

DeSales off to 5-0 start; BK finds way to win

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

The undefeated DeSales Saints began their quest for a third consecutive Section 5 baseball title, pounding their first five opponents by a cumulative score of 82-19.

Meanwhile, Bishop Kearney rebounded from a disastrous 0-5 start with four consecutive wins; Aquinas and McQuaid continued to struggle; and Elmira Notre Dame pulled out some close wins.

The baseball Saints (4-0, 5-0) seem to have a simple formula for winning: get Jim McDermott on base.

McDermott has been doing that a lot lately, according to coach Frank Pane. Pane said his leadoff man was hitting better than .600 thus far this season. Combine that percentage with the number of times he has walked this season, the DeSales coach said, and McDermott has an on-base percentage of over .900. And once on base, he's a constant threat to steal.

Of course, McDermott's on-base percentage wouldn't be as effective if his teammates weren't hitting. They are smashing the ball, and to make matters worse on the opposition, the Saints' pitchers have shown no mercy either.

DeSales' most recent victim was visiting Hammondsport, which fell to the Saints' 14-6 on April 28. DeSales pounded out 14 hits in the non-league contest. McDermott collected two hits and drove in three runs.

Against host Naples on April 27, DeSales lashed eight doubles during a 20-hit attack en route to a 27-5 victory. Paul Priebe had three doubles as well as a triple, and drove in five runs.

McDermott, meanwhile, played a key role in the Saints' only close game of the week, a 4-0 league win over visiting



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Scott Boeck gets back to third after taking a wide turn during McQuaid's 10-8 loss to host East April 27.

Dundee April 25.

With the Saints leading just 1-0 in the fourth, McDermott reached base with a single. He then stole second, and — catching Dundee's infielders by surprise — scored from second on a ground-out to third.

On April 24, the Saints thumped host Bloomfield 13-3. DeSales' week began with a 24-5 pummeling of host Romulus on April 23.

The Saints are scheduled to travel to Red Jacket May 3 to face their first real challenge in the form of Red Jacket pitcher Rich Vienna. Vienna fired a no-hitter during an 11-1 win over visiting South Seneca

on April 27. He dominated the Falcons by striking out 17 batters.

"If we can beat him, then we'll be all right," Pane said.

The Saints were also scheduled to play visiting South Seneca on May 1 before hosting Hammondsport May 5.

Bishop Kearney (2-1, 4-5) also appears to have found a formula for winning: cut down on the errors and watch the wins pile up.

After committing 19 miscues in their first five games (all losses), the Kings committed just one error last week and put together four consecutive wins.

Coach Art Carlisi said the high point of the week for him came thanks to the defense, as the Kings recorded a school-record five double plays during an 8-1 win over host Honeoye Falls on April 27.

The Kings also enjoyed excellent pitching last week, as Marty Alexander struck out 11 and allowed just one hit in a 14-0 shutout of host Wilson on April 24. Steve Miner stifled visiting Franklin in an 11-0 win on April 26, and Jamie Twist fired a five-hitter in the victory against Honeoye Falls.

Kearney capped its week with a come-from-behind, 8-6 win over host Eastridge on April 28.

In that game, Alexander cracked a two-run home run in the third inning, and Dave Armanini lashed a two-run double in the sixth inning to break a 6-6 tie.

BK was seeking to extend its winning streak with a May 1 visit to Aquinas, and a trip to Marshall on May 3.

Aquinas (2-0, 3-6) went 3-2 last week, but according to coach Rich Pilliter, the Irish were trying to dig themselves out of holes all week.

"We're starting every game down 5, 6 runs," Pilliter observed.

Compounding the problem, Pilliter noted, is that the Irish are only batting .203 as a team, making it hard for them to come back from large deficits.

A doubleheader against visiting Fairport on April 28 was typical of Aquinas' week.

In the first game, Fairport scored six runs in the first inning on just two hits en route to a 9-2 win.

It was Aquinas' turn to take the early lead in the second game, using four hits to tally six runs on the way to a 10-4 win. Junior right fielder Brian Renica smacked a three-run homer during the second game.

Earlier in the week, the Irish defeated visiting Wilson 14-3 on April 27; lost to host Batavia 12-6 on April 26; and beat host Franklin 10-4 on April 24.

The Little Irish were scheduled to host Penfield on April 30 and Bishop Kearney on May 1, before traveling to East May 3. AQ will also play a home-and-home series with Greece Athena May 4-5.

McQuaid stumbled to a 2-5 record after suffering four consecutive losses last week.

The Knights have been hurt by a shoulder injury to pitching ace Andy Dvnoch. They've also been plagued by poor play in the field.

During a 13-2 loss to visiting Canandaigua on April 28, for example, McQuaid committed seven errors in the first inning.

Continued on page 22

Kearney loses twice after beating up on Newark

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Bishop Kearney's Jon Hand — the lacrosse team's leading scorer — is playing a new role these days.

Decoy.
Coach Tom Coons is trying to get other teams to double team Hand in order to create chances for someone else to score.

Lately, that someone else has been Greg Phillips.

Phillips scored 11 goals in the Kings' three games last week. Hand, meanwhile, collected six goals and 12 assists.

Despite its scoring, however, Kearney still lost two of three games.

The week began with a 13-4 win over

visiting Newark (2-1) on April 25. Hand had two goals and seven assists in the game. Phillips accounted for four goals and two assists. Ryan Kennerson and Pat Grow each recorded two goals.

On April 27, the Kings stumbled against host Mynderse (3-5), 13-7.

The game was tied 3-3 at the half, but the Blue Devils outscored Kearney 3-1 in the third quarter to pull away.

Phillips had three goals and one assist. Hand tallied two goals and two assists.

Against host Webster (2-2, 4-2) on April 28, the Kings again found themselves in a tight game — this time 7-7 in the third quarter — only to let it slip away before losing 12-9.

Hand had two goals and three assists in the contest. Phillips netted four goals.

Coons said he is trying to find another consistent scorer to join Hand and Phillips. He also noted that some players have recently been declared academically ineligible, forcing the coach to throw some people into unfamiliar roles.

The BK coach got a chance to see if his players have made the necessary adjustments in a non-league game at traditionally strong Pittsford April 30.

"That (game) is going to be the key for us," Coons predicted.

Kearney was also scheduled to travel to Newark (May 3) and Fairport (May 5).

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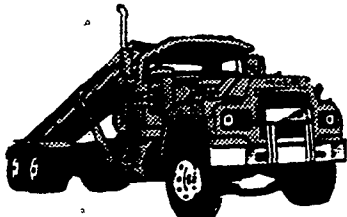
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