

Little Irish, Kings fall in state ice hockey tournament

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

Despite a gallant effort against the state's top-ranked high school ice hockey team, Aquinas dropped a 5-2 decision to Rome Free Academy of Section 3 in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Division 1 tournament Saturday, March 4, at Utica Memorial Auditorium.

The Little Irish, who were beaten by the Black Knights in the state tournament last March, finished the season at 21-3.

The win was the 48th straight for the 23-0 Black Knights, who will battle Greece (20-5) in one of two state Division 1 hockey semifinal games at Utica's Aud this Saturday, March 11. The semifinal is scheduled for noon. St. John's of Section 7 (24-4) faces Massena of Section 10 (21-4) in the other semifinal at 2:30 p.m.

RFA broke open a 2-2 game by scoring

two goals within a five-minute span of the second and third periods. John Catalano scored at the 12:49 mark of the second period to give the Black Knights a 3-2 lead, and Trice Comerford made it 4-2 with a goal just two minutes into the third period.

Corey Machanic of RFA added an insurance goal late in the period.

Jeff Nuccitelli put AQ on the scoreboard first with his goal at 2:30 of the opening period. After Jim Pinti and Damon DeCosto scored to give RFA a 2-1 lead, Aquinas' Paul Colucci scored at the 10:20 mark of the second period to tie the game at 2-2.

BISHOP KEARNEY FELL to Alexandria Bay, 4-3, in a pre-quarterfinal, state Division II playoff game at Genesee Valley Park Arena on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

The Kings finished the season at 14-6-2. Kearney jumped out to an early 3-0 lead

against Alexandria Bay (Section 10), but the Purple Ghosts (18-9) — who are coached by former McQuaid hockey coach George Dobbins — poured it on after the shaky start.

Alexandria Bay, making its first appearance ever in the state tournament, outshot Kearney 42-13.

Ken Doohan gave the Kings a 1-0 lead at 3:50 of the first period with a short-handed goal after Kearney was penalized for having too many men on the ice.

John Werner made it 2-0 just four

minutes later, and Doohan — who led Kearney in scoring this season with 39 goals — increased the lead to 3-0 on goal from the slot at the 11:27 mark.

After slicing the lead to 3-2 after two periods, the Purple Ghosts tied the game with 4:49 left in the third period on a power-play goal by Matt Doheny.

Bruce Hudon scored the winning goal with 1:27 remaining in the game.

Kearney's loss overshadowed a spectacular, 38-save performance by Kings' netminder Dave Compton.

Kearney keglers win team title

The boys' bowling team at Bishop Kearney knocked down 3,000 pins over three games to win team scoring in the finals of the Section 5 bowling tournament Saturday, March 4, at North Park Lanes in Rochester.

The Kings nipped McQuaid by 32 pins in team scoring with 1,093 in the third game. Kearney's first two games were 965 and 942. Defending champion Aquinas finished in seventh place with a team score of 2,596.

Wayne Central eked out a 12-pin win over Edison in the girls' team title. Wayne finished with a score of 2,197. Defending

champ Our Lady of Mercy finished in third place with a team score of 2,153, followed by Cardinal Mooney (2,148).

Mercy's Stephanie Selner rolled 235 for the high game and Mooney's Dawn Pickering threw 541 for the high series.

Bishop Kearney will represent Section 5 in the boys' team competition at the state bowling tournament at the Bowler's Club in Latham this Saturday, March 11. Wayne will represent the girls.

McQuaid's Paul LeFrois and Pete Ventis will be members of the boys' composite team. Pickering and Bishop Kearney's Ann Stockslader will be on the girls' composite squad.

Mercy

Continued from page 12

The fifth-year coach of the Cardinals was 4-0 against a steady diet of teams from the Finger Lakes region this season, beginning with hardfought wins over Canandaigua in the regular season. The Cards narrowly beat Victor and Wayne in the sectionals to win the Class BB championship.

But Mooney came up short against Penn

Yan, which came into the game against Mooney ranked No. 1 among Class B teams in the latest state poll. Forward Kiki Seago collected 26 points and 13 rebounds to spur her team to victory.

Penn Yan got off to a quick 6-0 start, and after Mooney trimmed the lead to 6-4, swelled the lead to 19-12 at the end of the first quarter.

"We usually don't give up 19 points in a half," Morrison said. "They were one of the best, if not the best, team we saw all year."

Things didn't get any better for the Cards — who had several players hobbled by injuries suffered in the sectionals — as Penn Yan swelled the lead to 39-22 at the half.

Mooney was able to get within 12 points in the third quarter, but Penn Yan increased the margin to 16 heading into the final period.

Margie McGuire and Marisa Shackelford paced with Mooney 11 points each. Cheryl Lennox, who played despite a sore knee, finished with nine points.



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

Mercy players hold up their plaque after winning the Far Western Regional championship. The Monarchs will travel to Glens Falls this weekend for the State Class A tournament, where they will play unbeaten Troy in one of two semifinal games scheduled for Friday, March 10.

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We received 7 correct entries identifying "the ice" as what hockey players mean when they refer to "the pond."

The winner was Greg Miller of St. Gregory's in Marion.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

What number golf iron was once known as a niblick?

A: _____

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Rules:

Each week, the Catholic Courier, in conjunction with Locker Room Sports will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Catholic Courier. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF any purchase of \$25.00 or more at Locker Room Sports, 560 W. Ridge Rd.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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