

## Little Irish win league: Playoffs set

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

The Aquinas boys' soccer team has made sure that the girls' soccer team would not have sole bragging rights around the Dewey Avenue campus.

The boys claimed the City-Catholic League crown with a 3-1 win over visiting Bishop Kearney Wednesday, Oct. 18.

The girls' team won the Private-Parochial League two weeks ago with a 5-2 victory over Our Lady of Mercy.

The Aquinas boys (8-0-1, 11-3-2) also earned the fourth seed and a bye in the Section 5 Class BB sectional tournament.

The first opponent for the Little Irish may be a familiar one.

If fifth-seeded Kearney won its opening round game against No. 12 Albion on Tuesday, Oct. 24, the Little Irish are scheduled to host the Kings this Saturday, Oct. 28.

Barring any unforeseen upsets, the winner of the Aquinas-Kearney showdown will have the dubious pleasure of facing top-seeded and undefeated Pittsford Mendon, which is ranked No. 1 in the latest New York State Sports Writers poll of Class B boys' soccer teams.

This Saturday, Oct. 28, Pittsford Mendon will play the winner of a game Wednesday, Oct. 25, between No. 9 Wayne and No. 8 Spencerport.

But for now, the Little Irish can savor the pleasure of winning the City-Catholic title.

"That, in our mind, was our goal at the beginning of the season," said AQ Coach Gary LaPietra. "Anything that we do in the sectionals will be icing on the cake."

The Oct. 18 game against Kearney (6-2-1, 10-6-2) was a furious struggle—similar to the 2-2 tie the two teams played on Oct. 6.

In the first meeting, Kearney took the lead twice, and Aquinas was forced to play catch-up.

This time around, however, Aquinas built up a 3-1 lead on goals by Matt Borkowski, Steve Hanss and Jeff Page. Kearney's lone goal came from Steve Andiloro.

Kearney coach Greg Schuber said his players had scoring chances, but failed to capitalize on them. In the second half, a penalty shot by the Kings hit the cross bar, thwarting a chance to trim the lead to 3-2.

An Aquinas defender managed to block what appeared to be a sure goal when he threw himself in front of a Kearney player's shot.



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier  
(Above) The joy and excitement captured on the face of Chris Valentino (13) epitomized the feeling of the entire Aquinas boys soccer team after their 3-1 win over Bishop Kearney on Wednesday, Oct. 18. Fans mobbed the team after the game as the Little Irish claimed the City-Catholic League crown. (At right) Aquinas' Anthony Tata (10) tries to take possession of the ball as Kearney's Scott Delgatti moves in.

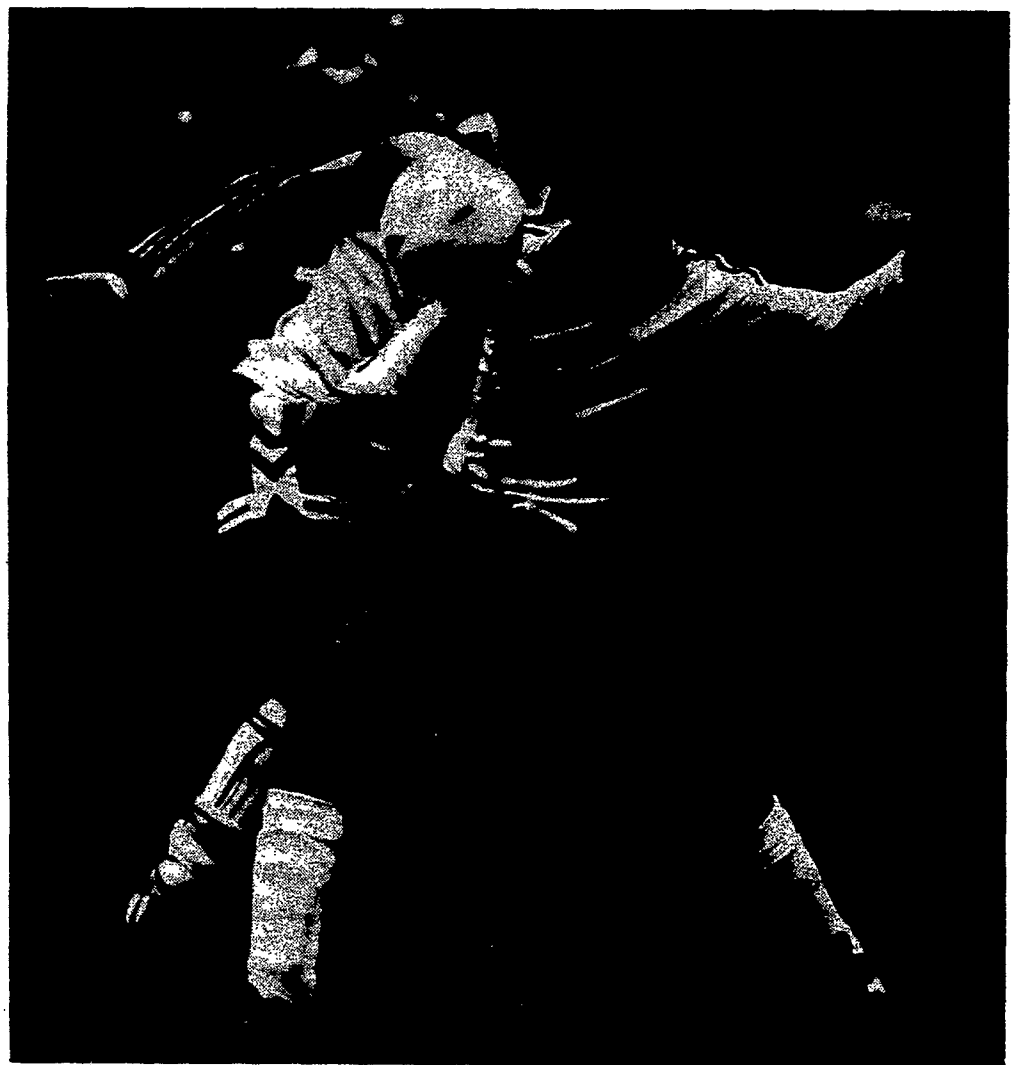
If the two teams face each other again this Saturday, LaPietra predicted another close contest. "It's going to be another war," he said.

Schuber said that he "saw a lot of beaming faces" when he told his players that they might face Aquinas in the post-season.

First, however, the Kings must get past Albion (5-11-1). Before the game, Schuber admitted that he knew little about his team's first-round opponent. "We're not going to worry about the scouting report. We'll just go out and play our game," he said.

Among the other top seeds in the BB tournament—arguably the toughest bracket in boys' soccer this year—are No. 2 Churchville-Chili (13-3-0) and No. 4 Newark (15-1-0).

Both Schuber and LaPietra agreed,  
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## Aquinas gears for sectional play, exposure on national television

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

The Aquinas girls soccer team won their first Private-Parochial League title this season. This Friday, Oct. 27, they will make their first appearance on national television.

The Little Irish (5-1, 12-5-1), who are seeded fourth in the Section 5 Class BB tournament, will play host to fifth-seeded Pittsford Mendon (10-4-1). A crew from ESPN will be in Rochester to film the opening-round games of the Pittsford Mendon boys' and girls' teams for the network's *Scholastic Sports America* program.

"I think it's going to be the game of the tournament," predicted Little Irish coach Greg McMaster. "I think whoever wins our game has the best chance to win the tournament." The two teams scrimmaged before the season, McMaster said, but

many of Mendon's players didn't play.

McMaster will rely on the same strengths that led the Little Irish to their best season ever: depth and speed. He noted that 15 different players scored for his team during the regular season.

"If you key on one player, someone else will score," he said.

Aquinas' deep bench also allows the starters to rest so they are fresher later in the game, McMaster noted. Because he has played his reserves all season, the AQ coach added, they are ready to step in when needed.

Brighton (12-1-2) is the top seed in the Class BB bracket. Victor (16-1-1) is the No. 2 seed, followed by No. 3 Pittsford Sutherland (13-3-2).

In Section 5 Class A, Our Lady of Mercy is seeded sixth, earning a first-round bye. But this Saturday, Oct. 28, the Monarchs (4-1-1, 8-6-1) must travel to Hil-

ton to face the third-seeded Cadets (14-2-2), a team that beat Mercy 4-0 at Hilton in September.

Monarchs' coach Kathy Boughton said, however, that the team she takes to Hilton this time will be very different.

"I made some personnel changes in my defense to get a quicker lineup," she explained. The Mercy coach also moved leading-scorer Sheila Doyle (16 goals, five assists) to a new position to prevent defenses from keying on her. "I think it's going to be a much better game," she predicted.

The winner of Saturday's game will probably have to face second-seeded Brockport on Tuesday, Oct. 31. The No. 1 seed is Penfield (15-1), while Brockport (14-1-1) is seeded second, and Greece Athena (9-6-1) is seeded fourth.

Bishop Kearney earned the eighth seed in the Section 5 Class B tournament after finishing its regular season with a 7-5-3 re-

cord. Coach Leo Teerlinck noted that this year marks the first time ever that a BK girls' soccer team finished the regular season above .500.

The Kings were scheduled to play ninth-seeded Wellsville (8-8) at Wayland on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The winner of that game will play at top-seeded Livonia (16-1-1) this Friday, Oct. 27.

Livonia and Kearney met earlier in the season at the Livonia Tournament. Livonia won that game in double overtime.

Midlakes (13-4-1) is seeded second in Class B, followed by No. 3 Honeoye Falls-Lima (14-3-1) and No. 4 Penn Yan (12-5).

Nazareth (4-7-1) finished the regular season with a 4-1-1 record against non-league competition. Coach Dick Hendricks is hoping that his team's strong play against teams from outside of the league will translate into wins in the Section 5

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