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## Scorekeeper's Expertise Helps Mercy Volleyball Win

By JOHN DOSER

Mercy High didn't win the Section 5, girls' volleyball championship, but Sister Cathy Pflieger's team might not have made it to the semifinals if not for Scorekeeper Nancy Hammele.

Nancy is strictly a scorekeeper and doesn't play, but plays just as important a role in Mercy's V-ball successes as the players on the court.

A junior, Nancy is in her second year as scorekeeper and also keeps the scorebook and statistics in other Mercy varsity sports including soccer, basketball and softball.

"She has a very good grip of the games and knows the rules as well as the players do," Sister Cathy says.

It was knowledge of one of the volleyball rules which led to her involvement in an official's decision which penalized top-ranked Fairport in the recent sectional games at Nazareth College.

Ultimately Mercy became the first team to defeat Fairport this season, and the experience so shook up the

Lady Red Raiders that Fairport dropped its next tournament encounter to unheralded Corning West and dropped out of the tournament after 21 straight victories without a loss.

Fairport led Mercy, 6-3, in the rubber game of the three game match when Nancy blew the whistle on the Red Raiders (actually she hit a buzzer).

Mercy lost the first game to Fairport, 9-15, and won the second game, 15-11.

Nancy realized the Fairport infraction of an out-of-turn service and called it to the attention of the officials.

The rule states that if the serving team serves out of order, and is still in possession of the ball when the violation occurs, it loses two points and a side out is awarded to the other team.

The officials agreed with Nancy's claim, Fairport's edge was reduced to 4-3, and the Red Raiders never recovered.

Sister Cathy says she didn't know when the buzzer went off, what was happening. She says Nancy observed the infraction on

her own and immediately hit the buzzer.

It's not difficult for a team to serve out-of-order, Sister Cathy explains.

"It could have happened to us just as easily. You have a setter, sometimes even two setters (players who set up their teammates for return volleys) who move into the center of the court for defensive play after the ball is served by their teammate.

"But before the ball is served, all players have to be in their serving order on the court. As soon as the ball is served, then they can move into the setter's area or position.

"If the setter is not in the center-front position during a serve, she can move into that spot from wherever she is on the court after the ball is served," Sister Cathy explains.

Sometimes there are as many as 10 volleys across the net and "you're in there looking up, watching the ball go back and forth, and it's easy to lose perspective in terms of where you are or where you've been."

The shifting of positions plus all the excitement of

tournament play was just too much for the Fairport team, Sister Cathy says.

Mercy defeated Fairport in that match, with Patty O'Connor, Mary Ellen Weber, Linda Carey, and Eileen Smith doing much of the damage.

Ironically, Mercy had lost a few weeks earlier to Fairport in the latter's Christmas Tournament, 15-9, 4-15, 10-15.

Overall Mercy finished 18-4 and 10-0 in private-parochial league play. The other losses were suffered at the hands of Brockport (eventual Section 5 champion) in the sectionals; Victor, in the Fairport tournament; and to Batavia, in the sectional semifinals.

Mercy will lose only three seniors via graduation in June: co-captains Eileen Smith and Patty O'Connor, and Eileen Weber.

Coming back next season from among the remaining starters are junior Louise Kuipers, Linda Kelly and Margie Meath.

Two others whom Sister Cathy expects to apply heat to next year's prospective starters are Michelle Miller and Becky Kaltenbach.

### AQUINAS

Jan. 26-27 — Exams.  
Friday, Jan. 28 — Marking day, faculty day — no classes; Performing Arts theater.

### BISHOP KEARNEY

Wednesday, Jan. 26 — Junior class ski trip.  
Thursday, Jan. 27 — Parents' Club meeting, 8 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 28 — Acceptances mailed to eighth graders.  
Saturday, Jan. 29 — Banner Bout, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Jan. 30 — Kearney Kabaret dress rehearsal.  
Monday, Jan. 31 — Exchange of grades by teachers.  
Wednesday, Feb. 2 — Distribution of report cards.

### CARDINAL MOONEY

Wednesday, Jan. 26 — Regent exams.  
Thursday, Jan. 27 — Grades due.  
Wednesday, Feb. 2 — Men's Guild meeting.

### DESALES

Wednesday, Jan. 26 — Exams.  
Friday, Jan. 28 — Regents rating day — no classes.  
Monday, Jan. 31 — Report cards.  
Wednesday, Feb. 2 — Parent-teacher interviews, 7-9 p.m.

### MCQUAID

Wednesday, Jan. 26 — Ninth grade tests.  
Friday, Jan. 28 — No school.

### NAZARETH

Jan. 25-26 — Exams.  
Wednesday, Jan. 26 — Correcting day.  
Thursday, Jan. 27 — Parents' Club dinner meeting at school.  
Jan. 27-28 — Student exchange program with McQuaid.  
Monday, Jan. 31 — Junior class ring ceremony.

### OUR LADY OF MERCY

Wednesday, Jan. 26 — Interim reports due in office.  
Monday, Jan. 31 — Administrative meeting, 3:15 p.m.

## Music Contest

Instrumental musicians in grades 7-12 are invited to compete for cash awards in a contest sponsored by the Brockport Symphony Orchestra and related agencies. Top prize is \$100.

The winner will be guest soloist with the symphony in a concert April 17. Applications may be obtained by calling Ascher Temkin, music director, at 716 395-2330. Feb. 25 is the deadline.

## Juniors Sweep Oratorical Contest

Over 55 students at DeSales High School competed in an intramural oratorical contest sponsored by the American Legion and juniors took the top three honors. Debra Murphy took first place, Daniel Ninestein was awarded second place, and Maria Koelbel placed third.

For the program, each student prepared an original oration dealing with the Constitution of the United

States. The orators were judged on originality of content, skill in selecting examples, logic, comprehensive knowledge of subject matter, and speaking skills.

Ralph Locke, Seventh District chairman, directed the contest while Sister Anne Emperor, chairman of the Social Studies Department, coordinated the program.



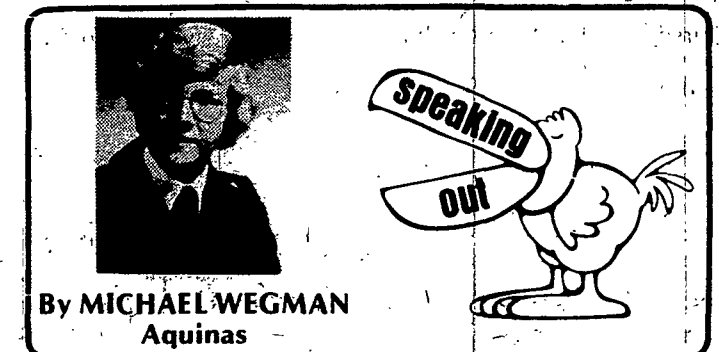
The Aquinas Institute varsity hockey team is coached by Bill Lukaszonas. He is assisted by Dr. William Stephan, a school alumnus. The team will meet Fairport on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 1 p.m., and Eastridge on Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. Both games will be played at Lakeshore ice rink.



Debra Murphy

### Winner

Steve Hellenschmidt, a freshman at McQuaid Jesuit High School, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Jan. 5.



By MICHAEL WEGMAN Aquinas

Christmas time has again passed but the gifts and memories are still with us. Often criticized for its commercialism, Christmas is considered to have lost its true meaning and spirit.

What, however, is the true meaning of Christmas? Can a general definition be given to describe this or any event? And does the exchanging of gifts have the power to destroy the ideals and foundations of your own personal definition?

Media promoted ideas of Christmas such as Santa Claus, twinkling lights and showcase windows are all Madison Avenue creations. These creations, however, are essential in spreading the spirit of Christmas to the people. If children did not have to ask Santa Claus for gifts or if they could not fantasize by believing that Santa saw the good things they did, wouldn't Christmas lose meaning for them? Isn't Santa Claus a more realistic and understandable God to a five year old? And doesn't he serve the same basic purpose?

If we didn't have to expend some extraordinary effort, if we did not have to search for the right size and color present, and if cards and lights were absent, then wouldn't Christmas be like

the other 364 days of the year?

Christmas like anything else requires sacrifices to increase its value. Doesn't a good grade on a test mean more to a person if he studied to achieve it? Well, Christmas is the same way. Decorating and shopping are constructive ways of extending oneself with an effort which possibly would not exist if our "over-commercialized Christmas" did not exist. Decorating and shopping are important ways for many people to prepare for Christmas. I see nothing wrong with buying friends gifts, or experiencing a feeling of happiness when watching an excited child tell Santa what he wants for Christmas. Instead, I see them as essential ways for many who want to convey their feelings for this special time of year. This is commercialism but I fail to see where it is wrong or that it is destroying the ideals of Christmas.

So, next year when somebody asks you if you think Christmas is too commercialized, think before you answer. Do Santa Claus, twinkling lights, and pretty packages take away from Christ's birthday? Or do they in reality enrich and perhaps your Christmas and perhaps the Christmas of others?