

**Sports**

# Rollercoaster ride continues for boys' hoop teams

By Richard A. Kiley

It was a rollercoaster ride for most diocesan boys' basketball teams last week as the high school hoop season reached its midway point.

The Knights of McQuaid improved to 10-1 for the season (8-0 league), with far different wins over Jefferson and Wilson.

Against Jefferson on Friday night, Jan. 15, Joe Marchese's Knights lacked a couple of key players, but were able to win, 63-42, in the City-Catholic League game played at Jefferson.

Even without center Scott Martzloff (flu) and forward Drew Henderson (ankle sprain), the game was never in doubt, as the Knights led 35-20 at intermission.

Senior Doug Spiegel took advantage of the extra playing time by grabbing 10 rebounds and scoring five points for McQuaid, which is ranked No. 15 in the most recent state hoop poll.

Greg Woodard paced Marchese's Knights with 27 points. The Villanova-bound senior also grabbed 15 rebounds and dished out seven assists for the night.

In a much closer game, the Knights squandered a 14-point third-quarter lead, then rallied in the game's waning moments to defeat visiting Wilson, 59-57, on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

The Wildcats used a swarming press to turn a 47-37 deficit in the fourth quarter into a

57-55 lead with just over a minute remaining, before a stunned crowd at McQuaid.

But Martzloff tipped in a key basket with 1:08 remaining, and Woodard iced the game with two clutch free throws down the stretch to secure the league win.

The game ended on a missed jump shot at the buzzer by Wilson's Mike Sheppard.

Once again, Woodard led the Knights with 17 points. Teammate Drew Henderson added nine points and 18 rebounds for the hosts.

**CARDINAL MOONEY IMPROVED** to .500 for the season with wins over Charlotte and Aquinas last week.

Against the visiting Lakesiders, Keith Gaffney scored 19 points, and Mike Leonardo poured in 16 more as the Cards (6-6, 4-4 league) defeated Charlotte, 77-56, in a league game played Friday, Jan. 15.

Mooney's balanced scoring was rounded out by Peter Mojsej and Mike McGwin, who each scored 15 points for Ed Nietopski's club.

The Cards used a scoring surge in the third quarter to propel them to a 57-45 win over Mike Dianetti's Little Irish team on Friday, Jan. 15.

Mooney outscored AQ, 18-6, in the pivotal third quarter. The Cards were once again paced by balanced scorings, as Gaffney scored 16 points, Leonardo added 15 and Mojsej con-

tributed 10 points for the game.

Dwayne Postell and Matt Hill led Aquinas with 11 points apiece.

In AQ's other game last week, host East used the scoring of Terence Mitchell (23 points) and sophomore Reginald Smith (15 points) to overcome the loss of an ill Tony Scott and win, 63-42.

The Orientals, who led by just one point after one quarter, outscored Aquinas 18-6 in the second quarter to lead 29-16 at intermission. As was the case two weeks ago against Edison, Dianetti's club was out-rebounded badly (40-18) during the loss.

Postell scored 18 points for AQ.

**DESALES IS IN THE** thick of things in the Finger Lakes West Division after defeating visiting Romulus, 56-40, on Friday, January 15.

Coach Tony Alvaro's Saints (7-5 overall, 5-4 league) led 29-14 at the half and were never threatened after that. Pedro Rojas' 28 points paced the Saints, who found themselves tied with Red Jacket in fourth place of the Finger Lakes West Division after the win.

**NOTRE DAME'S CRUSADERS** (8-4, 2-3 league) defeated Corning East on Friday, Jan. 15, after losing a heartbreaker to Elmira Free Academy earlier in the week.

Mike Johnston's club withstood a furious rally against host Corning East before winning

the Sullivan Trail League game, 54-52, Friday night.

ND led 34-21 at the half and 45-31 after three quarters, but needed to hang on in the final quarter for the win against Corning East.

Christian Falkenberg led the Crusaders with 23 points.

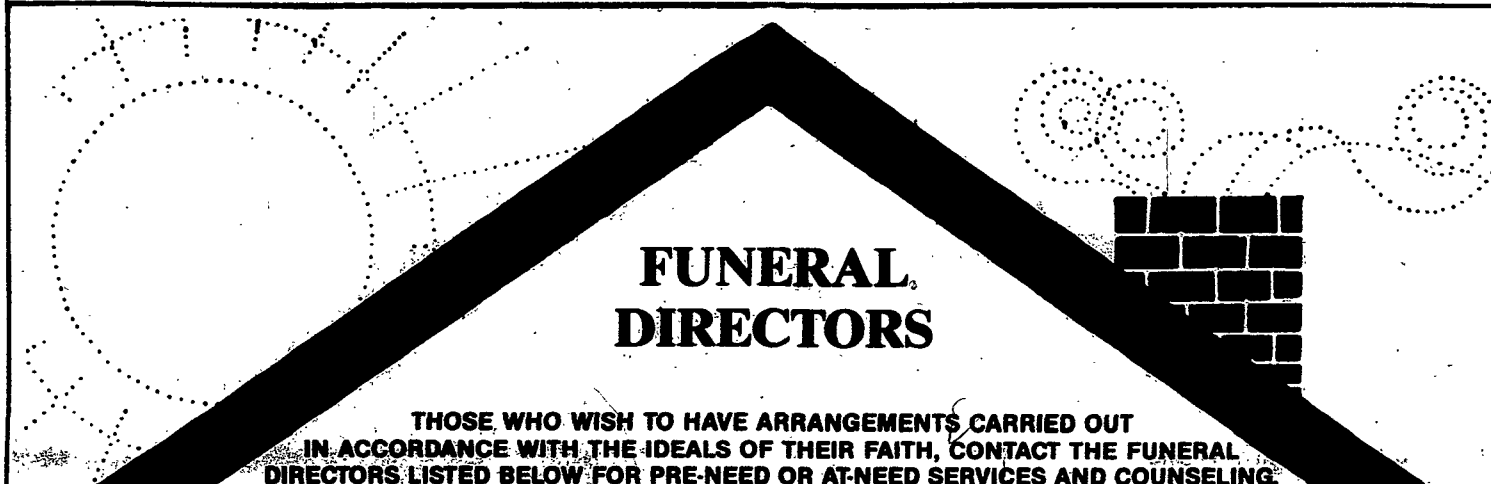
Against EFA, which is tied with Southside and Horseheads for first place in the STC, Notre Dame led by as many as 10 points in the first half and seven points in the third quarter, but failed to hang on.

Falkenberg held EFA's Dave Wellington to a mere two points in the first half, but was unable to keep him under wraps in the second half, as the EFA standout scored eight points in the third quarter and 14 more in the final period.

EFA took the lead for the first time in the fourth quarter and ballooned its advantage to 49-42 with five minutes remaining. The Crusaders were able to cut the lead to two points on two occasions, but they could never get the equalizer.

Scott Long paced ND with 18 points. John Philipps and Falkenberg added 16 points and 13 points respectively.

The Crusaders were scheduled to play Horseheads at home today (Thursday, Jan. 21.)



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