

ND wins title; DeSales teams halted



Rebecca Gosselin/Catholic Courier

Matt Higgins (No. 9) of DeSales High School in Geneva reaches first base as Ryan Morse of Northstar Christian Academy misses catching the ball during the Class D sectional final at Hornell High School May 30.

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

A two-day delay certainly didn't throw off the Elmira Notre Dame softball team in its quest for a fifth straight sectional championship.

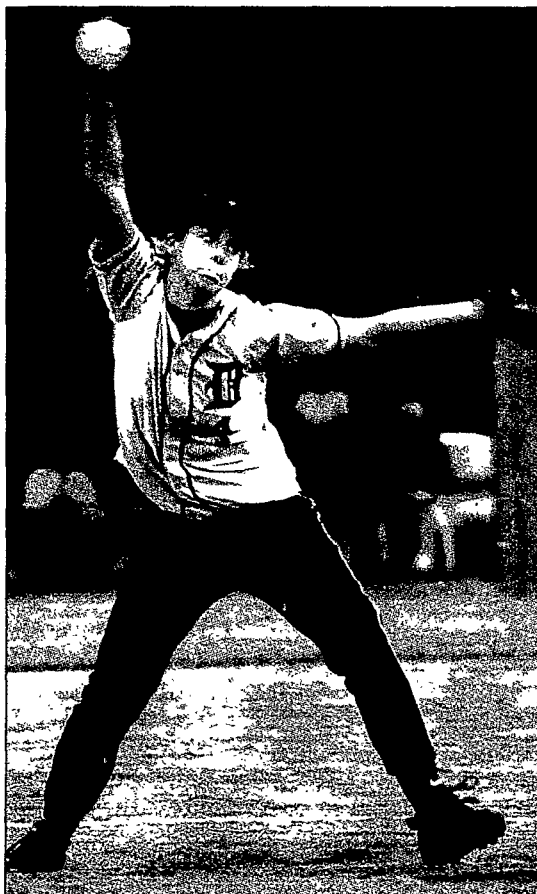
Ace pitcher Lindsay Knapp was dominant in the Section 4 Class C final, throwing a no-hitter as Notre Dame downed Seton Catholic of Binghamton, 7-0, in the title game that was completed Monday, June 2.

The Crusaders raised their record to 19-5. They were scheduled to play a state quarterfinal game June 3 against Sandy Creek of Section 3.

Also reaching sectional title contests were the baseball and girls' softball teams from Geneva DeSales, which both advanced to the Section 5 Class D finals before being eliminated. The baseball squad fell 4-1 to Northstar Christian Academy on May 30, finishing its season with a 16-3 record. In softball, the Saints lost 3-0 to Prattsburg, also on May 30, and ended up at 14-2.

ND 7, SETON CATHOLIC 0

Knapp, a junior, struck out 13 batters in claiming her fourth no-hitter of the season. She received ample offensive support from her Crusader teammates, including a solo-home run from Brittany Schnautz in a three-run fifth inning that stretched ND's lead from 2-0 to 5-0. Other offensive support came from Lisa Meck, who had two triples and three runs batted in; and Jillian Kreitzer,



DeSales' Caitlin Phillips pitches May 30 during the girls' softball Class D final against Prattsburg at Hornell High School.

who was 3-for-3 with two RBIs.

The final between Notre Dame, the second seed, and Seton Catholic, the No. 9 seed, had begun Saturday, May 31, but was washed out by rain

after one scoreless inning.

In its previous game, ND had earned its way to the final with an 11-2 triumph over No. 11 Candor in a May 29 semifinal. Natalie Frost led the offensive surge by going 5-for-5, while Meck pitched scoreless ball over the final six innings and struck out 12 batters.

**NORTHSTAR 4,
DESALES 1 (BOYS)
PRATTSBURG 3,
DESALES 0 (GIRLS)**

The second-seeded Saints baseball team got off to a promising start in its sectional title game, taking an early 1-0 lead when Bo Jaynes scored on Mike Costello's single. But Northstar's Marco Rivera pitched no-hit ball over the final six innings, and the top-seeded Knights scored all four of their runs in the third inning.

DeSales had reached the Class D final with a 6-0 semifinal victory over No. 6 Scio May 27, thanks to a no-

hitter by senior pitcher John DeRaddo.

Meanwhile, in girls' softball, the top-seeded Saints could only manage one hit — a first-inning triple by



DeSales' Mark Hannan reacts to the team's loss to Northstar.

Marissa Turnbull — against the No. 2 Vikings' Marianne Wallace in their Class D title showdown.

DeSales had qualified for the final with a 2-0 semifinal win over No. 4 Whitesville behind a no-hitter from senior pitcher Caitlin Phillips. The rain-delayed game was completed May 28.

Other noteworthy sports performances were recently turned in by:

- **Aquinas Institute boys' track**, which had a host of first-place finishers in the Section 5 Class BB championships. Event winners were Arel Gordon in the 100- and 200-meter dashes; John Brennan in the 110 hurdles; and the 400 relay of Jason O'Mara, Nick Fitts, Renato Petocchi and Gordon. The Little Irish placed second in Class BB team scoring.

- **Our Lady of Mercy's Joanna Dobeck**, who won the shot put event at the Section 5 Class BB girls' championships.

- **Nazareth Academy's Allison Gourdine**, who won the 200 dash at the Section 5 Class CCC girls' meet.

- **The McQuaid Jesuit boys' tennis** duo of Danny O'Rourke and Johan Pestec, which reached the state tournament quarterfinals.

- **Aquinas girls' softball**, which made the Section 5 Class BB semifinals and finished with a 13-3 record. AQ, the No. 3 seed, was the defending champ.

- **Our Lady of Mercy girls' softball**, which also reached the Section 5 Class BB semifinals and ended up at 14-9. The Monarchs were seeded No. 4.

- **Bishop Kearney girls' softball**, which advanced to the Section 5 Class CCC semis despite a final record of 6-13. Ninth-seeded BK upset top seed and previously unbeaten Sodus, 3-1, in quarterfinal play.

- **Bishop Kearney baseball**, which had a 14-3 record and reached the Section 5 Class CCC semifinals, where the Kings were the No. 1 seed.

- **McQuaid baseball**, which ended up with a 14-7 record.

- **Elmira Notre Dame baseball**, which finished at 14-9.

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