

# Women's hoop teams win in Empire games

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

The West Region's scholastic men's hockey team is accustomed to playing in games that determine the gold-medal winners at the Empire State Games, having won six of the last seven times.

This year's team was also involved in a gold-medal game. But in the 1989 games, held Aug. 3-6 in Ithaca, West played the role of spoilers, not contenders.

The West team, paced by a goal and an assist from Aquinas Institute's Jeff Nuccitelli, ended Central's hopes for the gold with a 5-2 win. Central took the bronze medal, and West, despite strong games from Nuccitelli and Aquinas' Chris Fess, failed for the first time in the history of the games to earn a medal.

On the other hand, the 1989 scholastic women's basketball team, with Bishop Kearney's Marisa Shackelford contributing to the effort, took the bronze medal after being shut out in 1988. And the open women's basketball team, which included Our Lady of Mercy graduate Julie Buntich, upset New York City to take the gold.

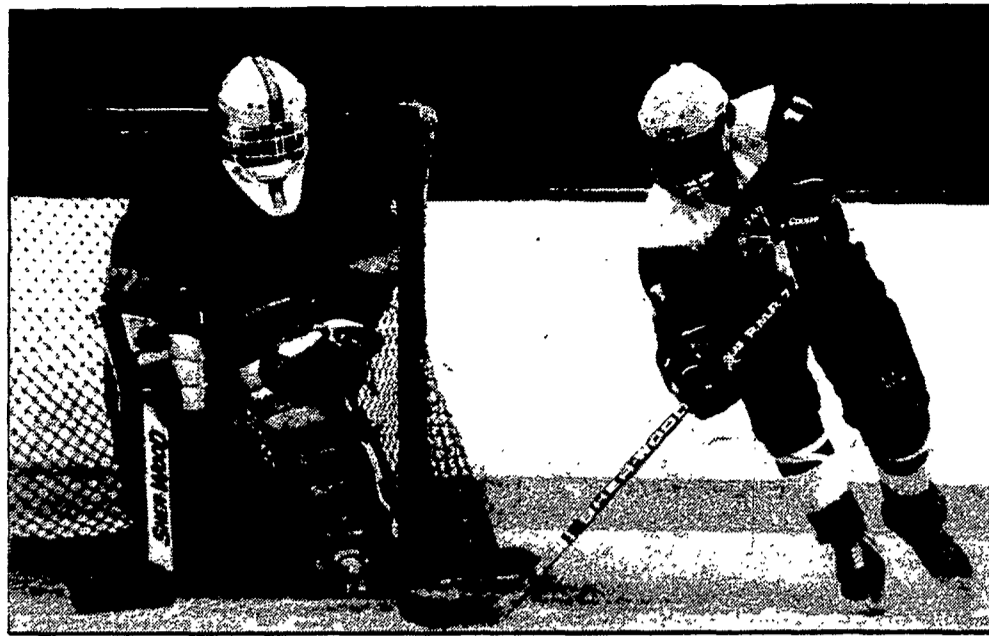
In individual events, Mercy's Maggie Whelehan finished sixth in the 1,500 meter race with a time of 5:16.1; Aquinas' Brian Doane finished 10th in the scholastic men's pole vault with a jump of 3.5 meters; and Mercy graduate Julie Rund scored 350.95 points to finish eighth in open women's

one-meter diving.

The West team entered the ice hockey competition as one of the favorites, having won the gold in 1988. But opening-round losses to Hudson Valley (4-3) and Adirondack (4-1) plus a 7-5 loss Saturday to Long Island ended the team's medal hopes. In



**Bishop Kearney senior forward Marisa Shackelford looks for an opening during Saturday's game against Adirondack. Despite Shackelford's six points, the Western team lost 77-69, finishing the games with a bronze.**



**Chris Fess (right) of Aquinas Institute rolls around the New York City goalie to score his first of two goals during the Saturday hockey match between the two teams at the Empire State Games in Ithaca. Teammate Jeff Nuccitelli, also of Aquinas, finished the game with two goals and two assists helping the Western New York team to an 18-1 win.**

the first game, Fess scored a second-period goal, and in the second game, West's lone goal. The team downed New York City 18-1 on Saturday, with Fess scoring twice. Nuccitelli accounted for two goals and two assists in that match, and also scored a goal in the loss to Long Island.

Shackelford contributed 11 points to the West's opening-round 76-75 victory over Long Island in women's scholastic basketball. She scored six points on both Friday and Saturday in losses to Central (72-69) and Adirondack (77-69). West competed in two 20-minute mini-games on Sunday to

determine the bronze-medal winner, downing Hudson 44-32 and Long Island 46-42. Shackelford scored eight points in the first game; no box score was available for the second.

Despite being the youngest player on the open women's basketball team — and making the team as an alternate — Buntich played in three of the four victories that earned West a gold medal. She scored two points in an opening round 80-64 win over Long Island, eight points on Friday in a 75-54 rout of Central, and five points Saturday to help down Adirondack, 95-80.

## SPORT SHORTS

### Webster man will return to baseball with Fisher job

ROCHESTER — It's been a long time, but Webster resident Joseph N. Marcin has finally returned to the sport that held his fascination as a youngster.

A standout with the Watkins Glen High School team in the late '50s, Marcin spent six years as a catcher and outfielder with the Boston Red Sox minor league organization before calling it quits in 1966. Aside from a three-year stint coaching Little League in Gananda earlier this decade, the 45-year-old Marcin has had little to do with organized baseball.

Until now, that is.

Marcin has accepted an offer to join the coaching staff of the St. John Fisher Cardinals, a former club team about to enter its first season of NCAA Division III

competition. Although the brunt of his experience dates back more than two decades, Marcin is confident he'll be able to help the young catchers and infielders he and head coach Robert M. Simms will be working with next season.

"I think we can help them out. They're young kids — you can still show them a thing or two," he said. "Mainly, I'll work on fundamentals. If you work on the basic things, the other things will fall in line."

Marcin, who is a bartender at Coco's restaurant on Jefferson Road in Henrietta, is already excited about taking on a new job.

"It feels good," he said, when asked about returning to baseball. "I've got an itch to get started. It's been a long time, and I wasn't sure if I wanted to do it, but I talked with Bob (Simms) and he has so much enthusiasm that I said, 'Well, I'll give it a shot.'"

Marcin, who lives on South Estates Drive with his wife, Suzanne, and two children, said he looks forward to helping

the young players with their game. He's had some experience in that department. Marcin introduced the game to his 17-year-old son, Nick, a senior shortstop with the Webster High School team.

"He taught me all the fundamentals," said the younger Marcin. "He's the main reason I play. He made it interesting and exciting."

### Bishop Grimes graduate will attend Fisher this fall

East Syracuse resident Jon Joseph Campolo, who graduated from Bishop Grimes High School last June, will attend St. John Fisher College this fall.

Campolo, a pitcher and first baseman with a 7-11 Bishop Grimes team that took first place in the Watertown Tournament, batted .350 and posted a 4-1 mark in 1989. A triple letter winner at Grimes, he was named the team's Most Valuable Player as a senior.

"John has a lot of raw ability as a pitcher," said Robert M. Simms, who coached Fisher to a 13-6 record last season.

### West defense dominates Eddie Meath All-Star game

The outcome of the seventh-annual Eddie Meath All-Star Football Game was decided by a defensive unit that was willing to bend, but not break.

The West downed the East 21-7 at the University of Rochester's Fauver Stadium Saturday, Aug. 5. The West team's defense allowed 203 yards in offense, but forced five turnovers, including an end-zone fumble, a blocked punt and a key interception in the final moments of the game.

"They had all the big plays — that was the difference," noted Tom Sprague, football coach at McQuaid High School and an assistant coach for the East team.

Those big plays turned what was otherwise a close game into a victory for the West. West got on the board first, scoring a touchdown in the first quarter. By the half, however, West was clinging to only a 14-7 lead.

The defensive struggle continued in the third quarter, with neither team scoring. The East threatened several times, but one drive was stymied by a fumble in the end zone and another, with five minutes to go in the game, by an interception. The West turned that interception into the game's final score with two minutes to go.

Gates-Chili's Jeff Wittman, who rushed for 109 yards for the West and scored a touchdown, was named the game's most valuable player. Defensive player of the game for the West was Edison's Jack Dees.

Craig Chodak of Bishop Kearney, who played both defensive end and line backer as well as handling punting and kick-off duties, was named the most valuable defensive player for the East. East Rochester's Geoff Mandile, who played quarterback, was named the East's top offensive player.

Also playing in the game were McQuaid's Kurt Schmidt and Bishop Kearney's Jeffrey Failing for the East, and Aquinas Institute's Corey Collins and Derek Annechino for the West.

— Strong

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The winner was Tom Camillaci of Rochester.

**SPORTS TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**  
Former Pittsburgh Steelers' quarter back, Terry Bradshaw was recently inducted in the Hall of Fame. How many Super Bowl rings did he win during his career?

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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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