AQ stuffs Newark in 'BB' semifinal

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By Richard A. Kiley Staff writer

Newark is yet another boys' basketball team that will attest to the strength of the City-Catholic League in this year's Section. 5 basketball tournament.

The Reds, the top-seeded team in Class BB, could not match the inside mettle or the outside shooting of No. 4 Aquinas as the Little Irish wore down Newark, 66-49, in a Class BB semifinal game at the War Memorial on Monday, Feb. 20.

Aquinas (15-7) will play the winner of the other Class BB semifinal between another City-Catholic team, No. 7 Wilson (10-12), and No. 3 Greece Arcadia (17-4) in the championship game on Friday, Feb. 24, at 9 p.m. Wilson and Arcadia were set to play their semifinal game at the War Memorial on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The Little Irish used stellar foul shooting to send the Reds (20-2) to defeat. Aquinas made good on 23-of-32 from the stripe, while the Reds shot a myopic 3-for-10 from the line. Newark converted just one of seven free throws in the second half.

While Ron Ceravolo's Reds struggled at the line, Mike Dianetti's club sizzled. Todd Reynders was 12-for-15 from the stripe, and Dwayne Postell was 6-for-6 in the fourth quarter.

Paul Kucewicz, who has been in double figures 21 of 22 games this season, scored a game-high 22 points for the Little Irish. The 6-2, 175 pound senior slammed home two dunks late in the fourth quarter, much to the delight of the several hundred AQ faithful on hand.

Aquinas' 6-4, 290 pound center Alcindor Coleman finished with 14 points for AQ. Coleman, an outstanding football player for AQ during the fall, launched several long passes leading to baskets as well.

Sophomore center Todd Rohlin, who should be wowing Reds' fans for the next two years, played a solid game for Newark and finished with 20 points.

The backbreaker for Newark came at the end of the third quarter, after Newark had cut a 44-32 Aquinas lead to 44-40 on a basket by Rohlin with 10 seconds remaining. Reynders took a pass and shot a 24-footer that caromed in off the backboard and gave Aquinas a 47-40 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Newark was able to trim the margin to five points with seven minutes left until Reynders and Postell iced the game with crucial free throws. Postell was perfect on three one-and-ones in a 2:15 span to balloon AO's lead to 55-44 with three minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Aquinas advanced to the Class BB semis against Newark by beating No. 5 Pittsford Sutherland, 65-62, in a quarterfinal game played at Greece Athena on Friday, Feb. 17.

The Little Irish clinched the win with some clutch toul shooting in the final | disciplinary reasons. Henderson missed

game, held a 62-61 advantage with a minute left. Aquinas took a one-point lead with less than a minute left when Todd Reynders hit two free throws, and Alan Schlageter iced the game with two more from the stripe with :26 to go. Sutherland missed a three-point shot in the waning moments.

The Knights (13-9) came out on fire in the first half and opened up a 31-18 lead. The Little Irish put together an 11-0 run at the end of the half to make the score 31-29 at intermission.

Sutherland increased its lead to as much as 10 points in the third quarter, 51-41, but could never put the Little Irish away. Alcindor Coleman, who finished with 18 points, hit some key shots in the third and fourth quarters to keep AQ close.

Paul Kucewicz poured in 14 points and Schlageter finished with 13.

Aquinas advanced to the quarterfinals by drubbing No.. 13 Churchville-Chili 81-50 at Hilton on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Reynders broke his school record with seven three-pointers — his previous record was five - as the Little Irish put the Saints (1-20) away in the second half. Aquinas led 38-30 at the half.

Kucewicz added 14 points — all in the first half - for AQ.

Another diocesan school, ninth-seeded Bishop Kearney, gave Newark a tough battle in the Class BB quarterfinals.

The Reds topped the Kings 79-67 at Marion on Friday, Feb. 17, but had a difficult time of it. Bishop Kearney (8-13) squandered two eight-point leads against Newark.

Kearney led 14-12 after one quarter, before Newark grabbed a 32-31 halftime lead. The two teams-were tied at 49-49 heading into the final quarter, before Newark pulled away with a 30-18 fourth quarter.

Rene Ingoglia, who was called up from the JV late in the season, led Kearney with 16 points.

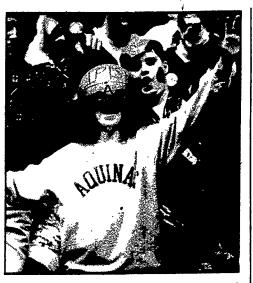
The Kings (8-13) advanced to the Class BB quarterfinals by beating No. 8 Victor, 78-52, at Victor on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Kearney led 15-9 after one quarter and 38-17 at the half. Mike Ruff's Kings had a 55-39 advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

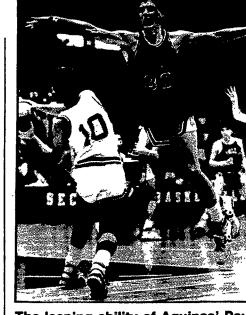
Bill Tehan led the Kings with 18 points. Ingoglia and Bernie Quinn finished with 15 and 11 points respectively.

Both diocesan schools competing in the boys' Section 5 Class A basketball tournament lost opening-round games. Although fourth-seeded East's 76-50 win over No. 13 Cardinal Mooney (8-12) on Tuesday, Feb. 14, was no surprise, McQuaid's 53-49 loss to No. 11 Brighton on Wednesday, Feb. 15, was unexpected.

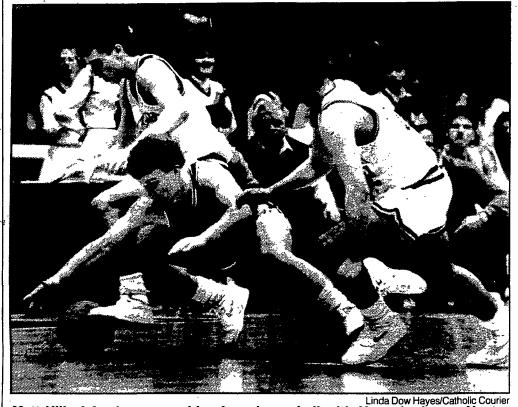
The Knights played the game without 6-8 senior Drew Henderson, who sat out for minutes. The Knights, who led most of the | three practices prior to the opening-round



Tad Valentino will be among several hundred Aquinas fans heading for the Class BB Championship game at the War Memorial Friday night.



The leaping ability of Aquinas' Paul Kucewicz (30) kept Newark from hurting the Little Irish with its perimeter shooting.



Matt Hill of Aquinas scrambles for a loose ball with Newark players Nester Hernandez and Eric DeTaeye during action at the War Memorial Monday night, Feb. 20.

game to visit Fairfield University, to which he signed a letter of intent before the season began.

McQuaid (12-7) led 22-16 at halftime, but fell behind 40-32 in the fourth quarter. Kyle Yost made six consecutive free throws in the fourth quarter --including four in the final 26 seconds - to provide the winning margin for the Barons, who dropped a 67-37 decision to No. 3 Fairport (19-3) in the quarterfinals on Saturday, Feb. 18. Brighton finished the season 11-11.

Mike Montesano scored 17 points to lead the Knights, who were the two-time defending Section 5 Class AAA champion. McQuaid also won the state public high school (large school) title last March.

Mooney never recovered from a 39-18 halftime deficit against the Orientals (18-3) on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Tim Burgmaster led the Cards with 13 points.

East played No. 8 Marshall (13-9) two more City-Catholic teams - in one of two Class A semifinal games at the War Memorial on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Marshall upset top-seeded Webster, 62-49, in a Class A quarterfinal game last Friday, Feb. 17.

The winner of the game between East and Marshall will play the winner of the other semifinal game between No. 2 Rush-Henrietta (18-4) and No. 3 Fairport. The Class A championship is scheduled tor the War Memorial Saturday, Feb. 25, at 8:15 p.m.

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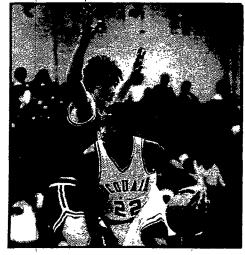
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DeSales, ND cut sectional hoop teams down to size



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier McQuaid's Kevin Brown (22) drives past Brighton's Josh Hurt during the Barons' 53-49 upset of the Knights Wednesday, Feb. 15.

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By Richard A. Kiley Staff writer

After enduring up-and-down regular seasons, basketball players at Geneva De-Sales and Elmira Notre Dame are taking their frustrations out on the competition they're seeing in the sectionals.

In the boys' Class D basketball tournament, No. 3 Geneva DeSales (15-7) has looked impressive in its two sectional games against No. 6 Northstar and No. 14 Cohocton.

The two wins catapulted the Saints into the semifinals against No. 2 Prattsburg (18-4). The DeSales-Prattsburg game was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22 at Alfred University. A victory against Prattsburg would put DeSales in the championship game against the winner of the other semifinal game between No. 1 Rushford (17-3) and No. 5 Whitesville (15-7) at Alfred on Friday, Feb. 24.

DeSales advanced to the semis by whipping No. 6 Northstar, 73-40, on Saturday, Feb. 18.

DeSales led 13-10 after one quarter and 32-19 at the half before putting the game away with a 22-5 third quarter.

Three Saints reached double figures as Chris Ike and Jeff Taney finished with 11 points each and Pat Mooney finished with 10.

DeSales reached the quarterfinals by beating No. 13 Cohocton, 82-54, at Naples on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The Saints used a relentless press to jump out to a 30-11 bulge after one quarter. DeSales led 51-27 at intermission and cruised in the second half.

Sophomore center Rob McFadden paced the Saints with 16 points. Chris Ike and Taney finished with 12 points each, and Jeff Ike had 11.

Elmira Notre Dame (10-12) is once

again proving it's not what your record is, it's who you play as the sixth-seeded Crusaders moved into the Section 4, Class C boys basketball semifinals with wins over No. 3 Walton and No. 11 Moravia last week.

The Crusaders played No. 2 Trumansburg (18-3) in the Class C semis at Ithaca College on Tuesday, Feb. 21. ND beat T-burg twice during the regular season by scores of 76-68 and 80-73.

The winner of the Notre Dame-Trumansburg game will play the winner of the other semifinal between top-seeded Whitney Point (21-0) and No. 4 Candor (17-4) at the Broome County Arena in Binghamton this weekend.

Walton made things very difficult for Notre Dame in the quarterfinal round game between the two schools, jumping out to an Continued on page 16

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