



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

Aquinas Institute staged its annual Mission Bouts at the school's gym on Friday, March 10. Top: Freshman Rich Lombardo throws a right at Pete Montagliano during the featherweight bout. Lombardo won a close decision. Far right: Director Dom Arioli tapes up Pete Montagliano before the Aquinas freshman entered the ring. Right: Ray F. Umbrino Sr. shouts encouragement to his grandson Frank, during a middleweight bout.



Powerful inside game carries Troy past Mercy, 82-65

By Richard A. Kiley
Staff writer

Unbeaten Troy took its powerful inside game into the girls' state Class A semifinals against Our Lady of Mercy on Friday, March 10, and emerged with a convincing 82-65 win over the Monarchs at Queensbury High School in Glens Falls.

The loss to Troy (26-0) ended Mercy's quest for a second state public-schools championship in five years. The Monarchs finished the season at 24-2.

The Lady Trojans (Section 2) went on to win the state title with a 72-53 win over Freeport (Section 8) at Queensbury High on Saturday, March 12. Freeport upended Union-Endicott (Section 4), 64-43, to advance to the championship game.

The Monarchs could not keep Troy's big people under wraps, as 6-foot-1 junior

center Nicki Hilton (24 points) and junior forward Maureen Holohan (29 points) combined for 53 Lady Trojan points.

Hilton asserted herself in the second and third quarters, scoring 16 of her 24 points to stretch a 37-28 halftime lead to 61-35. The Troy junior was most effective in the third quarter, scoring 12 points to help the Lady Trojans pull away.

Mercy's press was able to trim the lead in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough.

Julie Buntich paced Mercy with 29 points before fouling out. The Mercy senior was named to the all-tournament team. Junior Catherine Robinson and Mary Beth Cleary added 13 and eight points, respectively.

The loss failed to taint what was a dream season for the Monarchs, who won their fifth sectional title in seven years, despite having lost starting center/forward Ber-

nadette Fagan to an injury this past fall.

The season's many accomplishments included a three-game sweep of Cardinal Mooney; the Monarchs' first-ever title in the Mercy tournament at Nazareth College; and two wins over state powerhouse Lockport — including a 59-57 victory in

the Far Western Regionals two weeks ago.

The achievements were even more impressive considering Mercy's lineup consisted of just one senior. That should make next year's Monarchs strong contenders for yet another sectional title.

Peacock spurs Yale to win over Harvard

The oldest rivalry in college sports added another page to its 137-year-old history Saturday, Feb. 25, when former Our Lady of Mercy star and current Yale point guard Anne Peacock helped pull out a 79-74 win at Harvard.



The victory enabled Yale to stay alive in the Ivy League women's basketball race. The Elis (13-10) are in third place in the

league with an 8-4 record.

Peacock, a 5-6 senior, had been sidelined for the past three weeks with a broken finger in her right hand. She returned to action just in time, dishing out four assists for the Elis.

"Harvard games tend to bring out that something extra in our players, particularly the seniors," said Yale coach Diann Nestel. "Anne's numbers for the game might not be impressive, but numbers can't begin to explain the contribution she made in taking control of the team."

Despite her injury, Peacock ranks second on the team in the assists category with 54. She is also third on the team with 35 steals.

Peacock led the Ivy League in assists last year with 76 in 14 games, 11 short of the league record. She averaged 5.5 assists per game overall, breaking the Yale season record with 142. She needs 38 to top the college's career mark.

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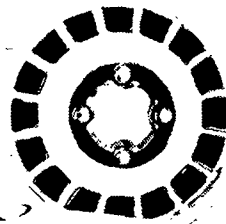
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