

Sports



Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal

Aquinas' Dwayne Postell wraps his body around the ball during second-quarter action against Bishop Kearney.

Knights winning big; Cards nip Jefferson

By Richard A. Kiley

Games are beginning to magnify in importance as diocesan boys' basketball teams head into the final two weeks of the regular season.

Joe Marchese's McQuaid Knights won their two games last week by a combined 55 points. In a City-Catholic League game against Charlotte on Friday, Jan. 29, Greg Woodard poured in 21 points to go along with 11 assists and four blocked shots, as host McQuaid (11-0 league, 14-1 overall) routed the lowly Lakesiders, 87-62.

Drew Henderson added 15 points and 13 rebounds for McQuaid, which is ranked No. 12 among large schools in the most recent New York State Sports Writers' Association basketball poll. The Knights led 51-34 at the half.

In a non-league game against Gates-Chili on Tuesday, Jan. 26, the host Knights pulled away from the Spartans after a sluggish start. McQuaid led 43-28 at intermission, and never allowed Gates-Chili back in the game thereafter.

Once again it was Woodard putting on an offensive show for Marchese's club, but he had plenty of help in the offensive onslaught. The senior forward scored 17 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and made five steals during the win, while teammate Scott Martzloff scored 12 points and pulled down a game-high 11 rebounds.

McQuaid was scheduled to play Trent Jackson's Franklin Quakers at home on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Franklin is ranked No. 23 in the most recent state hoop poll. The Quakers (10-1, 13-2) could forge a tie in Division 1 of the City-Catholic League with an upset win over the Knights.

IN OTHER CITY-CATHOLIC League action last week, Aquinas put on a clinic from the free-throw line against host Bishop Kearney on Friday, Jan. 29, icing 23 of 30 from the stripe — including 15 of 17 in the final eight minutes — in a 64-48 win over the Fighting Kings.

Mike Dianetti's Little Irish squad (3-9, 4-11) led by just 28-22 at intermission, but was able

to pull away from Mike Ruff's Kings (3-8, 4-11) in the second half. Ruff coached the Little Irish to the Class AAA championship back in 1986.

Dwayne Postell and Paul Kucewicz led Aquinas with 16 points each. Todd Reynders contributed 12 points for the night. R.D. Long led Kearney with 15 points.

AQ is bunched in a three-way tie for third place with Marshall and Monroe in Division II of the City-Catholic League.

Kearney is in last place in Division 1.

Ruff's Kings were once again on the wrong side of the score on Tuesday, Jan. 26, when Franklin rolled to a 71-49 win over the Kings.

The Quakers led 30-19 at the half and scored the first 12 points of the third quarter to pull away from Kearney.

Long scored 19 points for the Kings, who were also helped by Wendell Spiva's 11 points.

IN ONE OF ITS BIGGEST wins of the year, Cardinal Mooney (6-5, 8-7) upset Jefferson, 54-45, behind the play of Mike McGwin and Keith Gaffney. McGwin poured in 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, while Gaffney scored nine points and pulled down nine rebounds for Ed Nietopski's Cards. Peter Mojsiej was also instrumental in the win, scoring 11 points — including two field goals from three-point range.

Mooney, which smelled an upset from the opening moments of the game, trailed by just two points at the end of the first quarter before building up a 21-17 halftime advantage.

DESALES AND NAPLES engaged in a thriller from start to finish on Friday, Jan. 29 with Naples coming out on top, 67-66, in the Finger Lakes West battle.

Tony Alvaro's Saints trailed 36-34 at intermission and were never able to take and hold a lead in the game despite a tremendous offensive display by Chris Ike (25 points). Teammate Pedro Rojas scored 12 points before fouling out.

Naples (10-1, 14-1) kept its one game lead over Bloomfield (9-2, 11) in the Finger Lakes

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Monarchs running away with wins; Southside drops ND

By Richard A. Kiley

Has anyone been paying attention to how Mercy's been doing since its 56-49 loss to Cardinal Mooney back on January 14?

Try these numbers on for size: The Monarchs are 5-0 overall since "The Loss;" they are averaging nearly 65 points a game; and Rush-Henrietta transfer Julie Buntich has been on a scoring tear, surpassing the 20-point mark in three of the five Monarch wins, including a career-high 30 points against Clarence (Section 6).

To put it simply, Mercy's last five games made this year's Super Bowl look like a barn-burner.

The latest Monarch mugging came against East on Saturday, Jan. 30, when Mercy rolled to a 75-35 win over the host Orientals.

Buntich, who is now being used as a wing guard by Kathy Boughton, scored 24 points for the afternoon to go along with five assists.

Mercy led by just 13-10 after one quarter and 28-19 at the half, but pulled away with a 34-point third quarter. The Monarch defense clamped down on East's Roberta White, who was held to five points in the second half after scoring nine in the first two quarters.

Against Wilson on Wednesday, Jan. 27, the Monarchs jumped out to a 24-4 first quarter bulge and led 35-16 at the half, as the Mercy coach was able to get everybody quality playing time.

Mercy's offensive potency and stingy defense play of late have Boughton beaming.

"We've really worked on our half-court offense and our man-to-man defense," Boughton said. "We're also scoring more points off of our fast break than we have all season."

Buntich and Laura Wambach have been the keys to the rejuvenation of the Mercy offense.

"Now that Julie is scoring more ... she's just been motivating herself and others," Boughton said. "Laura is my only senior guard; she's been playing a more active role since the loss to Mooney."

And about that loss, coach? "We have to look at the positives of the game; we were up by 12 points at one point and eight at the half," Boughton said. "I told the team that the only thing that won it for Mooney was the fouls. I'm still confident about

the next time we play Mooney (on February 11). We play as tough if not tougher teams than they do."

And just a week after playing the Lady Cardinals, Boughton's club will face Pittsford-Mendon — defending Section 5 Class AA champions — in the first round of the Brockport Tournament.

MOONEY REMAINED UNBEATEN last week with wins over Aquinas and Pittsford Sutherland.

Against league foe Aquinas, the Lady Cards started slowly but finished strong to defeat the visiting Little Irish, 52-42.

Dan Bates' Aquinas team (1-4, 2-12) trailed by only 10-9 after one quarter and 22-16 at the half, but couldn't offset Mooney's offensive arsenal in the second half.

Mooney Coach Scott Morrison attributed his team's lackluster start to AQ's aggressive defensive play. "Aquinas played a good man-to-man defense and our shots just weren't dropping," he observed.

The offense got untracked in the second half, namely Marisa Shackelford and Margie McGuire. Shackelford finished with 14 points, and McGuire added 11.

Against Pittsford Sutherland on Tuesday, Jan. 26, the Lady Cards rolled to a 58-27 win, and once again it was Shackelford leading the way in the romp. The sophomore forward scored 12 points and pulled down eight rebounds for Morrison's team.

Mooney — a relatively young and inexperienced team — has yet to lose its composure this season. Gut checks still do remain, though, with upcoming games against Bishop Kearney (February 4), Canandaigua (February 6) and Mercy (February 11).

"The kids don't even think about being undefeated," Morrison said. "Their attitude on the floor has been great; everybody's contributing."

BEHIND THE SHOOTING of Marita Viera, Aquinas notched its second win of the season with a 46-35 win over Greece Arcadia on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Viera scored 20 points — including two from three-point range — to spur the Little Irish on to victory.

Terry Seiler was also instrumental in the win, grabbing 13 rebounds to go along with her six

points.

WALT GORDINIER'S NAZARETH team had to go into overtime to beat Bishop Kearney on Monday, Jan. 25. Amy Budd scored five of her team-high 14 points in overtime to lead Nazareth to a 45-43 win over Donna Sortino's Lady Kings.

Budd's three point shot with 28 seconds remaining in the overtime session secured the win for Nazareth.

The same two teams met on Monday, Feb. 1, with the Lady Kings coming out on top, 50-47. Walt Gordinier's squad led Kearney, 37-33, after three quarters but could not hold on for the win as the Lady Kings outscored Nazareth, 17-10 in the final period.

Kelli Curcio scored 10 of her game-high 16 points to pace Kearney (2-3, 7-7) in the final eight minutes.

NOTRE DAME BATTLED Elmira Southside on Thursday, Jan. 28, with a chance to lessen the gap that separates the two teams in league competition.

No such luck. The Lady Crusaders (3-5, 9-6) committed 17 turnovers during a 64-38 loss at Southside, which has yet to be beaten in Sul-

livan Trail Conference play this season.

Pat Quinn's squad trailed, 10-9, at the end of one period, but was outscored 26-9 in the second quarter. Southside, which beat the Crusaders 73-45 earlier in the season, cruised from there.

"At this point in the season, I thought we could have done better," said a disappointed Quinn after the game. "Their press — which we knew about — really hurt us."

Nat Kozlowski led ND with 16 points while teammate Lisa Boulas scored seven. Sophomore Julie Cox, who was playing for an ill Melissa Jaskolka, added six points for ND.

Quinn said she is beginning to see a pattern in her team's play that she doesn't like.

"We have to be a little tougher mentally in games like this," Quinn said. "I don't know if it's because of all the press (Southside) gets or what, but we have to play more aggressively."

The Lady Crusaders have a chance to redeem themselves this week with games against Hornell and Corning West, two teams they defeated by slim margins earlier this season.

Hockey heroes

SOME HOCKEY NOTES from last week: Aquinas (13-0-1) remained unbeaten this season with a 5-1 win over Fairport at Genesee Valley Ice Arena on Saturday, Jan. 30.

Rick Alloco, who two weeks ago became only the 32nd player in the Monroe County League to surpass the 100-point mark, spurred the victory by opening the scoring in a three-goal second period for Rich Gamble's team.

Jon Gamble and Mark Rabban scored the other goals in the middle period for AQ.

Bishop Kearney junior Ken Doohan joined the exclusive 100-point club when he scored two goals and assisted on two others during a 5-4 loss to Brockport on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Lakeshore.

The Kearney standout has 102 points with his senior year left to play. Earlier this sea-

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son, Doohan had at least a point in 20 consecutive games for the Fighting Kings (4-7-3).

McQuaid's iceman fell to Pittsford 3-1 on January 30, as the Vikings scored early and late in the first period to thwart the Knights.

Pittsford scored 25 seconds into the game and with :20 left in the first period to lead the Vikings (4-8-2) to the upset win over the Knights (5-5-4).

David Gotham scored the only goal for Al Vyverberg's team, which was Section 5 runner-up to Batavia last season.