

BK volleyball bids for league title

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

With a 9-2 record, the Bishop Kearney girls' volleyball team has emerged as one of the favorites for the Section 5 Class BB championship.

Yet BK Coach Paul Coppini says that his team currently has more pressing concerns.

"They could care less about sectionals right now. Their top priority is winning the league, because they've never won that," said Coppini. "Then they'll worry about sectionals."

BK took a step in the right direction by sweeping Private-Parochial League rival Our Lady of Mercy, 15-12, 15-9, 15-7, in a showdown last Thursday, Sept. 30, at Kearney.

That win raised the Kings' record to 3-1 in league play and put them into a first-place tie with Harley Allendale-Columbia.

Mercy, despite losing to BK, remained in contention with a 3-2 league mark (7-4 overall). The Monarchs had dealt H-A-C its first loss two days earlier at Mercy, by scores of 15-4, 15-13, 13-15 and 15-3.

Rounding out the five-team Private-Parochial League are Nazareth Academy (1-3, 5-7) and Aquinas Institute (0-4, 1-7).

In boys' volleyball, McQuaid Jesuit is the only diocesan school to field a

varsity program. The Knights' 3-1 City-Catholic League record and 5-4 overall mark include a thrilling 13-15, 15-13, 15-10, 8-15, 17-16 non-league win at Canandaigua on Oct. 1.

Seniors lead BK

If championships were decided on experience alone, Kearney would be the overwhelming favorite. All of the Kings' top players are seniors.

Leading the team are five returning starters: hitters Jennifer Zambito and Lynne Wiegand, setters Jody Durick and Ebony Pelemon, and all-around player Patti Lynch.

Sheila O'Hanlon adds strength as a middle hitter, and Christy Harrison and Kate Jensen are the top players off the bench.

BK showed its resiliency against Mercy. The Kings fell behind in all three games before coming back to win and breaking a nine-match losing streak to the Monarchs.

"We're a very slow-starting team. Don't ask me why; I don't know," Coppini remarked.

Monarchs eye playoffs

Mercy is led by the superior hitting and blocking abilities of 6-foot-1-inch senior Teresa Hartman. Other senior starters are setter Kathy Eisenberg and hitters Tricia Russell, Mary Spelman and Michelle McLaren.

Sophomore setter Jennie Carreo completes the starting six. Other key players are junior hitter Emily Bintz and senior hitter Carrie Battle.

Coach Nancy Wunder feels that her club, like Kearney's, could go a long way in the Class BB sectionals.

"We'll be in there, hopefully in the finals against Victor," she said.

Lasers improving

Nazareth's only victory last week was a decisive one: 15-2, 15-10, 15-12 over visiting Marshall on Sept. 27.

"They're a very young team, but they're finally starting to show the ability I knew they had all along," Coach Mike Hamden commented.

Senior outside hitter Erin Dady is expected to return this week after a bout with mononucleosis. Other top Lasers are junior hitters Tenley Ostrowski, Haley Wyse and Cathy Spahn; sophomore back-row player Janell Fracassi, freshman hitter Olivia Bradley and eighth-grade setter Holli Camelio.

Injuries hamper AQ

Two key absences, along with the loss of five Aquinas starters from last year's league co-champion team, have slowed the Little Irish in 1993.

"It's a good bunch of girls; they just don't know what it's like to win yet," said Coach Antonia Sweet.

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S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Sheila O'Hanlon of Bishop Kearney spikes the ball as Our Lady of Mercy's Mary Spelman tries to block during a Sept. 30 match. Kearney won all three games.

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