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Early woes continue for 'Saders softball

By Mike Arizzzone
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

When we last left the Holy Cross Crusader- softball squad, they were returning from a 7-3 doubleheader sweep of Staten Island’s own Wagner Seahawks. Their next game would be March 21, the Crusaders would be at St. John’s. Unfortunately, the day’s out- come was as encouraging as an early spring in Worcester: it just wasn’t going to happen. Central Connecticut took an early 1-0 lead in the second inning and held the fort throughout, winning the first game of the doubleheader 2-0. Nicole Vitti continued to pitch well for the ‘Saders though, as she walked none while striking out five. Left fielder Melissa Beshire and shortstop Jean Connelly each went 2-3.

The second game was a doubleheader. The game didn’t last long, and Dixon hanging around his senior year in an attempt to win it all. And I think our guys could have beaten Indiana OR the Terps on April 1st, even if they weren’t at the top of their game.

Before The Crusader came out with its very first issue, there was a clause worked into the contract of the first writer of this column stating that he is permitted one column per semester in which said writer simply rambles about a bunch of different topics for about 800 words since he cannot pick a subject the night before the deadline. It submits the article to said editor, and then works on the paper he has due the next day. Every writer for this column has done it before me - you can check the archives - and here’s mine.

MLB opened its season a week and a half ago, and we seem to have picked up exactly where we left off last season. For about 24 hours, I was hopeful. Though the Sox lost, and Pedro looked less than perfect, the New York Yankees looked even worse. Perhaps even beatable. I thought that this year would be different, after the Bronx Bombers dropped their season opener 10-3 to the O’s, with the Rocket pitching nonetheless. Since then, however, the Yanks have outscored their opponents 40-8.

The New York faithful are complaining, however, because they’re not getting to see any of the games, as a dispute between the cable company that reg-

This week the Crusaders travel to Amherst for a regular season match, as HC lost 3-1 to Brown. But that win, they took Visckull and figured “since we’re here, we might as well win three of four.” The first game was a pure beating. The ‘Saders won 8-0, with right fielder Alyssa Hayden leading the charge. Hayden went 2-2 with a double and triple while striking in a three-high three runs. Vitti displayed her early season form with a superb outing. The native of Stamford, CT gave up only two hits while striking out one.

Game two of the day was a close 1-0 loss, but the final two games of the week- end were nothing short of marvelous. Vitti was like a fireman who puts more fires to 6-1 and 1-0 wins respectively. Both pitchers were like Clemens and Mussina: the oppo- sition had no chance. They each struck out six and Palmeri once again pitched shutout softball.

Tuesday, the Crusaders came home to take on Providence. Game one saw another dramatic finish, as Curl hit a game-winning bomb in the bottom of the eighth. Green took to the hill and pitched her first career shutout for the ‘Saders 1-0 victory. Game two also saw the long ball, with Connolly hitting a shot in the fifth inning, but that was it for HC as they fell 5-1.

Overall, the Crusader women stand 8-17 this season. The Crusaders face the Patriot League with a single game coming up against BU, look for another strong effort by our Crusader women as they hope to make it six of nine.

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Before the start of last year’s games into your VCR, rerun the games they won a few more times (I’d say at least 111 times) and then by the time they settle this dispute it’ll be October and you’ll be able to see your guys on the networks in the post-season. Just a thought…

Continuing with this theme of picking up right where we left off, Barry Bonds is still absolutely ridiculous. The guy smashed 73 long-balls last year, and in the off-season he heard criticisms that it may have been a fluke, that he’s getting old and wouldn’t be worth the money for a huge contract, and that despite the homers he still has yet to win a ring. So what does he do? In their first six games, Bonds hits .500, has an ab- surd 1-500 batting average, and has outscored his opponents 41-5, and, oh yeah, he’s put five out of the park. In case anyone already wants to start their own, ‘chasing history’ chart, that translates into 150 home runs after 162 games. If for some odd reason pitchers keep pitching to him, he may even do that by the All- Star break.

Now speaking of All-Stars, Michael’s done for the season after surgery on his knee. Some are saying he shouldn’t have come back, that he is slowly ruining his legacy. Maybe I missed something, but isn’t the 39-year-old Jordan currently ninth in the league in scoring? From this guy whose reason for coming back was his love for the game, and his desire to teach a young group of guys who couldn’t get as a team. So maybe he didn’t lead the league in scoring, or make a playoff team out of the Wizards, but he still showed flashes of the old Jordan, and I still can’t wait to watch him play next year. Knock on wood.

This year’s NCAA Championship was an awful game and an anti-climax to a great tournament. I think our guys could’ve beaten Indiana OR the Terps on April 1st, even if they weren’t at the top of their game. But I was still glad to see Juan Dixon and Gary Williams cutting down the net at the end of the game. It’s rare to see that kind of loyalty in big time college basketball anymore, with Williams sticking it out for so long, and Dixon hanging around his senior year in an attempt to win it all. And I’m still kicking myself for not going to College Park in Maryland after they won to wit- ness the utter chaos…

Pete Summa was named Patriot League Player of the Week last week. And DJ Luecy was Patriot League Pitcher of the Week two weeks before that. Congratulations guys!

Finally, it’s never been a better time to be a Boston sports fan. With two games left in the regular season, the Bruins look like they’re in good shape to take home the best record in the Eastern Conference. The Celts beat the Lakers by 18 last Friday at the Fleet Center (granted Shaq was on the bench), but anything could happen in the play- off’s this year. And the Sox…hey, the Pats won the Super Bowl.

Well there you go, 800 words. Chalk this up as my one free rambling article, and come back next week.

 Slugish defense and stagnant bats can’t get Saders past Lafayette

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looking to salvage the sloppy series with a win in the fourth game. Senior Pitcher Jay Powers looked to salvage the fourth game and worked easily through the first two in- nings. After Lafayette posted two runs in the third, Holy Cross began to struggle again. As the Fatcats put another two runs on the board in the seventh inning, the Crusaders found themselves behind 4-1 with the Leopards. The Crusaders proceeded to leave men on second and third in their half of the seventh. Freshman John Raus relieved Lynch and Lafayette posted three runs in the eighth.

Carberry fought back and threw a 1-2-3 fourth inning. McEvoy then led off the fourth with a single and hope remained as he reached second before he was out by something left on a Bigdga ground out to the right side of the infield. Freshman John Raus then flied out to end the inning.
The next three games for the Crusaders were a little less dramatic, however. The women of Lehigh were mighty angry after losing 1-0, so they decided to win the next two games, shutting out the Crusaders both times while scoring 12 combined runs. Harvard was just as unforgiving when they came to Worcester, handing the Lady ‘Saders a 10-3 loss. So maybe dramatic action is what the Lady ‘Saders need, but the final two games of the week- end were nothing short of marvelous. Vitti displayed her early season form with a superb outing. The native of Stamford, CT gave up only two hits while striking out one.

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