

## Sports

# McQuaid, DeSales will contend for league titles

By Richard A. Kiley

A new look to the City-Catholic League, due to the conversion of three Rochester city schools into middle schools, should make for an interesting high school basketball season for McQuaid Jesuit, Aquinas Institute, Cardinal Mooney and Bishop Kearney.

While those diocesan high schools battle it out with each other, Geneva DeSales (Finger Lakes West) and Elmira Notre Dame (Sullivan Trail Conference) will be looking to gain league titles in their respective divisions.

**ALTHOUGH MCQUAID** lost a ton of scoring and leadership to graduation last June, Joe Marchese — who is 47-4 in two seasons as Knights' head coach — has enough talent to defend the divisional title.

Marchese lost outstanding scoring and height from last year's 26-2 team with the graduation of Greg Woodard (Villanova), Scott Martzloff (Holy Cross) and Jay Gangemi, as well as valuable leadership by point guard John Kelly. The foursome was the nucleus of a team that won its second consecutive Section 5 Class AAA title and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A championship.

The dominating play by the Knights' starters last season enabled Marchese to go to his bench early and often, a factor that will come into play this season.

Returning center Drew Henderson will be the big man for the Knights this time around. The 6-foot-8 senior averaged nine points and 13 rebounds per game among a slew of stars last year, and he will be an even more intimidating force offensively and defensively this season.

Marchese has a rising star in 6-0 senior guard Reggie Wade (5 points per game and three assists in '88), while senior guard Matt Parrinello (3 points per game, 5 assists per game) will look to set up the offense. Senior Tom Cahill, a 6-4 senior forward, also returns for the Knights.

Marchese also has several top newcomers from a 13-5 JV team in Jay Moore (6-4 jr. forward), Jeff Reese (6-3 sophomore forward) and Sam Owens (5-11 junior forward). A transfer from Rush-Henrietta, 5-11 junior guard Kevin Brown should also bolster the Knights offense.

Much as in last season, opposing teams that can't run with the Knights will try to keep them in check by stalling. In McQuaid's season-opener last Friday night, Dec. 2, host Cardinal Mooney (1-1) used a deliberate offense, but came up on the short end of a 49-29 score.

McQuaid (1-0) led 7-4 after one quarter, 21-15 at the half and 33-21 after three quarters of play, and put the game away in the final eight minutes. Henderson finished with 18 points to lead McQuaid.

The Knights will find the going very tough in the first half of the season, with just one home game (against Franklin) on the schedule. After a January 3 meeting with Wilson, McQuaid plays nine of its final 10 games at home.

Marchese and his players are also venturing down south after Christmas where they will compete in the Vanguard Tournament in Florida from December 26 to 30.

**AQUINAS** has already matched its total number of wins from last season with a 4-0 start this year. Third-year coach Mike Dianetti has three returning starters from last year's club (4-17, losing to Wayne in first round of sectionals), which should make this season a lot more fun for AQ basketball fans.

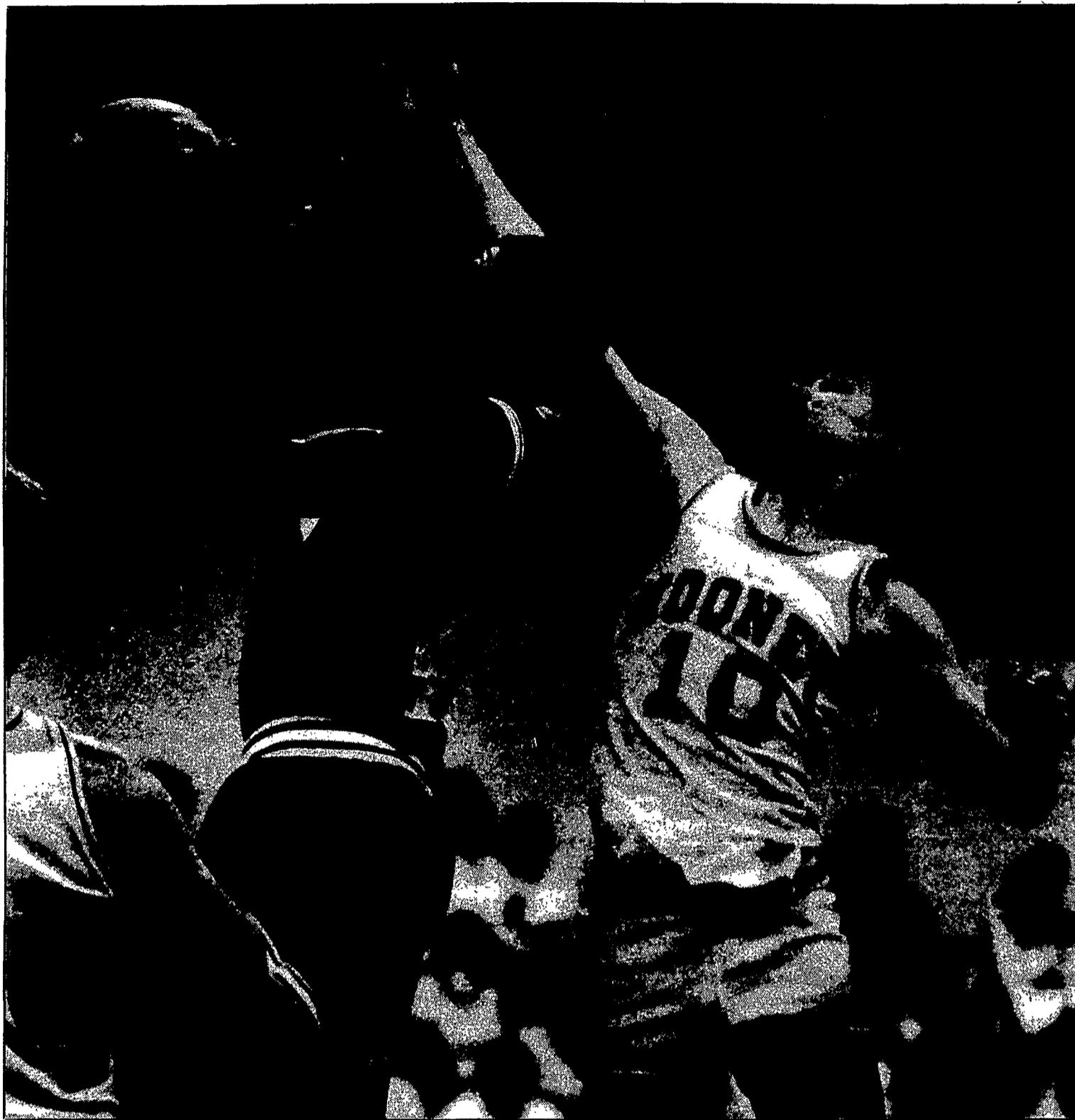
Paul Kuczewicz, a 6-2 senior forward, was a one-man show for the Little Irish during the Greece Olympia tournament two weeks ago, as he scored 54 points to propel Aquinas to the championship. Kuczewicz averaged seven points and five rebounds per game last year. Dwayne Postell (6-4 junior forward) and Matt Hill (5-7 junior point guard) give Dianetti additional offensive weaponry.

Todd Reynders (5-10 senior guard), Mark Spencer (6-2 senior forward) and Mike Tuttle (6-5 senior forward) provide AQ with a good mix of scoring and experience.

Marshall-transfer Alcindor Coleman, a 6-4 junior forward who averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds per game for the Jurists last winter, gives the Little Irish additional offense. More importantly, however, he provides AQ some rebounding help they desperately need.

Other newcomers include Alan Schlageter (5-10 junior guard), Jeff Page (5-8 junior guard), Brian Keyes (6-2 junior forward), Mike Enright (6-2 junior forward) and Joe Valenti (5-10 junior guard).

Aquinas' four wins have come against Pittsford Sutherland, Greece Olympia, Wilson and



Jeff Reese of McQuaid goes for a basket, as Mooney's Kory Kuhns tries to block during their Friday, Dec. 2, game.

Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Bishop Kearney.

**ED NIETOPSKI** is entering his 25th year of coaching at Cardinal Mooney, and the veteran coach will be looking to replace the void created by the graduation of his three top scorers — Peter Mojsej, Mike Leonardo and Keith Gaffney.

Mike McGwin leads the list of several key returning players from last year's 12-10 team, which lost to Canandaigua in the sectional quarterfinals. The 6-9 senior center scored 22 points in the Cards' season-opening win against Penfield and nine points in the loss to McQuaid.

Additional returners are Sean Trapp (6-1 senior guard), Tim Burgmaster (6-2 senior forward), Shaun Rhodes (6-3 junior point guard), Ray Lehner (5-8 junior guard), Dan Wegman (6-1 senior forward), Eric Heinsler (6-1 senior forward) and Allan Ford (5-8 senior guard).

Among the top newcomers are Corey Khuns (5-8 sophomore guard), as well as junior centers Tim and Tom Rendulic (6-6 and 6-4, respectively).

Because of a deliberate offense and a stingy defense, the Cards had a knack for playing close games last season. This year's team won't set any scoring marks either, but will again be solid defensively.

**THE REVOLVING DOOR** at Bishop Kearney continued spinning during the summer, with the transfer of R.D. Long (19 ppg, 6 apg) to Webster and three players into the school.

Last season, the Kings finished a disappointing 5-17, after losing to Wilson in the second round of the sectionals. Coach Mike Ruff (56-67 overall, 13-28 at Kearney) has talented, big men in Wendell Spiva (6-2 senior forward) and Greg Mikell (6-3 senior center) back, along with 6-0 senior point guard James Englerth and 5-11 senior guard Scott Williams.

After playing his sophomore and junior

Continued on Page 17



McQuaid center Drew Henderson out-rebounds Mike McGwin of Mooney.