

Mercy rolling in Class AA; Mooney drops AQ

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

The high seeds have not had an easy time of it in the girls' Section 5 basketball tournament — especially Class A — but that hasn't had an effect on either Our Lady of Mercy or Cardinal Mooney.

The top-seeded Monarchs (21-1) had little trouble with No. 8 Canandaigua or No. 16 Gates-Chili last week and were scheduled to play in the girls' Class A semifinals against No. 5 Spencerport (16-4) at Edison Tech on Tuesday, Feb. 21. A win over Spencerport would put the Monarchs — who are seeking their fourth large-school title in six years — in the final game against the winner of the other semifinal between No. 8 Marshall (15-6) and No. 3 Penfield (18-4) on Friday, Feb. 24.

Fifth-seeded Spencerport upset No. 4 Fairport, 43-40, on Friday, Feb. 17. That same night, Marshall was an upset winner over No. 2 Brockport, 70-64. Brockport was the only team to beat Mercy during the regular season.

Against Canandaigua on Friday, Feb. 17, Kathy Boughton's Monarchs broke open an 11-11 game after one quarter by outscoring the Braves 20-9 in the second en route to a 62-39 win at Penfield. Mercy,



Penny Bloom (22) of Aquinas attempts to block an Eastridge pass.

which did not press in the first quarter, wore Canandaigua (13-8) down with man-to-man pressure in the second quarter.

Mercy led 53-28 after three quarters. Julie Buntich led Mercy with 26 points, including 14 in the decisive second quarter.

Natalie White finished with nine points. Mercy had no problem beating the 16th-seeded Spartans at Greece Athena on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Mercy led 16-8 after one quarter before outscoring Gates-Chili 20-1 in the second period to take a 36-9 advantage at intermission.

Buntich, Mary Beth Cleary and Catherine Robinson paced the Monarchs with 14 points each.

Although she would have liked to see Brockport in the post-season, Boughton said it won't take anything away from winning yet another championship if the Monarchs win the title.

"We would have liked to see them again, but upsets like that happen (in the sectionals)," Boughton said.

In the girls' Class BB tournament, No. 2 Cardinal Mooney moved into the semifinals against No. 3 Victor (13-5) by beating No. 7 Aquinas, 50-41, at Mooney on Saturday, Feb. 18.

The Mooney-Victor game was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Roberts Wesleyan College. Victor features 6-0 center Missy Masley, a standout during last summer's Empire State Games in Syracuse.

The winner of the semifinal between Mooney and Victor will play the victor of the Class BB semifinal between top-seeded Pittsford Mendon (21-0) and No. 5 Wayne (14-5). The championship game will be played at Geneseo Saturday, Feb. 25.

Wayne reached the semis by beating host and fourth-seeded Bishop Kearney, 44-31, on Saturday, Feb. 18. Wayne led 15-8 after one quarter and 23-11 at the half, as Donna Sortino's Kings (12-9) had trouble getting their offense in gear.

Mooney (18-3) and Aquinas (12-10) played four games this season, and the Cards won all four.

The quarterfinal game was tied, 18-18, at the half before Mooney's offense began to click in the third quarter.

AQ, McQuaid face off on ice

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Aquinas and McQuaid moved into the Monroe County Hockey League semifinals against each other after posting wins in quarterfinal round games.

The winner of the semifinal game between the two Catholic schools at Genesee Valley Park on Tuesday, Feb. 21 will play for the championship at the War Memorial in Rochester at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26.

The Little Irish (20-1) continued their mastery over league opponents with a 10-1 rout of Brockport (16-4-2) in a quarterfinal game at Lakeshore Rinks on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Jeff Nuccitelli and Chris Fess were the offensive stars for AQ, which has yet to be beaten by a league foe this season. Nuccitelli collected four goals and two assists and

Fess had three goals and three assists.

The win was never in doubt for Rich Gamble's club as AQ roared out to a 5-0 lead in the first period. Nuccitelli scored three goals in the first period alone.

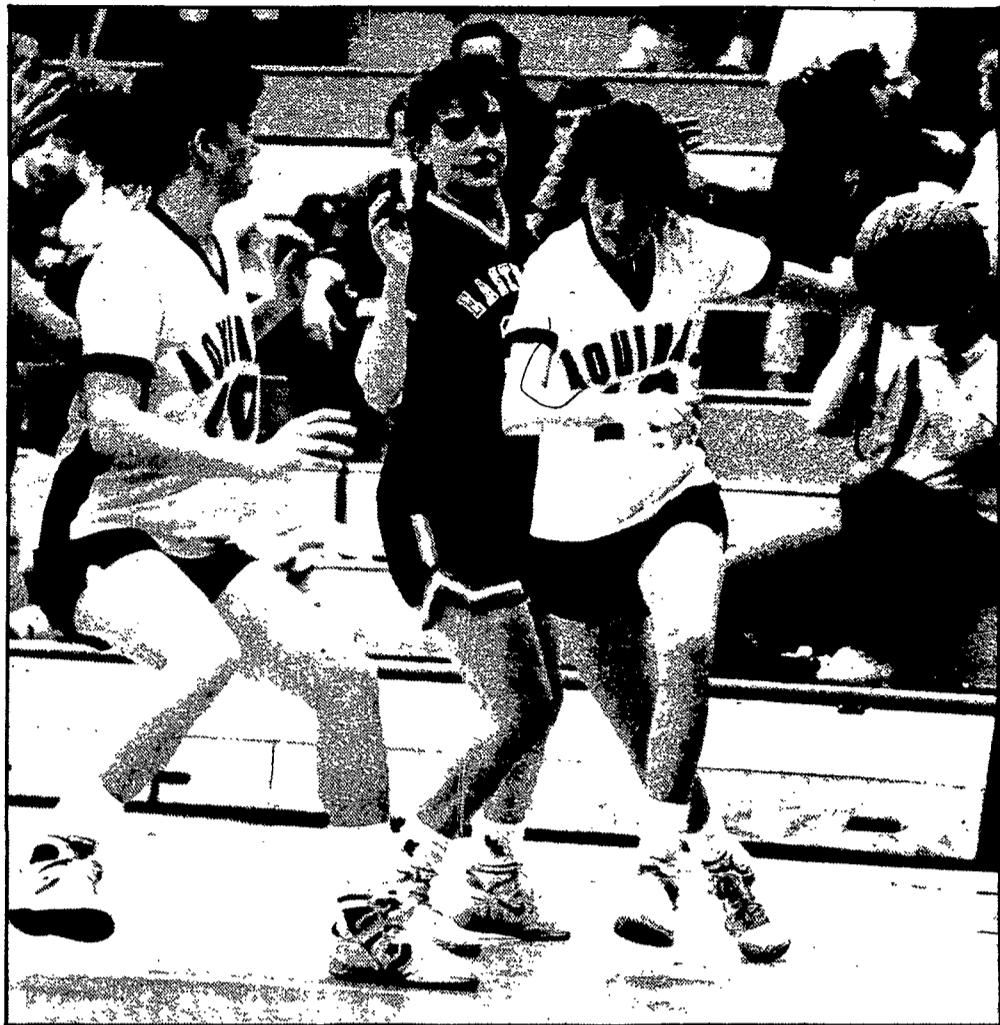
Bob Carello made 11 saves for Aquinas while Brockport goalie Rob McCall stopped 35 shots for the losing Blue Devils.

McQuaid had a far more difficult time of it in the quarterfinals, beating a tough Irondequoit team 6-3 at Genesee Valley on Saturday, Feb. 18.

The Indians controlled the play early on as they jumped out to a 2-1 lead in the first period. The Knights came on strong in the second period, however, and never trailed after Paul Mertz gave McQ a 3-2 lead.

Mertz scored again early in the third period to give the Knights a 4-2 lead. Mike

Continued on page 16



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

Aquinas Institute's Amy Reynders dribbles to the basket during the Wednesday, Feb. 15, girls' Section 5 opening-round basketball game against Eastridge. Aquinas won 51-36.

"We couldn't buy a basket in the first half," said Mooney coach Scott Morrison. "I don't know whether it was because we were tight or because of the long layoff."

Mooney led 36-32 after three periods. The Cards ballooned the lead to 12 points in the fourth quarter, behind the scoring of Cheryl Lennox and Marisa Shackelford. Lennox had a game-high 20 points for the Cards, while Shackelford finished with 18.

Amy Reynders led AQ with 18 points. Aquinas advanced to the Class BB quarterfinal by beating No. 10 Eastridge, 51-36, at Greece Arcadia on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Aquinas led 20-18 at the half before pulling away in the third quarter. Reynders and Tammy Rice each scored 14 points to lead the Little Irish.

Over in the girls' Class D tournament, third-seeded DeSales (10-12) lost in the quarterfinals to No. 3 Greenwood, 54-36, at Hornell on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Greenwood (16-5) jumped out to a 27-14 lead and never looked back. Danielle Boncaro paced the Saints with 21 points.

DeSales advanced to the Class D quarterfinals by beating No. 11 Northstar,

43-36, on Wednesday, Feb. 15. Boncaro once again led the Saints in scoring with 21 points, including 18 in the first half.

Steve Muzzi's Saints jumped out to a 24-14 halftime lead.

Over in Section 4 Class C, Elmira Notre Dame's season came to an end after the seventh-seeded Crusaders fell to No. 2 Walton, 65-46, at Windsor on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Walton (18-4), outscored ND, 16-6, in the fourth quarter to put the game away. Notre Dame (11-11) was playing without point guard Kathy Lynch, who broke her hand following a loss to Horseheads two weeks ago.

The Crusaders were dealt an additional blow early on against Walton, when Maureen Jaskolka went down with a serious knee injury. Her twin sister, Melissa, led ND with 16 points.

Notre Dame advanced to the Class D quarterfinals with a 39-37 win over No. 10 Lansing (12-8) at ND on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Lansing had a five-point lead late in the fourth quarter before the Crusaders pulled the game out in the final seconds.

Melissa Jaskolka led Notre Dame, which led 19-18 at the half, with 13 points.

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