

Nazareth, Notre Dame gear up for title runs

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

During a week in which games were shortened or cancelled due to the weather, Nazareth continued to lead the Private Parochial League, and Elmira Notre Dame rose to the top of the state Class C-D softball polls.

Aquinas and Bishop Kearney, meanwhile, continued to chase Nazareth; Mercy lost four consecutive games; and DeSales won two out of three.

Nazareth's record remained unblemished in league play, and the team improved its overall mark to 10-1 with wins over two league rivals last week.

On May 4, visiting Aquinas (2-3, 3-5) put a scare into Nazareth by scoring six runs in the fourth inning after two triples and Amy Reynders' three-run homer gave the Little Irish a 7-3 bulge. But Nazareth responded with 10 runs in the bottom of the inning to claim a 14-8 win.

Nazareth's Jennifer Olley went 4-for-4, driving in three runs. Amy Farrell also went 4-for-4, including two RBI. Pitcher Lenore Suraci blasted a bases-loaded triple to bring home three runs.

Against visiting Bishop Kearney (1-3, 3-5) on May 2, Lenore Suraci managed to overcome early-inning wildness to shut the Kings down over the last three innings and lead Nazareth to a 13-11 win.

The Kings helped Nazareth's cause by committing seven errors.

Suraci also had three hits and five RBI, and Amy Attridge drove home three runs for Nazareth. The big bat for the Kings was designated hitter Wendy Isaacs, who went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs.

Nazareth was scheduled to continue its quest for its best season ever and its first Private Parochial League title with games against Wilson (May 7), Mercy (May 8), Harley-Allendale Columbia (May 10), Edison (May 11), and a twin bill in the

Eastridge Tournament (May 12.)

Over in Section 4, Elmira Notre Dame (3-2, 7-4) celebrated being named the top Class C/D team in the state with a 5-4 win over visiting Southside — the fourth ranked Class A team in the state — on April 30.

The Crusaders managed only five hits in the game, but pitching and defense earned the win for ND.

The key play of the game, in fact, was a defensive gem in the seventh inning. With two outs and Notre Dame clinging to a 5-4 lead, a Southside player hit what seemed like a home run over the head of center fielder Mary Valent.

But Valent caught up with the ball and fired it to third baseman Erin Kernan, who relayed it to catcher Kelly Fitzgerald at home plate. When the dust from the collision with the Southside runner cleared, Fitzgerald was still holding the ball, and the Crusaders won.

On May 2, Fitzgerald was unable to play

against host Corning West, and pitcher Bobbi McMail was sidelined with a slightly sprained wrist. Melani Crisco stepped in and pitched a four-hitter, but lost 2-1.

The Crusaders were limited to just six hits of their own in the contest. Coach Dave Potter noted that at this point of the season, his main concern is ND's lack of hitting.

Notre Dame will try to hold on to its No. 1 state ranking with scheduled games against host Elmira Free Academy on May 7, visiting Hornell on May 8, visiting Horseheads on May 9, host Corning West on May 11, and host Athens on May 12.

Back in Section 5, Aquinas culminated its week with the loss to Nazareth. The Irish enjoyed better luck against visiting Mercy on May 2, combining just two hits with 16 walks to grab a 14-8 win. The Monarchs (1-2, 2-5) outhit the Irish eight-to-two, but they were unable to overcome

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MQ, BK lax teams seek consistency

ROCHESTER — McQuaid lacrosse coach Tony Levin is still looking for a way to get his team to play up to its potential for an entire game.

"We're playing great first halves, but the second half doesn't cut it," Levin said.

Playing half games has earned the Knights a 1-8 record as the three-year-old lacrosse program continues to struggle for wins and respectability.

Against host Pittsford May 5, McQuaid trailed only 5-3 at the half. But Pittsford scored two short-handed goals in the first minute of the third quarter to take a 7-3 lead. The Vikings never looked back in an 18-5 non-league win over the Knights.

Steve Paul continued his steady play for McQuaid with four goals. Paul Magerkurth recorded 10 saves after coming in to play in the fourth quarter.

Against Penfield April 30, the Knights didn't have to worry about letting down after a close first half. Penfield roared out to a 5-0 lead after one quarter, and McQuaid succumbed 16-2. "They just had too much for us," Levin conceded.

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Bishop Kearney's Greg Phillips (23, right) tries to pass the ball by Fairport's Rich Schreib (42, center) to teammate Jon Hand (42, left) during the Kings' 15-6 loss to the host Red Raiders May 5. Between them, Phillips and Hand accounted for all six of Kearney's goals.

Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

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