

Knights pay back Irish; Saints nip Scotsmen

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Last week's action in boys' basketball included a rematch between McQuaid and Aquinas, Bishop Kearney's inauguration of an annual event that may become a high point of the local basketball season, and a last-second escape from an upset bid by DeSales.

With games against Wilson and Aquinas, McQuaid may have had dreams of avenging its only two losses of the year.

Instead, Wilson ended those dreams with a shot at the buzzer as the host Wildcats (14-2) defeated the Knights (14-3), 49-47, on Jan. 16.

Wilson had downed McQuaid 72-68 just one week earlier.

In last week's confrontation between the two City-Catholic League teams, Wilson surged out to a 17-6 first-quarter lead.



Babette G. Augustin-Staff photographer
A McQuaid fan displays a 'not hand,' which is flashed each time the Knights block an opponent's shot.

But McQuaid's triangle-and-two defense, designed to hold Wilson's Raul Hagins in check, enabled the Knights to take a 26-23 lead at the half.

The Knights remained in the lead most of the second half. But in the fourth quarter, McQuaid — which shot only six-for-26 in the second half — missed some key shots, and Hagins began to get loose.

Then, with just four seconds left and the game tied at 47, Wilson was awarded the ball after it was knocked out of bounds. On the in-bounds play, Hagins fired up the ball from the lane, but Jason McKinney blocked the shot. Unfortunately, the ball went right back to Hagins, who beat the buzzer for the winning basket.

McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese was pleased with his players despite the loss, however.



Babette G. Augustin-Staff photographer
Aquinas' Dwayne Postell (left) wrestles a rebound away from McQuaid's Jeff Reese during the Jan. 26 meeting at McQuaid between the City-Catholic League rivals. Despite Postell's efforts, the Knights out-rebounded the Little Irish 26-14, and came away with a 79-59 victory.

"I told (the players) that I felt we turned the corner," Marchese said. "We played tough defense."

Ted Naylor led the Knights with 10 points.

Against visiting Aquinas on Jan. 26, McQuaid's defense came to the forefront again as the Knights forced the Little Irish into 23 turnovers during a 79-59 win.

In the first meeting between the two rivals on Jan. 12, Aquinas came away with a 72-69 victory in overtime.

This time around, however, the Knights made it clear that they weren't ready to accept another upset.

McQuaid led throughout the game, taking a 17-12 first quarter lead and increasing the margin to 33-23 at the half.

Aquinas made a bid to come back in the third quarter, cutting the lead to 53-45, but the Knights pulled away in the fourth quarter.

Aquinas Coach Mike Dianetti said his team was unable to match up with the taller Knights under the boards. McQuaid out-rebounded the Irish 26-14 for the game.

With both teams playing aggressive man-to-man defense — and the officials calling the game closely — foul shooting played a key role as McQuaid hit 25 of 33 from the charity strip and Aquinas shot 16 for 21.

After the Little Irish got into foul trouble, Ted Naylor (20 points), Kevin Brown (15) and Mike Montesano (12) took advantage of AQ's zone defense by consistently hitting from the outside.

Jay Moore provided scoring punch on the inside, dropping in 20 points.

Aaron Boucher led the Little Irish with 16 points.

McQuaid continued its hot shooting on Jan. 28, defeating Bishop Kearney 66-43 in the opening game of the Bishop Kearney Classic at the War Memorial.

The Classic featured a game between nationally ranked All Hallows and East. All Hallows came away with a 57-50 win. Kearney is hoping that future invitationals will feature more national powers.

In the Kearney/McQuaid game, Marchese was able to substitute freely as the Knights built a 36-17 halftime lead against the Kings.

Marchese said that the key to the game was the Knights holding Shaun Rhodes in check. Rhodes had just five points.

Naylor and Brown each scored 10 points to lead a balanced McQuaid attack that saw five players score seven or more points.

Rene Ingoglia paced Kearney (6-9) with 14 points. Greg Mikell added 10 points.

McQuaid was scheduled to visit a tough Marshall team Jan. 30.

Kearney, meanwhile, was scheduled to host Wilson the same night.

The Little Irish began their week with a 71-57 loss to visiting East on Jan. 23.

Much like the case in the McQuaid
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Kearney wrestlers win City-Catholic crown

The resurgent Bishop Kearney wrestling team grappled its way to its first City-Catholic title since 1981.

The Kings (4-0, 9-4) clinched the title with a 60-3 win over host Marshall on Jan. 25.

Kearney finished second last season, los-

Eight Saints recognized

GENEVA — Eight members of the DeSales football team — which advanced to the semifinals of the Section 5 Class D playoffs — were named to the Finger Lakes West All-Star Team.

Earning first-team honors on offense were receiver Jeff Taney, center Frank Caravita, tackle Paul Annunziata, running back Chris Ike, and punter Jim Walters.

Defensive lineman Joe Vedora and line-backer Dave Barnard represented the Saints on the first team.

ing in league play only to eventual-champion McQuaid. The roles were reversed this season as the Kings handed the Knights their only league loss.

A team with a number of outstanding wrestlers, Kearney is led by Gracen Porrecca, who has compiled an 18-1 record in the 98-pound class thus far this season.

Other standouts include: Rich Spaker (105), 16-3; Sam Lopez (119), 16-3-1; his brother Jerry Lopez (145), 16-3-1; Jamie Twist (177), 17-2-1; and heavyweight Dave Bell (215), 11-2.

Kearney will look to continue its strong season at the City-Catholic championships this Saturday, Feb. 3, and at the upcoming sectionals.

Second-year coach Vince Asito predicted that Kearney will have eight wrestlers seeded in the sectionals' 12 weight classes.

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