

Inconsistent play hurting boys' teams

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

Last week was up and down for diocesan boys' high school soccer players and coaches, who have been victimized by inconsistent play this season.

In addition, teams playing in the City-Catholic League had their schedules significantly reduced when officials at Wilson and Franklin cut their soccer programs due to a lack of interest.

Bishop Kearney (4-3) ended its week on a positive note by beating City-Catholic League rival McQuaid, 2-1, at Kearney on Sept. 22.

Jim Kost gave the Kings an early 1-0 lead. The score stayed that way until Dan Finnegan gave Kearney a comfortable 2-0 bulge 12 minutes into the second half.

Tim Concannon scored in the final minute to pull the Knights within a goal at 2-1. But Kearney goalie Marco DiMarzio shut down the Knights during the remainder of the match to win what BK coach Greg Schuber called the Kings' best game of the year.

The Kings were slated to play Wilson on Sept. 20, but the city school dropped its



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

Aquinas Institute's Lorenzo DiCesare makes a flying attempt to steal the ball from McQuaid senior John Barney. The Knights blanked the Little Irish, 2-0.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
McQuaid captain Kevin Wilmot looks determined as he attempts to settle the ball.

program this season due to a lack of interest. BK picked up Edison Tech at home, and defeated the Inventors, 2-1.

Two juniors — Kost and Derek Mercury — provided the Kings' scoring punch, as both Kearney goals came in the first half. Neither team scored in the second half.

Bishop Kearney lost its Sept. 18 home game against Marion, 1-0, even though the Black Knights never actually scored a goal for themselves.

A fullback for the Kings inadvertently put the ball in his own goal when his errant pass found its way into the BK net.

According to Schuber, Kearney outshot Marion 17-10, but the Kings failed to capitalize on their opportunities. In the last 10 minutes of the game, the Kings had five quality scoring chances but they missed on each of them.

In action earlier in the week, Bishop Kearney had no trouble scoring in a 5-0 blow out of visiting Northstar on Sept. 13. The Kings jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first half on goals by Scott Delgatti, Finnegan and Jeff Tydings.

Delgatti scored again in the second half. His second score combined with a goal by Mark Petzing helped the Kings to an easy win.

DeMarzio and Kory Khuns shared duties

in the goal.

Although he is pleased with his team's play defensively, Schuber said his Kings need to be more potent on offense.

"We have a strong defense, and every game we scored in, we won," Schuber said.

Aquinas (4-3) traveled to McQuaid on Sept. 20, and the Knights blanked the Little Irish, 2-0.

AQ coach Gary LaPietra said his team played poorly, "but we'll get them again." He said his defense was excellent, but that his players couldn't put the ball in the net.

Now LaPietra must get his team ready for another key league game. "We have a

whole week to get ready for the BK game (Sept. 29)," LaPietra said.

The Little Irish had no problems offensively during an 8-0 win over host Northstar on Sept. 18. Chris Valentino and Tyler Gleason each scored twice for the Little Irish. Dave Perrotta, Gino Ruggiero, Jason Mucha and Jason Mull each scored one goal for AQ.

In action from the Clarence Tournament on Sept. 14 and 15, Aquinas advanced past the first round with a 1-0 win over North Tonawanda (Section 6, Buffalo area) thanks to a goal by A.J. Bianchi.

Orchard Park (Section 6) defeated AQ in

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Old-timers reunite to talk about glory days on city's playground

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Several members of Immaculate Conception Church were among 30 former Rochester-area athletes who reunited last week to reminisce about playing ball together in the 1920s and 1930s.

John "Doc" Herring organized the reunion 12 years ago after deciding it would be interesting to round up former athletes who used to play on several Rochester playgrounds.

This year's reunion at Lascala's Restaurant on Friday, Sept. 21, gathered together former teammates from the Bronson-Olean Playground.

Frank Giudici said he and his former teammates were only in their early teens when they started playing baseball, basketball and soccer together on the playground.

"We were all single then. We played up until the war, and then we played a little ball when we came back from the service," said Giudici, a 75-year-old parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church.

Giudici laughed when asked if he still plays ball with his old teammates. "Oh no, we're too old. Now we just talk about it," he said.

The Bronson Avenue playground was created after a vacant greenhouse was torn down and the area was leveled. Many of the men pointed out that the emergence of city playgrounds in the 1920s and 1930s cut down on the number of injuries to children playing in the streets.

Al Simeone, 72, also noted that sports

kept the young boys out of trouble.

Another one of his former teammates agreed. "When we were playing ball, none of us were in jail," joked 76-year-old Dominick Giudici, Frank's brother.

According to Don Cioffi, group treasurer, the men became known as the Cunningham Stars when they were sponsored by the former Cunningham Motors on Canal Street. The men decided to stick with the name because "it was a good name," Cioffi said.

According to Edward "Tiny" Doran, 78, the best part of playing together was the friendships made. "During the Depression no one was working so there was nothing else to do but play ball with our friends," he said.

Frank Flannery, 72, also remembered the days of the Great Depression. He noted that a game would sometimes be cancelled because there weren't any playing balls around. It also was common for friends to share a baseball glove if they were playing games at different times.

"One glove got passed around and around many times," Flannery said.

Another veteran player remembered the effects of the Depression. "I remember stuffing a piece of leather with cloth to make a football during those days," said 73-year-old Lewis Smith.

Despite any obstacles the men had to overcome, the friendships they made and the memories of past ball games have lasted over 60 years.

"Those playground playing days are ones we will never forget," Herring said.

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