

# Softball teams thrive in non-league contests

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

The way things are starting out, the toughest competition for 1992 Private-Parochial League softball teams may turn out to be when they confront each other.

Bishop Kearney and Nazareth Academy have been perfect thus far, posting respective records of 6-0 and 3-0. And Our Lady of Mercy has started out at 2-1, with its only loss coming last Tuesday to BK.

Aquinas Institute is the lone Private-Parochial school to have dropped a non-league game. The Little Irish fell 10-7 at Livonia April 6 in their only contest played to date.

Also off to a quick start is Elmira Notre Dame, which has gone 6-1. Geneva DeSales, meanwhile, has endured an 0-3 beginning.

## Kings are cruising

Bishop Kearney was especially impressive last week, winning three games in as many days: 20-1 over visiting Northstar Christian Academy on April 13; 19-5 over visiting Mercy on April 14 in the league opener for both schools; and 27-5 over host Marshall on April 15.

"We have a lot of good hitting and a great defense," said junior varsity Coach Noelle Feeney, who is running the team this week with third-year head coach Paul Forte out of town.



Keille Mc Cann/Photo Intern

Members of the Bishop Kearney softball team jump for joy as a run is scored.

BK's top pitcher is senior Cathy Molinari. Other veterans are senior catcher Julie Hall, senior shortstop Nicole Geier, senior left fielder Amy Murphy, senior infielder Bridget Dillon, junior infielder Janet D'Agostino and junior center fielder Dana Winterroth.

Top newcomers are junior pitcher Kris Insalaco, junior first baseman Kim Usselman, junior infielder Chris McIntyre and sophomore infielder Jody Durick.

Completing the roster are junior outfielders Lisa Mercury, Michelle Neuman and Michelle Olandese.

The Kings flexed their muscles in the April 14 victory over Mercy, with Durick going 4-for-5 with a home run; Murphy and Geier also smashed round-trippers.

"It's been a real team effort. I can't think of anyone who stands out," said Feeney.

## Lasers look strong

Included in Nazareth's 3-0 start were two lopsided home wins last week: 24-5 over Wilson on April 13 and 19-1 over Marshall one day later.

Junior Linda Iekel has been pitching very well thus far. She is one of five veteran Lasers; the others are senior center fielder Sarah Grabowski, senior first baseman/pitcher Stacey Doran, junior catcher Donna Sergeant and junior second baseman Joanne Sojka.

Additional players are freshman third baseman Traci Sergeant (Donna's sister) and a quintet of juniors: left fielder Becky Young, right fielder Heather Kurtz, shortstop Mary Staropoli, and outfielders Lanae Kubitz and Trish Umiker.

Last week's victories were highlighted by two strong pitching performances; Iekel threw a two-hitter against Wilson, and Doran had a one-hitter against Marshall.

"Our strengths are our pitching and our defense," said 12th-year coach Dave Pisano. "We'll be a good team and definitely have a winning record, but I don't know how we'll do in the league. I know I'll have the best pitching, so we'll see what happens."

## Bats boost Mercy

Mercy's offense was superb in two victories over Monroe County League opponents. The Monarchs won 20-17 at Penfield on April 6 and 17-16 at home over Churchville-Chili on April 8.

A slew of seniors dot Mercy's roster: shortstop Ellen Lennox, pitcher/left fielder Brenda Seitz, catcher Chris Sibilio, right fielder Sue Schaeffer, center fielder Colleen Cook, first baseman Gina Faggiano, second baseman Lynne Manzo and third baseman Jennifer Bosco.



Keille Mc Cann/Photo Intern

Bishop Kearney's top pitcher, senior Cathy Molinari delivers a pitch during the Lady Kings' 19-5 win over the visiting Monarchs on April 14.

Other Monarchs are junior outfielder Rae Coveny, junior pitcher Jen Gulley, sophomore infielder Maggie Steinbrenner and freshman infielder/outfielder Kelly O'Neill.

The Penfield win featured a two-run homer by Lennox and three hits each from Steinbrenner and Seitz. Schaeffer was the clutch player against Churchville, driving in the winning run with a bases-loaded single capping a five-run rally in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"Our first six hitters are pretty strong, and we're a veteran team," commented fourth-year coach Mike

Baxter. "As of right now our defense is our main weakness, but having Lennox at shortstop will help pull the defense together. I think she's the best player in the league."

## AQ getting anxious

Perhaps no schedule has been disrupted as much as that of Aquinas Institute. Incredibly, eight of the team's first nine games have been wiped out by inclement weather.

"We haven't quite got the combination yet with all these rainouts," said Coach Dave Herbst, now in his second year.

Among the returning players are senior left fielder/second baseman Sheila Maloney, senior center fielder Nina Cimino, senior pitcher/outfielder Sarah Bierley, senior second baseman Patti Held, junior right fielder Sandy Petty, sophomore catcher Shawndra Lynn Joiner and sophomore infielder/outfielder Stephanie Renica.

New to the roster are senior Amy Reynders, the basketball star who's playing varsity softball for the first time, and seven juniors: third baseman Sandy Thies, pitcher/first baseman Kristen Burgmaster, catcher/outfielder Mandy Janas, infielders Jen Smith and Laurie Umbrino, outfielder Nicole Pelletier and outfielder/pitcher Rachel Toombs.

Maloney got AQ's season off to a quick start, hitting a home run against Livonia on the very first pitch of the game. The Irish outthit the Bulldogs 12-5 and only committed two errors.

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## Aquinas, ND begin lacrosse programs

First it was Bishop Kearney; then five years ago, along came McQuaid Jesuit.

And within the next couple of years, Aquinas Institute and Elmira Notre Dame will become the third and fourth diocesan high schools to field varsity lacrosse programs.

Aquinas' junior-varsity team is now in its second year, and the school plans to go varsity next season. Already, the Little Irish are showing signs of developing into a quality program; they've begun their season with three consecutive victories after finishing with a 3-8 record a year ago.

AQ has won by convincing margins in all three games: 8-2 over visiting Newark on April 7; 9-2 over visiting McQuaid on April 9; and 13-5 at Newark on April 13.

As far as Coach Chris Welch is concerned, the team is better off playing two seasons of JV before jumping to the varsity level.

"We didn't want to take brand-new kids and have them playing varsity, because it's difficult enough to play JVs," Welch commented.

Top players have been attackmen Doug Crowley and Joe Zabawa, midfielder Brian Callahan and defenseman Jon Martins.

The first-year JV team at Elmira Notre Dame, meanwhile, has scored only one goal in two games, but still came extremely close to gaining a victory.

The Crusaders lost 9-0 at home to Maine-Endwell in their inaugural game on April 6, then incurred a 2-1 loss in double overtime to visiting

Johnson City April 13.

According to Coach Kevin Hogan, Notre Dame elected to begin a lacrosse program because of the sport's tremendous popularity in the Southern Tier.

"A lot of the students were asking (Athletic Director) Mike D'Aloisio about it," Hogan said. "They seemed really interested because there's a strong summer league down here."

Leading the Crusaders thus far have been midfielder/defenders Brian Farstad and Brian Parmeter, midfielder Pat Woodhouse and goalie Rick Maxa.

Hogan said the program "may go varsity next year; if not, definitely the year after that."

— Mike Latona