

Sports

Sports Shorts

Successful seasons

The men's and women's soccer teams at Nazareth College recently completed successful regular seasons with no post-season playoffs to hang their hopes on.

The men's team, which suffered through a dismal season in 1986, rebounded strongly this season, finishing 11-6-1 and earned consideration for an ECAC playoff berth.

Often using a starting lineup consisting of five freshmen, veteran coach Rob Searl was encouraged by his team's performance as he begins to build a solid team for the future.

"We knew what to expect from our veteran players," said Searl, who improved his collegiate coaching record to 72-45-10. "But it was the play of our freshmen which really came through as a pleasant surprise."

Freshmen halfbacks Griff Hannel (Lake View) and Alan Pascuzzi (Webster) each started all 18 games for the Golden Flyers, while classmates Dave Kniereimen (Warwick) and Chris Egger (Oneida) both figured prominently in the team's success.

And when veteran goalies Andy DuMont (Ithaca) and Rich Tamblin (Pittsford) each went down with season-ending injuries, freshmen Bill Thomson (Williamson) stepped in to record a 7-4-1 record, including four shutouts in 12 games.

Senior Mike Beckman (Pittsford), who played everything from sweeper to midfield to striker, closed out a spectacular college career as the team's leading scorer, with eight goals and four assists for 20 points. Five of his goals turned out to be game winners. A New York State all-star last season, Beckman finished his career third on the school's all-time scoring list — behind Graeme Tosh and Jon Zatyko — with 25 goals and 12 assists for 62 points.

Deckman received scoring help from junior John Viglucci (Penfield), whose steady all-around play resulted in five goals and two assists. Arguably his most important goal came against Buffalo State on Sept. 19 when he scored in overtime to give the Golden Flyers a 2-1 win over the Bengals.

Sophomore Brian Ruscio (Rochester), Kniereimen, junior Marty Gavel (Depew), sophomore Gary Cornelius (Antigua, WI), senior Lee Caster (Union Springs) and Egger all contributed offensively for the Golden Flyers.

For the Nazareth women's team, the highlight of the season came on Oct. 19 when Lynne Stever (Webster) scored five goals and added one assist in an 8-0 victory over Union College. Not only were the five goals a single-game Nazareth record, but it also lifted Stever to a national scoring mark. She added three more goals before the season ended to close out her career with 98 goals and 30 assists, for a total of 226 points.

The 98 goals is five more than North Carolina's Janey Rayfield amassed for the Tar Heels between 1979 and 1982.

Led by Stever, the Golden Flyers finished 10-6-3 for their fifth consecutive winning season in women's soccer as head coach Jacklin Randall-Ward's career record improved to 56-27-7.

Nazareth had an outside chance to qualify for a post-season tournament, but late-season injuries to sweeper Sue Singer (Fairport) and goalie Micky Mann (Nunda) ended any hopes for an extended campaign.

Continued on Page 19

Woodard, Martzloff heading east next year

By Richard A. Kiley

Two of the most sought-after high school basketball players in the country have signed their letters of intent to where they will play college basketball.

McQuaid's Greg Woodard and Scott Martzloff wasted no time in letting Villanova and Holy Cross know what their intentions were on Wednesday, Nov. 14 — the first day of the one-week early signing period.

Woodard, a 6'6" forward who averaged 17.7 points per game last season, will be playing under full scholarship for one of the most well respected coaches in the college game: Villanova's Rollie Massimino.

The colorful Massimino, who was in Rochester last February for the Aquinas sports banquet dinner, was actually the last college coach to express an interest in Woodard. Two other Big East schools, Providence and Syracuse, were not as low key in their recruiting.

"Providence (where former McQuaid coach Jeff Van Gundy is now an assistant) contacted me three or four years ago, and Syracuse was also interested in me for a pretty long time," Woodard said.

The senior forward, who said that Villanova began to give him more attention near the end of last year's Section 5 championship season at McQuaid, appreciated the more laid-back approach of the Pennsylvania school.

"I'm not sure, but I think they came to a couple of games late in the season," said

Woodard, who added that Villanova's interest in him became more apparent during the Empire State Games last summer. "I liked the way (Villanova) started recruiting me later. When you're 14 and 15 years old, the last thing you want to have to think about is where you want to go to college."

Woodard took a quick liking to Massimino, his staff and the student body when he visited the Villanova campus recently.

"I really liked the coaching staff and the people on campus when I was there," Woodard said. "I fit in there with respect to basketball."

The campus, which is nestled in suburban Philadelphia about 25 miles from the City of Brotherly Love, also impressed the McQuaid standout. "The suburban setting is beautiful, and there's lots of things to do," Woodard said. "(Villanova) has a really beautiful surrounding. It's (located in) one of the nicest parts of Pennsylvania."

Martzloff said he "felt more comfortable" at Holy Cross than he did at Cornell, the other school that was looking at the domineering center. The 6'11" Marzloff, who averaged 11.1 points per game last season, said the campus reminded him a lot of McQuaid.

"I liked (Holy Cross) because it was small," Marzloff said of the Worcester, Massachusetts, campus. Holy Cross competes in the MAC Conference with the likes of Iona and Fordham among others.

Martzloff said he was also impressed that Crusader coach George Blaney had been coaching there for 15 years.

The prospective pre-med student also favored Holy Cross — which has offered him a full scholarship — over Cornell because the Ivy League school only offers financial assistance based on need.

McQuaid basketball coach Joe Marchese thinks both his players couldn't have made wiser decisions. The Knights' coach visited Villanova with Woodard recently and said the university "was the best place for him."

"I'm really happy to see Greg go to Villanova," said Marchese, who is also assistant principal at McQuaid. In addition to deciding on a school with such a great academic tradition like Villanova, Woodard also "picked a school with one of the most pre-eminent coaches in the country," Marchese said.

"(Rollie Massimino) is obviously solidified in the program; Greg will fit in quite nicely there," Marchese said.

As for Marzloff, Marchese said his big center should prove an asset to Holy Cross but won't be looked at as a savior.

"He won't be relied on to turn the program around," Marchese said.

Holy Cross' offer of a full scholarship was also a factor, Marchese said. "I think the factor there was that Ivy League schools don't offer scholarships," Marchese said. "It's hard to pass (a full scholarship) up."

Monarchs take sixth in states; Federation Meet next

By Richard A. Kiley

Section 5 champion Mercy finished sixth with a team score of 142 during the state cross-country championships at Ultra Technologies Saturday, Nov. 7.

The win earned the Monarchs a trip to the state championships at New York Tech.

Whelehan and Jeannine Muoio finished 10th and seventh respectively for Mercy, which in just its third varsity season won seven meet championships.

Jeannine Muoio finished in 20:53, followed by Whelehan (21:03), Romy Muoio (21:27), Jackie Muoio (21:36) and LaMagna (21:33).

Jones wasn't really surprised by his girls' taking the team crown, but he was amazed at how Fairport made the race so close.

"I thought my team ran really well, and (Fairport) was right there," Jones said. "I thought it might have been a tie."

Jones' top five runners were separated by less than a half minute. Walters crossed the finish line at 18:50 to lead all runners.

MCQUAID'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM (129) finished fifth in Class AA team honors behind Pittsford (76), Webster (81), Fairport (92) and Penfield (96) in the boys' race.

Chris Cusack, who took his second-consecutive state Jesuit High School cross-country championship Saturday, Nov. 14, finished in sixth place (16:42) for Bob Bradley's Knights in the sectionals.

IN THE CITY-CATHOLIC LEAGUE individual cross country championships at Cobbs Hill on Tuesday, Nov. 3, Mercy's runners swept the first five places in the girls' race. Jeannine Muoio finished first in 20:11, Mack second in 20:13, Jackie Muoio third in 20:16, Whelehan fourth in 20:23 and Romy Muoio fifth in 20:29. LaMagna finished in seventh in 20:52 behind sixth-place runner Claudia Thummel of Bishop Kearney, who finished the race in 20:30.

Jones thought the race was merely a tune-up for the sectionals later in the week. "The

times were slow; I trained right through it," he said.

Bishop Kearney's John Sullivan won the boys' race, covering the three-mile course in 16:47. Teammate Damien O'Connor finished second in 17:01, and John Flannery of McQuaid's varsity B team was third in 17:06.

McQuaid's B team also took the next two positions as Jason Fahy finished fourth (17:12) and Dave Dugan finished fifth (17:17).

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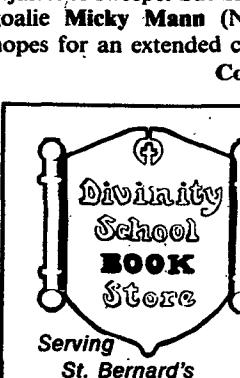
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