

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

Sports

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Shades of Boys Town — Erie Prep?

By JOHN DOSER

There are few on the Aquinas Institute campus who will disagree that the school's new principal, Rev. John Menner, CSB, has triggered a rebirth of "that old Aquinas spirit."

"I think I've got the kids riled up with a lot of spirit here," Father Menner admits in an obvious understatement of the situation.

He says he's been a sportsman all his life and he is careful, he says, that he doesn't go overboard.

Aquinas made headlines locally on two occasions recently; the Little Irish won the City-Catholic League Division I football championship for the first time since 1970 and hired a new basketball coach — Jim Baron, a member of last year's National Invitation Tournament champion St. Bonaventure University basketball team.

This is not Father Menner's first assignment at Aquinas; he was a math teacher at the Dewey Avenue school from 1965 to 1970 before he was transferred to Andrean High School, Gary, Indiana.

"When I was here before, football was always Number One; when I came back and found out what we had done lately, and that McQuaid had won for the last five years, I decided to go out after it.

"The kids here, and even some of the teachers, told me I wouldn't get much of an excursion to our first game at Auburn. I went over to Nazareth and between the two of us we had 10 buses going to Auburn and they stood in the pouring rain — and right from then on I knew there's a lot of spirit here that just had to be brought back," Father Menner explains.

Aquinas won the football title with a last-ditch, come-from-behind touchdown in the final 50 seconds against Cardinal Mooney in a battle



FATHER MENNER of undefeated league co-leaders.

When end Tom Monno caught a three yard TD pass from quarterback Mark Magliocco when Mooney expected a run up the middle, the championship hardware was already on its way to Dewey Avenue.

Father Menner is no slouch as a coach himself; he produced winning Aquinas frosh football teams along with Coach Jerry McGuire, and one of his varsity baseball teams won the City-Catholic League baseball championship one season.

He also coached frosh football at Andrean High School in Indiana.

Aquinas is on its way up, or back, as the case may be, in the local high school sports world.

"If you're Number One in sports, you're going to get the students. That's why I went out and hired Jim Baron; right now Aquinas basketball is in the second division, but we won't be there the following year.

"We're moving up and we're going first class in basketball too," Father Menner says.

If he didn't know who Jim Baron was, it didn't take Father Menner long to learn of his credentials.

"I got telephone calls from Digger Phelps at Notre Dame, Jim Satalin at Bonnie's, and Dave Gavitt

at Providence. People here in the city, including the president and other members of our Board of Trustees, said he was an excellent man for the job."

Although Baron has never coached before, he has conducted clinics for the past three summers. He's being hired strictly as a basketball coach and will not teach at Aquinas. He'll be working in Rochester and he'll have all the time he needs for coaching, Father Menner says.

The students Father Menner greets in the halls today are of a different breed than the students of the 1960s, he says.

"These kids are better all over. The kids of the 60s and early 70s were fighting you tooth and nail in everything. And now they are not; they accept things and they realize there's more to the world than protesting everything. They've settled down and they're better in the classroom and elsewhere," Father Menner explains.

Discipline at Aquinas is "great," and he's just as hard as ever.

"I was a hard-nosed disciplinarian as a teacher and I'm the same way as a principal," he says.

Can the enthusiasm at the principal's level be harmful to a school?

"No. I think that anybody with an ounce of brains in their head will realize that

I'm out there trying to build the spirit up with the kids; I'm not out trying to downplay anybody else, I just want the boys to win.

"I'd be crazy if I just sat back and watched us lose constantly; you've got to get out and do something. That's why I'm down on the field talking to the kids and helping them out.

"And I'll do the same thing in basketball, baseball and hockey. That's the kind of guy I am; I'm with the kids wherever they are. If they participate in band, drama or sports, I'll be there."

When Aquinas meets Rush-Henrietta Sperry in football, 1:30 p.m., Saturday at Holleder Stadium (Father Menner moved the game site from the U of R's Fauver Stadium), he's personally inviting all youth gridders (Pop Warner, Vince Lombardi, Empire State etc.) to wear their game jersey and get in free when they accompany mom or dad who pays.

Father Menner not only sees a rebirth in Aquinas spirit; he'll do all he can to foster its spreading to other schools. He's pushing for high school football doubleheaders at Holleder next season and if the state would go along, he'd love to challenge unbeaten Fairport to a Turkey Day scrap on Thanksgiving Day.

Father Menner says Aquinas is on the way back; he's determined there's no stopping until the Irish are No. 1 — in everything.



TOM MONNA



MIKE MANCARELLA



Fine Show!

Cardinal Mooney defenseman Ron Howarth heads the ball away from Penfield forward in Section 5 Class A soccer finals at Holleder Stadium last Saturday night. The Cardinals lost 1-0 but enjoyed a very successful season nonetheless, finishing with a 17-2 record.

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

CITY-CATHOLIC FOOTBALL This Week Saturday, Nov. 12 — McQuaid at East, 11:30 a.m.; Marshall at Kearney, 1 p.m.; Jefferson at Franklin, 1 p.m.; Madison at Nottingham (Syracuse), 1:30 p.m.; Rush-Henrietta Sperry vs. Aquinas, 1:30 p.m., at Holleder Stadium. Previous Results East 19, Monroe 6; Kearney 19, Franklin 7; McQuaid 30, Madison 0; Edison 19, Charlotte 0; Jefferson 9, Marshall 6; Aquinas 20, Mooney 14. Standings (11/3) Division I: Aquinas 5-0, Mooney 4-1, Kearney 3-2, McQuaid 2-3, Madison 1-4, Franklin 0-5. Division II: East 5-0, Monroe 4-1, Jefferson 2-2, Edison 2-2, Charlotte 0-4, Marshall 0-4.

CITY-CATHOLIC BOYS' SOCCER Section 5 Tournament Previous Results Semifinals Class A Penfield 2, Webster Thomas 0; Mooney 1, McQuaid 0 (OT). Class B Pittsford Mendon 2, Wayne 0; Webster Schroeder 1, Pittsford Sutherland 0. Class C North Rose-Wolcott 4, Bloomfield 0; Red Creek 3, Keshequa 0. Class D Belfast 2, Jasper 1; Alfred-Almond 3, Elmont 2. Quarterfinals Class A Penfield 2, Greece Arcadia 1; Webster Thomas 1, Rush-Henrietta Sperry 0; Cardinal Mooney 1, Gates-Chili 0; McQuaid 2, Spencerport 1. Class B Pittsford Mendon 4, Brockport 1; Wayne 1, Palmyra-Macedon 0; Pittsford Sutherland 2, Marshall 0; Webster Schroeder 5, Honeoye Falls-Lima 0. Class C Bloomfield 4, Kendall 1; North Rose-Wolcott 6, Naples 0; Keshequa 3, Wheatland-Chili 2; Red Creek 6, Holley 0. Class D Belfast 2, Troupsburg 0; Jasper 6, Andover 0; Alfred-Almond 3, Arkport 2; Belmont 4, Avoca 1.

CITY-CATHOLIC GIRLS' SOCCER Section 5 Tournament Previous Results Semifinals Class A Greece Arcadia 8, Brockport 0; Gates-Chili 11, Spencerport 2. Class D Troupsburg 6, Belfast 4; Arkport 2, Jasper 0. Quarterfinals Class A Greece Arcadia 3, Hornell 2; Spencerport 2, Fairport 0; Gates-Chili 6, Bishop Kearney 2; Brockport 4, Rush-Henrietta Roth 2. Class B Sodus 8, Dansville 7; Palmyra-Macedon 5, Victor 2; Pittsford Sutherland 10, Livonia 1; Wayland 8, Marcus Whitman 0. Class C Keshequa 6, Red Creek 2; Geneseo 4, Marion 0; Addison 5, Williamson 2; Bloomfield 8, Wheatland-Chili 2. Class D Jasper 4, DeSales 4 (Jasper wins); Balmont 10, Belfast 6; Troupsburg 4, Friendship 2; Arkport 4, Alfred-Almond 0.

CITY-CATHOLIC GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY Section 5 Tournament Previous Results Second Round Brighton 1, Honeoye 0; Webster Schroeder 3, Madison 2; Webster Thomas 0, Cardinal Mooney 0 (Thomas wins on penetration time); Pavilion 1, Pittsford Sutherland 0. First Round Brighton 1, East Rochester 0; Webster Thomas 4, Harley-Allendale/Columbia 0; Cardinal Mooney 1, Penn Yan 1 (Mooney wins); Pavilion 1, Alexander 0; Pittsford Sutherland 1, Mynderse Academy 0; Webster Schroeder 2, Pembroke 0; Madison 1, Red Jacket 0.

CITY-CATHOLIC CROSS COUNTRY Section 5 Tournament Girls Class A Hornell 104, Fairport 107, Brockport 122, Gates-Chili 129. Girls Class B Penn Yan 31, South Seneca 105, North Rose-Wolcott 157, Waterloo 167. Boys Class AA Greece Arcadia 101, R-H Sperry 102, McQuaid 133, Webster Thomas 142, Brighton 158, Gates-Chili 170, Bishop Kearney 193, Fairport 203, Irondequoit 204, Penfield 227, Eastridge 237, Greece Athena 335, Cardinal Mooney 357, Edison 372, Aquinas 389, Hilton 409, Churchville-Chili 462, Spencerport 471. Boys Class A Brockport 47, R-H Roth 132, Batavia 146, Waterloo 181, Webster Schroeder 222, Penn Yan 246, Pittsford Mendon 249, Victor 255, Corning East 257, Corning West 257, Pittsford Sutherland 288, Mynderse 337, Attica 346, Newark 351, Palmyra-Macedon 414, Dansville 419, Geneva 42, Greece Olympia 443, Hornell 469, Wellsville 508, Canandaigua 556, Haverling 608, Wayne 634, Honeoye Falls-Lima 664. Boys Class B Alexander 98, Charlotte 116, Wheatland-Chili 199, Wayland 234, East Rochester 270, South Seneca 285, Addison 329, Keshequa 338, Sodus 379, North Rose-Wolcott 412, Pembroke 516, Williamson 528, Lyons 710, Marcus Whitman 789. Boys Class C York 69, Barker 277, Byron-Bergen 329, Pavilion 429, Alfred-Almond 445, Canisteo 466, Marion 493, Cuba 521, Bloomfield 544, Honeoye 725, Boliva 732, Kendall 733, Bradford 808.