

Sports

# Mercy finishes fourth at states, turns down Federation bid

By Richard A. Kiley

The Monarchs will race no more this fall. After Section 5 champion Our Lady of Mercy finished fourth with a team score of 124 during this year's state high school cross country championships in Lake Placid on Saturday, Nov. 12, Mercy Coach Tim Jones turned down an automatic bid to the Federation Meet this weekend.

Mercy's spot will be taken by another Section 5 school.

Jones cited the length of the cross country season and the fact that basketball practices at Mercy have already started as the main reasons for deciding not to enter his team. Several Mercy runners play for the girls' basketball team, which began practicing last week.

"I'm satisfied and they're satisfied with what they did so why prolong the season another week? Nobody expected us to do anything this year," said Jones, who also coaches track and field at the all girls' high school. "They've proven they deserve to be there by finishing fourth in the state."

Jones added that his Monarchs may have peaked defending their girls' Class A title at Ultra Technologies Park in Newark two weeks ago, and that "there's no way I can keep them running like that for too long."

Mercy's showing last week amid the best teams of the state was better than last year's

sixth place result. Five Monarchs finished within 1:30 of each other to score for Mercy.

Therese Mack, competing in her last cross country meet for Mercy, was the first Monarch and 35th runner overall to cross the finish line by covering the 3.1 mile course in 20:49.8.

It was the first time ever that Mack — the only original member of the first cross country team formed two years ago — finished first among Mercy runners.

She was followed by Maggie Whelehan (20:59.8, 40th place), Laura Young (21:11.4, 43rd place), Allison Adin (21:55.0, 66th place), and Katie Baumer (22:19.0, 73rd place).

Mercy's Romy Muoio (22:25.4, 78th place) and Jennifer Smith (23:40.2, 101st place) also ran well for the Monarchs.

Auburn and Saratoga finished tied for first place in team scoring with 52 points overall in the girls' Class A race. Newburgh was third with 72 points.

Following Mercy were North Rockland (137), Vestal (153), William Floyd (172), Frontier (206), Centerreach (208), Herricks (241) and Mepham-JFK-Bellmore (287).

In the boys' Class A race, the order of finish was Saratoga (74), William Floyd (84), Fairport (105), North Rockland (110), Lockport (114), Longwood (121), Syracuse-Henninger (128), Ithaca (208), Monroe-Woodbury (226), Baldwin (229) and Oceanside (294).



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal  
Mercy's depth and commitment carried the Monarchs to the state high school cross country championships for the second consecutive year.

## Moore neutral

St. John Fisher College junior guard Wakili Moore learned the definition of the word neutral back in high school. The 1986 Aquinas Institute graduate remembers battling older brother Eldridge in a game against arch-rival McQuaid Jesuit High School. He particularly remembers his parents' behavior at the time: they were totally neutral.

The Moores no longer have to maintain their neutrality. Eldridge, a 6-5 senior guard, now plays at Division I Niagara University, while Wakili keeps the ball moving at Division III Fisher. The present set-up seems to be working fine for all concerned.

"(My parents) take time to come to my games and my brother's games," said Moore, who stands 6-3. "They go back and forth and never miss a game."

It's not surprising that the Moores follow their sons so closely. The father, Eldridge Jr., played under a scholarship at Suffolk University in Boston during the 1950's. It was his leadership that helped both sons on their way.

"He was always taking us out to the center down the street and showing us how to play the game," Moore said. "He made it fun for us so we'd enjoy it."

Moore, who is sometimes called "Sugar Bear" by his teammates, enjoys basketball so much that he's made it a part of his life since fourth grade. Although at times such dedication becomes a strain, Moore maintains it has all been for the best.

"If I didn't have basketball, I might get lazy," he said. "I think basketball sort of helps me with my schedule."

During the school year, that schedule consists mainly of classes, practice and study, Moore said, adding that he hopes to earn a degree in communications/journalism before entering a career in sports broadcasting.

In the meantime, Moore will have his hands full on the court, where he paces a 14-12 Cardinal team on the way up after an 11-14 record in 1987.

The former first team all City-Catholic selection averaged more than 10 points and three rebounds per game from his point-guard position with the Cards last season. He also placed 10th in the nation in free throws, converting 88 percent of his attempts.

"I'd like to help the team get in the Final Four," Moore said. "I saw the girls do it (Fisher women were runners-up in last year's national tournament), and I'd like to see how it feels."

One of the highlights of playing for Fisher, Moore said, is that he had the chance to play in the 25th annual Rochester Classic basketball tournament last December.

"I remember going to the Rochester Classic when I was younger and seeing Division I teams play," he recalled. "I always dreamed of playing in the tournament and now I have."

Moore will have another opportunity to play in the Rochester Classic December 29 and 30, when Fisher, Nazareth College, Hamilton College and Clark University meet at the War Memorial.

## Sports Shorts

### Ski lessons set

The city of Rochester is once again sponsoring cross country ski lessons this winter for beginning, intermediate and advanced skiers — children and adults — starting in January.

Adult beginner and intermediate class times and locations include: Mondays or Wednesdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m., at Genesee Valley Park (January 9 to February 1); and Tuesdays or Thursdays, 7:15-9:15 p.m. at Cobbs Hill Park (January 10 to February 2).

Adult fees of \$25 are being accepted now. Children's beginner and intermediate lessons are free of charge and will be held on Saturdays (January 9 to 29) at Cobbs Hill Park, in the following divisions: ages seven to nine (9-11 a.m.); ages 10-12 (12-2 p.m.) and ages 13-17 (12-2 p.m.).

In addition to the beginner/intermediate class, an advanced class will be offered on Tuesdays at Cobbs Hill Park.

Students must provide their own equipment. Pre-registration is required. For details, call the Recreation Bureau at (716)428-6755.

### Heroic Holleder

A tribute to former Aquinas Institute and West Point football star Major Donald Holleder can be found on page 24 of the October 17 edition of *Sports Illustrated*. The sidebar on Holleder in the "Scorecard" section of the publication — which featured the former West Point All America end on the cover back on November 28, 1955 — reports on the October 1 dedication of the U.S. Military Academy's Holleder Center.

Holleder, 33, was killed in Vietnam in October, 1967, while coming to the aid of fellow soldiers who had been ambushed by the Viet Cong.

### Tourney results

The seventh annual St. Joseph's Villa Golf Tournament, which took place at the Ridgemont Country Club in late September, raised more than \$20,000 to support the construction of a classroom in the agency's new campus school.

This year's tourney drew more than 80 golfers. The low gross and overall winner of the tournament was Jack Battaglia of Pittsford. In the callaway division, first place honors went to G. Thomas Clark of Brighton. Louis Arcarese of Rochester garnered low net awards.

Since its inception, the benefit tournament has raised more than \$100,000 for the agency. St. Joseph's Villa of Rochester is a non-profit agency that provides comprehensive mental health and support services to troubled children and families.

# CHRISTMAS GIFTS

# FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Courier-Journal will be presenting a special Christmas Gift Buying Guide in the following issues:

**November 24th, December 1st,  
December 8th, December 15th**

We hope we can offer you some helpful ideas on choosing the perfect gift for that special someone this holiday season.

If you or your business would like to advertise in this special section, please call the Courier-Journal's Advertising Department at (716) 328-4340.

**Space Reservations:** Monday, November 14th  
**Copy Deadline:** Friday, November 18th