

Sports

Section 6 keglers strike down AQ, Mercy at state tourney

By Richard A. Kiley

Both Aquinas and Mercy ran up against some hot bowlers in the state bowling championships at North Park Lanes in Irondequoit last Saturday, March 12.

Section 6 (Buffalo area) dominated the competition, taking both the boys' and girls' competitions. Jim Scarfia's Aquinas team finished fourth in the boys' competition with a total pin fall of 5,434. Ann Maier's Monarchs finished seventh out of as many sections with a six-game total of 4,235.

Scott Koker of Lockport rolled a record six-game total of 1,403 — that's a 233 average for you bowling fans out there — to lead Section 6 to the boys' team crown, Lockport's total of 6,142 was enough to hold off runner-up White Plains of Section 1 (Westchester County), which had 5,906. Amsterdam of Section 2 (Albany area) took third place with a total of 5,622.

"I was pleased we did as well as we did when I looked at the overall scores," said Jim Scarfia of AQ's fourth-place finish. Scarfia, who just finished his fourth year as coach of the Little Irish boys' team, is a 1974 graduate of Aquinas. "I was hoping we might do a little bit better."

In the girls' competition, Niagara-Wheatfield finished in first place with 5,228. Susquehanna Valley of Section 4 (Binghamton area) took second at 5,029 and Utica Central of Section 3 was third at 4,837.

"We finished at the bottom but we bowled very well," said Maier, who is chairman of the

English department at Our Lady of Mercy High School. "The competition was pretty high class. I would have needed a team of bowlers averaging around 160 to win."

This year marked the first time a Mercy bowling team had reached the state championships since the tournament began. Mercy, which knocked off defending Private-Parochial League champion Bishop Kearney to reach the sectionals, beat a traditionally strong Edison Tech team to make the states. Mercy had a total of 2,212, finishing comfortably ahead of Edison, which knocked down 2,125 pins. Kearney finished fifth.

The Monarchs this season were led by junior co-captain Stephanie Selner, who had a 163 average. The second-year bowler had the high series and high average in the Private-Parochial League this year, and also achieved high series (561) in the sectionals this month.

Other standout bowlers for Mercy this season were senior co-captain Colleen Prosser (130 avg.), senior Molly Board (140 avg.), senior Diana VanRoon (129 avg.), senior Laura Versprille (125 avg.), senior Jean Dirx (115 avg.), senior Susan Raptrecht (120 avg.), sophomore Lori Vaccaro (110 average) and senior Julie Gaston (115 avg.).

Dirx came through for the Monarchs in the sectionals, rolling a 177 game to help catapult her teammates into the states. Her average in the sectionals and the states was 140.

For Scarfia, making the states was a pleasant surprise — especially after losing to City-

Catholic rival Bishop Kearney twice during the season.

"The way the kids came back I was stunned," said Scarfia, who teaches theology and social studies at AQ. "I thought we had a decent team, but I really wasn't sure we'd make the states."

AQ was able to reach the state tournament — for the first time — by outbowling the likes of Kearney, McQuaid, Mooney, and Edison.

At North Park Lanes — where both Aquinas and Mercy practice — the Little Irish had to go up against eventual state champion Lockport in the first match. "It's difficult to get up (psychologically) when you're down 330 pins so quickly," said Scarfia, whose team knocked down 2,908 pins to win the sectional crown.

McQuaid Jesuit 3,200-meter relay team sprints to track and field championship at New Haven

The McQuaid 3,200-meter relay team earned championship honors at the National Scholastic Track and Field Championships in New Haven, Conn., on Sunday, March 13.

The relay team of Scott Romanowski, Chris Cusack, Chris Adin and Brad Sumner won the 3,200 in 7:54.66, which track officials believe is the fastest high school time in the country this season. Two other relay teams from New York — Monroe-Woodbury and Chaminade — and Boston College High School broke the 8:00 mark.

McQuaid's Adin was able to gain the lead

"We did do a lot better in the afternoon.

Scarfia, whose own average is about 190, had six keglers on the team this year. Third-year bowler Chris Caulkins, a senior, led the team with a 205 average. Senior Paul Enright, who also just finished his third year on the team, had a 193 average.

Sophomore Chris McDonald finished his first year on the team with a 170 average as did classmate Eric Freemesser — who bowled one of the high single games (237) at the states this year. Freemesser's brother, Chris, still holds a City-Catholic League record for high series. AQ's sixth man, Jeff Whehle, also played a pivotal part in the Little Irish success story this season. Whehle came in against Kearney in the sectionals and bowled a 204.

before yielding to Sumner in the final leg of the 3,200 meter race. After falling back somewhat, Sumner — who ran a 1:55.3 leg — pulled ahead for good with 300 meters left.

The McQuaid relay team was coming off a victory earlier this month in the Eastern States Interscholastic Championships at Princeton University. Bob Bradley's Knights won the two-mile course there in 8:05.09.

Cusack ran the second-fastest split in New Haven, covering his 800 meters in 1:57.8. Adin's time was 2:00.7 and Romanowski led off the relay in 2:00.9.

Sports Shorts

Legend in the making?

It's usually best to learn to walk before you run, but don't tell that to Nazareth College lacrosse coach Scott Nelson.

After just two varsity lacrosse seasons in which the Golden Flyers jogged to 8-3 and 8-5 records, Nelson is ready to turn his players loose in an all-out sprint as they gear up for the 1988 season.

The Golden Flyers opened their season last Saturday, March 12, with a non-league game against Southampton College at Rutgers University. Nazareth then traveled to Maryland for a game against Salisbury State on Wednesday, March 16, before returning to New York for a game at New York Maritime on Friday, March 18.

In just two years, Nelson and the Flyers have managed to gain respect of teams throughout the Rochester area. Now, however, Nelson is looking for more than just respect. He believes that the Nazareth lacrosse program is on the threshold of national prominence and that, with a little luck, the Golden Flyers could crack the national rankings for the first time ever.

"I want Nazareth to be recognized for its lacrosse program," said Nelson, a native of Yorktown, N.Y., where he comes from a family of lacrosse players. Two younger brothers, Tim and Tom, were All-Americans at Syracuse University, while Scott played at North Caro-

lina State. In addition, Nelson's father, Tom Sr., is head coach of the club-level squad at Indiana University.

"I want people to hear the name Nazareth and associate it with lacrosse," remarked Tom Jr., who believes one of the ways to reach that level is to beef up the schedule. In 1988, the Golden Flyers will go straight to the top on April 19 when they travel to Hobart College in Geneva for a game against the powerful Statesmen, winners of an unprecedented eight consecutive NCAA Division III titles. Washington (Md.) College is also on the schedule again along with many of the top Division III teams in the Rochester area.

In addition, the Golden Flyers have become members of the newly formed Empire Lacrosse League, which will also include Geneseo State, Hartwick, Oswego State and Potsdam State, all of which are on the Nazareth schedule in 1988.

"Our schedule is a very competitive one," Nelson said. "We'll have our work cut out for us in every game. It'll give us a good indication of how good we are."

Actually, the Golden Flyers were pretty good last year, with impressive victories over the likes of Hartwick, Oswego State, LeMoyne, Stony Brook and the University of Rochester.

Most impressive, perhaps, is the fact that nearly everyone returns from last year's team. Yet, this year's team is still a young one in that goalie Rocky Garofolo (Syracuse) and defenseman Pat Gannon (Cortland) are the team's only seniors.

Junior attackman Bill Coons (W. Henrietta), who has scored 60 goals in two seasons, returns as the Golden Flyers' top offensive threat. He'll get scoring help from classmates Bill Atkinson (Syracuse), Shawn Riley (Homer), Matt DiDuro (Geneva) and Jon Gray

(Horseheads).

The midfield could turn out to be the team's strong suit with juniors Tom Coons of West Henrietta (12 goals, eight assists) and Gerry Gutchess of Camillus (10 goals, six assists), and sophomore Jerome Lazore of Nedrow (14 goals, two assists) as the top returnees.

Garofolo is the goaltending incumbent, while junior Dave Basile (Cortland) and sophomore Dana Ryan (Auburn) each have valuable experience.

CYO salute

Hats off to the junior high girls' basketball team at Blessed Sacrament Parish for winning the third-annual Knights of Columbus Tournament at St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport. The tourney, which ran from March 3-6, was hosted by K of C Council No. 7707.

Molly Cassidy of Blessed Sacrament, which is coached by Noel Gilheany and Jenny Shoemaker, was named the tournament's most valuable player.

In addition to Blessed Sacrament and host St. John's of Spencerport, the following teams also participated in the tournament: St. Louis, Pittsford; Seton Junior High; St. Joseph's, Penfield; St. Charles, St. Pius X; and Mother of Sorrows.

St. Charles took second place, and St. Louis won the consolation game for third place.

What a Knight

The honors are beginning to pour in for Greg Woodard, who led the Knights to their second consecutive Class AAA title game on Saturday, March 5.

Last week, Woodard was named to the fourth team of the Parade Magazine All-America team and to the 1988 Converse National High School Basketball All-America team. The 6-foot-6 senior, who will attend Villanova University of the Big East Conference next fall, averaged 23 points, nine rebounds and four assists per game for the Knights (24-1) this season. McQuaid was seeded second in the Section 5 Class AAA tournament behind Webster.

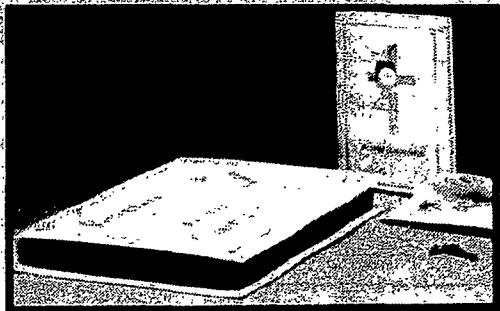


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