

# Nazareth stumbles; Crusaders top polls

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

Someone finally put a stop to the Nazareth softball express, but it took the 20th-ranked Class B team in the state to do it.

Meanwhile, Aquinas and Bishop Kearney continued to battle for second place behind Nazareth in the Private Parochial League; Mercy's pitching woes continued; DeSales split its two games during the week; and Elmira Notre Dame maintained its ranking as the top Class C/D team in the state.

Nazareth (5-0, 12-2) rode a 12-game winning streak into the final game of the Eastridge Tournament before falling 10-3 to the host Lancers on May 12. Eastridge (10-1) is the 20th-ranked Class B team in the latest state polls.

Pitcher Lenore Suraci allowed just five hits, but those hits came in key situations with Eastridge runners in scoring position, noted Nazareth coach Dave Pisano.

In the opening game of the tourney, Nazareth beat Marshall 9-8 on a run in the ninth inning after pinch runner Chris Marchese stole second, advanced to third on a sacrifice fly and came home on a grounder by Amy Attridge. Nazareth was plagued by poor fielding, Pisano said.

Against Private Parochial League rival Mercy (1-4, 2-9) on May 8, Nazareth jumped out to a 20-1 lead after three innings and coasted to a 23-8 win over the host Monarchs.

Visiting Wilson (7-4) likewise was unable to contain Nazareth, falling 15-10 on May 8. Suraci blasted four doubles in the game, and Attridge went five-for-five.

With just four league contests remaining, Nazareth appears to have its first Private Parochial League title in hand. Nazareth can clinch the title with victories against host Bishop Kearney (May 14) and visiting Mercy (May 16).

Aquinas (3-3, 5-7) has a shot at the title — if Nazareth loses all four of its remaining league contests and the Irish win their remaining three league games. A more likely scenario is that Aquinas will battle Kearney (2-4, 5-7) for second.

The Irish also played in the Eastridge Tournament May 12, losing the opening game to Eastridge, 12-3, before bouncing back to defeat Marshall 13-4 in the consolation game.

Against Eastridge, Aquinas managed just seven hits. Kathy Thies' two-run homer in the sixth inning was one of the few offensive highlights.

In the game against Marshall, the Irish built a 12-run lead in the first six innings before the Jurists could even put a run on the scoreboard. Lee Donovan won the game, as she struck out seven. She also collected two hits of her own.

On May 8, Aquinas fell to host Churchillville-Chili 17-8.

The Irish struck a blow in their battle with Kearney, downing the visiting Kings 8-6 on May 7 after trailing 5-1 going into the fifth inning. Thies drove in a run in the sixth to give AQ a lead it never relinquished.

Kearney kept its title hopes alive despite the loss to Aquinas with a 15-4 win over visiting Mercy on May 10. The Kings capitalized on 15 walks given up by Monarch pitching. Michelle Pinckney, meanwhile, kept Mercy in check throughout the game. Her only trouble came in the fourth inning when she allowed three runs.

In action earlier in the week, Kearney lost to visiting Marshall 14-11 on May 9, and defeated host Edison 19-11 on May 8.

Mercy played one of its best games of the season May 9. Unfortunately, for Mercy, the game came against one of the best teams in the state in Fairport (11-0). The Red Raiders nipped the Monarchs 17-12.

Mercy also fell to visiting Greece Olympia, 15-11, on May 7.

Coach Mike Baxter noted that the Monarchs outthit Olympia — as Mercy has a number of other opponents this season — but the team's pitching was unable to hold leads or the other teams in check.

The DeSales Saints (5-4, 5-4) are cursed with competing in a league that boasts two of Section 5's best softball teams, Romulus (9-1, 9-1) and Honeoye (8-2, 8-2).

The Saints were held hitless in a home loss to Romulus, 16-2, on May 10. The Warriors, on the other hand, tagged DeSales pitching for 13 hits, and capitalized on 14 Saint errors.

DeSales' only other game of the week was a pitchers' duel, as Krista DeVaney limited South Seneca (4-5, 6-5) to just three hits in a 3-2 win. The Saints were also limited to three hits, but one was a second-inning double by Sarah Peters to drive in DeSales' first run. Peters then ad-



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer  
**Nazareth's Missy Creamer has provided leadership and steady play behind the plate to help guide Nazareth to a 12-2 record and to the verge of clinching its first ever Private-Parochial League softball title.**

vanced to third on a passed ball and scored on an error.

Elmira Notre Dame (4-3, 9-5) in all likelihood will retain its ranking as the top Class C/D team in the state after a week in which the Crusaders won two and lost one.

On May 12, the Crusaders edged host Athens (10-2), 3-1, thanks to yet another fine pitching performance by Bobbi McMail, outstanding defense and timely hitting. McMail fired a two-hitter, and was perfect until the fifth inning.

Despite McMail's efforts, Notre Dame trailed 1-0 going into the seventh inning, when Heather Hanrahan scored on Kelly Fitzgerald's single. Fitzgerald and Kathy Lynch later scored on Melanie Crisco's

double.

On May 9, Notre Dame suffered its lone loss of the week. That loss, however, was to visiting Horseheads — the third-ranked Class A team in the state.

The final score was 7-5, but only two of Horseheads' (9-0, 10-2) runs were earned.

The Crusaders also pulled out another one of their patented, late-inning wins, defeating host Elmira Free Academy 9-8 in 12 innings on May 7.

Notre Dame scored two runs in the top of the 12th inning for a 9-7 lead. Academy came back to score one run in the bottom of the inning, but then the potential tying run was stopped — and the final out recorded — on a play at home plate.

## Saints' Vedora posts two no-hitters; BK streak at eight

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

As the sectionals draw nearer in high school baseball, DeSales' pitching staff continued its dominance with Jim Vedora achieving consecutive no-hitters.

Meanwhile, Bishop Kearney extended its winning streak to eight games, McQuaid and Aquinas continued to struggle for consistency, and Elmira Notre Dame played a series of close games.

Most high school baseball coaches are content if they are dealt one ace and a few reliable backups in the pitching rotation. DeSales coach Frank Pane Sr. — whose team is 9-0 league and 10-0 overall — has two aces, and an ace in the hole.

In last week's action, the three gems of the DeSales staff — Jim Vedora, Frank Pane Jr. and Bill Sweeney (with relief help from Joe Vedora) — combined to limit three opponents to a mere three runs.

After handcuffing South Seneca with a no-hitter April 30, junior Jim Vedora fired his second consecutive no-hitter during a 4-0 win over visiting Bloomfield (0-6) on May 8.

In fact, Vedora (4-0) took a perfect game into the seventh inning, retiring 19 straight batters before an error allowed one runner

to reach base. He struck out nine in the game.

Vedora became only the second DeSales pitcher to record two no-hitters. The first was Mike Pane, who threw two no-hitters over two seasons.

Sweeney, a sophomore who has only seen limited action as a starter this season due to the presence of Jim Vedora and Frank Pane, had the unenviable task of pitching the game after Vedora's second no-hitter. He responded by raising his record to 2-0 with a 5-2 win over host South Seneca on May 9.

Between Sweeney and Jim Vedora's twin brother Joe — who took the mound in the fifth inning after Sweeney got into trouble — the Falcons were held to just nine hits.

And on May 10, junior Frank Pane Jr. (4-0) struck out 15 batters and allowed only four hits during a 14-1 win over visiting Romulus.

Pane *filis* struck out the side in the first, second, fifth and seventh innings. The only score he allowed was unearned.

Next to DeSales, Bishop Kearney has the longest winning streak still going among diocesan schools. The Kings posted their eighth consecutive win after getting off to an 0-5 start.

Kearney (6-0, 8-5) thumped visiting Pittsford Mendon 10-4 on May 12. Steve Miner (3-1) allowed only eight hits and struck out nine.

Kearney took the early lead thanks to back-to-back home runs in the second inning, a three-run blast by Bob McGrail and a solo shot by Rene Ingoglia.

Earlier in the week, Marty Alexander raised his record to 3-1 with a 7-5 win over host Edison on May 8.

McQuaid (3-3, 5-8) enjoyed its first winning week in a while, finishing 2-1. On May 11, shortstop John Barney smashed a solo home run and drove in three runs to lead the Knights to a 17-6 win over host Franklin. Outfielder Felix Medero helped in the winning effort with a double, a triple, and three RBI.

Against host Aquinas (3-2, 4-11), the Knights could do little right, managing only two hits in a 16-2 loss. The Irish, on the other hand, smashed 15 hits in the first three innings to score 15 runs.

Meanwhile, on May 8, McQuaid celebrated the return of pitcher Andy Dvonch — who had been sidelined with a shoulder injury — with a 4-1 win over Rush-Henrietta. Dvonch allowed only four hits and struck out six in five innings.

Aquinas followed up on its thumping of

McQuaid by being swept in a doubleheader against Greece Athena on May 12. The Irish dropped the first game 14-9, and the second contest 12-3.

In Section 4, Notre Dame (5-2, 8-6) played a series of close games as the Crusaders began priming for sectional play.

On May 11, Notre Dame split two games in the Elmira Invitational at Dunn Field, winning the opening game against Bath, 3-2, in nine innings, and falling to Spencer-Van Etten, 5-4, in the championship.

Against Bath, Blake Pierce took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, and went all the way for the win. In the second game, coach John Cain played some of his jayvee players and gave his regulars a rest. He said he was pleased with his JV players' effort in the tight contest.

A loss earlier in the week also gave Cain some optimism about his team's chances in the sectionals. The Crusaders scored six runs in the fifth inning to tie the game at 8-8, before falling to host Horseheads (6-1, 14-4), 10-8, on May 9. Horseheads currently leads the Sullivan Trail Conference.

On May 7, Notre Dame banged out 15 hits during a 9-6 decision over Elmira Free Academy at Dunn Field.