

Three diocesan teams reach softball semis

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

Three diocesan softball teams managed to stay alive during sectional games last week. Bishop Kearney, DeSales and Notre Dame advanced to the semifinals after stellar performances on the diamond.

Fourth-seeded Bishop Kearney (18-7) — which received a first-round bye in the Class BB tourney — advanced to the semifinals by crushing fifth-seeded Eastridge, 14-8, at McAvoy Park on June 1.

Eastridge advanced to the quarterfinals after thrashing Aquinas 12-4.

Cathy Molinari went the distance for the Kings, allowing seven hits and six walks, and recording no strikeouts.

Offensively, Nicole Geier (3-for-5) cracked a double in the first inning, sliced two singles and netted two RBI. Michele Pinckney (3-for-3) was perfect with three singles, two walks and two RBI; Beth Maring (2-for-5) notched two singles and two RBI; Amy Murphy (1-for-4) lashed a triple in the sixth inning and drove in Janet D'Agostino; and Dana Winterroth (2-for-3) sliced two singles and notched one RBI.

Coach Paul Forte pointed out that his BK squad mustered at least one run in every inning. The Kings also launched 14 hits in comparison to the Lancers' seven.

Although Eastridge took an early 2-0 lead at the top of the first inning, the Kings plated five runs in the bottom of that inning to take the lead for good.

The Kings advanced to play Hornell (No. 9) in the semis of the Class BB tourney on June 4. The winner of that game will face either Batavia (No. 7) or Victor (No. 6) in the finals.

In Class D, No. 5 Geneva DeSales (8-8) clipped No. 4 Richburg, 10-6, at Cohocton on May 31.

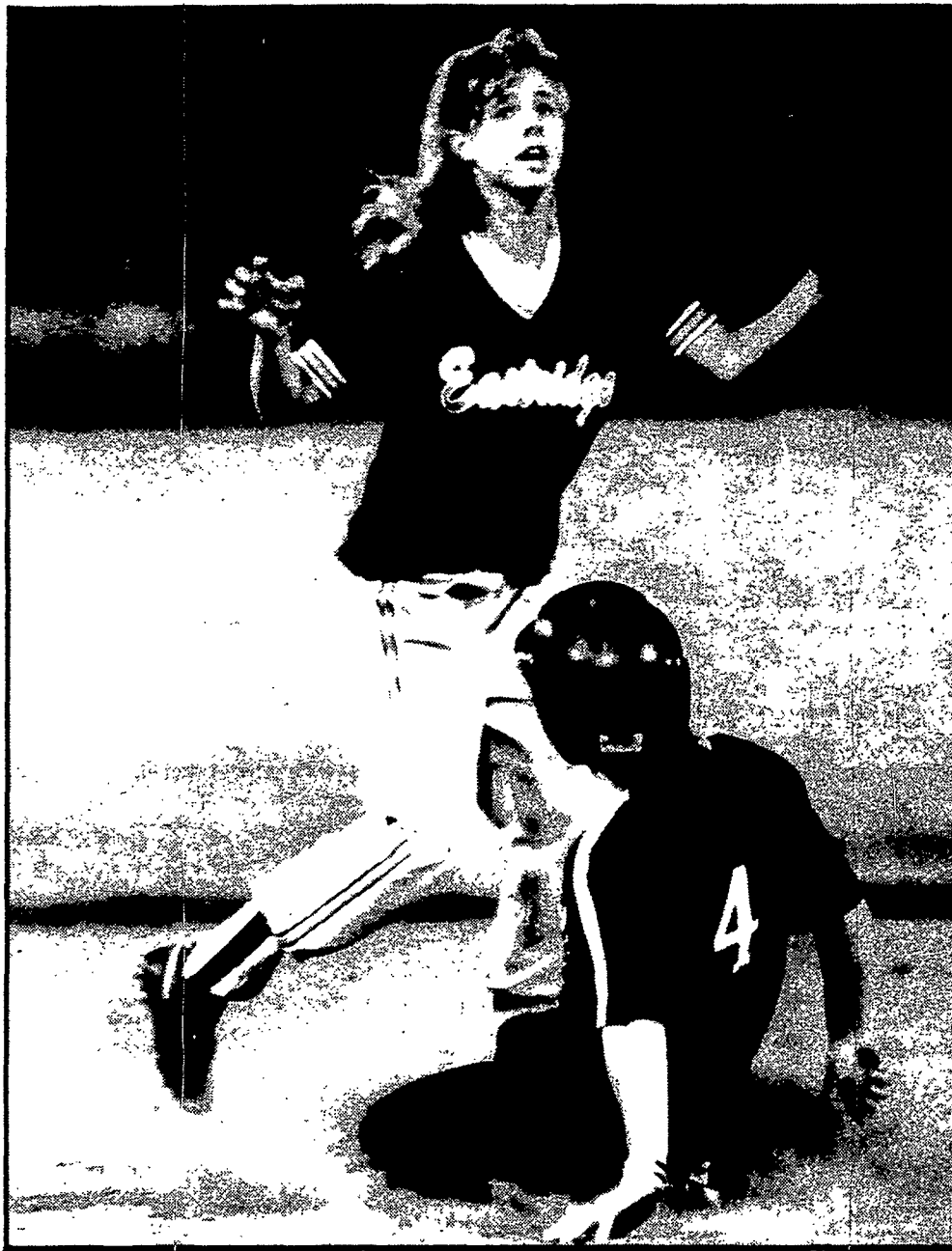
Danielle Boncaro went the distance, giving up seven hits, striking out seven and walking none.

On the other side of the plate, Boncaro doubled in the sixth inning and singled; Sharon Rose doubled in the second and singled; and Megan Jenkins doubled in the fifth and singled.

In a first-round game, the Saints nipped No. 12 Rushford, 15-12, at Geneseo on May 28.

Emily Parshall pitched until the fourth inning, allowing 13 hits, striking out one and walking two. Boncaro relieved Parshall for the rest of the game, giving up six hits, striking out one and walking none.

Offensively, Boncaro (3-for-3) was perfect, cracking two doubles — one each in the first and fourth innings. Sarah Cataline added to the offensive punch by tripling in the first inning and doubling in the third. Cecilia McCann also contributed to the Saints' scoring binge with a triple in the fourth inning and a double in the sixth. The Saints will face No. 8 Bradford —



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

BK's Dana Winterroth slides safely into second base as Eastridge's Lara Werner looks for the ball. Kearney won the Class BB quarterfinal at McAvoy Park, 14-8, on June 1.

which upset top-seeded Belmont — in the semifinals at Hornell on June 4.

In Section 4, second-seeded Elmira Notre Dame (13-7) cruised through the semifinal round of the Class C sectional tourney after blanking visiting Watkins Glen (No. 6), 11-0, on May 30.

Bobbie Jo McMail threw a one-hitter with six strikeouts and three walks.

McMail (3-for-3) was perfect at the plate with three singles and one RBI. Other offensive standouts included Erin Kernan (2-for-4) who cracked two singles and notched one RBI, and Becky Sherman (1-for-3) and Mary Valeant (1-for-3) who both doubled in the third inning to knock in two runs each.

After receiving a first-round bye, the Crusaders nipped Windsor (No. 7), 12-11, in a quarterfinal romp at home on May 28.

McMail went the route for Notre Dame, but was hit hard in the beginning, accord-

ing to Coach Dave Potter. The senior hurler gave up 11 runs on as many hits, struck out nine and walked four.

Notre Dame took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the first inning, as McMail tripled, Melanie Crisco walked and Lisa Punzo cracked a base hit. A single from Kristen Cohen and two more walks resulted in three runs for the Crusaders.

Windsor plated two runs in the top of that inning.

Notre Dame's scoring binge continued in the second inning, when McMail grounded out, Crisco and Punzo each had a base hit, and Cohen reached on an error. Heather Hanrahan grounded out to bring McMail home, and Erin Kernan had a base hit that allowed Crisco to score.

After Windsor brought home a run in the third, Notre Dame held a 6-3 lead at the end of the inning.

"It looked like we were going to

cruise," recalled Potter.

Sloppy defense caused the Crusaders to lose their lead, however, and Windsor ballooned its margin to 11-6 by plating five runs in the fifth inning and scoring three runs in the sixth.

But the Crusaders rallied in the bottom of the sixth as McMail walked, Crisco sacrificed her to second and Cohen doubled to bring her home. A double-bagger from Hanrahan scored Cohen.

The Crusaders didn't loose their fire in the seventh inning as they tried to knot the score. Sherman walked, Valeant iced a base hit and Crisco cracked a single that brought Sherman home. Cohen then reached on an error that brought home Valeant.

The ninth inning became the highlight for Notre Dame as the Crusaders managed to score the winning run. McMail walked and Crisco faked a bunt. McMail stole second base thanks to the setting sun that seemed to blind the infielders, according to Potter. A throw from the catcher bypassed the second baseman and the throw from the outfield got by the third baseman, allowing McMail to score.

The Crusaders advanced to the finals where they faced Sidney (21-0) on June 3 at Cattleville Park. The winner of that game will play the winner from Section 6.

Back in Section 5, Nazareth Academy (No. 7) lost its Class B first-round game against Attica (No. 10), 15-4, at Gears Park on May 29.

Linda Iekel pitched two innings for the Lasers, allowing 12 runs, six hits, four walks and no strike outs.

Jenny Olley relieved Iekel in the third inning, giving up only two hits for the rest of the game. She also struck out one and walked three.

Olley played just as well offensively as she did defensively — doubling in the fifth and singling. Donna Sergeant and Joanne Sojka cracked two singles each.

Although the Lasers outit the Blue Devils, 15-8, Coach Dave Pisano said his squad was just too young to handle the pressure. "We were pretty shaky in the first inning. That's what happens when you start six sophomores."

Nazareth finished the season with a record of 12-11.

In Class BB, Our Lady of Mercy (No. 10) fell to Batavia (No. 7), 14-13, in eight innings of a first-round game at McAvoy Park on May 28.

Brenda Seitz went the distance, allowing 14 runs on 14 hits, walking five and striking out one.

Seitz (3-for-4) put the punch in the Monarchs' offense with a triple in the second inning, a double in the third and four RBI. Ellen Lennox (3-for-6) cracked three singles, and Colleen Cook, Mary Beth Cleary, Jennifer Bosco and Sue Schaeffer notched two hits each.

The Monarchs wrapped up the season at 11-14.

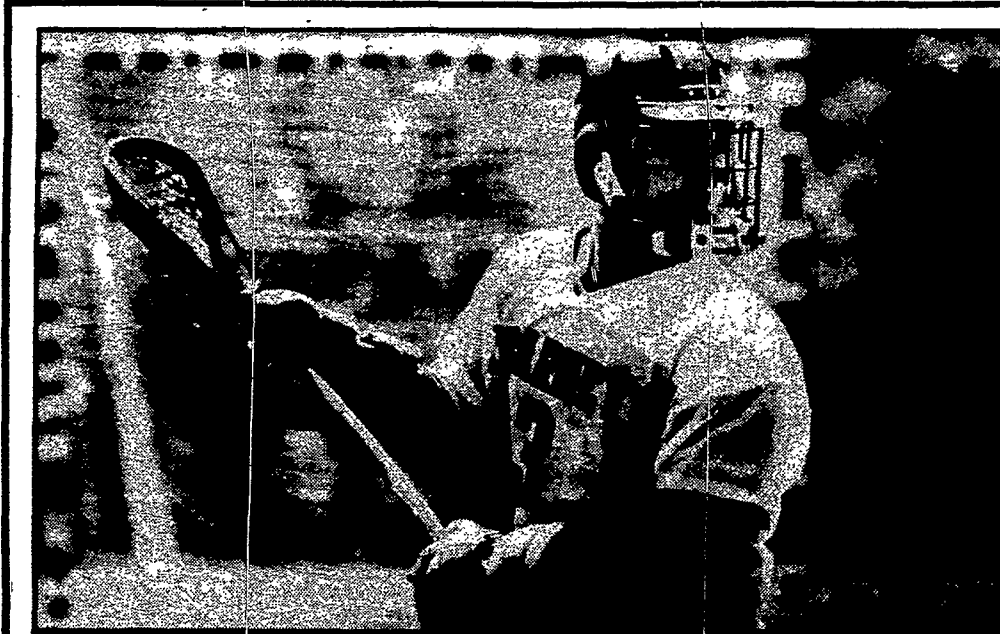
In other Class BB action, Aquinas Institute (No. 12) took a 12-4 drubbing from Eastridge (No. 5) in their first-round game at McAvoy Park May 28.

Sarah Bierley pitched three innings, walking five and striking out three. Kristen Burgmaster, up from the junior varsity ranks, finished the game, striking out two and walking none.

Clare Stortini started off the hitting for Aquinas by launching a double-bagger in the first inning. Sheila Maloney also doubled in the fourth and drove in Wendy Bopree who walked. Stacey Pullinzi bunted, and later was driven home by a single from Nina Cimino.

The game ended when Maloney struck out with bases loaded. In comparison to AQ's 27-5 loss to Eastridge earlier in the season, however, Herbst said the sectional game showed that his squad was much improved.

The Little Irish finished with a record of 6-10.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

Despite four goals and two assists by Greg Phillips, Kearney fell to Mynderse in the first round of the Class B lacrosse tournament on May 28.

Kearney lax falls

SENECA FALLS — Fifth-seeded Bishop Kearney succumbed to No. 4 and host Mynderse, 13-9, in a first-round game of the Section 5 Class B lacrosse tournament on Tuesday, May 28.

The Kings' defense was unable to shut down the Blue Devils offensively. Kearney couldn't grab the lead in the sectional match, trailing 5-4, 7-5 and 10-6 at the quarter breaks.

The Kings rallied for three goals in the fourth quarter and outshot the Blue Devils, 35-34, but it wasn't enough as the Blue Devils advanced in post-season play.

One bright spot for the Kings was senior Greg Phillips, who collected four goals and two assists.

Bishop Kearney finished the season with a 5-14 record.

— Barbara Ann Homick