

Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap

Seymour and Company on Top

By JOHN DOSER

The first-Section 5, Class AAA championship football trophy now sits in a McQuaid Jesuit High School trophy case.

Ten years ago — perhaps as recently as five years ago — it was unthinkable that a Catholic high school could win a public school sectional championship much less even compete in a sectional tournament.

Tom Seymour, McQuaid coach, who next season starts his 18th as the Knights' head coach only agrees with the statement, offering no further comment.

"We're very ecstatic, really, with what has happened. This Triple A, Section 5 is about as far as you can go as far as winning titles is concerned," Seymour says.

He has no particular misgivings about not meeting or playing East Rochester for a playoff title in as much as the Bombers finished in a tie for the state's large schools' top honor and won the Section 5, Class AA title with its win over Corning West.

"I don't get into that kind of thing, really. The hypothetical doesn't interest me too much.

"Talking about things that can't happen — you don't

worry about them," Seymour says.

He more or less shares the same philosophy about winning games and championships as do his Jesuit employers and colleagues.

"We're primarily interested in the educational value of what football is about; these other things are — I think almost beyond the scope of education — state titles and the rest of it."

Do the Jesuits, historically and traditionally considered the "teaching order" of priests, get fired up over McQuaid's gridiron successes?

"Within reason of course. They are very interested. But they are also limited, I would say, in how they feel about titles because it could go the other way too.

"Whether we win or lose, I guess they're still interested in the value of the sport itself."

Seymour says his definition of "value" is the same as the Jesuits — "Developing the boy's potential to his fullest, whether it's athletics or studies," Seymour explains.

"You win some and you lose some; but if you lose, there's still a lot of value in playing the game."

Seymour has been coaching

high school football players for 27 years, but he's not ready to concede that he's the dean of area coaches. He figures that distinction belongs possibly to East Rochester coach Don Quinn, East High coach John Spencer or Penfield soccer coach George Steitz.

Seymour's 1978 troops finished 8-1 including the sectional title victory over arch-rival Aquinas — which avenged an earlier season loss to the Irish — and while some of his kids figure the win over Aquinas wiped out the earlier loss, Seymour is more realistic.

"You can't call it an undefeated season, obviously, unless you had one."

Seymour will see 23 seniors graduate in June with another 23 underclassmen, plus JVs, coming back next year.

He started only one junior this season — tailback Chris Heier — who returns next Fall with the satisfaction of being selected the first Class AAA sectional tournament's most valuable player.

There was a week after the Knights ended their regular season, but did not yet win the sectional berth, that they practiced only three days.

When they found out they were in the sectional final, they still went through rather abbreviated practice sessions.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

It was a tough season but the combined efforts of the McQuaid football team resulted in the Section 5 championship — and quarterback Paul Zimmer, coach Tom Seymour, fullback Chuck Graham, tailback Chris Heier, tackle Welling Lifka, and end Dave Roberson were only too happy to show off the teams' prize trophy.

"We only practiced an hour and 15 minutes on any one day," Seymour recalls.

The psyching took care of itself for the Aquinas rematch.

"I really think we were getting better, all along — as a matter of fact our offense in our last three games of the season was better than it had been all year.

"We played Madison, Kearney and Aquinas in those last three games and our offense moved really well."

The whole season, however, was wrapped up on the outcome of the final six seconds of the sectional title scrap against Aquinas.

The Irish scored with six seconds left to play and if Aquinas could have produced

a two point bonus on either run or a pass, the game would have ended in a 19-19 tie, forcing a special tie-breaking overtime.

Aquinas quarterback Mark Magliocco put the ball in the air, but that's the last time the Irish had control because the Knights' Vince Baiamonte intercepted to give Seymour the biggest win in his McQuaid coaching career.

Sports Who's Who

Editor's note — Readers are invited to mail brief news items for this column to Who's Who, 51 Boxwood Lane, Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

Scoring at an average clip of two goals per game earned Megan MacKenzie of Bishop Kearney the honor of Private-Parochial Girls' Soccer League Player of the Year. She is also a member of the Private-Parochial All-Star team.

MacKenzie, who led Kearney to a 9-2-1 record and the P-P League title, played three years of soccer for the Kings under coach Linda Donofrio.

She also plays varsity softball and basketball and is the only girl on the Rochester Lions Club hockey team.

A senior, MacKenzie is considered one of the best ball handlers in the Rochester area.

Three Kearney teammates also made the Private-Parochial All-Star team: juniors Sue Hoffman and Karen Scherberger and freshman Mary Eblacher.

Mercy High placed four on the club also: seniors Tish Ciacio and Michelle Miller and juniors Erin Sheehy and Kathy LaForce.

Who's Who inadvertently omitted the name of fullback Dan DeLaus of Bishop Kearney from the City-Catholic League Boys Soccer Second All-Star team published Nov. 22.

McQuaid finished in a tie for 25th in the final New York State Sports Writers Association Large Schools' Poll.

East Rochester, which held top spot all season, had to settle for a tie for the mythical title with Farmingdale, L.I., which went undefeated in nine games and did not allow the opposition to score a single point.

East Rochester finished 10-0, Farmingdale, 9-0.

Aquinas received honorable mention in the large schools' poll.

McQuaid's Dave Roberson, a tight end for coach Tom Seymour's Knights, is the only player to repeat on this year's All Greater Rochester football team.

Aquinas' Bob Paternico, who made the team last year, had a shot at repeating until he suffered a knee injury at midseason and spent the rest of the time on the sidelines.

Three others made the AGR team from diocesan schools: guard Welling Lifka of McQuaid; defensive lineman Steve

DiLaura of Aquinas; and linebacker John Cocilova of Aquinas.

City-Catholic League basketball opened play last weekend with a sprinkling of games.

Coach Ed Nietopski returns for his 15th year at Cardinal Mooney; Tim Jordan is back for his eighth year at McQuaid; Doug Farrell starts his fourth year at Bishop Kearney; and Tony Ferrara debuts at Aquinas.

Mooney finished 10-12 last year before bowing out in the Section 5, Class AAA semifinals. Three veterans return: 6-0 senior Bob Kennahan, 6-0 junior — Larry Lanpher and 6-4 junior Mike Goodberlet.

Dave Roberson, Mike Walker and Mike Anderson, all 6-4, return for McQuaid; Roberson and Walker are seniors, Anderson is a junior.

Other letter winners back for the Knights are Jeff Paris, Tom Schott and Mike Andrews. The Knights finished 4-15 last year.

Only 5-10 senior Scott Sperazza returns from last year's Bishop Kearney Kings who finished 7-13.

Steve DiLaura, Gary Huether and Dick Thomas are back again for Aquinas to help new coach Tony Ferrara get off to a good start.

Nazareth Student Named Rep

Junior Patricia Mahns was Nazareth Academy's representative to the Scholars Recognition Day at the University of Rochester, Dec. 3. Pat is an honors student presently taking Advanced English, Regents Chemistry, Independent Math II, Phase 4 American Studies and Religious Studies. She has completed a Latin major

and is now pursuing a Math and Science major.

Patricia comes from a long line of Nazareth graduates; her mother, sister Sheila and three aunts are alumnae. Pat, who graduated from Sacred Heart School and is now an active member of Mother of Sorrows parish, has received above average ratings in the National Guild Piano auditions over the past four years. For five years she has served in the Midnighters' Junior Color Guard. Her main interest, however, is horses. In her 4-H Club, she has learned how to

care for and to train them. She has been a member of the school's riding club for two years and recently was awarded her first and second Star Pins. Her future plans include the study of animal husbandry and veterinary assistant work.

Scholar Recognition Day was an event sponsored by the New York Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa to recognize outstanding scholars in Monroe County High Schools. Guest speaker was Anthony Hecht who presented readings from his poetry.



PAT MAHNS

From Rome To Horses

Open House over at St. Agnes was an event filled with a myriad of activities and displays not least of which was an electronic questionnaire which furnished instant responses to questions on language and culture items. A toga party in European History provided food, costumes and a skit presentation about Roman life. Home Economics had a table setting demonstration and the school's riding club displayed equestrian equipment and their horsemanship awards.



AQ Runners

The Aquinas cross country team ended the season with a 9-3 record. According to Tom Gigliotti, coach, Lou Gatti was the team's most consistent performer. Junior Paul Callens was picked for the All City-Catholic team. Pictured above in first row from left are: Phil Gallipeau, Dave O'Sullivan, Jim Darby, Tim Collins. Back row; Callens, Gatti, Steve Macaluso, Tom Chryver.