

Erik Kunkel/Photo intern

Chuck Sciortino takes a practice swing July 8 as he prepares for the Monroe County Exceptional Seniors Old-Timers' Game on July 11.

Mooney grad recalls huge homer

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Hundreds of baseball players have passed through Silver Stadium on their way to the major leagues, logging far more plate appearances at that ballpark than Chuck Sciortino ever did.

But most of those future stars could only dream of unloading the kind of hit Sciortino delivered last summer at Silver, located at 500 Norton St.

Playing in the first-ever Castle Hi-Tech Chem Monroe County Exceptional Seniors Old-Timers' Game, the 1989 graduate of the former Cardinal Mooney High School connected for a home run over the center field fence — 410 feet from home plate.

The ball didn't exactly crawl over the fence, either. It hit a factory building wall at least 30 feet beyond the fence; had that wall not been there, the homer would have traveled 450-plus feet in the air.

"That's the best hit I've ever had in my life. I'll never forget it," remarked Sciortino, a former City-Catholic League All-Star and team Most Valuable Player at Mooney.

Ironically, Sciortino's big blow came

against pitcher Scott Squaires, a current teammate of his at Niagara University.

The 21-year-old Greece resident made a return visit to the Old-Timers' Game this past Saturday, July 11; and again he made a valuable contribution. Sciortino went 3-for-4, with two runs batted in and two runs scored, as his Red team won 9-8 over the Green.

Sciortino was one of several former stars from Catholic high schools in Monroe County to participate in the Old-Timers' Game. The others included: John Mason (also from Mooney); Chris Smith, Kevin Smith and Brian Monteleone (Aquinas Institute); and Vinnie Falbo, Dave Armani and Brian Sergeant (Bishop Kearney).

The Old-Timers' contest also featured three of Sciortino's Niagara teammates from 1992: Squaires, an Eastridge High School graduate; Hans Blatter, from Rush-Henrietta; and Craig Hamel, from Fairport.

Any former participant from the annual Monroe County Exceptional Senior All-Star Game, which began in 1987, was eligible to play in the Old-Timers' contest.

This fall Sciortino will enter his sen-

ior year at Niagara, where he plays baseball on a partial scholarship. He's coming off his best collegiate year to date, hitting .340 with only seven strikeouts in 115 at-bats. Sciortino gained All-Metro Athletic Conference honors as the Purple Eagles finished the 1992 season with a 15-18 record, their best mark since Sciortino's arrival.

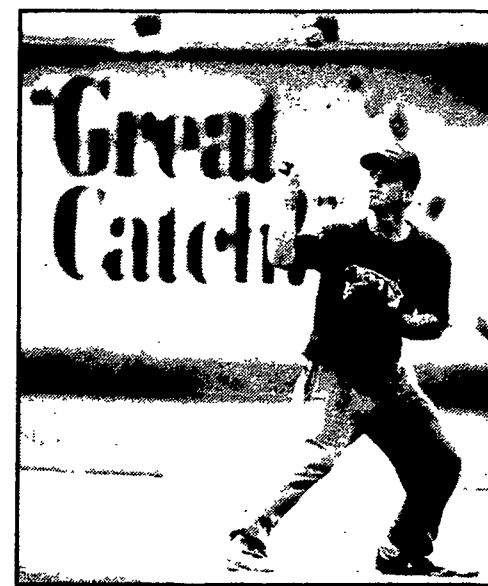
Among his two positions — left field and designated hitter — Sciortino believes that DH duty may suit him best.

"I like DHing, actually. I feel hitting is my best overall feature, and as long as I DH, I can concentrate better on my hitting," Sciortino explained.

A criminal justice major who's on schedule to graduate from Niagara next spring, Sciortino is fairly comfortable with the possibility that his days of playing organized baseball may be numbered.

"I'm not banking on getting drafted (professionally)," he remarked. "When I was a freshman and sophomore I thought I could have gotten signed, but I got a little older and wiser.

"I've been playing for 13 years and I



Sciortino, a 1989 graduate of the former Cardinal Mooney High School, finished 3-for-4 during the Red Team's 9-8 victory July 11.

love the game, but I don't put pressure on myself," Sciortino continued. "I know a lot of people who breathe, sleep and eat baseball, but that's not the best way to approach the game. I don't know what is the best way to approach it, but this (lack of urgency) is what's worked for me."

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Kearney alumni game scheduled for Aug. 8

IRONDEQUOIT — Bishop Kearney High School will hold its second annual alumni lacrosse game on Saturday, Aug. 8, at 4 p.m. More than 40 alumni participated in last year's inaugural contest. The game will again take place at Kearney, 125 Kings Highway S.

Former BK players who are interested in participating should call 1985 graduates Mark Bigenwald at 716/381-8723 or Lou Fioravanti at 544-5475.

Hagen tournament set to help Cancer Society

PITTSFORD — The 24th annual Walter Hagen Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, will take place Monday, Aug. 3, at Irondequoit Country Club, 4045 East Ave.

Proceeds will support various Cancer Society programs in Monroe County.

For details about sponsorships or golf reservations, call the Cancer Society's Monroe County Unit office at 716/288-1950.

SPORT SHORTS

NTID to host deaf teams for volleyball tourney

HENRIETTA — A volleyball competition between deaf teams from the United States and Russia will be hosted by the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

This event will be held July 27-28 and July 30-31 in RIT's George H. Clark Gymnasium.

The matches will serve as a prelude to next summer's World Games for the Deaf in Bulgaria. Funds raised during the competition will help defray the U.S. team's travel expenses to the World Games.

All are welcome. Passes are \$5 for one day and \$8 for all four days, with reduced rates for children.