

# Diocesan grid teams enjoy banner weekend

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

For the first time this season, the four diocesan football teams playing won on the same weekend.

In the process, Elmira Notre Dame scored an upset; McQuaid qualified for post-season play; DeSales pulled itself into contention for a sectional spot; and Aquinas moved closer to achieving a winning season.

## Notre Dame 26, Windsor 14

The Crusaders were considered underdogs against a larger, more physical Windsor team. And, in fact, Windsor (2-1, 5-2) did limit Notre Dame's normally strong running game to just 54 yards.

But Notre Dame (3-0, 6-1) simply turned to the arm of sophomore quarterback Bryan Woodworth — and the strength of its defensive unit — to achieve a 26-14 win at Windsor, Friday, Oct. 20.

Neither team was able to score in the first quarter, but Notre Dame struck quickly in the second quarter.

On the second play of the quarter, Woodworth (9-for-16, 178 yards) teamed up with Anthony Wisniewski for a 13-yard touchdown pass. The kick was blocked, however, and the score remained 6-0.

On Windsor's next possession, Geoff Woodworth intercepted a pass and ran 73 yards for a score to give the Crusaders a 12-0 lead. The two-point conversion failed.

Windsor answered back with a second-quarter touchdown, but the kick failed and Notre Dame led 12-6 at the half.

According to ND Coach Mike D'Aloisio, the game was essentially decided on the Crusaders' opening drive of the second half. Combining a battery of running plays with short and medium passes, Notre Dame executed a 72-yard scoring drive. Mike Bennett culminated the drive with a one-yard plunge.

A successful two-point conversion run by Lee Heyward gave the Crusaders a 20-6 lead.

"I think that (drive) showed we could move the ball on them," D'Aloisio said.

Windsor scored again in the fourth quarter, and added a two-point conversion run to pull within six points, 20-14.

But Bryan Woodworth combined with Wisniewski again, this time for a 58-yard touchdown. Wisniewski finished the game with 110 yards on seven receptions. Brian Sheehan added 78 yards on two catches.

Notre Dame eked out 232 yards of total offense for the game. The Crusaders' defense held Windsor to just 199 yards.

Notre Dame can clinch a post-season bowl bid this Friday, Oct. 27, when the Crusaders travel to Dryden (1-2, 4-3).

## McQuaid 22, Wilson 14

McQuaid clinched the City-Catholic League title and secured a spot in the Section 5 Class AAA playoffs with a 22-14 victory over host Wilson, Saturday, Oct. 21.

The Knights (5-0, 6-1) began the game minus running back Bernie Lippa, who is still recovering from a hip pointer he suffered against Webster two weeks ago. Jamal Dunbar also saw limited action be-

cause of bruised ribs.

The injuries to the two McQuaid backs pushed linebacker Sam Owens into the fullback spot. Owens responded with a tremendous game, grinding out 91 yards and scoring two touchdowns.

Owens was a force on defense as well, registering 15 tackles to help keep Wilson in check.

McQuaid scored on its first possession of the game thanks to a 30-yard run by Cullen Dickinson. Jim Flanagan's kick was good, giving the Knights an early 7-0 lead.

Owens scored his first touchdown of the day on McQuaid's next possession, battering his way into the end zone from the two-yard line. Another successful Flanagan kick gave the Knights a 14-0 lead.

But Wilson answered back with a 90-yard kickoff return. The kick failed, however, and the score remained 14-6 at the half.

In the third quarter, Owens scored again — this time from from one yard out — and then scampered into the end zone for the two-point conversion to give McQuaid a 22-6 lead. A Wilson touchdown and two-point conversion narrowed the Knights' lead to 22-14.

In the fourth quarter, McQuaid ate up the clock with a drive down to the Wilson goal line. A fumble on the goal line gave the ball to Wilson, but the Knights' defense stopped the Wildcats at their own 20-yard line as time ran out.

Wet and cold conditions forced McQuaid to stay primarily on the ground (293 of the Knights' 324 yards in offense came on the ground). In addition to Owens, Dunbar ru-

shed for 102 yards and Dickinson finished with 31 yards.

McQuaid Coach Tom Sprague said that Dunbar was doubtful for this Saturday's home game against Aquinas. Lippa, meanwhile, may return if his hip improves.

## DeSales 32, Bath 12

DeSales' dormant offense finally awoke as the the Saints thrashed visiting Bath 32-12 on Saturday, Oct. 21. The win improved the Saints' chances of gaining a berth in the Section 5 Class D playoffs.

"We can determine our own destiny," said coach Bob Taney. A win against host South Seneca this Saturday, Oct. 28, will guarantee the Saints (3-2, 3-4) a post-season berth.

Against Bath, DeSales racked up 415 yards of total offense. Running back Chris Ike accounted for 215 of those yards — 168 in the first half alone.

The game also marked the first time this season that the Saints scored more than 14 points in a game.

Ike scored on DeSales' first possession when he rumbled into the end zone from 13 yards out. Ike's 45-yard dash on the previous play set up the score.

Jim Walters' kick gave the Saints a 7-0 lead.

The margin was extended to 13 in the first quarter, when Jim McDermott scored from the 10. The kick failed.

Bath scored in the second quarter to make the score 13-6, but McDermott responded with a two-yard touchdown run of his own. The kick failed, however, and the Saints' lead remained 19-6.

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## Playoffs set

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however, that Pittsford Mendon is the team to beat.

McQuaid ended a frustrating regular season with a 5-0 win over Rush-Henrietta on Thursday, Oct. 19. The Knights (5-4, 8-7) earned the eighth seed in the Class A sectional tournament, and were scheduled to play an opening-round game Tuesday, Oct. 24, against No. 9 Greece-Athens at Spencerport.

The winner of the McQuaid-Athens game will play top-seeded Penfield (14-1) Friday, Oct. 27, at Penfield.

Coach Dan Schied said his team has played well all season, but has had trouble scoring. The win over Rush-Henrietta, and a 9-1 win over Franklin on Oct. 16, gave him hope that his players' scoring problems are behind them.

If the Knights won their opening-round game, they will face a Penfield team that defeated them, 5-0, on Oct. 14.

Schied said that after reviewing videotapes of the Penfield game, he thought his team played well but that it did not capi-

talize on its scoring opportunities.

"Anything can happen in the sectionals," he added.

The other top seeds in Class A are No. 2 Webster, No. 3 Gates-Chili and No. 4 Brockport.

In Section 4, Notre Dame's boys ended the regular season with a 6-11 record and earned the No. 6 seed in Class C.

ND Coach Henry Ferguson said that his team's record is deceiving because nine of the Crusaders' losses came against schools in Class A or B.

Against teams in Class C, Notre Dame was 6-2.

The Crusaders are scheduled to begin sectional play this Friday, Oct. 27, at No. 3 Dryden — a team Notre Dame beat 4-1 on Sept. 11.

"It should be an interesting game," Ferguson said.

The coach predicted that the tough, regular season schedule should help his team in the sectionals. He will be relying on the scoring of Mike Ramich (14 goals, six assists), Eric Sira (seven goals, four assists) and Mike Creighton (five goals, three assists) to provide the offense for the Crusaders.

## AQ on ESPN

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Class BB tournament.

Eighth-seeded Nazareth was scheduled to play ninth-seeded Greece Arcadia at Aquinas Tuesday, Oct. 24. The winner of that game will advance to face No. 1 Brighton on Friday, Oct. 27, at Brighton.

"We might surprise a few people," Hendricks predicted.

One team that will not surprise anyone is Notre Dame. The Crusaders (10-4-2) are ranked No. 15 in the latest state Class C poll.

In the Section 4 Class C tournament, Notre Dame is seeded second. This Friday,

Oct. 27, they will host third-seeded Trumansburg (15-1-1).

The top seed in the tournament is Seton Catholic — ranked sixth in the state Class C poll. The field in Class C is so strong, in fact, that teams seeded below the top four schools opted not to compete in post-season play.

Notre Dame is led by Jenni Fagan (16 goals, two assists) and Melanie Crisco (12 goals, five assists).

But the Crusaders are entering the game with a huge void to fill in goal. Sandi Pace, who was ND's netminder the entire regular season, broke several ribs in a season-ending 3-1 win over Hornell on Oct. 17.

Coach Steve Weber said he will be searching for a new goalie during scrimmages this week.



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier

With Kearney defender Pat Grow close on his heels, Aquinas' Jeff Page (17) works the ball towards the Kings' goal in an unsuccessful attempt to score. Page later scored a goal to help the Little Irish to a 3-1 win.

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### SPORTS TRIVIA

**This week's question:**

What baseball pitcher has the most World Series strike-outs to his credit?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**

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