

# Catholic Principals: No Sports Recruiting

Last in a Series  
By JOHN DOSER

**Editor's Note — Lack of Catholic school boundaries and potential recruitment of athletes remain the two hottest issues under discussion as the vote for full, permanent membership of private-parochial schools in Section 5 of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association nears. Here are the reactions and feelings of the four Rochester Catholic high school principals about the matter.**

Father Albert Gaelens, CSB, principal at Aquinas Institute, doesn't know what else he can add to what he's already said on the subject.

He believes there are just some people who have a closed mind to the Catholic side of the discussion. "I don't know how to change them," he says.

"I don't think they understand the private school situation. We do have to recruit pupils. This is open recruitment just to get students into Aquinas who are Catholic."

Father Gaelens says that when he visits Catholic elementary schools he tries to sell Catholic secondary education first, then Aquinas, naturally, over McQuaid or Bishop Kearney or Cardinal Mooney.

"I figure if they make the choice, we'll carry it from there. People don't understand recruitment and this is where the word gets tossed around. We do have to recruit, but we're not recruiting athletes," Father Gaelens explains.

It's been the policy of the Basilian Fathers at Aquinas not to deny any eligible boy admission at the Dewey Avenue school because he could not afford the tuition (now \$700 per year).

"We have developed a scholarship fund for needy kids, and they are accepted first, academically. They write the entrance exam and we never normally talk about finances ahead of time.

"The vice principal handles admissions and once they're admitted they may say they're

going to have trouble with tuition and then they'll be sent to me," Father Gaelens says.

The youngsters fill out a simple form asking such questions, for example, if the student can work at school (or elsewhere), and if so, how much can he pay toward his tuition.

"We determine from there how much assistance he needs and how much the family would be entitled to. There are very few athletes who receive scholarship funds.

"I took a list two years ago to a meeting with county school people at Brighton High and we had 24 students receiving scholarship aid. Only three were in any way connected with athletics," Father Gaelens says.

Aquinas coaches, Father Gaelens says, are very aware of the school's policy regarding recruitment of students specifically for the purpose of athletics.

"I do not condone it and if any accusations are made by anyone from the outside, I'll be the first to look into it and find out what's behind it."

Father Gaelens admits there was some discussion last year about a situation which developed between Bill Williams and Edison basketball player Jerome Glover.

"I looked into that, and nothing would have developed. Aquinas doesn't accept senior transfers under normal circumstances. There was nothing in Glover's case to say that we would have acted any differently here."

Father Gaelens says the boy was approached by an Aquinas parent who suggested he talk with Williams. The youth and Williams happened to be, by accident, together at a basketball camp at Niagara University last summer and a lot of people wondered how they ended up together there.

"I didn't feel there was substance to this... the boy nor his family ever made any contact with our admissions office. You can't control what parents or students do because we're always in the business of recruiting students," Father Gaelens explains.

Father Leon Hogenkamp, principal at McQuaid Jesuit High, says flatly, "We don't recruit and we forbid it."

He adds that there are two safeguards at McQuaid — "The first safeguard is the integrity of our word; and the second safeguard is that our actions are consistent with our word."

If McQuaid received a signed complaint about any McQuaid recruitment of an athlete, Father Hogenkamp says there would be an investigation and if the allegation proved true, he would discipline the coach involved.

If the alleged recruiter were non-school personnel (beyond school discipline), he says he would protest to that person as vehemently as he could.

"We would ask him to cease and desist; I don't know if we could take him to court, but we would take the strongest possible action against him."

He finds boundaries to be a separate issue.

"Our charter, which comes through the state, doesn't permit us to discriminate on the basis of geography among students applying for admission."

He says public schools are arms of the State Education Department and are divided geographically by the state; but

that the state provides no geographical discrimination in the charters of the nonpublic schools.

"A non-public school can draw from anywhere people can get to it, according to its charter, and if it's a boarding school, it can draw from any where around the state."

Father Hogenkamp says he's optimistic about the upcoming vote.

"I'm not aware of any written complaint in the two-year trial, so I would take that as a sign that our actions have been consistent with our words."

Brother Aubert Harrigan, principal at Cardinal Mooney, says there are students at Mooney for whom others have paid tuition.

One was Tony Shaw, the Mooney athlete who excelled in football and basketball and went on to college at the University of Wisconsin.

"Some gentleman now stationed in the monastery at Piffard paid his tuition. I can't forbid him to do that. In no sense did we recruit any of these people. They come, and if their tuition is being paid, by grandmothers or fathers or whoever, we don't question that."

Brother Harrigan says if and when a coach talks to him about (the eligibility of) a boy, it's like the "kiss of death" for the youngster.

"We're not going to touch that

kid. In no sense do I feel that it's proper that our staff go out and recruit. We've never done that and I would like to have someone prove that we have."

He says Mooney in no way wishes to jeopardize its position in Section 5 on the basis of a legitimate claim that they have functioned contrary to the policies of the section.

"We're anxious to stay within their regulations. I hope when all is said and done, they do see fit to give us permanent participation," Brother Harrigan says.

Brother William Stoldt, principal at Bishop Kearney High, says Kearney was founded as a type of regional school without boundaries.

"There are so few of us (Catholic high schools) that we have to remain regional. I mean we just don't have a Catholic high school in every town."

He says Kearney does not recruit athletes and has no plans to do so.

"We have no idea, from an administration point of view, whether a kid is a ballplayer or not until he gets here. And if you look at our overall record, well, we won Section 5 baseball last year, but I don't know how anyone could accuse us of recruiting in basketball or football!"

Brother Stoldt says his coaches know it's illegal to recruit and don't plan to do it. "I'm optimistic we will remain in Section 5. I don't see anything that would prevent us from remaining in it permanently."

## IN THIS CORNER



George Beahon

It is good to know that major league hockey — meaning the old, established National Hockey League — is going ahead with expansion. Who needs hockey players? So long as the dummies pay their money, the NHL will put on some kind of show. Why turn down six million bucks for a franchise just because the talent is watered thin?

I had just begun to believe the expansion racket had had it when the NHL confirmed expansion for next season.

Look at what happened to the expansion teams this time around. Kansas City and Washington put up their 12 million for the privilege of drafting from a special list which included none of the top shelf performers.

Then Kansas City went out and played hockey, and at this writing Kansas City had an outstanding record: 71 Games Played; 14 Wins.

Washington was even more spectacular: 70 Games Played; 6 Victories.

For trivia lovers, Washington's Goals Scored: Goals Against record: 52 Goals Scored, 383 Goals Against.

Camp followers of the Washington Capitals can take cheer from one strong probability. When the new Denver franchise gets to draft from the league's "touchables," it's hardly likely the Washington club will lose any strength.

The people in Washington must be wondering about this latest expansion play. How many sick teams can the league send into healthy cities, and hope to keep selling tickets? The answer is that so far it doesn't hurt, except for concessions losses to no-shows. Because the hockey ticket still is hot in most towns. So the season subscribers suffer with the no-contest expansion games, just to insure pew space for the biggies.

Back to the people in Washington. Meaning the front office of the Washington Capitals, with 5 wins in 70 games.

Last week the Caps informed their public that "because of the economy" they are REDUCING ticket prices for next season. The 5 wins in 70 games may be part of the recognition of the economy, but it still is big news.

Particularly in a city where the football Redskins dropped their free tickets for the marching band and pom-pom girls, cutting them from two down to one free ducat; and then raised prices for all tickets for '75. The letter to the season ticket buyers explained that the "Skins were in the playoffs four years in a row, and that cost money.

Maybe that's the way it should be: If you win you raise the tab; if you lose, cut it back. That way the fans of the winners have no special squawk, and the loyalists of the losers are consoled with what amounts to rebates.

Then you look at our local scene. The AHL Amerks are setting us up for a ticket increase, despite their current \$4.50 tops that is way in front of some major leagues tops (Dodgers, Mets).

And the Red Wings, with new thinking in the presidential chair, are introducing new, cut-rate bargains for the general fandom, including Senior Citizens.

Who's doing what to whom? And why the inconsistency?

## CYO Winners In Cheerleading

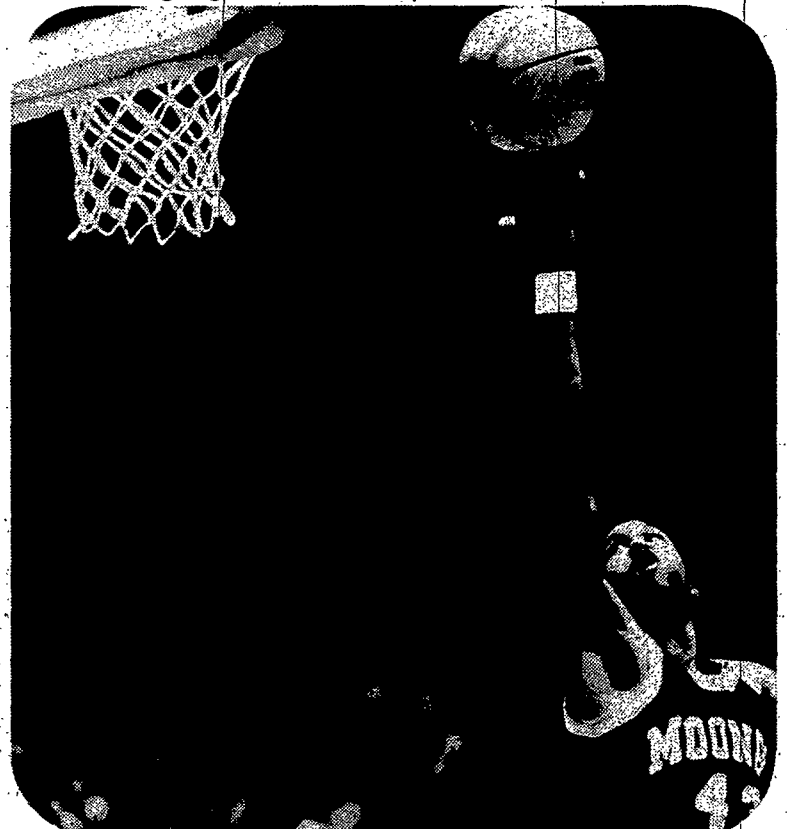
The 1975 Catholic Youth Organization's (CYO) annual cheerleading tournaments were held on Saturday, March 15 at the RIT gymnasium under the direction of Mrs. Helen Smith.

More than a thousand girls, both elementary and high school age, participated. Twenty-three teams entered the "pink division" which consisted of elementary age girls in squads of 12 or more. First place in this division went to Christ the King parish followed by St. Margaret Mary's in second, and St. Ambrose in third.

In the "yellow division" (squads of eight girls, elementary level) the winners were St. Thomas Apostle, followed in second place by Most Precious Blood.

In the high school "blue division" (squads of over eight) St. Ambrose placed first, and Holy Cross second.

St. Cecilia won first place in the "white division" which comprised teams of eight girls or less. St. Margaret Mary's placed second.



Mooney's Ken Boddie shoots during loss to Fairport



Coach Ed Nietopski imparts strategy to Mike Shuniker.