

Sports

Kearney, Mooney can't stall McQuaid streak

By Richard A. Kiley

Seedings are due out this week for the upcoming sectional basketball tournaments in Sections IV and V, as the regular season concluded with games this past Tuesday, Feb. 16.

The Knights of McQuaid (15-0, 18-1) still have yet to lose to a Rochester-area team, as Joe Marchese's club knocked off Bishop Kearney and Cardinal Mooney last week. McQuaid's only loss this season came on December 29, 1987 against Liverpool (of Syracuse), 74-73.

Against host Bishop Kearney (3-12, 4-15) on Friday, Feb. 12, Joe Marchese's Knights defeated the Kings, 53-34. McQuaid had to overcome fairly effective stalling tactics employed by Mike Ruff's squad, which well remembered a 104-52 beating by McQuaid back on December 18.

The game was played at a snail's pace at times, but the Knights — ranked No. 7 among large schools in the latest New York State high school basketball poll — were able to muster a 28-14 lead by intermission and never looked back.

Villanova-bound Greg Woodard led McQuaid with 20 points — 15 in the first half — and teammate Jay Gangemi added 12. R.D. Long paced Kearney with 11 points and Bob Nicolay contributed 10.

Clutch free-throw shooting by John Kelly keyed McQuaid's 51-43 win over visiting Cardinal Mooney on Tuesday, Feb. 9. Kelly, an unsung hero for this year's Knights, made good on four free throws in the final :30 of the game, as McQuaid posted the league victory over Ed Nietopski's Cards (8-7, 10-9).

Mooney's deliberate offense enabled the Cardinals to take a four-point lead after one quarter, until a 19-6 run by the Knights in the second quarter put the Knights up 27-18 at the half. Mooney was never able to gain the lead in the final 16 minutes.

Once again Woodard led the Knights with 16 points, while Kelly had 13. Mike Leonardo poured in 17 points for Mooney. Peter Mojsej added 14 for the Cards.

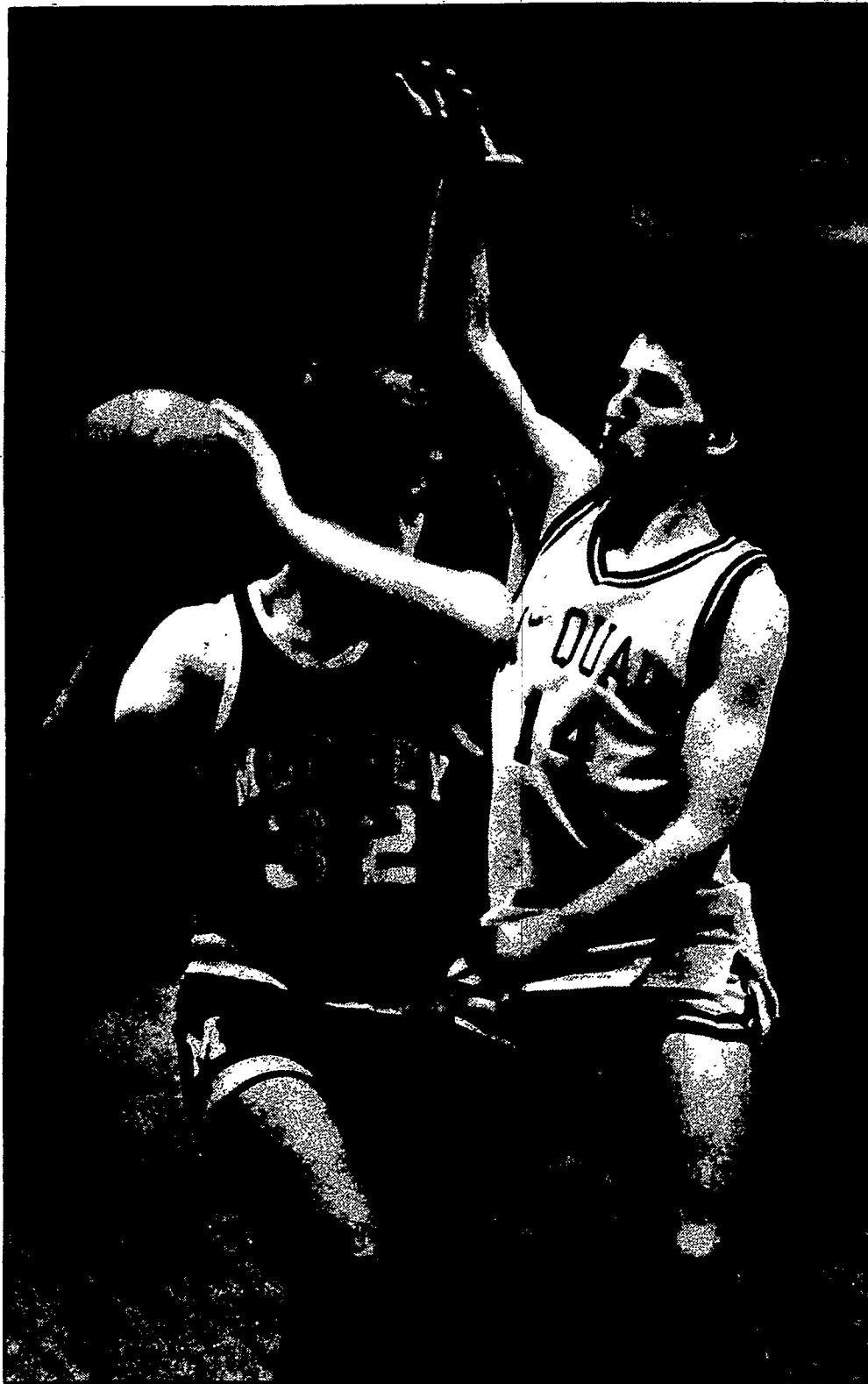
Depending on the outcome of Webster's season finale and the McQuaid-Edison game on Tuesday, Feb. 16, the Knights could be seeded second in the Class AAA tournament because Webster — a Monroe County League team — has accrued more sectional points than McQuaid.

IN MOONEY'S OTHER game last week, the host Cards used excellent free-throw shooting to nip Edison, 52-40, on Friday, Feb. 12. A possible darkhorse in the upcoming tourney, Nietopski's club converted 16 of 17 from the stripe to hold off the Inventors.

Defense was also a key for Mooney, which held Edison to 16 points the entire second half. Mojsej led Mooney with 17 points, while teammate Keith Gaffney played an integral part in the win with 13 points and 17 rebounds.

KEARNEY RAN UP AGAINST a buzzsaw in host Franklin on Tuesday, Feb. 9, as the Quakers (13-2, 16-3) cruised to a 101-74 win over the Kings. Franklin — which had been routed by McQuaid a week earlier — played like a team on a mission, placing five players in double figures.

The Quakers dominated the boards, outrebounding Kearney 60-32 for the afternoon. The loss overshadowed a 27-point effort by Long.



Bonnie Traflet/Courier-Journal

Peter Mojsej (left) tries to avoid the pressure of John Kelly during McQuaid's win over Cardinal Mooney. The win kept the Knights undefeated in league play, entering their season finale against Edison on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

AQUINAS CONTINUED TO struggle last week as Mike Dianetti's Little Irish fell to divisional foes Marshall and Wilson.

Against the host Jurists on Friday, Feb. 12, Aquinas (3-12, 4-14) found itself down by 14 points, 24-10, at the end of the first quarter and was never able to get back in the game. Marshall led 33-26 at intermission.

Mike Compisi poured in 14 points for AQ, while Gary Moxley added 12.

Aquinas kept things close against Wilson on Tuesday, Feb. 9, before an 11-point run by the Wildcats in the third quarter enabled Wilson

(13-3, 16-4) to avert any chances of an upset. Dianetti's team trailed by just 28-24 at intermission.

Compisi had 17 points, while Dwayne Postell added 10 in a losing cause for Aquinas.

DESPITE SUFFERING ITS fifth-consecutive defeat, the mood is upbeat at Elmira Notre Dame High School. The Crusaders fell to powerful Elmira Free Academy, 65-41, on Tuesday, Feb. 9, but that was before the return of Christian Falkenberg to the starting lineup.

The Crusader center was lost to an ankle injury back in late January. With the slow recuperation of standout Scott Long, the Crusaders have been struggling.

ND's game against Corning East on Friday, Feb. 12, was postponed due to severe weather conditions, so coach Mike Johnston scheduled a scrimmage against Notre Dame's 1978 state championship team last Sunday. The Elmira high school was honoring the former Crusaders with a 10-year anniversary celebrating the state championship. Johnston said he's optimistic of his team's chances in the upcoming sectional tournament now that the injuries have healed.

"The scrimmage against the state championship team gave Christian his first hard workout since his injury on January 28 ... He seemed to be moving pretty good," Johnston said. "And Scott Long (still hobbling from an ankle injury as well) is getting stronger everyday."

Johnston added that because he was able to play his reserves while injuries healed, ND should be fresh and rich with experience for the upcoming tournament.

"We're back intact now with Christian and Scott back, and now we've got a lot of players with playing time," Johnston said. "I'm excited based on what I saw (in practice) on Friday and (the scrimmage) on Sunday."

Sports
Shorts

Academic All-American

Nazareth senior Alan Wood, who has helped lift the Golden Flyers to nine victories in 17 games this season, has been named to the 1988 GTE District 1 Academic All-America team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. He was one of five players named to the all-district team, which encompasses Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and parts of Canada.

To be eligible for this honor, which combines academic and athletic excellence, a student-athlete must possess a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.2 on a scale of 4.0.

Wood, who is a native of Pittsford, carries a 3.28 GPA as a business major at Nazareth. He's received several academic honors, including the Nazareth College Scholarship. He's a member of the Nazareth Business Organization and has twice been named to the college's dean's list.

On the basketball court, the 6-foot-7 Wood has started all 17 games to date and leads the team in scoring (18.9 points per game) and rebounding (10.8 per game). He's also displayed an accurate shooting touch, both from the field and from the foul line. He leads the team in field goal percentage (.535) and is second in free-throw percentage (.767). He also leads the team with 47 blocked shots.

Wood also has been named to three all-tournament teams: the Bill Gray's/Nazareth Tournament, the Rochester Classic and the Chase Lincoln First Tournament.

Wood becomes the third Nazareth basketball player to earn Academic All-America honors. Dave Adams, a 1,000-point career scorer, was named for the 1982-83 season and Chris McCaffrey — Nazareth's all-time assist leader with 398 — earned the recognition in 1985-86 and again in 1986-87.

High school hockey

Rich Gamble's Aquinas hockey team appears to have weathered the storm created by two consecutive losses to Irondequoit (4-1) and McQuaid 7-3).

Last Saturday, Feb. 13, the Little Irish rebounded in a big way with an 8-2 victory over Irondequoit. Rick Alloco scored three times, and Paul Colucci had three assists to lead the Monroe Hockey League Division II champions on to victory.

Other contributors for Aquinas (15-2-1) were Jeff Nuccitelli, Aaron Gibalski and Chris Fess, who each had a goal and an assist.

Aquinas began sectional play on Tuesday, Feb. 16, against Fairport at Lakeshore Rinks.

Watch out for Al Vyverberg's icemen of McQuaid in the upcoming tourney. In a rematch of last year's Section 5 championship game, the Knights fell just short in a 4-3 loss to the Ice Devils on Saturday, Feb. 13. Batavia defeated McQuaid, 8-4, in last year's championship game.

Batavia (9-4-3) led 4-1 after two periods of play, but had to withstand a late rally by the Knights (10-6-4). Scott Goodberlet scored midway through the third period, to make the score 4-2 before Paul Mertz scored the second of his two goals with just :03 left. Matt Rizzo played well in the net for McQuaid, which could upset a team or two in the upcoming tourney. The first obstacle for McQuaid came in the form of Rush-Henrietta at Brockport on Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Saints sweep

Both the boys and girls basketball teams were rude hosts to Honeoye last week. Steve Muzzi's girls defeated visiting Honeoye, 42-31, on Thursday, Feb. 11, and Tony Alvaro's boys nipped the Bulldogs, 75-72, in the game played right afterward.

CYO basketball final 1987/88 standings

High School League

Northeast

Holy Trinity (9-1)
Lewis St. (7-2)
St. Bridget (6-3)
Pinnacle Lutheran (5-5)
St. Ambrose (4-6)
Christ the King (4-6)
St. Margaret Mary (2-8)
Blessed Sacrament (2-8)

Southeast

St. Thomas More (9-1)
Assumption (8-2)
Good Shepherd (7-3)
St. Joseph (6-4)
St. John (Fairport) (6-4)
Faith Lutheran (4-6)
St. Louis (4-6)
Resurrection (2-8)
JCC (2-8)
St. John (City) (2-8)

Northwest

St. Lawrence (8-2)
Sacred Heart (8-2)
Holy Cross (7-3)
Most Precious Blood (7-3)
St. Charles (3-7)
St. John (Greece) (2-8)
Mother of Sorrow (2-8)

Southwest

Holy Ghost (9-1)
St. Theodore (8-2)
St. Pius X (8-2)
St. Monica (7-4)
St. John (Spen.) (4-7)
Holy Name (3-6)
Good Counsel (3-7)
St. Salome (1-10)
Holy Family (0-10)

Junior High Boys' League

Northwest

St. Charles (10-0)
St. John (Spen.) (9-2)
Mother of Sorrows (9-2)
St. Thomas the Apostle (8-3)
St. Lawrence (6-5)
Sacred Heart (6-5)
St. Rita (3-7)
Holy Cross (2-9)
St. John (Greece) (0-10)
Most Precious Blood (0-10)

Southwest

St. Monica (10-0)
Good Counsel (9-2)
Holy Ghost (8-3)
Charles House (7-3)
St. Anne's (7-4)
Seton (7-4)
St. Pius X (4-5)
St. Helen (4-7)
St. Theodore (1-9)
St. John (Spen.) (White) (1-10)
Holy Rosary (1-10)

Northeast

St. John (City) (10-0)
Holy Trinity (10-1)
Christ the King (8-2)
St. Ambrose (5-5)
Lewistown (4-5)
St. Salome (4-5)
St. Margaret Mary (4-6)
St. Cecilia (2-8)
St. Joseph (0-10)

Southeast

CYP (10-0)
Good Shepherd (8-2)
Blessed Sacrament (7-3)
St. John (Fairport) (5-5)
St. Louis (4-6)
Oakka (3-7)
Pinnacle Lutheran (2-8)
St. Joseph (1-9)
Blessed Sacrament (1-8)

Junior High Girls' League

St. John (Spen.) (10-0)
St. Charles (8-2)
St. Pius Tenth (7-3)
Mother of Sorrow (5-5)

West

Sacred Heart/Nazareth Hall (4-6)
St. Ambrose (3-7)
Holy Cross (2-8)
St. Theodore (0-10)

East

St. Louis (10-1)
Seton (9-2)
St. Joseph (7-3)
Blessed Sacrament (6-4)

Christ the King (5-5)

St. Rita (1-8)
Lewis St. (1-8)
Good Counsel (0-8)