

Notre Dame smothers Saugerties in bowl win

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

ELMIRA — When his team's bus broke down 15 minutes outside of Elmira on the way downstate to Kingston, Notre Dame Coach Mike D'Aloisio told his football players to relax.

He explained that when the Notre Dame basketball team traveled to the state championship game in 1978, that team's bus broke down on the thruway, too. The Crusader basketball team walked away state champions in 1978, so D'Aloisio hoped it was a good omen.

The ND coach's hunch proved correct because the Crusaders returned home from Kingston High School's Dietz Stadium as New York State Class B intersectional champions after suffocating Saugerties, 32-13, in the intersectional bowl game on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Both teams brought identical 9-1 records into the game, but Notre Dame's versatile offensive attack was too much for the run-oriented Sawyers.

Mike Bennett paced ND's offense with an outstanding performance by scoring four of his team's five touchdowns.

In the opening quarter, Bennett ran 12 yards for ND's first score. Pat Palmer's kick was no good, keeping the Crusaders' lead at 6-0.

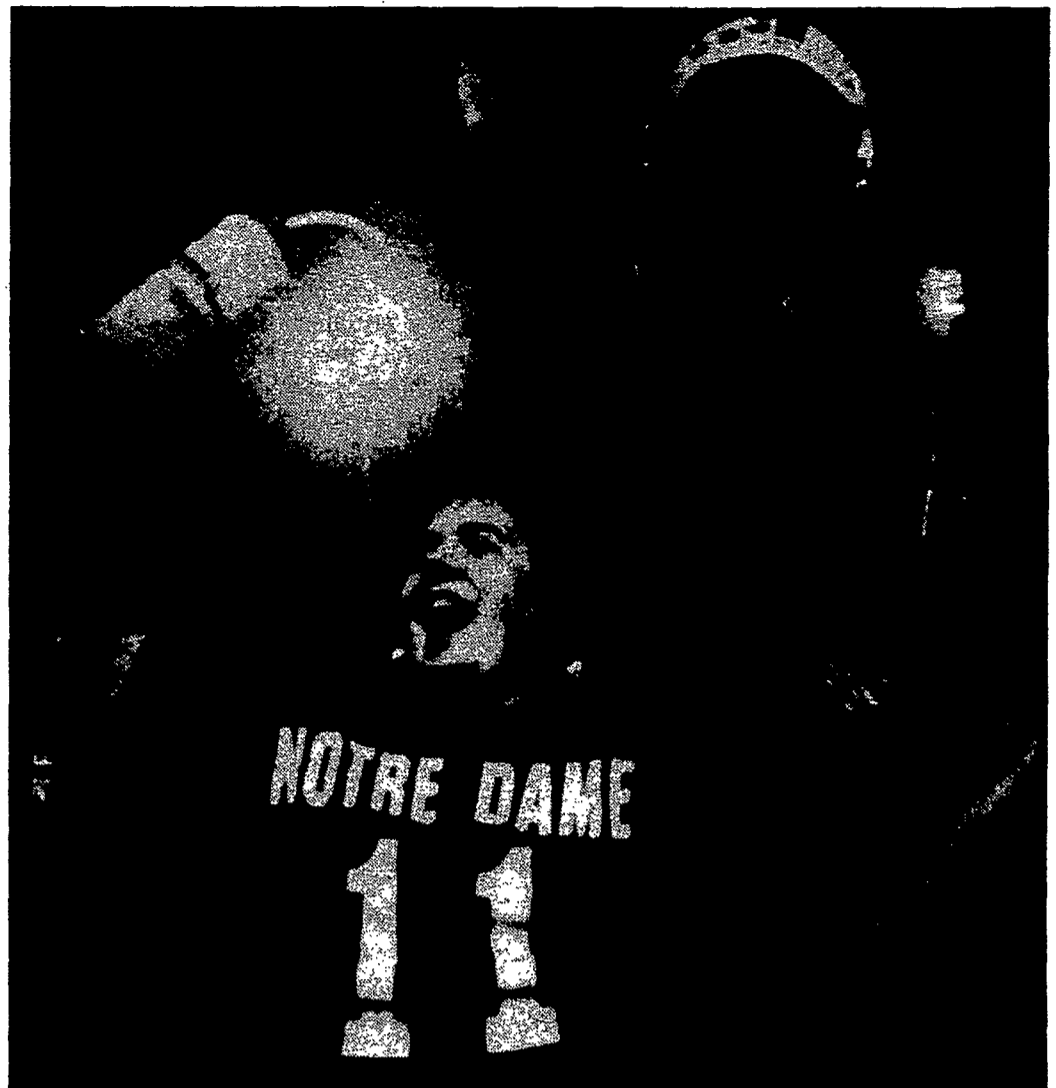
The lead was shortlived though. On the ensuing kickoff, Saugerties' Rubin Lindo scored on a 91-yard kickoff return. The extra-point was good and the Sawyers led 7-6.

Later in the quarter Lindo blazed 35 yards for another TD, but the kick was blocked and the score remained 13-6.

D'Aloisio said his team's tentativeness in tackling allowed the Sawyers to grab the lead. The ND coach said his team's sluggish play may have been the result of a four-hour bus ride.

"After the first quarter, however, we were ready to play football. We completely dominated the rest of the game," he said.

Bennett sprinted 18 yards into the end zone for a touchdown in the second



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Mike Bennett scored four of the Crusaders' five touchdowns during the win over Saugerties Nov. 17.



ND's Geoff Woodworth made a habit of kneeling to pray after making a touchdown this season.

quarter, but Geoff Woodworth's run for the two-point conversion failed. The Sawyers led 13-12 at intermission.

In the third quarter, Geoff Woodworth rumbled 15 yards for his only touchdown of the game. Bennett's conversion run once again failed, but the Crusaders still led 18-13.

Later in the third quarter, Bennett scampered one-yard into the end zone. Again, the two-point conversion attempt failed when Bryan Woodworth's pass to Brian Sheehan fell incomplete. The Crusaders' lead stood at 24-13.

Bennett added another one-yard TD in the fourth quarter. The conversion attempt finally succeeded as Rich O'Kane gathered in a pass from Bryan Woodworth to provide the final score.

By the end of the third quarter, D'Aloisio said the Sawyers had had enough of the Crusaders' dominating offensive line.

They took enough beatings from our running backs and line backers," he said.

Since Saugerties is a Class A school in Section 9 with over 1,000 students, and Notre Dame is a Class C school with only 278 students, D'Aloisio said the victory was even more exciting.

He added that he was proud that his team did such an excellent job of representing Section 4 this year. Winning the intersec-

tional title is as far as a team can advance in the state.

The Crusaders outgained the Sawyers 398 to 81 yards in total offense, and Notre Dame had 65 offensive plays compared to just 25 for Saugerties.

D'Aloisio commended his players, especially Bennett (34 rushes, 169 yards) and Geoff Woodworth (22 carries, 193 yards).

The win marked the last game for many seniors. Bennett, Sheehan, O'Kane, Geoff Woodworth, Bill Finnerty, Shane Carey, Shawn Stoddard, Matt Lungler, Mike O'Leary, H.R. Domineske and Tim Klotz will all graduate in June.

"The key to our success this year was the senior players who helped bring the younger players along," D'Aloisio said.

He said many of his seniors will follow in the footsteps of other ND alumni who are now playing college football. Among the most notable players are Bob Grosvenor (Syracuse University), Curt Dix and Mike Bernatavitz (Mansfield University), Travis Appar (Cortland State) and Lee Heyward (Albany State).

D'Aloisio said the ND football squad is a credit to Notre Dame High School and the Elmira community.

"Outside of my wife and family," said D'Aloisio, "my two biggest assets are my assistant coaches and the players on the team."

McQuaid invited to tourney set for Washington, D.C.

ROCHESTER — The McQuaid Jesuit High school basketball team will compete in the Gonzaga Prep Christmas Tournament in Washington, D.C., this December, Coach Joe Marchese recently announced.

The tournament, scheduled for Dec. 20-22, will be played at American University. Along with McQuaid, the six-team tournament will feature St. Anthony's in New Jersey; Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.; Dunbar in Maryland; Gonzaga Prep in Washington, D.C.; and St. Anne's in Virginia.

The tourney's championship game will be broadcast on the Madison Square Garden Network on Dec. 22, immediately following the college basketball game between Georgetown and Texas-El Paso.

SPORT SHORTS

Group has information on athletic scholarships

ROCHESTER — College Prospects of America, a scouting service for student-athletes, has information for students seeking to enroll in the spring semester of colleges and universities all over the nation.

Several financial packages are still available for student-athletes who are able to enroll in January for the schools' second semester.

For more information, athletes can contact Tom Schott, the Rochester-area representative for the organization, at 716/436-0850.

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We received no correct entries identifying three as the number of years a player must be retired before becoming eligible for election to Hockey's Hall of Fame.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What football player usually calls the signals in the defensive huddle?

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Rules:

Each week, the Catholic Courier, in conjunction with Locker Room Sports will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Catholic Courier. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF any purchase of \$25.00 or more at Locker Room Sports, 560 W. Ridge Rd.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Catholic Courier
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