

Saints joins growing lacrosse list

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

A decade ago, only one Catholic high school in the diocese fielded a lacrosse program. Five years ago, that number was two.

Yet these days, lacrosse sticks have become as common as baseball gloves and tennis rackets. Geneva DeSales, which added lacrosse this year, is now the fifth diocesan school to offer the sport.

DeSales also becomes the first of these schools to offer a girls' varsity lacrosse team. Meanwhile, the boys' program is beginning play at the junior-varsity level and will move up to varsity next year.

The female Saints acted like a veteran unit when they took the field last Tuesday, April 11, for their first-ever organized competition — a scrimmage at neighboring Geneva High. After falling behind 2-0, they displayed some nifty passing and emerged with a 12-9 win.

"The attack worked very well together," said Coach Jeneane Donahue, a 1990 DeSales graduate.

Donahue has first-hand experience at bringing success to a fledgling program. In 1993 she played for the inaugural Nazareth College women's lacrosse team which went 0-9, but the Golden Flyers produced an 8-1 record just one year later in Donahue's senior season.

Top DeSales players are: goalie — junior Colleen Tracey; offense — seniors Andrea Casasanta and Emily Phillips, junior Dina Smaldone and sophomores Amy Perry and Amy Tredenick; mid-field — freshman Ellen Fanning; and defense — seniors Colleen Hilliard and Stefanie Smaldone, juniors Stephanie Kollie and Sara Walters, and freshman Katherine Friday.

Also contributing for the Saints are sophomores Claire Kiley, Jessica Scharett, Gina Valirio, Megan Adams and Sara Morgan.

In boys' lacrosse, McQuaid Jesuit Coach Tony Levin feels this may evolve into the finest season in the Knights' eight-year history.

"This is by far the fastest team I've had," he said.

Leading attackmen are seniors Michael Kehoe and Greg Walters, along with junior David O'Brien and Trevor O'Reilly. The veteran midfield includes seniors Chris Schiller, Peter Merkel and Pat Holden, and junior Scott Walsh. Top defenders are sophomores Tali Burton and Chris McAvoy, senior Justin Muchard and junior Andy Morris. Goal-tending duties are performed by junior Michael Hayes.

McQ dusted host Waterloo, 20-12, in its April 17 season opener behind



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Geneva DeSales' Andrea Casasanta (right) attempts to gain control of the ball under pressure from a Geneva High defender during an April 11 season-opening scrimmage. The Saints came away from the scrimmage with a 12-9 victory.

Schiller's six-goal, five assist effort.

Elmira Notre Dame won only one game in its varsity debut season of 1994, but the Crusaders equaled that total in their opening contest this spring. ND won 9-6 over Aquinas Institute, a third-year varsity team, on April 1 at AQ.

"There are some teams on the schedule who are going to take us very lightly — and they're going to be surprised," said first-year ND Coach Doug Bittler.

Top Crusaders include: attackmen — freshman Kenny Kosmicki, seniors Rick Maxa and Dan Van Dine and junior Jon Harley; midfield — senior Pat Woodhouse and juniors Ian Lampman and Jon Rumpf; defense — junior Matt Tompkins and seniors Howard Hodder and Mike Berrettini; and goal — sophomore Marty Wujastyk.

Aquinas followed its season-opening loss to Notre Dame by winning two of its next three games, 14-7 at Buffalo St. Joseph April 3 and 6-5 at Brighton April 8. The Brighton win was AQ's first-ever over a Monroe County League school.

"I'm real encouraged. I think we'll

make sectionals; I'll be real surprised if we don't," said Coach Dave Stein.

Some of AQ's finest include: attack — sophomores Andy DiMaria, Todd Brown and Frank DiLiberto; midfielders — juniors Shane Kavanagh, Kevin Callahan, Joe Baranek and Rory Zimmer; defense — sophomore Mike O'Connor and seniors Chris Baldwin and Vinnie Valerie; and goal — junior Dana Houser.

Bishop Kearney has gotten off to an 0-4 start, but the Kings appeared to be narrowing the gap after a 7-5 loss to visiting Brighton on April 10.

"We hope to run on teams, but if we can't clear the ball we're going to have trouble," said Coach John Kleehammer.

Leading the way for BK are: attack — freshman Mike Hilburger and juniors Terry Schmitz and Tom Staub; midfielders — seniors Aaron Delehanty and Casey Zimmer, sophomore Matt Furbeck and juniors Jay Mersdorf, Bill Gruhn and Chad Maier; defense — seniors Chris Muscato, Chris O'Connell, Joe Wesley and Jeff Smith; and goal — juniors Joe Zaleski and Dan Malerk.

Monarchs win season opener over Lasers

An early clue was revealed last Tuesday regarding the potential favorite for this year's Private Parochial League softball title.

Our Lady of Mercy cranked it up in its season and league opener against host Nazareth Academy, scoring a 17-3 triumph April 11.

Ashleigh Cirilla led the Monarchs' potent offense, going 3-for-5 and driving in six runs.

More sports highlights

Aquinas Institute also earned an April 11 softball victory, winning 7-5 at home over Waterloo as Katie Sadler went 3-for-4.

Bishop Kearney's softball squad parlayed an eight-run second inning into a 17-9 home win over Harley Allendale-Columbia April 10. Ryan Barry went 4-for-5 that day.

In boys' track, McQuaid Jesuit scored a 95-35 home win over Kearney April 12 as Greg Schlachter and Jeff Clark won two events each.

In girls' track, Mercy won 96-86 over visiting Nazareth April 10.

Boys' tennis victories came from McQuaid, which defeated East and Franklin April 10 and 11, respectively. Kearney, which downed Eastridge and Wilson on those same days, and Aquinas, which bested Edison Tech April 10.

NFL Legends Game to be played April 29

ROCHESTER — The third annual NFL Legends basketball game is set for next Saturday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community War Memorial.

Former National Football League players expected to participate include Tony Hill, Drew Pearson, Cliff Harris, James Lofton, Ozzie Newsome, Harold Carmichael and Lester Hayes. They will oppose a team made up of Section 5 coaches.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children and \$10 courtside. Proceeds will benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc. For information, call 716/624-5555.

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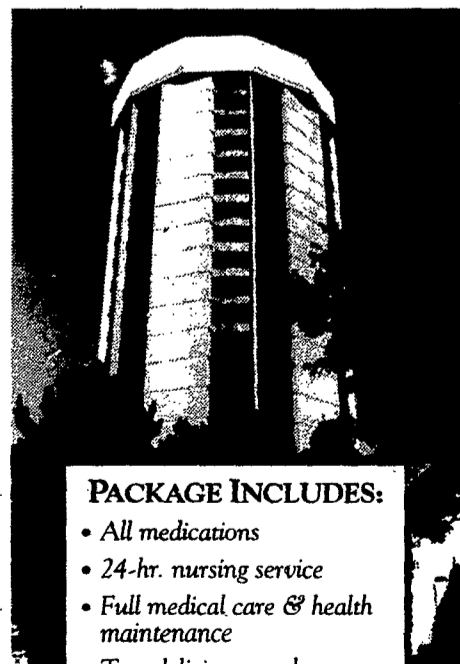
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