

DeSales coach finds himself in new role

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

GENEVA — When players for the DeSales High School football team arrived the week of August 20 for physicals and practices, they were greeted by a familiar face in a new role.

Mark McCheyne, who for the past two years has served as one of the grid team's assistant coaches, is now the head coach.

McCheyne replaces the man who'd brought him back to coaching, Bob Taney. Taney, meanwhile, leaves the DeSales grid program with a 10-7 record in two seasons. He guided the Saints to the Section 5 Class D sectional playoffs last year, where DeSales lost to eventual-champion Elba, 34-0, in the semifinals.

"I just decided it was time to get out," Taney said.

Taney added that because of the large number of returning players, "I thought this was an ideal year" to step down as head coach.

"If I'd gone a year from now, they would have a rough time," he said.

Taney became head coach in 1988, taking over a program that had gone 2-13 in the previous two seasons.

One of Taney's first moves was to recruit McCheyne as an assistant. The two men had coached together under former DeSales head coach Harry Furman, who had led the team to sectional titles in 1977 and 1979.

McCheyne was also a player under Furman. He played center on offense and middle linebacker on defense for the 1970 Saints, who finished the season 6-1-1 and won the Finger Lakes West title.

With McCheyne directing the defense, DeSales was 6-2 and just missed the playoffs in 1988.

"The key is, in 1988, we got off to a good start," McCheyne recalled. "We got the turnovers. We won the close games."

Plagued by turnovers in 1989, the Saints were on the losing end of several close games. Despite a worse record (4-4) than the year before, however, the Saints won a spot in the Class D playoffs.

McCheyne said that he has the ideals put forth by Furman and Taney to guide him as a head coach.

"What Furman coached is basic, solid blocking and tackling," McCheyne said. He noted that although DeSales' players are physically smaller than most opponents, they have the speed advantage to make up for the lack of size. His players must also master the basics to succeed, something that both Furman and Taney stressed during their tenures, McCheyne added.

"Bob Taney is a very good organizer,"



Linda Dow Hayes
Coach Bob Taney talked with his players during the Saints' loss to Elba in the 1989 Section 5 Class D playoffs. Taney recently retired after compiling a 10-7 record and turning around a grid program that had gone 0-8 in 1987.

McCheyne continued. "Knowing Xs and Os is one thing, but organizing is another thing."

Taney delegated much authority to his assistant coaches, a policy McCheyne said he will continue to follow. Joining McCheyne will be Billy Maher and Frank Mantell, who will run the offense. Both men coached under Furman as well.

John and Steve DeRaddo, who have a combined 15 years of experience coaching junior league football, will handle the offensive and defensive lines. McCheyne will continue to focus on the defense.

The new head coach does not envision any major changes in the system introduced by Taney. "What I'm going to try to stress is not so much a difference in the offense as how we play it — our execution," he explained. "I think one of the worst things that coaches can do is to come in and put in a whole new offense."

Under Taney, the school had also resurrected its jayvee football program, and McCheyne said he was trying to put together a coaching staff to further develop the JV Saints.

In looking at his varsity team, McCheyne said he was optimistic about the upcoming season.

"I really do have a bunch of kids who could play on any of the other teams we play against," McCheyne said, adding that that had not always been the case in previous years.

McCheyne said his goal is to make the team as competitive as possible. That may be a tough assignment in the Finger Lakes West League, which now includes such traditional powerhouses as Clyde-Savannah and Lyons.

But he is cautious about projecting too far into the season.

"My concern right now is we have one game to play," McCheyne said. "We have Mynderse (on Sept. 14). We're going to look at them one game at a time."

SPORT SHORTS



Fisher enrolls five more men's basketball players

ROCHESTER — The St. John Fisher College men's basketball team continued to enjoy another banner recruiting year with the decisions of five more hoop players to attend the Division III school.

The five latest recruits — all from New York high schools — are: Peter Maley of Clarence; Christopher Crane of Sherman; Tracy Brisbane of Holcomb; John Mruk of Randolph; and Craig Elis of Cheektowaga.

Maley, a 6-5 guard, led Clarence Central High School's basketball team in scoring (20 points per game), assists (eight per game) and steals (four per game) during the 1989/90 season. Clarence finished 16-5 for the season while winning its division.

Crane is a 5-11 guard who led Sherman Central School to a 19-3 record last season while scoring 21.8 points per game and averaging six rebounds and five steals.

Brisbane, a 6-1 center, averaged 13.4 points, eight assists and six rebounds per game for Bloomfield (15-7).

Mruk, who is 6-3, collected 18 points and nine rebounds for Randolph Central High School (14-6).

Elis, at 6-3, combined 17.3 points and 7.5 rebounds per game for Cleveland Hill (14-8).

Fisher women recruit basketball standouts

ROCHESTER — The St. John Fisher College women's basketball team has added four potential players for the 1990/91 season. Jill Barto of Hughesville, Pa., Krista Hershner of Stewartstown, Pa., Jennifer Ruff of Andes, N.Y., and Lisa Butko of Saginaw, Mich., will all attend the Division III school this fall.

The 5-9 Barto averaged 20.5 points, 14.7 rebounds, 2.8 steals and 2.8 assists per game last season while leading Hughesville High School to a 24-2 record and the conference championship. She was voted the most valuable player on her team, and set a number of school records, including single-season marks for points (534), field-goal percentage (.520) and free-throw percentage.

Hershner, a 5-5 guard, totaled 15 points, seven rebounds and four steals per game for Red Lion High School (19-6) last season.

Ruff is a 5-10 forward who averaged 19.8 points, 13 rebounds and 2.4 assists last season for Andes Central School (19-3).

Butko, a 5-9 forward, attended Nouvel Catholic High School, where she averaged 10.9 points per game. She averaged 6.6 rebounds last season for an 8-13 team.

Registration underway for Villa golf tournament

ROCHESTER — St. Joseph's Villa is currently accepting registrations for its ninth annual golf tournament, which is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 17, at Ridgmont Country Club.

Tournament events will run from 11:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tee off for the four-person scramble competition will be at 1 p.m.

The entry fee for each golfer is \$175, which includes lunch, cart rental, cocktails and dinner.

For information, call 716/865-1550, ext. 284.

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SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:
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