

Sports

Mendon nips Mercy at Brockport; Mooney finishes 19-1

By Richard A. Kiley

Our Lady of Mercy's Monarchs owned defending Class B state champion Pittsford Mendon for 27 minutes of their first-round game in the Brockport Tournament last Thursday, Feb. 18.

Unfortunately for Mercy, Mendon's Kari Knapp forged a hostile takeover during the final five minutes. Knapp spurred a 19-6 run down the stretch, pouring in 13 of Mendon's final 19 points to rally her team from eight points down as the Vikings defeated Mercy, 57-52. Knapp finished with a game-high 33 points.

The game's script had all the makings of an upset, as the run-and-gun Monarchs led by two after one quarter and by five, 28-23, at the half. The Monarchs' aggressive man-to-man defense and quick transition game had Mendon reeling.

The third quarter and the first four minutes of the final stanza saw Mercy up its lead to as many as eight points, but poor foul shooting down the stretch — and Knapp of course — sealed the win for Mendon. The Monarchs shot just six for 18 from the foul line.

Despite the loss, Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton was confident her team could play with Mendon — or any other team in Section 5 for

that matter.

"We can play pretty even with (Mendon); our aggressive man-to-man defense and run-and-gun game gave them trouble" said Boughton, whose Monarchs are 15-3 thus far this season. "I'd like to meet them again."

Right now, I'm very pleased with our game. I think we're hitting our peak," she added.

Bernadette Fagan paced Mercy with 19 points and 20 rebounds. Teammate Julie Buntich, fresh off a 30-point performance in a big win over Cardinal Mooney, added 12 points.

In the tourney's consolation game on Saturday, Feb. 20, the Monarchs overcame a sluggish first half to beat Hornell, 72-58. Mercy struggled from the field somewhat in the first half until its transition game got going in the second 16 minutes.

Boughton received balanced scoring from Buntich (24 points), Fagan (20 points) and Laura Wambach (16 points).

Mercy closed out the regular season with a league game against Aquinas on Monday, Feb. 22. As her team readied for the upcoming sectional tournament — seedings were due out Wednesday, Feb. 24 — Boughton still believed her team was not being considered as a favorite in the second season.

"I think people still underrate us," she said. "We want to prove to people that we can play with anybody, whether it's on our own court or not."

Just ask Pittsford Mendon.

CARDINAL MOONEY CLOSED out a sensational regular season with a 66-34 win over Nazareth. The win clinched at least a tie for the Private-Parochial League title.

Marisa Shackelford scored 18 points to lead Scott Morrison's girls. Marge McGuire and Shannon Barry poured in 14 points and 12 points for Mooney (19-1). Walt Gordinier's Nazareth team was paced by Amy Budd's 15 points.

Mooney defeated visiting Monroe in a non-league game on Tuesday, Feb. 16, as Shackelford scored 19 points during a 60-41 win over Monroe. Teammate Cheryl Lennox scored 15 points and McGuire added 14 for the Lady Cards.

In a league game involving AQ and Nazareth last Monday, Feb. 15, Marita Viera scored 14 points and Terry Seiler added 13 points and 11 rebounds to propel Dan Bates' Little Irish to a 46-35 win over Nazareth. Kasey Compisi contributed 12 points for Aquinas. Once again Budd led Nazareth with 15 points.



Mercy's Maggie Whelehan outduels Mendon's Lara Litchfield (left) and Alison Plecash for a rebound during action from the Monarchs' five-point loss to the Vikings.



Bernadette Fagan shoots over Mendon's Lara Litchfield for two of her 19 points for the night.

Shooting sportsmen

Monroe County 4-H is offering an opportunity for youths eight to 16 years old to chase away the mid-winter blues.

On February 27, 4-H will begin a six-week archery league at Sal's Sporting Goods, 1421 Empire Blvd., Irondequoit.

The league is open to all Monroe County youths, and shooting will take place on six consecutive Saturdays, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The league, which is sponsored by the Monroe County 4-H Shooting Sports Program, is designed to offer youths an opportunity for instruction in archery skills and a safe, supervised location for practicing those skills.

Youngsters interested can register for the league by calling the 4-H office at (716)461-1000. Monroe County 4-H is the youth component of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County.

Assist ace

Junior point guard Kevin Broderick, a first-year starter for the Nazareth College basketball team, broke the school's single-season assist record on Sunday, Feb. 14, in the Golden Flyers' 94-80 victory over Binghamton State.

Broderick, a native of Fulton and a graduate of Oswego's Bishop Cunningham High School, passed for 11 assists against Binghamton to increase his season total to 161. That's nine more than Joe Convertino amassed last season when he set a record with 152.

With five games remaining, Broderick has an outside chance of reaching assists for the season.

"Kevin has been of our steadiest players all year," said Nazareth coach Mike Daley. "To break an assist record held by Joey Convertino puts him in pretty good company." Broderick is averaging 10.4 points per game and 7.7 assists. He also leads the club in steals with 60 and in minutes played (768).

Sports Shorts

Rolling rookie

Freshman guard Darrin Peterson exploded for a career-high 36 points, including 27 in the second half, as Nazareth rallied for the win over SUNY Binghamton. A native of Tonawanda and a graduate of Kenmore East High School, Peterson connected on 11 of 19 field-goal attempts, including three of eight from three-point range. He also canned 11 free throws in 12 attempts. Peterson's 36 points mark the second-highest individual performance in Nazareth history. Only Richard Sparks, who scored 40 points in a victory over Alfred last season, has scored more points in one game for Nazareth.

Peterson is a strong candidate for ECAC Rookie of the Year honors. He is Nazareth's second-leading scorer, averaging 16.5 points per game. He has also contributed 4.6 rebounds per game, even though he stands only 6-foot-1. Peterson has scored in double figures in 18 of Nazareth's 21 games and has scored 20 points or more seven times this season.

Lax coach needed

Cardinal Mooney will play junior-varsity lacrosse this spring, hoping to field a varsity squad in 1989. McQuaid and Bishop Kearney are the only other Catholic high schools in the diocese to field a lax team.

Athletic Director Ed Nietopski is currently accepting applications for a lacrosse coach. Anyone interested in the coaching position can call (716)865-1000.

Aquinas advances to hockey semis with wins over Penfield, Fairport

By Richard A. Kiley

The Monroe County Hockey playoffs began last week, bringing mixed results for several diocesan boys' ice teams.

Aquinas advanced to the semifinal round with wins over Penfield and Fairport. The Little Irish had little trouble with either team, outscoring their opponents 18-3.

Against Penfield in a quarterfinal game at Lakeshore on Saturday, Feb. 20, Jon Gamble — hockey coach Rich Gamble's son — scored two first-period goals, as Aquinas roared out to a 6-0 lead after two periods before romping Penfield, 8-1.

Chris Fess, Rick Alloco, Dave Hemmerick, Terry Antinora, Aaron Gibalski and Jeff Mucha each added goals for AQ (17-2-1), which advanced to the semifinals against Greece on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Gamble's Little Irish outshot Penfield, 38-6, during the quarterfinal win.

Penfield advanced to play Aquinas by scoring four goals in the third period to beat Bishop Kearney, 5-3, at Lakeshore Rinks on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Penfield's winning goal against Kearney (6-10-3) came with a goal on a deflection with 1:27 remaining in the game.

Jeff Nuccitelli scored four goals and added two assists for AQ in a 10-2 rout over Fairport in Aquinas' opening-round playoff game on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Hemmerick and Fess each contributed two goals for the Little Irish.

McQuaid gave up a power-play goal to Rush-Henrietta with just more than three and a half minutes remaining as Rush-Henrietta defeated the Knights, 5-4, in a Monroe Hockey League playoff game on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Al Vyverberg's team was penalized for having too many men on the ice.

Scott Goodberlet scored two goals and an assist for McQuaid (8-7-4). Goalie Matt Rizzo made 21 saves for McQuaid, which was outshot, 26-23, for the game.

Greece ended Cardinal Mooney's season with a 10-1 win at Lakeshore on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The lone goal for the Cards, who ended the season at 3-16, was scored by Matt Payment.

Kearney

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basketball in their last two regular season games — a 57-51 win over Corning East on Monday, Feb. 15 and a 66-62 loss to Horseheads a day later.

The win against Corning East marked the last home game for several Crusaders, and the nailbiter against Horseheads — which was tied

at 44 heading into the final eight minutes — gave ND renewed confidence for the tournament. The Crusaders, who are defending Section 4 Class C champs, advanced to the state playoffs last year.

"We know we can win this," Johnston said. "Right now, the mood on the team is upbeat."

As defending champs, ND will have most everyone gunning for them — particularly Lansing and Tioga. Notre Dame knocked off both powers last year; this year Tioga is seeded second and Lansing is the third seed. Notre Dame also defeated Lansing earlier this season.