

Sports

McQuaid routs Frontier to win Far West region



McQuaid's Jay Gangemi, shown here driving past Frontier's Chris Buchholz, was given a lot of room to work with as the Falcons tried to stop Greg Woodard and Scott Martzloff.

Knights advance to Final Four in Glens Falls

By Richard A. Kiley

A storm ripped through the Buffalo suburb of Orchard Park last Friday night, March 11, thrashing and toppling anything that stood in its way.

No, the snow capital of New York state wasn't getting one of the late-winter blizzards for which it has become so famous; the destruction was caused by the McQuaid Jesuit basketball team.

Spurred by an intimidating defense that created a multitude of offensive opportunities, the Knights (24-1) thoroughly dominated Hamburg Frontier, 71-47, in a state Class A public-high-school quarterfinal game at Erie Community College South Friday night, March 11.

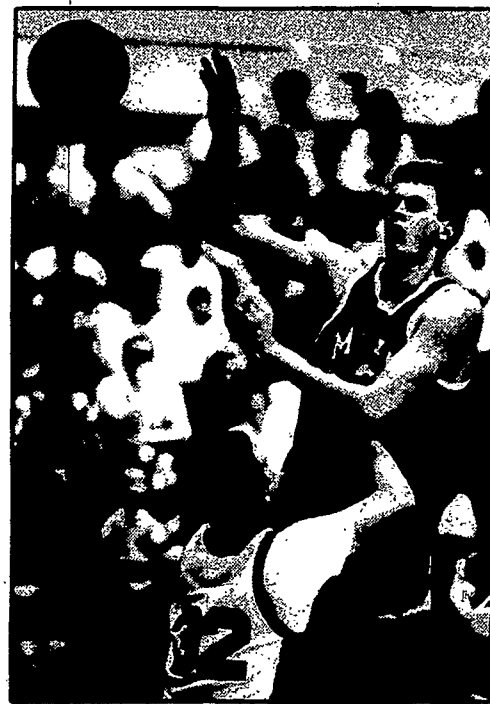
Remember the Section 5 Class AAA title game against Webster in which the Knights broke out to a 19-2 lead before holding on for dear life during a 62-59 win a week earlier? This time around the Falcons, who all season long had made a habit of coming from behind in winning the Section 6 crown, never made it a game.

Try these numbers on for size: McQuaid jumped out to leads of 9-0, 25-4 and 42-12 before the first half mercifully — at least for Frontier's sake — came to an end.

"We came into this (Far Western Regional) game a lot more serious than we did last year; we wanted to prove ourselves outside of the section this time," said Greg Woodard, referring to last March's 76-63 loss to Buffalo Nichols in the state quarterfinals. "Last year, it was a big emotional high winning it (the sectionals) for the first time," he said. "We put more pressure on ourselves this year?"

"Last year's team was so ecstatic about being in the sectionals," McQuaid coach Joe Marchese added. "(The state intersectional game) was iced on the cake last year. We feel we can win it this year. There's a greater sense of determination?"

The Knights' now move on to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Basketball Final Four in Glens Falls where they will face Saratoga of Section 2 (Albany area) this Saturday, March 19, at 9 p.m. in the Glens Falls Civic Center. McQuaid coach Joe Marchese said that Saratoga (19-6) features a multi-talented player in Tim Parker, a 6-foot-3 off



guard who has had a hot hand of late. The Division 1 recruit averaged 30 points a game in Saratoga's most recent wins to carry his team to Glens Falls.

"He sounds like quite a player," said Marchese, who is now 45-3 (.938 winning percentage) as head coach of McQuaid. Marchese also played down Saratoga's six losses this season — compared to McQuaid's one loss in as many games. "At this point, you don't take anybody lightly."

Frontier must have hoped McQuaid would come in a little flat against the Section 6 champion for the second year in a row, but had no such luck.

Woodard and his teammates put a lot of defensive pressure on Frontier, forcing the Falcons to shoot a myopic 14 percent (3-for-21) in the first half.

Woodard, who led all scorers with 25 points for the night, began the Knights 9-0 run in the opening 2:52 with a three-point play and two free throws. Jay Gangemi, who was allowed a lot of room to work while Frontier worried about Woodard and Scott Martzloff, finished the spurt with a jump shot from the perimeter and a tip-in of a Woodard miss.

"If you're a team coming in to play us, you're going to prepare for Woodard and Martzloff, but Jay was all over the court in the first quarter," Marchese said.

Gangemi, who scored 16 points for the night, kept the rout on when he beat the sag-



Kevin Buchholz (above) was one of several Hamburg Frontier players who found it tough underneath the basket against McQuaid Jesuit in last weekend's Far West Regional at Erie Community College South. Frontier shot a nearsighted 14 percent in the first half as McQuaid built up a 30-point halftime lead. Scott Martzloff (left) typifies the height advantage the Knights enjoyed against the Falcons. The Knights' center was six inches taller than Frontier's biggest player.

ging Frontier defense to the baseline for two baskets, to make the score 17-4 before Woodard nailed a three-point shot from the corner. The Villanova-bound forward then beat the Frontier defense downcourt for a dunk off of a baseline drive in which he was fouled. He converted his free throw to make the score 23-4.

The first quarter ended when McQuaid guard John Kelly (11 assists) threw a perfect bounce pass inside to Gangemi for a layup.

Somewhat surprisingly, Frontier coach Gary Domzalski never went to a press against the bigger Knights.

"I was surprised they didn't try (to press) earlier, but there's not much you can do when a team comes out as hot as we did," Marchese said. "We couldn't do anything wrong, and they couldn't do much right."

Woodard said he wouldn't have been surprised to see Frontier press from the opening tap. "We thought they were going to press us coming out," he said. "There aren't a lot of teams out there that can match our height."

Frontier certainly couldn't. Martzloff, who scored 15 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked five shots, and Henderson continually caused the Falcons to alter their shots underneath. Henderson, who is 6-foot-8, was a monster off the boards, grabbing 16 rebounds for the night.

The game became sloppy in the second half, as Frontier played for pride and Marchese emptied the bench. Frontier was paced by

Kevin Buchholz, who scored 14 points for the night. Teammate Scott Walker finished with 12.

KNIGHT NOTES: If the Knights beat Saratoga in the state semifinal on Saturday, they would play the winner of the other semifinal game between Liverpool of Section 3 (Syracuse area) and Hempstead Section 11 (Long Island). Liverpool handed McQuaid its only loss of the season thus far in a Christmas tournament in Syracuse last December.

Correction

In last week's edition, (C-J, March 10, 1988), McQuaid Jesuit's Jay Gangemi was inadvertently omitted from the listing of Section 5 Class AAA all-tournament team members. The Courier-Journal regrets the error.

Art, craft sale scheduled

The first-ever Aquinas Institute arts and craft sale will take place at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 23. The sale will accommodate more than 100 vendors, and the registration fee is \$18. Vendors are asked to donate one craft with two photographs.

For information or to register, call Jean Beritella at (716) 671-6927 or Ed Ranalli at 254-2020, ext. 33.

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