the lead in the third stanza. Four unearned runs in the seventh inning iced the win for Aquinas.

Kearney coach Paul Forte noted that his team has not only been committing errors this season, but has also been giving up too many walks. He said his pitching staff has issued 62 walks in just six games.

Errors and walks enabled visiting Midlakes to rout Kearney, 25-8, on April 28. The Screaming Eagles capitalized on Kearney miscues to score 18 runs in the first two innings.

Kearney will need to straighten out its pitching and fielding woes against some formidable teams this week. The Kings were scheduled to face Mercy at Cobbs Hill Park April 30, before visiting Nazareth May 2. Kearney closes out the week hosting East Rochester May 4, before traveling to McAvoy Park May 5 to play Eastridge.

After late-inning errors enabled AQ to defeat Bishop Kearney, the Irish were plagued by miscues during a tough loss to Mercy. An unearned run in the seventh inning allowed the host Monarchs (1-0, 2-1) to squeak out a 16-15 league win.

Mercy jumped out to an early lead, sending 15 players to the plate in the first inning on the way to scoring nine runs. Aquinas came back to tie the game, 15-15, in the top of the seventh.

During its half of the inning, Monarch

shortstop Kim Caccamise won the game when she scored on and error.

Kristen White and Gina Faggiano each had three RBI for Mercy. White went 3-for-4 (including two doubles) and Faggiano went 2-for-5.

The Little Irish were scheduled to host Harley-Allendale Columbia on May 30 and Mercy May 2, before traveling to Nazareth for a rematch on May 4.

Prior to beating Aquinas, Mercy sustained a 22-10 thumping at the hands of visiting Irondequoit April 25.

The Monarchs led 7-5 after four innings, but the Indians erupted for nine runs in the sixth to turn the game into a rout. Mercy collected nine hits, led by Pitcher Ellen Lennox's three doubles (and three RBI). Irondequoit, which managed 10 hits, took advantage of 22 walks during the win.

Mercy was scheduled to play league-rival Kearney at Cobbs Hill Park April 30, before traveling to Aquinas May 2, hosting Wilson May 3, and traveling to Irondequoit for a rematch May 4.

DeSales (2-2, 2-2) finally got its season underway, and — at least in the early going — has struggled at the plate.

The toughest loss of the week may have been a nine-inning, 6-5 defeat at the hands of host Naples (1-4, 1-4) in a Finger Lakes West game on April 27.

The game was decided on a close call at home plate when a Big Green runner scored from third as the Saints were trying for a double play.

The game-winning play came after Naples had tied the game, 5-5, with a similar play in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Big Green jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the first inning. The Saints tallied two runs in the second and the seventh to take a 5-4 lead, only to watch that lead slip away in the home half of the seventh inning.

Krista DeVaney took the loss despite allowing only six hits. The Saints were limited to six hits. Jeneane Donahue collected two hits, and Karen Campbell cracked a double.

Earlier in the week, DeSales had taken advantage of 10 walks to defeat visiting Dundee 18-9 on April 25; built a 14-0 lead in the first three innings to claim a 20-17 win over host Bloomfield April 24; and fell short in its attempt to rally from a 5-0 deficit during a 7-4 loss to host Romulus on April 23.

The Saints were scheduled to spend this week on the road, visiting South Seneca April 30, Honeoye May 1, Red Jacket May 3, and Nazareth May 5.

In Section 4, Class C action, a fifth-inning error provided the only run in a pitchers' duel, as Notre Dame (2-1, 6-3) fell to host Vestal, 1-0.

The loss spoiled a one-hit, five-strikeout performance by Crusader pitcher Bobbi McMail.

The winning run came when a Vestal player bunted and reached second base on a

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