

Saints win with final shot; Irish lose semis

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Four of the five diocesan boys' basketball teams advanced to the semifinals in sectional play. But one of those teams, the DeSales Saints, needed a shot at the buzzer to keep alive their hopes of defending their Section 5 Class D crown.

At Livonia High School on Feb. 23, the fourth-seeded Saints (16-5) trailed No. 5 Houghton (13-8) most of the game, falling behind 18-11 at the end of the first quarter, and 29-19 at the half.

Houghton extended its lead to 12 points in the third quarter, but then the Saints began to battle back, cutting the margin to 40-32 at the end of the third quarter. DeSales' Ed Marsteiner tied the game at 46 with a three-point shot midway through the fourth quarter. The lead changed hands several times in the fourth quarter, and the score was tied 50-50 with 46 seconds left. The Saints then attempted to hold for the final shot, but Houghton stole the ball with :25 remaining.

A shot by Houghton with 10 seconds left missed, and DeSales center Rob McFadden — playing with a soft cast to protect a broken finger — grabbed one of his game-high 16 rebounds.

The Saints called a timeout with six seconds left to set up a play to either McFadden or Pat Mooney underneath. The Houghton defense prevented a pass inside, however, and as time expired, Todd Hardy (11 points) launched the game-winner while falling backwards.

Marsteiner led the Saints with 14 points, including three three-pointers. McFadden poured in 12 points and blocked seven shots despite the cast.

Coach Tony Alvaro acknowledged that he's been impressed with McFadden's play in the sectionals. His center broke a finger on his shooting hand in the Saints' regular-season finale, a 93-49 win over visiting Rómulus on Feb. 13.

"I'm dumbfounded he's doing as well as he has," Alvaro said, noting that his 6-6 center can't even dribble the ball because of the soft cast on his hand.

In the Saints' opening-round game, a 73-51 win over 13th-seeded Canaseraga at Naples, McFadden — the Class D Most Valuable Player in last year's sectionals — collected 20 points, 11 rebounds, five steals, and two blocks.

McFadden will need to continue his strong play for the Saints, who were scheduled to meet top-seeded Prattsburg (20-2) in the semifinals at Alfred University on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Another Most Valuable Player from last year's sectionals, Aquinas' Alcindor Coleman, also made his presence felt in early-round games in Section 5 Class BB.

Coleman's 16 points helped propel the Little Irish to a 74-38 win over 14th-seeded Wayne (6-15) in a first-round game at Webster on Feb. 20. And in a 76-38 win

over 11th-seeded Batavia (8-14) in the quarterfinals, Coleman scored 12 of his 14 points in the third quarter when the Little Irish (17-6) outscored Batavia 22-10 to put the game out of reach.

Dwayne Postell posted 13 points in the game, and Aaron Boucher contributed 10 points.

Coleman's heroics were not enough against Newark (20-2) in the semifinals, however, as the Irish fell 59-53 at the War Memorial in Rochester on Feb. 26.

Newark scored 31 of its points at the foul line, as four Aquinas players — Postell, Boucher, Mike Enright and Matt Hill — all fouled out.

Meanwhile, the Reds' defense, featuring three 6-5 players, controlled the boards and the inside game, forcing the Irish to shoot from the outside.

The score was tied, 10-10, at the end of the first quarter. But the Reds' parade to the foul line began in the second quarter, and they built a 27-22 lead at the half. That lead grew to 38-31 at the end of the third quarter, and reached 11 points in the fourth. Aquinas was never able to get closer than five points the rest of the way.

Coleman finished his high-school basketball career with a game-high 17 points. Boucher added 12.

McQuaid (17-4) cruised to wins over its first two sectional opponents, setting up a rematch against top-seeded City-Catholic League rival East in the semifinals of Class A. The game was scheduled for Feb. 28 at the War Memorial.

The teams split two games during the regular season with each winning at home.

The fourth-seeded Knights trounced their first-round opponent, 13th-seeded Irondequoit, 64-38, at Hilton Feb. 20. In its second-round game, McQuaid earned a surprisingly easy 70-51 victory over fifth-seeded Rush-Henrietta (15-6) at Greece Athena on Feb. 23.

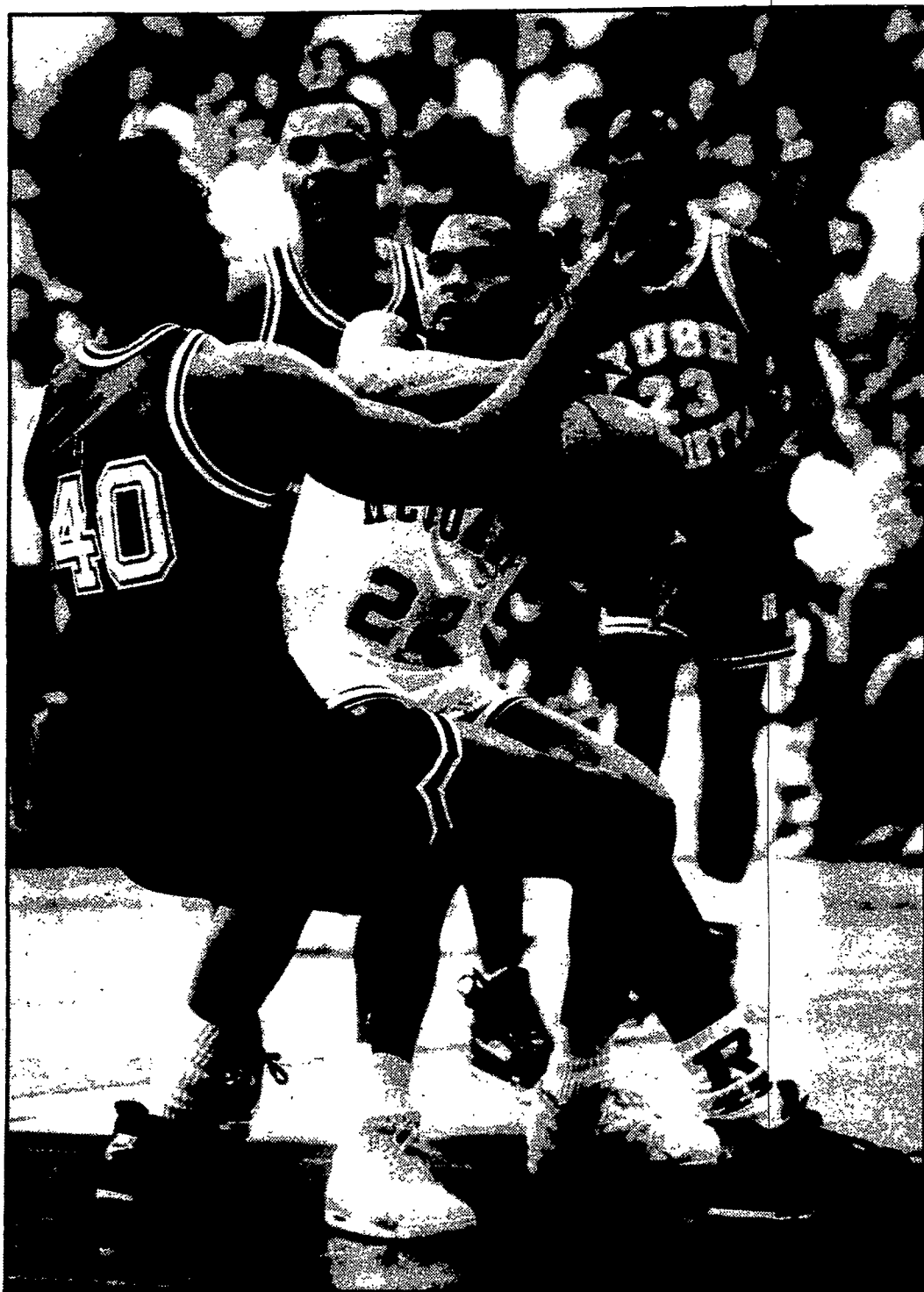
The key to the win over R-H was the return of the Knights' inside game early in the contest, noted McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese.

That inside game had been hampered by the flu bug, which nagged 6-10 center Jason McKinney in recent weeks. McKinney was a force against R-H, particularly in the first quarter when he scored 11 of his 16 points.

Forward Jay Moore added seven of his 16 points in the same quarter to help the Knights build a 25-14 first-quarter edge.

And when Rush began to play a tight zone to try and stop McKinney and Moore, the Knights' outside bombers began to hit their shots. Kevin Brown (16 points, including seven in the second quarter), Mike Montesano (15 points) and Ted Naylor (seven points) helped McQuaid build a 42-23 bulge at the half, and the Knights coasted the rest of the way.

Bishop Kearney's season ended with a 78-62 loss to top-seeded Pittsford Mendon



Babette G. Augustin-Staff photographer
Rush-Henrietta tried everything to stop McQuaid players — including Kevin Brown (22) — from scoring during sectional quarterfinal play at Greece Athena Feb. 23. Brown tallied 16 points and the Knights came away with a 70-51 win.

at Rush-Henrietta on Feb. 23.

The ninth-seeded Kings (9-12) made a game of it against the 20-1 Vikings in the first half, trailing only 37-33. But Mendon began to pull away after intermission.

Burt Richardson was one of the keys to Kearney's success in the first half, when he scored 18 of his team-high 22 points during the first 16 minutes. Kevin Pawlak tossed in 17 points in the losing effort.

Kearney advanced to the second-round game with a 77-33 win over eighth-seeded Brighton (10-11) at Greece Athena on Feb. 20. The Kings jumped out to a 34-13 halftime bulge. Richardson scored 16 points and Greg Mikell added 14.

In Section 4, Elmira Notre Dame moved to within one game of the Class C finals with two impressive wins.

The top-seeded Crusaders (15-7) dumped No. 16 Dryden (10-11) 74-58 at home on Feb. 20. ND used a strong second half to come away with a 66-52 win over

ninth-seeded Spencer-Van Etten at Elmira Free Academy on Feb. 24.

Using a deliberate offense in the first half, Spencer-Van Etten (13-9) frustrated the Crusaders — who like a fast pace — and trailed by only 21-18 at intermission. In the second half, however, Notre Dame used its pressure defense to force turnovers and to up the tempo, enabling the Crusaders to build a 23-point lead by the fourth quarter.

Geoff Woodworth continued to have a hot hand for the Crusaders. Against Dryden, he hit seven three-pointers on the way to a 23-point game. And against Spencer-Van Etten, Woodworth shot seven-for-11 from the field to lead Notre Dame with 17 points. Mike Bennett added 10 points in the quarterfinal win.

Notre Dame was scheduled to play fourth-seeded Sherburne-Earlville (16-5) in the Class C semifinals at Broome Community College on Feb. 27.

McQuaid's Knauss wins slot on state wrestling squad

McQuaid's Bryan Knauss earned a berth on the Section 5 state wrestling team after defeating Gates-Chili's Shawn Bauer 3-0 in the 126-pound weight class at the Super Sectionals Feb. 24 at Brockport State College.

Knauss (36-2-0) also defeated Bauer in the Class A finals on Feb. 17 at Rush-Henrietta High School.

As a member of the Section 5 squad, Knauss will compete in the state meet, which is scheduled to begin March 2 in the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse.

Another McQuaid wrestler, Mark Voci, who won the sectional Class A 91-pound title on Feb. 17, lost 4-2 in the finals of the state qualifier.

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