

# Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

## An Era Ends at Aquinas

By JOHN DOSER  
(Continued from last week)

Editor's Note — Rev. Albert Gaelens, C.S.B., principal at Aquinas Institute for the past seven years, has been reassigned. He leaves Rochester for a classroom position at St. Thomas High School, Houston, Tex., this fall.

One of the changes Father Gaelens made at Aquinas after becoming principal was to initiate awards banquets for the other sports — a tradition previously reserved for Aquinas football players only!

The move didn't score any points with Little Irish football fans.

"Football was the only athletic team that mattered as far as they were concerned. And if you weren't for football, then you weren't for athletics," Father Gaelens recalls.

The school outgrew the innovation and in the minds of today's Aquinas students and parents all sports are treated with relative equality.

One vestige of the earlier era when football ruled supreme is still around.

There are occasions when Father Gaelens runs into people who discover his association with the Dewey Avenue school and think immediately, and only, of Aquinas football.

Father Gaelens admits, despite his equality efforts,

that football still creates the greatest interest.

"Football has that distinction, no matter what school it is, of being the spectator sport, with the exception of possibly wrestling at Spencerport and swimming at some of the county schools.

"But when it comes to Aquinas, right away, it's what's happened to the team since the 40s, and Harry Wright, and all of that.

"To me, right now, we're in a league where we belong; it's a high school league with high school kids playing and I think that's not making any one sport God, as it were, but rather being a training ground for the kids and an enjoyment for them."

When Father Gaelens was Al Gaelens and an Aquinas student, football was going great guns.

"I went to the big games at Red Wing Stadium and my senior year, 1949-50, was the dedication of the (Aquinas) stadium and all of that.

"But that stadium was over-built and the interest dropped off by 1952; you know they were down to 8-and-10,000 maximum crowds two years after it was built," Father Gaelens explains. (The stadium holds about 20,000 capacity).

Aquinas decided to de-emphasize its football program in the early 1950s and slowly began its return to playing a

local Monroe County schedule — but it took another decade to eliminate the good Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Erie opponents from the schedule.

De-emphasis didn't hurt Aquinas' athletic program because it didn't have the competition of the other Catholic high schools then.

"Now you're dividing the talent four ways; at that time even when McQuaid fielded its first varsity team in 1955 or so, we were still the place to go if you were a (Catholic) athlete.

"After that, McQuaid developed and we divided it two ways; and of course there were enough kids to divide both ways. Then in '61 with Mooney and Kearney opening up, we were dividing four ways."

Aquinas has suffered for the past four years the results of a rumor — if you will, that it was going to close its doors in 1972.

Father Gaelens calls it "The Crisis of 1972."

There's no doubt the crisis affected Aquinas' athletic program this past school year and will again affect it next year.

The pending sale of the stadium plus the "bad press" the school received about an impending closing in November, 1972 — at the same time the school was in the middle of its annual "Come to Aquinas" drive — influenced many parochial school eighth graders to enroll elsewhere.

"All our schools go around in November to talk with eighth graders about coming to Aquinas, or McQuaid, etc., and they make their application in the first week of December.

"Well, that was the worst possible time to see headlines that Aquinas was possibly going to close. That hurt us. Our freshman enrollment of September, 1972, had 316 students; the freshman class beginning 1973 dropped to 175."

To the school's credit there's been virtually no loss in academics — Aquinas had as many New York State Regents Scholarship winners in this year's class of 140 graduates as it did last year with a graduating class of 255.

To the school's frustration, prospective athletes who saw the doors closing and disrupting their athletic careers — didn't enroll to begin with.

That's why there are only two or three seniors on any Aquinas varsity team roster this year; and among the 11 football starters last fall, six were sophomores.

There may be some good times ahead, however. While Aquinas' freshman gridders lost only one game last fall, the JVs, with six soph on the varsity, broke even, creating a positive feeling about this year's Little Irish grid varsity.

Aquinas also fielded a young baseball team, with only a

handful of seniors and gained the Section 5 tournament semifinals — which pleased Father Gaelens to no end.

He saw each Aquinas team play at least once this past year, although he admits the tennis team let him know he didn't make any of their matches — but then their home matches were played at Maplewood Park.

Father Gaelens moderated the soccer team last fall — because another priest couldn't be found.

"But I enjoyed it and I learned something about the game of soccer and the kids were great," Father Gaelens says.

He's all for Aquinas staying and competing in the City-Catholic League and he acknowledges the school's domination (along with McQuaid, Mooney and Kearney) in the football circuit.

"The public schools feel the same thing in football that we feel right now in basketball. When you beat Franklin once in basketball in 26 games, you have to ask yourself if you're in the right league," he says.

It's tough to pick out a single, notable achievement from among so many, but Father Gaelens didn't hesitate to point out that Aquinas' winning the Section 5 track title two years ago was the highlight, in his judgement, of his tenure at Aquinas.

## Science Beckons Women

By JOAN M. SMITH



CLAIRE JENNY

Chemistry, Biology, Genetics — subjects once dominated by the male student — have now been infiltrated by women, among them Our Lady of Mercy 1977 graduates.

Kathy McKay will pursue a major in Chemistry for which she has received an excellent background through her lab position in the population genetics research department at the University of Rochester. She will be taking her studies at that bastion of Ivy League academics, Harvard University.

"I didn't picture myself going to an Ivy League school until I was accepted at Harvard," she stated and added, "and I still can't believe it!"

Technically Kathy will be going to Radcliffe but over the years Harvard and its sister school have closed ranks not only in sharing classes but many school programs such as government have been intertwined

Kathy emphasized that "Radcliffe has been in existence for a long time so they have had a respect for women's education; and with the coming of women's lib it has expanded women's opportunities in education."

She credits her Mercy education with her ability to achieve her college goals. "The atmosphere," she said, "made me confident and happy and gave me the confidence to tackle something like this."

With an eye on a career in chemistry research, Jeanne Hossenlopp will be attending Colgate University where the school's competitiveness and stress on athletics for all students were prime factors in her choice. Jeanne played varsity basketball throughout her four years at Mercy.

According to Jeanne, Colgate's competitiveness in both academics and athletics has increased since it went coeducational in 1970. She pointed out that the once all male schools are now anxious to obtain highly qualified women for their educational programs.

Attending a coeducational institution Jeanne said, "Is a whole new dimension" and noted, "A coed school offers a wealth of new ideas and a whole new way of looking at things."

Le Moyne College in Syracuse will be where Claire Jenny will hang her hat come September and with the expectation of entering a health related career she will be majoring in Biology.

Though Le Moyne has always

been a coeducational facility, Claire talked about the once all male schools and emphasized that the increase of interest in the science field by women provoked these schools swing toward coeducation.

She considered Le Moyne because of its size, "It's smallness," she explained, "is an advantage and that was what I was looking for."



JEANNE HOSSENLOPP



KATHY MCKAY

## A Word Of Thanks

The 1977 Lengths for Lives swim benefit of the American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit, has raised \$60,337. This figure marks a total of almost one-half million dollars raised since the event's beginning in 1972.

Fred Rockow, general chairman stated, "I want to express real thanks to each participant, their sponsors, the school faculties, and the interested citizens from each community in the city and county who gave of themselves to make the sixth annual Lengths for Lives such a great success."

All proceeds from the event are used in the American Cancer Society's programs of cancer control within the community.

## Mercians On Tour

On Saturday, June 25 a group of Mercy students left for five weeks of study and touring in Europe with their counselor, Sister Mary Borromeo who teaches Italian, Latin and French at the school.

They will spend the first three days enjoying the ancient and modern culture of Rome and then fly to Madrid and Toledo for a visit.

St. Jean-de-Luz in the Basque Valley of the Pyrenees will be their next stop where they will study and tour. Then it will be off for a week's study in Paris after which they will visit the chateau country of the Loire, St. Malo, Mount St. Michel and Omaha Beach in Normandy.

The travelers will cross the English Channel by ferry to Southampton and then to London from where they will leave for home.

## Health Careers Award

The Monroe-Wayne County Chapter of the March of Dimes has announced the names of the recipients of the Mayfield Dwyer Health Careers Awards for 1977.

The awards, each for \$300, are given to high school graduates who plan careers in nursing or physical therapy. Recipients include: Mary Elizabeth Marchand, St. Agnes High School; Susan Mykins, Nazareth Academy; Diane Schmidt, Our Lady of Mercy.

Members of the local March of Dimes Chapter who served on the scholarship committee are Mrs. Guy D. Harris, chairperson, Father Joseph Dorsey, and Mrs. Charles Fitter.

## Speech Winner

Mark Foley, a sophomore at Aquinas Institute, won first place in the State finals of the Public Speaking Contest, sponsored by the Knights of Pythias held in New York City on June 16.

Mark spoke on the subject "Can We Control Our Environment Successfully,"

## Winners

Karl Stuhlmiller, a senior at McQuaid, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of June 8.

St. Agnes freshman Cheryl Schultz received the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of June 16.

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