

Sectionals start; ND's McMail hurls no-hitter



Mercy's Kim Caccamise keeps the count along with the umpire during the Monarchs' 10-6 loss to Bishop Kearney on May 23. Mercy failed to make the sectionals, while BK is seeded 13th in Class A.

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Seedings for the Section 5 high school softball tournament produced no surprises. Nazareth (15-3) capped an outstanding season by earning the second seed in Class A.

Sophomore pitcher Lenore Suraci, who began the season with very little experience in organized softball, has emerged as the team's ace with an 11-3 record. The Lasers also have a capable No. 2 pitcher in Amy Attridge, who will come in if Suraci gets into trouble.

Suraci is also one of Nazareth's main offensive threats, recording a school-record 43 RBI this season. Jenny Olley led the offense with a .630 batting average — also a school record.

The Lasers were scheduled to begin post-season play at home on May 29 against 15th-seeded Midlakes (10-9).

Bishop Kearney (5-4, 10-9) will rely on the strong arm of Michelle Pinckney, who emerged as one of Kearney's key players around mid-season. No. 2 pitcher Amy

Stockslader is a competent back-up if she's needed. Offensively, the Kings primarily depend on Sandy Supple, Kim Andolina and Debbie Missel.

The Kings, seeded 13th in Class A, were slated to begin the the sectionals against fourth-seeded Batavia on May 29.

Aquinas (7-9) was named No. 16 seed in Class A, and was scheduled to face the top-seeded Wildcats at Wilson on May 29.

After claiming the sixth seed in Class D, DeSales (9-5) was scheduled to begin its post season with a game against 11th-seeded Belfast (8-6) at Cohocton on May 29.

In first-round action from the Section 4 tournament, Bobbi McMail pitched a no-hitter as the sixth-seeded Crusaders blanked 11th-seeded Trumansburg 10-0 in a Class C game at Notre Dame on May 25.

McMail allowed just one walk and struck out 17.

The Crusaders, who have struggled at the plate much of the season, will rely on McMail's pitching mastery throughout the sectionals. Against Trumansburg, ND scored its 10 runs on just seven hits.

Key offensive players for ND include Becky Sherman (3-for-3, 4 RBI against Trumansburg) and Kathy Lynch, who got on base all four times in ND's opening-round win.

Notre Dame was scheduled to play third-seeded Greene in a second-round game on May 29.

Saints favored in Class D; BK seeded second in AA

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

The Section 5 baseball sectionals are set to begin, and DeSales earned the top seed in Class D after finishing the regular season undefeated — the only team in the section to do so.

The Saints (12-0, 14-0) are the clear favorite to defend their Class D crown and to win their third consecutive sectional title.

Desales combines a potent offense and a strong defense with what may be the best pitching rotation in Section 5.

Jim Vedora (6-0) recorded two consecutive no-hitters, five consecutive shutouts, and completed league play with a .486 earned run average.

Frank Pane Jr. (5-0), meanwhile, compiled a .566 earned run average.

And behind them are sophomore Bill Sweeney (2-0) and Jim Vedora's brother Joe (1-0), who has served as the team's closer.

The Saints, who earn a first-round bye, are scheduled to begin sectional play June 1 against the winner of the May 29 game between No. 8 Northstar and No. 9 Belfast.

After an 0-5 start, Bishop Kearney (14-6) won 14 of its last 15 games to earn the second seed in Class AA.

Kearney boasts good hitting (.374 team-batting average) and strong pitching. Marty Alexander leads the team in both categories, owning a .537 batting average and going 5-1 with a 1.66 earned run average on the mound. Steve Miner is also 5-1 with a 2.74 era.

The Kings were scheduled to play 15th-seeded Wayne (6-11) at Kearney on May 29.

Aquinas (6-4, 9-13) earned the 15th seed in Class AAA, and the right to play second-seeded Hilton (17-4) in the opening

round, scheduled for May 29 at Hilton.

The Irish, whose team-batting average sank below .200 at one point in the season, have shown some life with their bats lately, with their average climbing up to .235. The hottest bat belongs to Alan Schlageter, who hit at a .700 clip over the last two weeks of the season.

Rob Burke is the Irish's main threat on the mound, compiling a 4-4 record despite the lack of run support he's had to endure.

McQuaid (5-5, 7-11) grabbed the 16th seed in Class AAA.

The Knights are hoping to ride both the pitching arm and the bat of Andy Dvnoch in the sectionals. Dvnoch is hitting a team-leading .500 at the plate.

McQuaid's first-round opponent was top-seeded Greece Athena (16-3). The game was scheduled for May 29 at Athena.

Kearney falls to Newark in lax tournament

ROCHESTER — Bishop Kearney's stay in the Section 5 Class B lacrosse tournament was short-lived as the host and fourth-seeded Kings fell to No. 5 Newark 12-10 on May 25.

Kearney (10-9) led 4-2 at the end of the first quarter, but the Reds (9-7) came back to tie the game, 4-4, at the half. Kearney jumped out to a 7-5 advantage early in the third quarter, but Newark once again rallied to tie the game, 8-8, heading into the fourth quarter. The Reds then pulled away for the win.

The two teams had met once before the season as Kearney notched a 13-4 win on April 25. This time around, however, the Kings were unable to shake the Reds' harassing defense.

As was the case all season, Jon Hand and Greg Phillips led the Kings in scoring. Hand — who is planning to attend Geneseo

Teams in Section 4 have already begun sectional play, and Class C Elmira Notre Dame has notched a first-round win.

The sixth-seeded Crusaders (8-4, 12-8) edged 11th-seeded Unatego, 2-1, in Johnson City on May 25. With two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, Brian Woodworth singled to drive home Blake Pierce and break a 1-1 tie. Mike Bennett pitched a three-hitter, allowing no earned runs and striking out 14.

Bennett (7-3) is one of the keys to the Crusaders' success in the sectionals. He led the team in both pitching and hitting. Other offensive threats include Woodworth, Mike Mustico and Rich Shaw.

Notre Dame's balance and ability to pull out close games may mean a long run in the sectionals. The Crusaders' next opponent is second-seeded Edison. The teams were scheduled to play at Edison on May 29.

State next year — collected four goals and three assists. Phillips had three goals and one assist.

A recent job transfer will force Coons to step down as coach after only one season. Looking back on his team's play, Coons noted that Hand and Philipps enjoyed fine offensive seasons but they were constantly playing against two defenders.

Against Newark, the Kings hurt themselves in the second half with several costly penalties. Three of the Reds' goals came while Kearney was short-handed.

— Lee Strong

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We received 2 correct answers identifying Don McCaffery as the man who succeeded Don Shula as the head coach of the Baltimore Colts. The winner was Leah Brown of Brockport.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:
How many yards is an NFL team penalized for an invalid fair catch signal?

A: _____

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