

Girls' softball teams out of gate quickly

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Maybe they should change their nickname from Lasers to Misers, since opponents are having such a tough time collecting any runs from them.

The Nazareth Academy softball squad has blazed to a 3-0 start, allowing a total of just seven runs over its first three games. Behind the capable arm of senior pitcher Linda Iekel, the veteran Lasers are gunning for their first Private-Parochial League championship since 1990.

"Our practices have been very efficient. These players know their stuff," said Coach Dave Pisano. His team won 8-2 over visiting Aquinas Institute in a league game on April 20, and the Lasers also recorded an 11-2, 14-3 sweep of host Martin Luther King of New York City on April 24.

Other Private-Parochial teams off to good starts are Our Lady of Mercy and Bishop Kearney. Mercy (2-0) won a pair of home games last week, 10-5 over Eastridge on April 20 and 17-4 over Marshall on April 23. BK (1-0), the defending league champ, triumphed in its 1993 debut with a 15-1 rout of host East on April 20.

Aquinas (1-3) bounced back from the Nazareth loss by recording its first victory of the season, 25-21 over visiting Wilson Magnet, on April 23.

In the Fingers Lakes West League, Geneva DeSales (1-1) picked up its first win by blasting host Dundee, 29-5, on April 20.

And in the Southern Tier, Elmira Notre Dame (1-3) gained a non-league win over visiting Canton, 14-10, on April 20.

Iekel, who has allowed only seven hits in her first two starts, has fueled Nazareth's early success. Iekel's backup is sophomore third baseman



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Nazareth Academy's Joanne Sojka leaps toward home plate as Shawndralynn Joiner of Aquinas races to retrieve the ball during the host Lasers' 8-2 win over the Little Irish April 20.

Kim Kubitz, who tossed a two-hitter in the nightcap against Martin Luther King.

Other top Lasers are junior first baseman Margaret Grabowski, senior second baseman Joanne Sojka, senior shortstop Mary Staropoli, senior catcher Donna Sergeant, senior left fielders Tricia Umiker and Lanae Kubitz, sophomore center fielder Traci Sergeant, senior right fielder Becky Young

and senior designated hitter Heather Curts.

Kearney, like Nazareth, is blessed with a wealth of veterans.

"We have solid defense, and our hitting will be pretty good," said Coach Paul Forte. "We have veterans in key spots."

The Kings have a new pitcher in junior Laura Stockslader, but her inexperience will be more than balanced by veteran catcher Julie Hall, a senior, as well as three returning infielders: senior first baseman Kim Usselman, junior second baseman Jody Durick and senior shortstop Janet D'Agostino. Sophomore Liz DeMatteis is a newcomer at third base, and junior Charlotte Coughlin is a top infield backup.

The senior-laden outfield is led by Dana Winterroth, Chris McIntyre and Kristen Insalaco. Also expected to see time in the outfield are seniors Michele Olandese and Lisa Mercury, sophomore Courtney Shores and junior Jenny Boothby.

D'Agostino plated five runs in the win over East, and Stockslader and Durick each went 3-for-4.

Mercy Coach Mike Baxter's predic-

tion that "hitting's going to be our strong point" is right on target with 27 runs in his team's first two games.

Senior Jenny Gulley is the Monarchs' No. 1 pitcher, with eighth-grader Stephanie Mikulsky at catcher. Infielders are senior first baseman Mimi LaMagna, junior second baseman Danyl Gaiter, junior shortstop Maggie Steinbrenner and junior third baseman Michelle McLaren. Freshmen Katie Fitzgerald and Liz Marchese are solid newcomers to the infield.

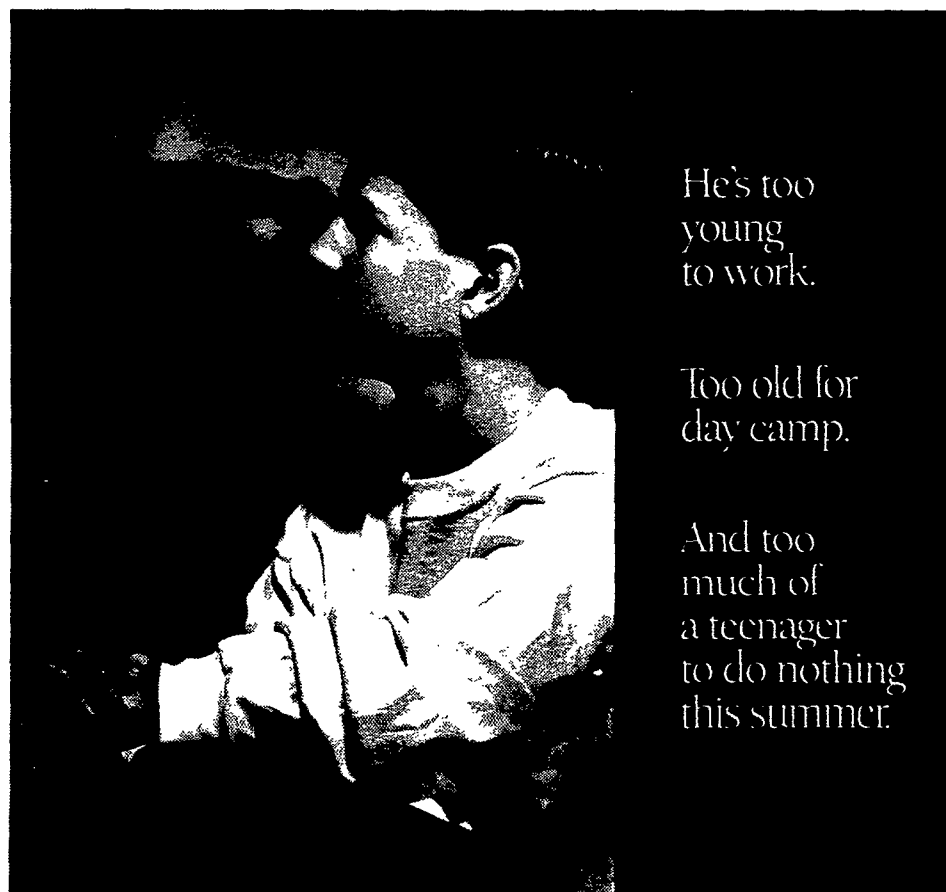
Leading outfielders are senior Rae Coveny and juniors Tricia Russell and Jen Agustin.

LaMagna, the soccer and basketball star who is playing varsity softball for the first time, collected four RBIs in the Monarchs' win over Marshall.

Aquinas has lost eight starters from last year's club that reached the Section 5 Class BB finals, but Coach Dave Herbst believes that the new-edition Little Irish will play tough throughout 1993.

"I definitely think we'll get better, based on the discipline and heart we've shown," said Herbst.

Pitching duties will be shared by sophomore Amy Bierley and senior
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Athletes earn sportsmanship recognition

ROCHESTER — The Aquinas Institute and Bishop Kearney hockey teams, along with the BK girls' basketball squad, recently received team and individual sportsmanship accolades.

The Monroe County League voted Aquinas' Section 5 Class A champion hockey club the Division I recipient of the 1992-93 Fraser MacKenzie Team Sportsmanship Award. In addition, senior Chris Sichak was selected as the Division I winner of the Patrick J. Pugliese Sportsmanship Award.

Kearney, meanwhile, swept both honors in Division II. The Kings capped the Fraser MacKenzie Team Award, and senior David Flanigen earned the Patrick J. Pugliese Award.

Another Kearney athlete, girls' basketball player Dana Winterroth, earned the Carolyn Foote Memorial Scholarship for sportsmanship. The BK senior was one of two girls in Section 5 to receive this distinction from the Referees' Association of Western New York.