

ND, DeSales baseball bouncing back in 1995

Both teams log perfect starts

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Steve Young hasn't been the only sports figure in 1995 who's felt like he had something to prove.

In their own ways, the Elmira Notre Dame and Geneva DeSales baseball teams have felt the pressure to succeed as well. And thus far this young season, the Crusaders and Saints are responding as successfully as San Francisco's Young did in his Super Bowl MVP performance against San Diego.

Notre Dame is off to a 4-0 start after falling to Seton Catholic, 8-7, in the 1994 Section 4 Class C finals. The Crusaders' roster also includes several players who competed on last fall's football team which finished 8-1 but didn't qualify for post-season play, as well as the 1994-95 basketball squad which was stopped in the sectional finals.

"For the seniors, this is their last shot," said first-year Coach Jim Marks, who succeeds longtime ND Coach John Cain.

ND's pitching rotation features juniors Steve Janeski, Mike Kozemko and Rob McNamara. Sophomore Tug Ollock is the catcher, while top infielders are senior J.J. Brady at first base, Janeski and junior Jason Peck at second, senior Kevin Wilson at shortstop, and junior Mike Valeant and Kozemko at third. Other infielders are sophomore Dan Bennett and senior Shawn Golden.

In the outfield, ND features Clemson University-bound senior Joel Stephens in center, and seniors Mike Lynch in left and Matt Cornacchio in right.

The Crusaders won their fourth straight with a 14-2 triumph over visiting Groton last Saturday, April 23.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

McQuaid Jesuit's Chris Pilato attempts to tag Webster High School's Chad Spear at second base during a game held Wednesday, April 19, at Webster. The Knights prevailed over the Warriors, 12-9.

At Geneva DeSales, the Saints have started 3-0 in 1995 as they attempt to return to the top. DeSales had won five straight Section 5 titles between 1988 and 1992 before suffering through sub-.500 finishes the past two years.

"It makes you feel good," said Coach Pete French of the quick start. "The kids are upbeat and the parents are into it a little more."

DeSales outscored its first three opponents — Harley Allendale-Columbia, South Seneca and Romulus — 36-7.

Senior pitcher Jay Lamson, the only holdover from DeSales' 1992 title team, leads the way. Other pitchers are sophomore R.J. Passalacqua and freshman David Peters, with junior Dave Morgan at catcher. Infielders are senior Kyle Perillo at first, senior Mike Sweeney at second, Lamson and junior Mike DeVaney at short, and senior Scott Kent at third.

Outfielders are junior Mark Perillo in

left, junior Steve Davoli in center, senior Ben Kiley in right, and junior Ron Patrick as backup.

Aquinas Institute improved its record to 2-2 with a 16-5 romp over visiting Penfield April 19. The Little Irish offense is led by senior Jim Miner, who fills a rare combination of playing catcher and batting leadoff. Of his seven hits (in 11 at-bats), six have been for extra bases.

Pitchers include senior Brian Natalie, sophomore Steve Zimmer and juniors Kyle Magee, Brian Campe and Vinnie Re. Infielders are senior Jamie Stevens and junior Jeff Conte at first base, senior Frank Grego at second, sophomore Scott Grego and junior Kim Murray at short, and senior Mike Kelly at third. Junior Joe Gambino is a backup infielder.

Outfield duty is shared by Magee, Zimmer, Campe and senior Mike Setzer; with junior Matt Rich as backup.

"The pitchers have shown some

promise, and hopefully we can settle the infield down," said Coach Rich Pillitter.

McQuaid Jesuit has gotten off to a 1-2 start. The team's lone victory came during a 12-9 win at Webster April 19.

Coach Mike Fennell said his club's balance may lead to several more wins this season.

"We really don't have one stud, but this could be the best team I've had in my four years," Fennell observed.

Pitchers include seniors Chris Pilato and Phil Nawrocki, and junior Dan Cholish. Junior Brandon Rood will play catcher with freshman Steve Rogers backing him up. Infielders include junior Jason DiCesare at first, Pilato and junior Mike Wiedemer at second, senior Brian Sprague at shortstop, and senior Jay Magee at third.

In the outfield, the Knights feature senior Pat Snajder in left, junior Don Cortina in center, and junior Geoff Lee in right. Other outfielders are sophomore Mack Hodges and senior David Germano. Rounding out the roster is junior utility player Chris Stoffel.

Bishop Kearney Coach Ed Nietopski is optimistic despite his Kings' 0-3 start.

"We'll get better as we go along," said Nietopski. "Our strength is our defense, and our hitting should come around."

Pitchers are seniors C.J. Schrank, Greg Maier and Mark Blanchard; and junior Rob Everhart. The catcher is senior Dave O'Neil, and infielders are senior Eric Mathis at first base, senior Sean Nicholas at second, senior Ryan Van Allen at shortstop and junior Chris Pipa at third.

Top outfielders, all sophomores, are Fred Rivera in left, Dan Tytler in center, and Jeremiah Brown and Tim Dillon in right. Completing the team is junior infielder/outfielder Gary Masters.

Benefit events scheduled

Two fundraisers in Monroe County will take place in the upcoming weeks.

Brief descriptions of each event are listed below:

April 29 — Hillside Five-Mile Run for the Kids and One-Mile Fun Run. Cobbs Hill Park, Rochester; 7 a.m. (registration), 9 a.m. (race); \$16 entry fee; to benefit Emergency Center of Hillside Children's Center, Rochester; call Hillside at 716/244-4455 for further information.

May 15 — Lilac Open Golf Tournament: Durand-Eastman Golf Course, Kings Highway N., Rochester; 11:30 a.m.; \$75; May 8 registration deadline; to benefit Rochester Lilac Festival; call 716/256-4960.

McQuaid lacrosse comes up big with 9-8 OT victory

Monroe County League lacrosse schools, beware. It looks like McQuaid Jesuit's for real.

Last Tuesday, April 18, the Knights won a thriller in the first of 10 games on their 1995 slate against County League squads. McQ topped host Pittsford, 9-8, in overtime.

Chris Schiller and Pat Holden scored the Knights' overtime goals, and goaltender Michael Hayes made 25 saves for

the game. Holden finished with three goals while Schiller and Mike Kehoe added two each.

McQuaid went on to lose at Penn Yan — one of the Finger Lakes' top teams — by a 14-13 count April 20 despite a five-goal, two-assist outing from Kehoe. The Knights bounced back two days later with an 8-4 home win over another Finger Lakes opponent, Geneva. Kehoe compiled two goals and five assists as

McQ improved its record to 3-1.

In other lacrosse highlights from last week, Shane Kavanagh scored all four goals for Aquinas Institute in a 10-4 home loss to Geneva April 18. Kavanagh also scored three times as the Little Irish (2-5) endured a 9-4 defeat at Mynderse April 22.

In the Southern Tier, Rick Maxa of Elmira Notre Dame (1-5) collected three goals and an assist during the Crusaders' 14-6 loss at Chenango Forks April 22.



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