

Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

Fisher Cards Off to Good Start

By JOHN DOSER

St. John Fisher College is off to as good a start in men's basketball as a team can do — four wins in four starts — and yet there isn't a Rochester Catholic high school graduate on the team roster.

There are players who have graduated from Catholic high schools outside of Rochester, however, and a sprinkling of former public high school stars on the current roster.

The former public school stars — all familiar to local sports fans — include Mike Conley (Pittsford Sutherland), Reggie McLeod (Monroe), Randy Morien (Batavia), Jon Piehler (Pittsford Sutherland) and Chuck Fowler (Mt. Morris).

Do Rochester area Catholic school grads overlook Fisher when it comes time to zero in on a basketball school?

Fisher head coach Bob Wanzer, the ex-Rochester Royals' sharpshooter, thinks perhaps most of the Catholic school athletes — particularly those with basketball futures — have money and prefer to go away to school.

"Maybe we're just too close to home; on our roster we have six kids from Catholic high schools, but they're all from different cities," Wanzer says.

For example, Jim Dudas is from St. Mary's, Lancaster, N.Y.; Tim Henry is from Maria Regina, Uniondale, L.I.; Greg Rafael, Monsignor Clancy, New York City; Bob Rezny, Cardinal Hayes, the Bronx; Arnie Reese, St.

Peter's, Staten Island; and Mark Sierotnik, Westside Catholic, Syracuse.

"But who knows," Wanzer adds, "the way things are going we may eventually wind up with some local Catholic kids."

The Fisher freshman team appears to echo the varsity situation; Wanzer says there are several players from suburban Rochester public schools, but none that he can recall from Rochester Catholic schools.

Wanzer, who's now in his 16th year as head coach at Fisher, says this season (4-0 at press time) is not his best start, although it could turn into it.

"We were 19-2 one year and another year we won 18 straight, so while this is a good start, the bubble may burst some where along the line.

"We play five games on the road now, then we come back and play a couple at home and then we play eight more on the road."

Wanzer describes "road games" as any game played away from the friendly confines of the Cardinals' own gym.

"Three of them are in the Lincoln First Tournament, but still they're away from home."

The fact that Fisher doesn't have any local Catholic grads on the roster doesn't mean Wanzer isn't watching, scouting, or trying to recruit them.

"They usually play Tuesday

afternoon or Friday night, so we get a chance to see them when we're free. And we get a chance to see them in the sectionals too. We catch games as often as possible and we make our overtures."

The local high school season is only a week old, but Wanzer says he's already looking at a youngster or two at East High — but then so is everybody else.

"But again, who knows, somewhere along the line we may find someone who will turn out to be a real sleeper — which is almost impossible these days, every kid is so scouted."

Fisher plays Canisius tomorrow at Canisius and Houghton at Houghton on Saturday. Then the Cards take their annual winter break of four weeks until January.



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at St. Agnes during an assembly. The person circled above should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, by noon, Tuesday, Dec. 19, to receive \$5.

St. Agnes Scholar

Senior Mary Ellen Hickey, accompanied by Sister Patricia Frisk, represented St. Agnes High School at the Scholar Recognition Day sponsored by the New York Chapter of Phi Beta, Kappa. The aim of the event was to honor outstanding high school students.

Mary Ellen has had an active four years at St. Agnes, serving as Student Senate rep and secretary, photo editor of the yearbook and member of the layout staff as well as a member of the ski club. Besides her alpine skiing interest she is also a



MARY ELLEN HICKEY swimming and bicycling enthusiast. Mary Ellen has indicated Holy Cross College as a possible college choice with studies in the Math field.

Winners

Renee Jimenez, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Nov. 22. Aaron Dunwoody, a freshman at McQuaid, was the recipient of the Winner's Circle \$5 for the week of Dec. 6.

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.**

Aquinas, Bishop Kearney and McQuaid will each play one hockey game this season at the Rochester War Memorial as a preliminary to an American Hockey League game of the Rochester Americans.

Amerk and high school hockey fans can see both games for the usual Amerk admission price. The high school games will start at 5 p.m.

Altogether there are six high school hockey doubleheaders scheduled. The game dates involving Catholic school teams: Friday, Dec. 22, Rush-Henrietta Roth vs. Bishop Kearney (Amerks vs. New Brunswick, 7:30 p.m.); Friday, Jan. 26, Aquinas vs. Irondequoit (Amerks vs. Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.); and Friday, Feb. 9, Fairport vs. McQuaid (Amerks vs. Hershey, 7:30 p.m.).

Special discount plans are available to elementary, high school and college students. For more information, call the Amerks at 454-5335.

McQuaid, coached by Bob Pederson, last year's Monroe County Hockey League coach of the year, opened the season with a 10-0 win over R-H Roth.

Tim Keegan and Jim Post scored three goals each and teammate Mark Howard added two more.

Kearney whipped R-H Sperry in its opener, 7-1, with Rick Plukus, Dave Fees and Mike Quinlan scoring two goals each for the Kings.

Aquinas fell to Brighton, 3-0, in its opener; the new Baron coach is a familiar face to Little Irish fans — he's former Aquinas coach Bill Lukaszonas.

New head coach at Fairport High is Tony Merola, the former head football coach at Cardinal Mooney.

Erin Sheehy of Our Lady of Mercy High School is equally at home

on the soccer field or in the swimming pool. She was a recent selection on the City-Catholic All-Star soccer team and finished eighth in the breaststroke at the recent girls state swimming championships at Monroe Community College.

Mike Lennox (132 pounds), John Pegoni (138), Chris Roncone (167) and John Salva (177) all recorded pins to lead Cardinal Mooney to a 39-26 opening City-Catholic League wrestling win over Charlotte.

Pegoni's opponent didn't work up a sweat — he lost via a pin in just 21 seconds.

Aquinas' JV soccer team, coached by Tom Gosdeck, finished the season with 11 wins in 16 starts.

McQuaid closed out its cross country season with the championship of the annual Jesuit Cross Country Invitational at Van Cortland Park in New York City.

Coach Bob Bradley's Knights totaled 22 points

against eight Jesuit opponents from five states.

Individually, Andrew Huggins finished best with a second place in 13:27; Peter Glavin was third; Chris Koller, fourth; Rob Starkweather, sixth; Chris Rimlinger, seventh; and Steve Burnett, 14th.

The Knights also won the JV and frosh championship divisions as well.

GRADUATE NOTES — Virgil Cotton (Mooney) made the All-Ivy League football firsts team at defensive back ... Larry Teta (Aquinas) made the ECAC Upstate New York Region all-star football team at center ... Dick Buerkle (Aquinas) won the Greater Rochester Track Club 5 mile Thanksgiving Day race at Mendon Ponds Park.

Nick Urzetta (Kearney) scored 22 points to lead St. Bonaventure to a 126-56 win over Steubenville in the Bonnie's basketball opener ... Paul Isanello (Kearney) is on the RIT wrestling roster; he's a junior heavyweight.

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