

Scholastic Notebook

Can Stadium Still Be Saved?

By John Doser



Wouldn't it be nice, since this is the month for dreaming, if the Basilian Fathers at Aquinas Institute found a check for \$800,000 for Aquinas Stadium under their Christmas tree from the Monroe County Legislature or some other equally responsible community-oriented party?

Aquinas Board of Trustees has already agreed, however, to ask Joseph King, its property resource committee chairman, to accept a purchase offer of \$800,000 for the stadium from the Housing Development Co., of Cleveland, Ohio.

The situation stirred a good deal of pro and con talk among Rochesterians, but no one presented an alternative to selling the stadium, tearing it down, and building the multi-million dollar townhouse and apartment building complex.

The stadium has been up for sale for four years now, ever since the AQ Board of Trustees decided to renovate its present Dewey Avenue school facility.

To pay for the repairs, Aquinas put its stadium on the selling block, borrowed more than \$500,000 to pay the bills, and despite daily interest charges, held on to the stadium with the dream that it might be acquired, purchased, rented, leased or whatever, and retained as a stadium while meeting their financial commitments at the same time. There were no local takers.

A "Save Our Stadium" group emerged, led by Rochester Lancers' General Manager Charles Schiano, made some noise, received token (before elections) support from a few politicians (where are they now?) but still failed to produce the necessary dollars.

The Rochester Jaycees added their weight to the list of people/groups who believe the selling and tearing down of the stadium would be a calamity.

Harry C. Roberts, speaking for the Jaycees, said his group concluded that there is no other recreational facility that could adequately provide the services

currently offered by or projected for Aquinas Stadium.

Roberts said that the recreational and business benefits for keeping the stadium would far outweigh the cost to the community. He estimated the cost of buying the land to be about \$800,000; and that annual profits could be between \$13,000 and \$81,000.

Aquinas, which can't absorb interest costs forever on its renovation loan, never was crying "wolf." Many fans apparently don't believe the stadium will one day come tumbling down.

The fact that Aquinas and Fairport High put 14,000 persons into the stadium for a football game on a rainy Friday night two months ago — and the prospect of similar crowds if and when public and Catholic school football people ever mend their fences, doesn't impress anyone that the stadium could pay its own way.

The soccer Lancers, who profess to be the professional champions of the United States (and even perhaps North America) will look pretty silly kicking the ball around Harbor Field down Lake Avenue way or in some other less than desirable park. (We don't see Red Wing Stadium converting to a soccer field a dozen times during the baseball season, either).

Sure enough, when the stadium is gone, a city or county politician is going to develop a great idea for a stadium, domed or undomed, for the use of the entire county, to enjoy outstanding outdoor events at their leisure, etc., etc., etc., and when it happens it's going to cost them a whale of a lot more than the \$800,000 Aquinas needs now.

We'll all end up paying for a piece of a brand new park — wouldn't we rather settle for a much smaller piece by keeping Aquinas Stadium?

Aquinas Hosting Cage Tourney

Aquinas will be the host team to the Annual Christmas Invitational Basketball Tournament with Bishop Kearney, Eastridge and East high schools also competing.

John Uriah, Aquinas athletic director and tournament director, announced the draw for the first games which will be played on December 26 at the Old RIT gym.

Aquinas against Eastridge.

The second round will be played Dec. 28 with winners playing the 8:30 bill and the consolation games being played at 7.

Only change for this year's tournament finds Bishop Kearney replacing Hilton.

Basketball Stars Came Up From Parochial League

Lima — Two products of the Genesee Valley Parochial School League are making their mark in area college basketball.

John Collins, six-foot-eight junior at Brockport State, is the starting center this season. John is a graduate of Lima High School, a section V Class D winner, and of St. Rose School, where his basketball career began.

Another parochial league player is Tom Baldwin of Wayland Central, who started at St. Joseph's School, Wayland and now is a regular on the St. Bonaventure University basketball squad.

Sam Montesano, who started at St. Patrick's School, Mt. Morris, and played for Mt. Morris Central, had two years of varsity basketball at Rochester Institute of Technology. These three frequently played against each other in grade school and high school.

CYO Organizing

Swimming Classes

A Red Cross lifesaving course for swimmers 15 years old and more will begin Jan. 13 at the CYO. On Jan. 8, a swimming class limited to 10 four and five-year-olds will start. A 12-week evening course in scuba diving will begin Jan. 4.

Information on these programs can be obtained through 454-2030, The Catholic Youth Organization, at 50 Chestnut St.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY

Today is the last day of library service until Monday, Dec. 28. The main library and all branches will close at 9 tonight, Dec. 23, for the rest of this week.

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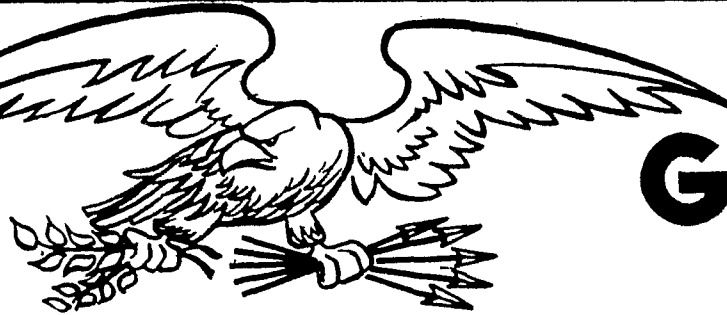
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Holy Cross Education Board Elects Paris

Anthony Paris was elected chairman of the Holy Cross Parish Board of Education at its December meeting. He replaces Robert J. Warth who moved from the parish recently.

Warth served on the School Board for five years and worked with other parishes and the diocesan office on problems of the Catholic school system.

Children to Sing Mass in Latin

The high Mass on Christmas morning at Mother of Sorrows Church will be sung in Latin by the new children's choir of the parish. It will begin at 9:30, after 15 minutes of caroling directed by Joan Stratton.

The midnight Mass will be sung by the adult choir, under the direction of Sheila Bianchi, with carols beginning at 11:30 Christmas Eve.

HARPS CLUB DANCE

There'll be dancing New Year's Eve at the Harps Club, 115 Buffalo Road, from 9:30.

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