

Crusaders win title; Kings, Saints advance

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Behind the one-hit pitching of junior Mike Bennett, the Notre Dame boys' baseball team beat Dryden 3-0 in Elmira on June 2 to take the Section 4 Class C crown.

The sixth-seeded Crusaders (15-8) scored all three of their runs in the fifth inning. Rick Shaw walked, advanced to second on a bunt by Blake Pierce, and moved to third on a wild throw by Dryden's pitcher after he fielded the bunt. Geoff Woodworth then bunted to load the bases, and Bryan Woodworth drove all three runs home with double.

Meanwhile, Bennett, who struck out eight in the game, held ninth-seeded Dryden (14-5) in check to collect his third post-season win.

On May 31, Blake Pierce was on the mound as the Crusaders upset host Spencer-Van Etten (20-3), 12-4.

Notre Dame took the early lead, scoring three runs in the third inning on a two-run double by Bennett and an RBI single by Brian Sheehan. Bennett, who went 3-for-4 during the game, added a three-run homer in the seventh inning to give him six RBI for the game. Geoff Woodworth also had a hot bat as he went 3-for-5 at the plate.

The game also provided a little bit of revenge for the Crusaders, who lost to S-VE, 5-4, earlier in the season.

Bennett was again effective on the mound and at the plate on May 30, as the Crusaders upset host and top-seeded Edison (17-4) in eight innings, 7-4.

Bennett pitched the entire game, limiting the Spartans to just four hits. He drove in a run in the first inning with a solo home run, and singled home another run in the eighth inning to help ice the win.

Geoff and Bryan Woodworth also plated runs in the eighth inning for ND.

The Crusaders now advance to the state tournament, traveling to Jamestown to play Section 6 Class C champion Falconer on June 5.

In Section 5 play — which is a week behind Section 4 — both DeSales (15-0) and Bishop Kearney (16-6) advanced to the semifinals in their respective classes.

The Saints, the top-seeded team in Class D, received a first-round bye. In the second round, DeSales took on ninth-seeded Belfast, thumping the Bulldogs 12-5 at Avoca on June 1.

The game began ominously for DeSales as Belfast ripped starter Jim Vedora, who had pitched 35 consecutive scoreless innings. After Belfast scored two quick runs, the Bulldogs loaded up the bases. But Vedora was able to work out of the bases-loaded jam without allowing any more runs.

DeSales' hitters began slowly, scoring one in the second and two in the third to take a 3-2 lead. The Saints then exploded for five runs in the sixth inning and four more in the seventh to take a 12-2 lead.

Frank Pane Jr. allowed three runs after relieving Vedora in the seventh inning.

ND wins boys' track title

BINGHAMTON — The Notre Dame boys' track team won the Section 4, Class C team title Saturday, May 19.

The Crusaders won five individual events and two relays.

Lee Heyward won the 400-meter hurdles, Travis Apgar claimed the discus title, Tom Klotz recorded the best high jump, Rich O'Kane turned in the day's best triple jump, and Justin Szlasa was victorious in the pole vault.

Jeff Williams, Klotz, Szlasa and Rob Stiles combined to win the 400-meter relay. Stiles, Heyward, Larry Liotino and Klotz claimed first in the 1,600-meter relay.

For the meet, Notre Dame scored 154 points, easily outdistancing second-place Groton (96 points) and third-place Edison (63).



Bishop Kearney's Brian Sergeant beats Wayne's Jon Jesse to home plate during the Kings' 9-1 win May 30. Kearney also beat Greece Arcadia, 6-2, on June 1 to advance to the Class AA semifinals scheduled for June 5.

Dave Barnard led the DeSales attack by driving in three runs and collecting two of the Saints' 11 hits. Belfast got nine hits off of Saints' pitching.

DeSales, the defending Class D champion, was scheduled to play Andover at Cohocton on June 5.

Bishop Kearney (16-6) didn't earn a first-round bye as the second seed in Class AA, but the Kings seem to have taken a page from the Saints' pitching manual after BK hurlers tossed consecutive two-hitters.

On June 1, Marty Alexander limited 11th-seeded Greece Arcadia (10-10) to just two hits while striking out seven in a 6-2 win at Pittsford Sutherland.

The Kings' attack began in the first inning when leadoff batter Rene Ingoglia walked, stole second, moved to third on a sacrifice bunt, and came home on Alexander's single. Alexander later drove in another run as he finished the day 3-for-3, including two triples.

BK scored three runs in the third inning and another two in the fifth. Arcadia broke through in the fifth inning to score their only two runs.

Steve Miner fired a two-hitter on May 30 to lead the host Kings over 15th-seeded Wayne (6-12) 9-1.

Cory Khuns smashed a two-run triple in the second inning to drive in the first two runs for Kearney. Tom O'Brien was also an offensive force for BK, finishing the game 3-for-4 with one RBI. Ingoglia was 2-for-4 with two RBI as the Kings unleashed a 14-hit attack.

Kearney, as a team, is now hitting .378 for the season, and coach Art Carlisi said his players are confident. "These kids don't think they can be beaten," he said. "As long as that's in their minds, they're not going to give up."

Kearney faces sixth-seeded Eastridge (15-7) in the Class AA semifinals in Newark on June 5.

In Class AAA, 15th-seeded Aquinas (9-14) jumped out to a 6-0 lead, but finally succumbed to second-seeded and host Hilton, 9-8, on May 30.

The Little Irish scored six runs in the second inning. Three runs scored on Robert Burke's triple. Burke, who also pitched, had four RBI in the game, but his hit-

ting prowess wasn't enough as the Cadets (18-4) scored one in the second and four in the third — courtesy of three Aquinas errors.

With the score tied 6-6 in the fifth, the Irish put two more runs on the board for an 8-6 lead, but the Cadets knotted the score, 8-8, in the sixth inning and they won the game with another run in the bottom of the seventh.

For the game, Hilton outhit Aquinas 11-6. Senior Brendan Pickett accounted for two of AQ's hits.

Sixteenth-seeded McQuaid (7-12) outhit top-seeded and host Greece Athena (17-3), 7-5, but still lost 4-2 in a first-round Class AAA game on May 30.

The problem for the Knights, McQ coach Gerry Jaromin said, was that his players left 13 runners on base. In fact, the game ended with Chris Colacino on third base after his triple brought home McQuaid's second run.

Brent Voci drove in the other run with a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning.

Andy Dvonch pitched the entire game for the Knights.

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A: _____

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