

Day of reckoning comes for previously unbeaten

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

Elmira Notre Dame, Geneva DeSales and McQuaid Jesuit all fell from the unbeaten ranks, while winless Bishop Kearney lost to Aquinas during high school football action on Sept. 28-29.

The Crusaders were upset in their Homecoming game, 14-12, by Newark Valley on Friday night, Sept. 28. According to ND coach Mike D'Aloisio, his Crusaders committed too many mistakes — including turning the ball over four times.

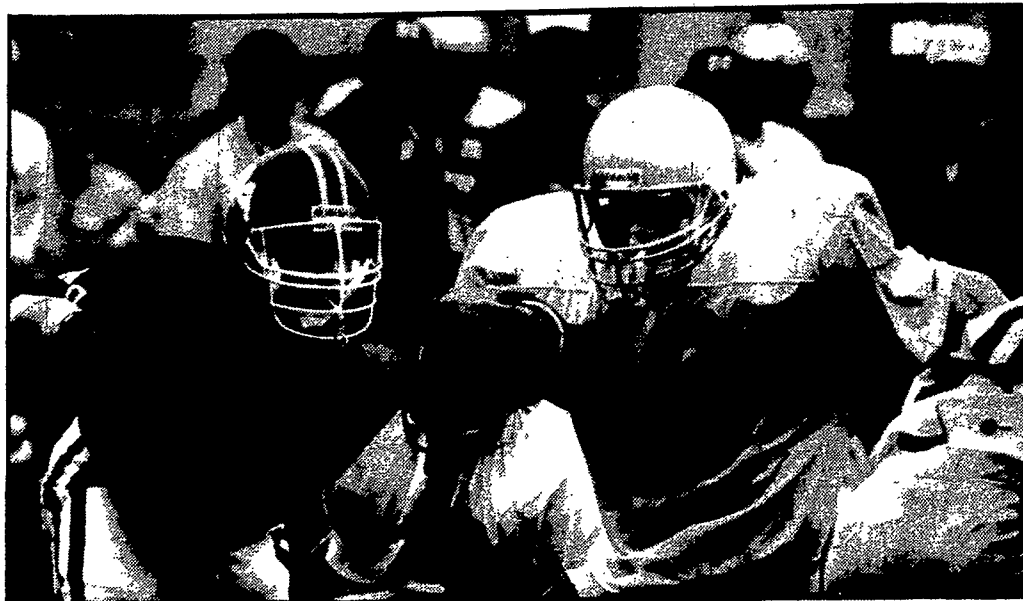
Notre Dame (3-1) jumped out quickly in the first quarter, scoring on a 15-yard run by Geoff Woodworth. But a bad snap on the key point-after attempt kept the score at

6-0.

Josh Ferguson dominated offensively for Newark Valley (2-2) in the second quarter when he scored twice on two-yard runs. Charlie Gardner successfully added important conversions to give the Reds a 14-6 lead.

The Crusaders edged closer in the third quarter when Bryan Woodworth hit his brother Geoff with a 72-yard TD pass. But when Notre Dame tried to throw for the two-point conversion, Newark Valley deflected the pass and the score stayed 14-12.

D'Aloisio said his players weren't mentally prepared to play, which was evidenced by the Reds' running 69 offensive plays



Kearney's Rene Ingoglia breaks through the Aquinas line late in the second quarter. Despite the running back's efforts, the Kings lost 14-6.



Christopher Millette

Aquinas running back Phil Gruttaduria fights to get loose from the grip of Kearney's John Brunner during the third quarter.

to the Crusaders' 44. He noted that Newark Valley did a good job running the ball and controlling the line of scrimmage without committing too many mistakes.

"We have our backs against the wall now," D'Aloisio said. "We have to scratch and claw to get back in it."

The Crusader coach explained that his team was able to bounce back after last year's early-season upset to Southside High School. He is hoping his players will be able to recover by their Oct. 6 game at Whitney Point.

1989 Finger Lakes Central champion Lyons routed host DeSales, 26-3, on Sept. 29, bringing an end to the Saints' modest winning streak (2-1).

The scoring started in the first quarter when John O'Neil kicked a 21-yard field goal for DeSales. Lyons' Lucius Chance then ran three-yards for a touchdown. The two-point conversion failed, however, and the score remained 6-3 at the half.

DeSales' chances of regaining the lead were dashed in the third quarter when Lyons' Darren Preston intercepted a pass and ran it back for a touchdown. The two-point attempt failed again, leaving the score 12-3.

After a DeSales turnover, Jason Swann scored on a 25-yard pass from Joe Amrose. Chance successfully ran for the conversion, increasing the cushion to 20-3.

On the last play of the game, Lucius' brother Marcus ran five yards for a touchdown to provide the final score of 26-3. The Lions turned down the chance to add any extra points.

A disappointed Mark McCheyne said Lyons came up with three big plays to take advantage of his team's mistakes. "In a sense we beat ourselves," the DeSales coach said.

The final score was not an indication of how close a game it was, McCheyne said.

The Saints were hurt by the loss of starting fullback John Conner, who sustained a head injury during his team's first offensive drive. McCheyne put Conner back in the game after a medic said the DeSales fullback could return in the second half. But Conner was not the same player, his coach said. McCheyne also cited questionable calls by the officials as a contributing factor in the loss.

The Saints will face winless Marcus Whitman on Oct. 6. DeSales won the last meeting between the two teams in 1988 by

a score of 14-6.

McQuaid Jesuit's quest for a perfect season came to an end when the Knights succumbed to host Edison Tech, 14-7, on Sept. 29.

The Inventors offense was pumped up in the first quarter. A 70-yard pass from Eric Anthony to Demetrick Smith resulted in a quick touchdown for Edison. Derrick Cooper ran for two points to give Edison an 8-0 lead.

With 59 seconds left in the second quarter, McQuaid's Christian Klein culminated a 73-yard scoring drive with an eight-yard touchdown pass to Horatio Cummings. It marked the third time this season that Klein and Cummings have teamed up on a touchdown this season. Rob Warren kicked the extra point, cutting the Inventor's margin to 8-7 at the half.

The game turned in Edison's favor in the fourth quarter after the Inventors decided to go for it on fourth down from the three-yard line. An offside penalty gave Edison a first-and-goal from the one, and four plays later the Inventors scored. McQuaid blocked the PAT.

McQuaid lost the ball on downs to end any hopes of a comeback by the Knights late in the fourth quarter.

Kullen Dickinson had 170 yards rushing for McQuaid, and Mark Campoletto and Dwight Walker both had key interceptions.

In a game between longtime City-Catholic League rivals, host Aquinas nipped Bishop Kearney, 14-6 on Sept. 29. The Kings were bolstered from the return of two-way player Rene Ingoglia, who had been sidelined with a shoulder injury. But Kearney's hopes were dashed when Ingoglia strained his left knee in the second half and sat out the rest of the game.

Aquinas began the scoring in the first quarter with a one-yard TD run by Phil Gruttaduria. Mike Sloan added the PAT to give AQ a 7-0 lead.

In the second quarter, Bishop Kearney took advantage of its only chance to score when Jamie Twist gathered in a 10-yard pass from Damont Mack in the end zone. Greg Phillips botched the kick, however, ending the half with Aquinas ahead 7-6.

The Little Irish resumed the scoring in the third quarter when Jim Fischer raced 20 yards for a touchdown. Sloan added the extra point.

The Little Irish dodged a bullet when Kearney penetrated to the two-yard line with 53 seconds left in the game.

Kings' coach Nick Teta said he thought his team appeared to score, but the referee said BK's Mark Tittler fumbled the ball before he reached the end zone. Mark Bilak recovered the ball for Aquinas.

Aquinas had a total of 270 yards rushing — 125 compiled by Fischer and 85 by Gruttaduria.

The Kings will once again try to record their first win when they host Bishop Timon on Oct. 5. The Little Irish will take on Edison Tech on Oct. 6.

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