

Kearney, Aquinas set for league showdown

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

City-Catholic League boys' soccer teams entered the final week of regular-season play with the title still up for grabs.

Aquinas began the week with a 6-0-1 record in league play. Bishop Kearney, boasting a healthy 6-1-1 league mark, and Edison (6-2-1) trailed the front-running Little Irish.

All three teams were scheduled to face each other this week. Edison hosted Aquinas on Monday, Oct. 16, before visiting Bishop Kearney Oct. 20. Aquinas was scheduled to host Bishop Kearney on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

The Kearney-Aquinas game featured a rematch of the Oct. 6 battle, which ended in a 2-2 overtime tie. Both teams entered that game undefeated in league play.



McQuaid's Matt Parker (5) attempts to stop Kevin Herzog (9) of Penfield from gaining control of the ball during play.

But on Tuesday, Oct. 10, McQuaid (4-4, 7-7), the pre-season pick by many to win the league title, upset Kearney 1-0. The Knights won on Mark Fandel's goal in the first half.

McQuaid had a chance to throw another monkey wrench into the title fight when it played host to Aquinas on Thursday, Oct. 12. Instead, the Knights finished on the wrong end of a 1-0 score.

Jason Mucha headed the ball into the net 25 minutes into the first half for the game's only goal. McQuaid had an apparent goal called back because of a penalty, and narrowly missed on several other opportunities.

Aquinas notched another win Saturday, Oct. 14, downing host Canandaigua 1-0 on a goal by Jeff Page with five minutes left in the first half. In raising their overall record to 9-3-2, the Little Irish outshot the Braves 38-5.

Kearney also played a non-league game last week, but with less success than Aquinas. The Fighting Kings (8-5-1) fell to host Marion, 4-1, on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

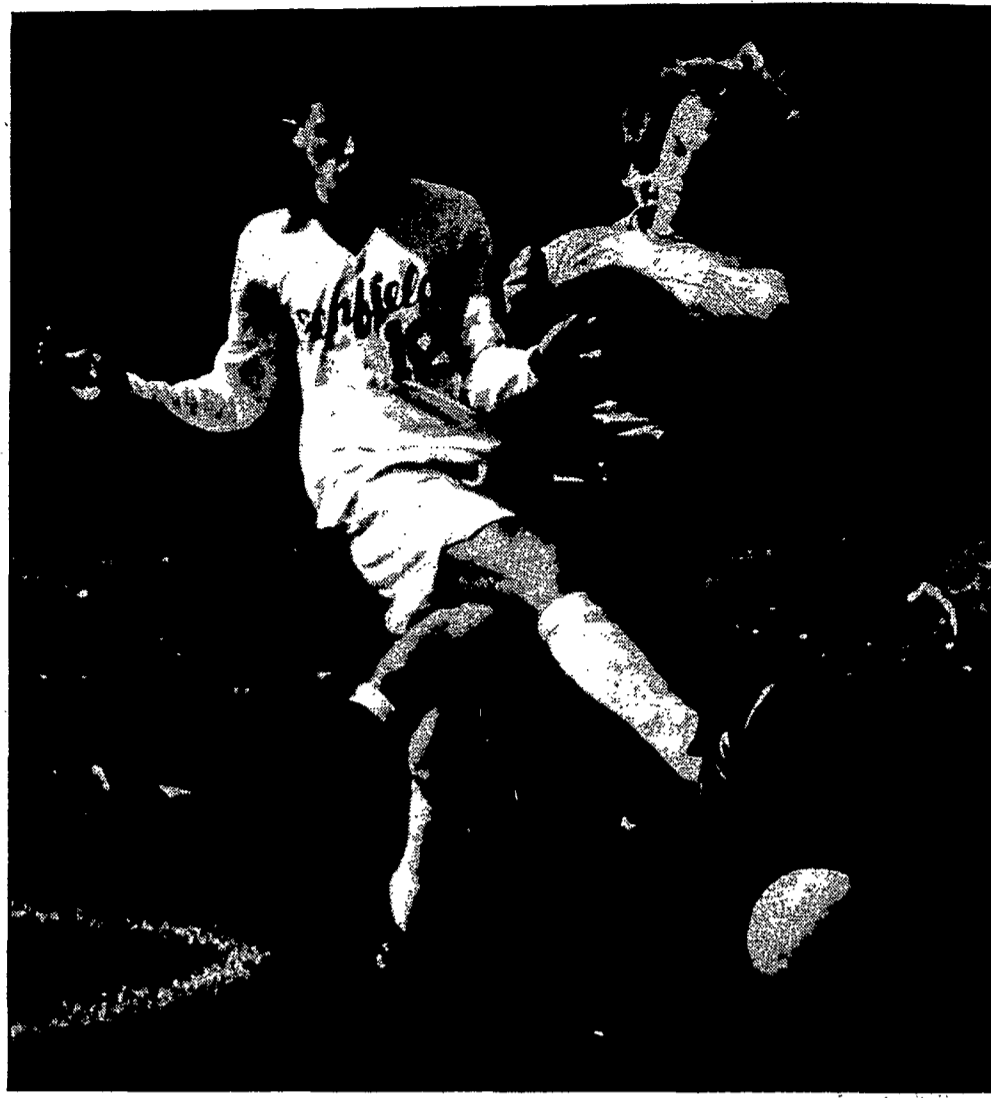
Kearney's lone goal came just a minute into the game, but Marion responded with two goals to take a 2-1 lead at intermission.

Coach Greg Schuber attributed the loss in part to fatigue after the Kings' one-goal loss to McQuaid.

"They were only up 2-1 at the half," he said. "In the second half, they just wore us down."

Marion outshot the Kings 30-16.

McQuaid, meanwhile, traveled to Penfield Saturday, Oct. 14, where it was defeated 5-0. Coach Dan Schied said Penfield (12-1), which he believes is one of the strongest teams in the area, took advantage of defensive lapses by the Knights.



Linda Dow-Hayes/Catholic Courier

Penfield's Tim Magin (12) tangles with McQuaid's Tim Concannon during action Saturday, Oct. 14, at Penfield High School. Penfield won the game with a 5-0 score.

Schied acknowledged that he was frustrated by his team's play this season, but not disappointed. "The boys are playing hard," he explained. He predicted that the Knights will surprise some teams in the Section 5 Class A sectionals.

Both Kearney and Aquinas appear to have qualified for the sectionals as well, and the two diocesan schools may face each other again in Class BB.

But both teams are focusing on the City-Catholic League title right now.

"It's all in our hands," Schuber said. Coach Gary LaPietra said his Aquinas team had something to prove.

"Bishop Kearney and McQuaid got all the headlines at the beginning of the season," he said. "Our goal at the beginning of the season was to win the City-Catholic League."

Kings qualify for sectionals in Class A; Knights lose

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Diocesan grid teams seeking a berth in the sectional playoffs are playing number games these days.

The numbers in question are not the game scores — though they are important — but sectional seeding points.

Kearney 34, Pal-Mac 16

One team that has already qualified for the sectionals is Bishop Kearney (4-1-1), which clinched a spot in Section 5 Class A with a 34-16 win over visiting Palmyra Macedon Friday, Oct. 13.

The Fighting Kings took control of the game early, scoring midway through the first quarter on a 25-yard run by Rene Ingoglia. The conversion failed.

In the second quarter, Kearney added touchdown passes from Dave Armanini to Bert Richardson (13 yards) and Sean Rhodes (17 yards), and a two-point conversion connection between Armanini and Richardson to build a 20-0 lead at the half.

On the opening play of the second half,

Justin Kaleta scored on an 18-yard interception. A successful kick gave the Kings a 27-0 lead.

Coach Nick Teta then started playing reserves. Palmyra-Macedon scored twice, but it was too little too late.

Kearney scored again in the fourth quarter on a two-yard run by Duane Yansen.

For the game, Ingoglia finished with 128 yards on 16 carries. He also had nearly 90 yards called back because of penalties. Armanini connected on seven-of-11 passes for 80 yards and two touchdowns.

Bishop Kearney, which is playing as an independent team this season, has next week off. Teta said the layoff will give his team a chance to rest, and some injured players a chance to heal.

One key player is halfback Lamin Massaquoi, who suffered a sprained ankle during the Sept. 30 loss to Midlakes. Massaquoi saw limited action on defense against Pal-Mac.

He is expected to be back on offense when Kearney plays host to Penn Yan Fri-

day, Oct. 27.

Webster 21, McQuaid 7

McQuaid (4-0, 5-1) hosted Webster Saturday, Oct. 14, knowing that a victory — coupled with an East win over Edison — would clinch a playoff spot for the Knights.

East cooperated, but Webster (2-4) didn't as the Warriors handed the Knights a 21-7 loss in non-league football action.

The game was a Jekyll-and-Hyde experience for McQuaid. The Knights completely dominated the first half, outgaining the Warriors 167 yards to 28.

But McQuaid only managed to put seven points on the board, a 20-yard touchdown pass from Andy Dvonch to Matt Palmisano at the beginning of the second quarter. A Jim Flanagan kick pulled the Knights into a 7-7 tie.

McQuaid threatened again in the second quarter, mounting a 76-yard drive that ate up more than six minutes off the clock. But Bernie Lippa — who finished the game with 67 yards on 17 carries — fumbled at the four-yard line with 1:28 left in the quarter to end the drive.

"At halftime, I thought we had the

game," McQuaid coach Tom Sprague acknowledged.

In the second half, however, Mr. Hyde put on a Webster uniform. The Warriors made some defensive adjustments and shut down the McQuaid offense. Webster limited the Knights to just 22 net yards on 19 plays.

Meanwhile, the Webster offensive line became overpowering in the second half. The Warriors scored on a 33-yard run in the third quarter to take a 14-7 lead. "That play broke our back," Sprague said.

Webster scored again in the fourth quarter to close out the scoring.

McQuaid was limited to 189 yards for the game. Dvonch — who was victimized by four dropped passes — finished 5-for-14 for 62 yards.

Jamal Dunbar rushed for 87 yards, but was forced to leave the game when he suffered bruised ribs in the first half. Dunbar may not be available this Saturday when McQuaid travels to Wilson (0-4, 0-6).

A McQuaid win over Wilson will earn the Knights the City-Catholic League title.

Sprague cautioned, however, that because of the logjam of teams still alive for bids in Class AAA, the outcome of the McQuaid-Aquinas game on Saturday, Oct.

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