

Mercy, McQ finish fifth at invitational

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — If Mercy cross county coach Tim Jones is correct, the Monarchs' area competitors had best beware.

"This is the best team I've ever had," Jones said. Considering that his Mercy teams have won two consecutive girls' Class A sectional titles, he was saying a lot.

The coach said his current runners are recording faster times than team members from previous years.

Jones was quick to add, however, that local competition had also improved. He predicted that this year's sectional crown will come down to a three-way race between Mercy, Fairport and Webster.

Mercy showed again that it was among Rochester-area's elite teams Saturday, Oct. 7, at the 25th annual McQuaid Invitational. The Monarchs finished fifth in the girls' Class A seeded race, which was the best finish among local teams.

Mercy's Maggie Whelehan was 14th in the race, as she covered the three-mile course in 19 minutes, 30 seconds.

Mercy shared honors for the top team finish by a local diocesan school with host McQuaid, which finished fifth in the boys' Class AAA-2 race.

The Knights, who dropped down a level in this year's competition, were paced by Steve Foley (10th place, 16:17) and Jason Fahy (14th place, 16:33).

The top individual finish by a diocesan athlete was recorded by Bishop Kearney's Damien O'Connor, who completed the race in 16:17 to finish seventh in the boys' Class AA-2 race.

Kearney and Aquinas finished 16th and 31st in the race, respectively.

In the girls' Class AAA-3 race, Aquinas finished in 17th place.

The McQuaid Invitational featured more than 4,000 competitors from schools in Canada and the eastern United States.



Members of the McQuaid cross-country team show different expressions of determination at the start of the boys' AAA-2 race of the McQuaid Invitational at Genesee Valley Park. The Knights finished fifth in the event. More than 4,000 runners competed in 21 races throughout the day.

Christopher Millette



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

Maggie Whelehan placed 14th to lead Mercy's team to a fifth-place finish in the girls' A race.

Thursday, October 12, 1989

Kearney, Aquinas fit to be tied after showdown in boys' soccer

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

The boys' soccer teams at Bishop Kearney and Aquinas faced off Friday evening, Oct. 6, tied for first place in the City-Catholic League.

The two diocesan teams stayed tied after battling through regulation play and two overtime periods to a 2-2 standoff.

The match capped an evening double-header at Kearney. Aquinas beat the BK girls' soccer team in the first game, 4-1.

The boys' game was a tight defensive struggle, as neither team was able to score in the first half. The first goal came 59 minutes into the contest when the Kings' Dan Finnegan scored on a rebound.

Kearney (5-0-1, 8-3-2) maintained the lead until the 76-minute mark, when the Little Irish's Jeff Page scored a goal on an assist by Chris Valentine.

Jim Shoniker scored on a penalty shot two minutes into the first overtime to give Kearney a 2-1 lead. But Aquinas (5-0-1, 7-3-2) fought back to tie the contest with just two minutes left in the second overtime on a goal by Valentine.

Aquinas' goalie Craig Stanton recorded four saves. Kearney's Marco DiMarzo registered seven.


Kearney and Aquinas will meet again Wednesday, Oct. 18, in a game that may determine the league title.

Kearney's girls' soccer team does not have the comfort of knowing they will face Aquinas again this season. The Little Irish (3-1, 8-3-1) downed the Kings' 5-0 on

Sept. 19.

In Friday's contest, Aquinas scored two goals in the first half to take a 2-0 lead at the half. Kearney's Kris Labonski scored 15 minutes into the second half to pull the Kings (1-2-1, 6-3-2) to within 2-1, but Aquinas put the game out of reach with two more goals in the second half.

The Little Irish will play host to Mercy Oct. 12 in a game that could decide the league title.



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