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AQ or McQuaid

Which Has the Inside Track?

By JOHN DOSER

It was a frustrating, yet pleasing week for Aquinas track coach Ed Mancuso.

"It was one of those things that happens to every coach, I guess," Mancuso explains.

His unbeaten Dewey Avenue runners (5-0) engaged an equally unbeaten (6-0) McQuaid team to decide the City-Catholic League track and field championship, and the teams fought to a rare 73-73 tie, the first in the league in at least 10 years.

The two teams, or fractions thereof, collided again in Saturday's Aquinas Relays at RIT, but out-of-town schools so completely dominated the meet that there was nothing akin to a runoff between the Irish and the Knights to determine which team really is best.

"A playoff between us can't be held," Mancuso says, somewhat dejectedly, because he's convinced his team is better.

"We tried for permission from the state chairman of track, but it was denied. The rule states schools can only compete in two meets during a week and both of us have two meets a week until the end of the season," Mancuso says.

Any possibility of an extra meet would push the teams into examination time when minds

ought to be geared to books instead of championships!

"Both teams and coaches wanted to run the meet again to prove which of us is best and we would have, had the permission been granted," Mancuso says.

"Putting our unbeaten streak on the line would not have been the problem; we still think we are the best," he adds.

McQuaid stopped Aquinas' dual meet victory streak at 25 straight with the tie, but Mancuso merely calls it Aquinas' 26-meet non-losing streak now.

In the standings the Irish still trail McQuaid because Aquinas is 6-0-1 and the Knights are 7-0-1. Aquinas has three meets remaining (Fast, Mooney and Franklin) while McQuaid has two (Madison and Monroe).

"I'm sure we'll have identical records at the end of the season," Mancuso explains, "so we're now pointing for the sectionals."

Two Irish school records were broken during the week and two others nearly fell, with 23 of the 50-member Aquinas team producing personal career bests against McQuaid.

Leo Finucane set a new school and track mark with a 1:56.5 in the 880, breaking the previous record time he posted last year (1:58.1); Dan Mastrella broke the Irish shot put record with a 53-11

1/2 heave, part of Saturday's Aquinas shot put relay, erasing the oldest mark on the Aquinas books, a 53-2 1/4 set back in 1962 by Doug Burgess.

Finucane's 1:56.6 quarter in the anchor leg of the sprint medley relay was a mere .1 off the school record (run just 45 minutes after he did a :51.0 quarter mile in the mile relay), and the foursome of Rudy Kearse, Randy Benjamin, Alton James and Andy Fornorola was only .2 off the school mark with a 44.1 in the 440 relay in Saturday's relays.

Brian Hart of McQuaid was the meet's only double winner with victories in the 120 high and 330 low hurdles.

Aquinas won 10 of the 18 events but it took a McQuaid win in the mile relay, the last event, a 3:30.6 by Dave Aha, Mark Hanna, Tom Lott and Tom Horton, to lock the teams in at 73 each.

McQuaid coach Bob Bradley says he was pleased with the outcome because he figured the Knights were good for 74 or 75 points.

Mancuso was unhappy at the time and hopes he can keep his team geared for the upcoming sectionals.

"McQuaid is a fantastic team and they have a fantastic coach, but if we can keep ourselves together, I honestly believe we can win the sectionals," he says.

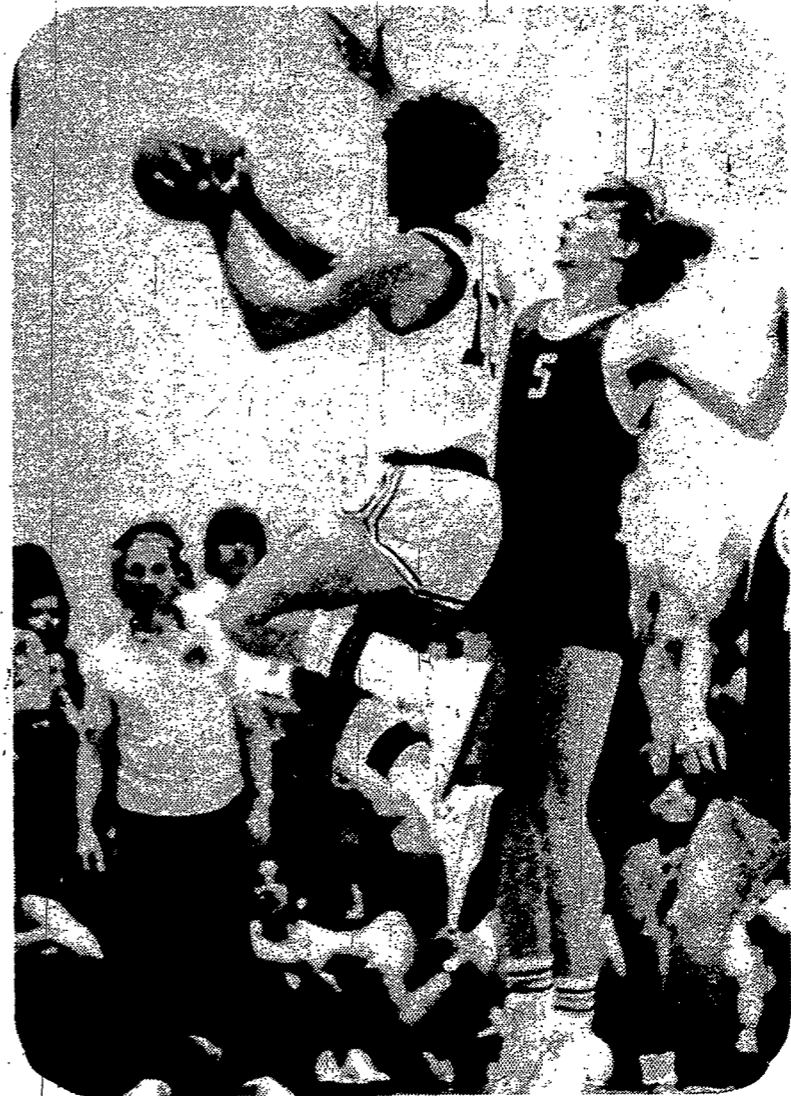


Photo by Susan McKinn

Russians Down Section 5

Nick Urzetta, a Bishop Kearney senior who played out the regular basketball season on Kearney's varsity, finds the only way around the U.S.S.R.'s Zoleg Chepura is up. Urzetta was a member of the Section 5 All-Star team that faced the touring Soviet team from Kiev. The Soviets won the game, May 9 at Monroe Community College.



The Aquinas Marching Band's drum section in parade style.

Memorial Day Steppers

Memorial Day. The day when America's war dead are honored will be filled with religious services, public ceremonies, and of course the stirring sounds and sights of parades.

Main streets across the nation will be decorated with "old glory", and patriotic floral arrangements. They will be the scene of mounted policemen clearing the line of march, vendors selling balloons, flags, and cotton candy while city officials view the marchers from banner covered reviewing stands.

Here in Rochester, two Catholic high school bands will add their musical, and marching expertise, to the city's annual parade.

The Aquinas Marching Band will be there in full force, its drum section sure to make everyone snap to attention.

Bishop Kearney's "Marching Kings" will also be stepping along with its full complement of color guard.

Besides their parade appearances on Memorial Day, both bands have busy schedules. The

"Marching Kings" will be participating in the Kearney's Spring Concert on Friday, May 23. The event will also include the Concert and Stage Bands. The concert band will play musical selections by Aaron Copeland. The 25 piece Stage band will feature a tribute to Artie Shaw, and the "Marching Kings" will play music used on their recent overseas trip.

The Aquinas Marching Band will be high stepping it in the Maplewood area parade on May 31, and on June 13 will be marching in the St. Anthony's Day parade.

CLASS REUNION PLANNED

The Aquinas Class of 1955 will hold its 20th anniversary reunion on May 30 at the Henrietta Inn and Party House. Cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Marie Mazza, senior at Bishop Kearney High School, was recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of May 7.

Pupils Help Hospital

Elmira — Fourth grade pupils from Hardy Elementary School presented the fruits of their efforts, \$117 to the burn program at St. Joseph's Hospital. The students conducted a nearly two-month sale of flower and vegetable seeds for the benefit of the project at St. Joseph's, which assists the victim of tragic burns.

Pamela Whitman, teacher and coordinator of the project, stated that the pupils felt this was a worthwhile project that needed help. Top sellers were Kathleen Redder, Robert Hendrickson and Terry Thomas.

AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC BOXING TOURNAMENT

The St. Martin Boxing Club will be host to the first Niagara District AAU Junior Olympic Boxing Tournament, June 21 and 28 at South Avenue Recreation Center. Boys 10 through 15 years of age may obtain entry blanks at the center or by calling Don Simkin at 244-2812.

Simkin said contestants were expected from Buffalo, Syracuse, Ithaca, Geneva, Elmira and Binghamton. They will compete in three age groups and in all weight divisions that their numbers justify.

WINNERS!

Debbie Muzzi, a student at Geneva DeSales High School, was recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of April 30.



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