

Mercy, Kearney ready for league battle

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

School examinations caused a light schedule for diocesan girls' basketball teams last week.

Despite the spattering of games, Bishop Kearney and Mercy tuned up for their showdown next week, and DeSales just fell short in a bid to upset one of the state's top teams.

Kearney (3-1, 13-2) won its 11th consecutive game, easily defeating host Franklin 57-24 on Thursday, Jan. 25.

The Kings took control of the game early, allowing Coach Paul Forte the luxury of giving his reserves extensive playing time.

"They're playing at a fairly consistent level," Forte said of his players. "We're just trying to improve with every game."

The team's most consistent players have been Marisa Shackelford and Eileen Jensen. Against Franklin, Shackelford and Jensen tossed in 14 and 11 points, respectively. Michelle Pecor added 10 points, and Dawn Wiegand collected eight rebounds.

Kearney was scheduled to visit Harléy-Allendale Columbia on Tuesday, Jan. 30. In looking ahead, Forte acknowledged that the Kings probably won't be tested until they travel to Mercy on Feb. 8. The

Monarchs handed the Kings a 64-43 loss on Dec. 14.

Mercy, meanwhile, continued to win easily. The Monarchs improved their record to 13-0 by thrashing host Wilson, 74-51, on Jan. 26.

Mercy raced out to leads of 18-6 after one quarter and 42-24 at the half. The catalyst in the Mercy attack was Sheila Doyle, who scored a career-high 22 points — 18 off of fast-break baskets. Doyle also had seven steals.

Catherine Robinson poured in 15 points, and Natalie White added 14 in the winning effort.

Mercy is scheduled to visit Nazareth on Feb. 1, then will play host to Sacred Heart of Buffalo on Feb. 3.

Aquinas (2-3, 9-5) won its only game of the week, defeating visiting Nazareth 54-30 on Jan. 25. Amy Reynders lead the Little Irish attack with 12 points. Tammy Rice and Beth Kelly each tossed in 10 points.

Next up for the Irish is a visit to Wilson on Feb. 1.

Nazareth (6-8) was one of the few teams to play two games during the week. Before its loss to Aquinas, Nazareth enjoyed a 57-23 win over visiting Northstar (1-11) on Jan. 22. Missy Creamer led all scorers

with 10 points.

DeSales (4-4, 6-6) suffered the toughest loss of the week, falling in the game's closing moments to visiting Bloomfield 52-49.

With only eight seconds on the clock, Bloomfield ((8-0, 12-1) scored off a rebound to go ahead 50-49. DeSales had led the game most of the second half.

The Saints then lost the ball, tried to steal it back, and ended up watching as the Bombers' Jill Helling (14 points) canned two foul shots to ensure the win.

Earlier in the game, the Saints seemed determined to upset the Bombers. Behind Jeneane Donahue (17 points) and Danielle Boncaro (11 points), DeSales overcame a 14-10 first quarter deficit to take a 41-33 lead at the end of three quarters.

But Bloomfield, ranked 11th in the state Class C-D poll, outscored DeSales 19-8 in the final quarter to thwart the upset bid.

Despite the loss, Coach Steve Muzzi was pleased with his team's strong play.

"It's a good sign for the sectionals," Muzzi said.

Long before sectionals begin, however, DeSales must be ready for a scheduled visit to Honeoye on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

The Notre Dame girls' basketball team did not play last week. The Crusaders' next game is at Hornell Friday, Feb. 2.

SPORTSHORTS

Outstanding athletes honored at Aquinas

Aquinas Institute has announced winners of fall athletic awards at the Dewey Avenue high school.

Alcindor Coleman — who has been recognized as one of the outstanding high school football players in the country — was named most valuable offensive lineman. Alva Royston was named most outstanding offensive back and most valuable player overall.

On defense, Jim Julian was named most outstanding lineman and Greg Pelletier was honored as most outstanding back. Don Schwab won the Iron Man Award for most time on the field.

The most improved player was Eric Ren.

Joseph Valentino and Kathy Thies were named most valuable players in boys' and girls' soccer, respectively. Jeff Page and Christy Prame won the most outstanding player awards. Matt Borkowski and Linda Oliver were honored as most improved players.

Amy Reynders was tabbed most valuable player for the girls' volleyball team. Marianne Neckles earned the most outstanding player award, and Raena Formicola was most improved.

In girls' swimming, Christine Kroetz won the most valuable swimmer award and Elizabeth Ormiston was honored as the most improved swimmer.

Brian Keyes, Jr., took most valuable player honors for the boys' cross country team, while Sarah Bierley was named MVP of the girls' team. Tim Rhoads and Jessica LeBlanc were tabbed most outstanding runners.

Michelle Sokolski earned the award as the most valuable cheerleader. Christine Callahan was named most outstanding cheerleader. Julie Eve was recognized as most improved.

Easter Seal benefit volleyball marathon set

IRONDEQUOIT — The annual Easter Seal Society of Monroe County Volleyball Marathon will take place Saturday, Feb. 3, and Sunday, Feb. 4, from noon to 8 p.m. each day at the Holiday Health and Fitness Center in Irondequoit.

A total of 64 teams can participate in the event. All collected pledges will benefit the seal agencies.

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Knights

Continued from page 10

game, rebounding proved the key as the taller Orientals dominated the boards, 42-23.

Aquinas managed to stay with East in the first quarter as the Little Irish led 15-14 after eight minutes. But East used an 11-0 run in the second quarter to take a 32-22 lead at the half. The lead grew to 54-32 at the end of three quarters, and ballooned to as many as 26 points in the fourth quarter.

Boucher, with 14 points, again paced the Irish. Coleman added 12 points.

Aquinas was scheduled to travel to Marshall on Jan. 30.

DeSales fans may want to change Chris Ike's last name to 'Ice.'

In the final minute against Dundee, Ike (12 points) hit three foul shots to turn a 57-56 deficit into a 59-57 DeSales win.

The visiting Scotsmen (3-9, 4-9) stayed with the Saints (10-2, 12-3) throughout the game, trailing only 28-22 at the half and 44-40 at the end of three quarters.

Bob McFadden scored 14 points to pace the Saints, and Jeff Taney added 11.

The Saints, who are in a four-team team battle for first place in the Finger Lakes West League, were scheduled to travel to Red Jacket on Jan. 31.

Notre Dame had the week off. The Crusaders are scheduled to host Hornell Friday, Feb. 2.



Babette G. Augustin-Staff photographer

McQuaid's Jay Moore (right) finds Aquinas' Mike Enright blocking his way as he tries to move toward the basket. Moore tied for team-high scoring honors with 20 points.

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The winner was Teknaya Watson of Nazareth Academy.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

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If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF any purchase of \$25.00 or more at Locker Room Sports, 560 W. Ridge Rd.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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