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Aquinas band in concert under the direction of John Lyon.

Photo by Bruce Genut

A "Mixed Bag" of Virtuosity

The halls of St. Agnes High School may still be echoing with the musical sounds of the Aquinas Band.

The band, 60 members strong including four Nazareth Academy musicians, officially opened St. Agnes' recognition of "Music in Our Schools Day" by performing a concert for the girls on March 11.

John Lyon, director, described

WINNERS

Lisa Cugino, senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, was recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Feb. 26.

Gene DiSalvo, sophomore at Bishop Kearney High School was the Winner's Circle \$5 recipient last week.

the musical program as a "mixed bag." And that it was — an excellent mixture of melodies which pleased everyone. The musical scores ranged from the serious, to show tunes (from Lerner and Loewe's "Gigi"), to rock numbers, Dixieland, and ragtime.

Highlight was the teaming up of Pete Romeo, and Tony Liepert on trumpet, Mark Talmas on tuba, Steve Friedman on bass guitar, and Jack Zolnierowski on drums who through their combined talents played a swinging version of "the original Dixieland concerto." These young musicians rocked the school with their jazz rhythms — and as if this hadn't shaken the foundations — the band launched into its final selection... a rousing rendition of "Proud Mary" during which

Zolnierowski really made his drums dance.

Although it was the first time the band had performed at St. Agnes, by the standing ovation it received from the girls it won't be the last.

CYO HOLY WEEK

A package of ideas for Holy Thursday activities is being offered to youth groups by the Catholic Youth Organization. Included in the packet are directions for celebrating an "agape" (a communal meal); the ritual for celebrating the Jewish "seder" meal which marks the holy days of Passover; and ideas to help educate youth groups on the world food crisis. The CYO Holy Week Program Packet is available through the CYO, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 14604, (716) 454-2030.



Drummer Jack Zolnierowski "beats" out a swinging rhythm.

Photo by Bruce Genut

Going to the Doctor. Pays Off for Mercy

By JOHN DOSER

Mercy High, coached by Sister Cathy Pflieger, defeated St. Agnes, 58-24, and Bishop Kearney, 62-36, in Private-Parochial League girls basketball games last week.

The victories were Mercy's ninth and tenth straight without a loss to league opponents this season.

The victories also locked up the fourth straight league championship for Mercy, with Cardinal Mooney finishing a distant second with an 8-2 win-loss record.

What's Mercy's secret?

"Talent," answers the coach, plus going to clinics and taking advantage of what the basketball doctors at those clinics have to offer.

"We happen to be fortunate to have some very good athletes at Mercy," Sister Cathy explains.

"Coaching isn't anything unless you have the athletes," she says, "and we just happen to have good kids."

Sister Cathy admits she doesn't miss a clinic and she must have taken a lot of notes at the Kodak-sponsored women's basketball clinic held in Rochester in January.

"We picked up a lot of ball-handling tips, game-condition practice drills and various shooting and offensive and defensive tactics.

They (Kodak) brought in the best coaches in the country and there's no doubt that going to the

clinics pays off," Sister Cathy says.

Mercy takes its 10-0 slate into the second round of the Section 5, Class A girls basketball tournament Friday against an unnamed opponent (check daily newspapers for game details) and Sister Cathy hopes her team can improve last year's sectional record.

"We lost to Brockport in the first round, 36-35; We were down by ten points at halftime and almost caught them. I could have croaked," she says.

The sectionals won't be a pushover — Mercy scrimmaged City League power Franklin, and lost; and Monroe County powers Webster Schroeder and Greece Olympia, and lost both.

Mercy did defeat Eastridge and Penfield in a pair of scrimmages with the county league teams.

Mercy led St. Agnes and Kearney all the way in their league games played last week.

Mercy led St. Agnes, 16-6, 32-12, and 48-20 at the whistle breaks, and was ahead of Kearney, 14-6, 30-17, and 44-25 at the period breaks.

Sophomore Eileen Smith, the team's leading rebounder (about 20 per game) scored 18 points against St. Agnes and 16 against Kearney.

"She's a good ball handler, very fast, has a beautiful jump shot from outside, and very rarely fouls despite playing an aggressive ballgame," Sister Cathy explains.

Smith's backcourt teammate is

Judy Peace, the team's best scorer with a 14 point average.

Peace, a 5-7 senior, scored 12 against St. Agnes and had 20 against Kearney.

"Peace enjoys our pressing defense, steals the ball well, is another good outside shooter and is our most accurate free throw shooter — she made 23 of 26 shots from the foul line this season," Sister Cathy explains.

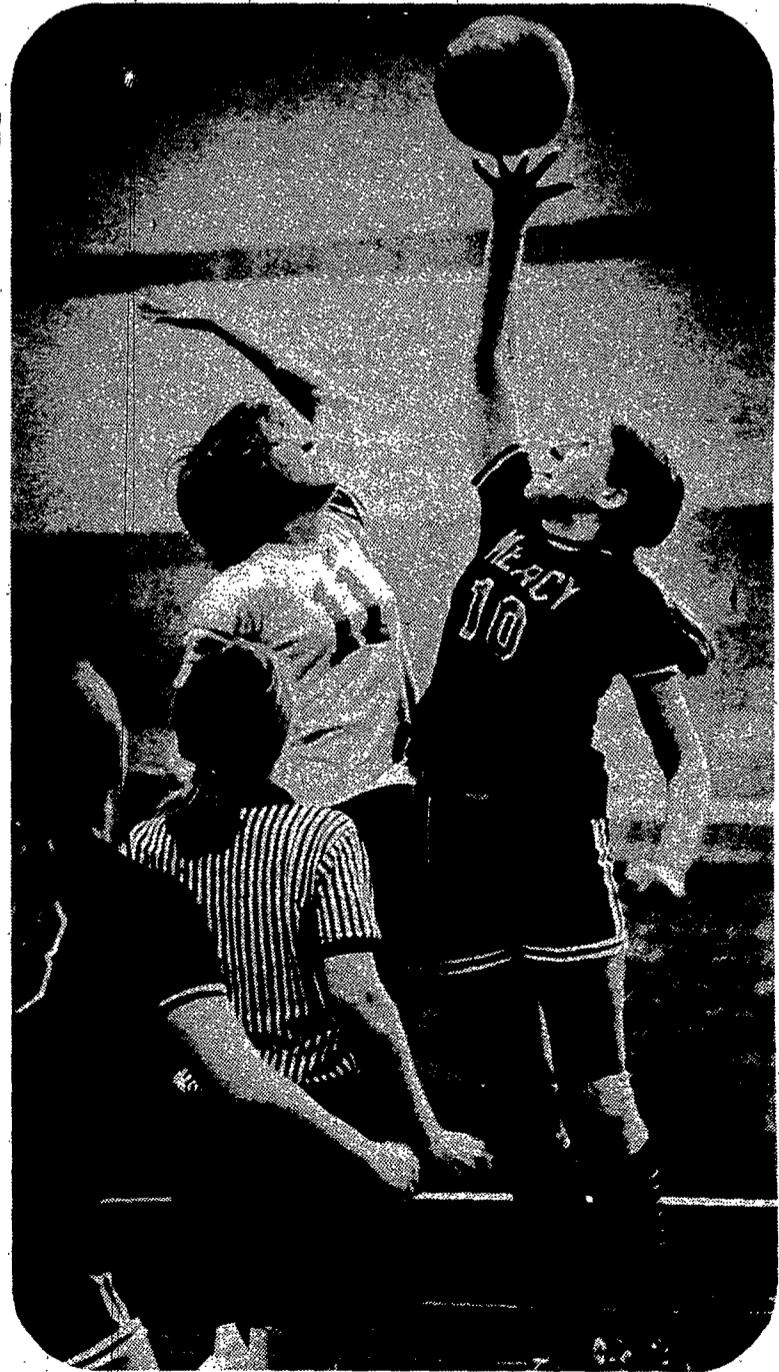
Patti Van Hove, a 5-8 sophomore, isn't a high scorer, but plays the middle position on Mercy's three-player defensive press, Sister Cathy says, between Peace and 5-5 senior Ellen Hammele.

Hammele, who scored 16 against St. Agnes and 10 against Kearney, is a co-captain (along with Peace) and has a good set shot when the opponents give her room.

Hammele is also very strong and quick defensively and averages about a dozen steals per game.

Dianne Schmidt, another 5-8 sophomore, completes Mercy's starting five. She is a good rebounder, likes to shoot, inside and underneath, and is especially adept at putting rebounds back in the hoop, Sister Cathy says.

Mercy reserves include 5-4 senior Telana Stokes (likes left corner jump shots), 5-5 sophomore Mary Ellen Weber (good defense), 5-7 sophomore Margie Meath (good rebounder), 5-6 freshman Sheila Taillie (quick), 5-7 freshman Kate Dolan (good defense) and 5-0 freshman Maureen O'Heaney (fast and good at stealing the ball).



It's a jump ball and Mercy High's Dianne Schmidt (number 10) beats St. Agnes player Mary Rinehart to the tap. The Our Lady of Mercy team won the home game last Thursday 58 to 24. The team will enter the sectionals Friday undefeated in ten league games.

Photo by Susan McKinney