

AQ ices another Class A title; Kearney loses

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Aquinas Institute claimed its second Section 5 hockey title in three years, while Bishop Kearney not only lost its title game, but also a chance to play in the state tournament.

Aquinas (16-6-1) earned the Class A title with a 5-2 win over Irondequoit (17-2-1) at the War Memorial on Feb. 24.

The Little Irish scored just 55 seconds into the first period when Grady Monks — named the game's Most Valuable Player — slammed home a shot. Jason Mucha scored at the 8:27 mark to up the margin to 2-0.

Irondequoit battled back to tie the score at 2-2 in the second period. But with 49 seconds left in the period, Dave Perrotta scored to give Aquinas a lead it would never relinquish.

Tony Ewing and Perrotta added goals in the third period for the final margin. Jeff Nuccitelli, Aquinas' career scoring leader, registered three assists.

For the game, Irondequoit outshot Aquinas 24-23.

The Little Irish advanced to the finals with an 8-2 thumping of Batavia (13-7-1) at Lakeshore Ice Rink on Feb. 21. Nuccitelli scored three goals and had an assist in the game.

Aquinas was scheduled to play Section 3 Class A wild-card Oswego at the State University College at Brockport on Saturday, March 3.

Bishop Kearney (8-12-2) went into the

Class B finals against Brockport (17-4) at the War Memorial on Feb. 24 knowing that it needed a win to advance to the state tournament.

The Kings learned Thursday, Feb. 22, that a state rule allows only teams with a .500 record or better to play in the state tournament. Section 5 hockey officials had originally overlooked the rule, and planned to advance the finalists in each of the sectional classes to the states.

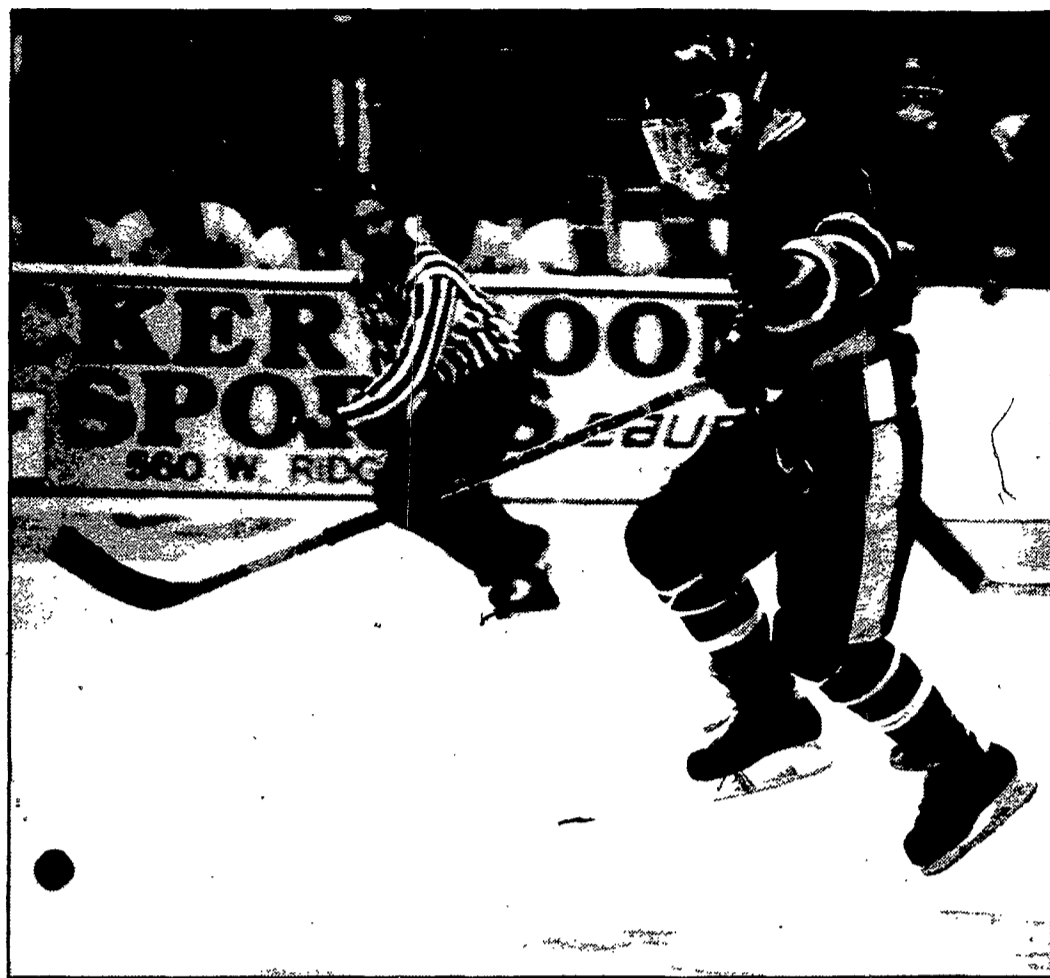
Unfortunately for Kearney and its fans, the Kings fell to Brockport 7-2 in the finals, and were unable to advance. Gates-Chili (11-9-1), which lost to Brockport in the semifinals, will fill the wild-card slot.

Dan McGuinn gave Kearney a 1-0 lead with his goal at the six-minute mark of the first period. Brockport scored the next two goals, but John Warner knotted the contest at 2-2 with his goal in the second period.

Brockport exploded for three goals during a 2:34 span in the middle period to ensure the win.

Kearney advanced to the Class B title game with a convincing 9-5 win over Geneseo (13-8-1) at Genesee Valley Park Arena on Feb. 20.

The Kings trailed 4-1 at the end of the first period. In the second period, however, Kearney scored three goals in the first 42 seconds to tie the game. Marcus Pace, who tallied five goals, scored the game-winner at the 9:25 mark of the period.



Chris Nuccitelli
Bishop Kearney's Dan Flanigen pursues the puck during the Kings' loss to Brockport, 7-2, in the finals of the Section 5 Class B hockey championship at the Rochester War Memorial Feb. 24. Kearney ended its season at 8-12-2, and was not allowed to advance to the state hockey tournament as a wild-card entry because it had a sub-.500 record.

Greene upsets ND; Mercy, Aquinas, Kearney advance

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Three diocesan girls' basketball teams lost in opening-round games last week, including top-seeded Elmira Notre Dame which was upset in Section 4 Class C.

In Section 5 Class A, top-seeded Our Lady of Mercy High School celebrated the return of point-guard Mary Beth Cleary — sidelined for several games because of torn ankle ligaments — with a 69-38 thrashing of eighth-seeded Canandaigua in second-round play at Greece Athena on Feb. 24.

Cleary, who saw limited action, scored six points, grabbed four rebounds and dished out three assists for Mercy (20-1).

The Monarchs took control of the game early, using their press from the outset to score 10 of their 19 first-quarter points off of steals. Mercy's pressure also limited the Braves (11-10) to just six points in the period.

Catherine Robinson had a career-high 27 points for the game. Sheila Doyle scored 14 points off of her seven steals.

Mercy was scheduled to face fourth-seeded Greece Athena (15-6) in the

semifinals at Edison on Feb. 27.

The only team to beat Mercy this season, Aquinas, used a full-court press to rattle fifth-seeded Wayne (15-7) and claim a 54-37 win in Class BB at Greece Arcadia on Feb. 24.

Wayne actually led early in the game, but in the second quarter, fourth-seeded Aquinas (14-7) shifted from a zone defense to a press and took a 21-17 lead at the half.

Amy Reynders led the Little Irish attack with 14 points. Jill Banaszewski tossed in 13 points, and Kathy Thies collected 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Aquinas was scheduled to play top-seeded Mendon (18-3) in the semifinals at Fairport High School on Feb. 28. The two teams met in the Webster Tournament last month when Mendon pulled away in the fourth quarter for a 44-35 victory.

In Class B, third-seeded Bishop Kearney overcame a sluggish start, turning a 20-16 halftime lead into a 59-41 win over visiting and sixth-seeded Wilson (13-6) on Feb. 24.

After giving up several easy baskets in the first half, the Kings (18-4) took away the Wildcats' inside game after intermission. Marisa Shackelford also took control

in the second half, scoring 22 of her game-high 29 points over the final two quarters.

Mary Wideman added 12 points.

Kearney was slated to face second-seeded Wellsville (20-1) in semifinal action at the Community College of the Finger Lakes on Feb. 28.

After a six-year absence from the sectionals, ninth-seeded Nazareth (7-14) didn't have long to savor its return to the post-season after a 45-37 loss to Batavia in the first round of Class BB play on Feb. 21.

Nazareth gave eighth-seeded Batavia (10-12) a fight, trailing only 21-19 at the half. Despite Kathy Doran's 11 points, Batavia managed to pull away for the win.

In Class D play, ninth-seeded DeSales (11-11) lost 39-24 to top-seeded Whitesville (21-0) at Hammondsport on Feb. 24.

Both teams suffered from poor shooting early in the game, as Whitesville led just 13-12 at the half. In the fourth quarter, however, Whitesville shook off its shooting woes to take charge of the game.

Jeneane Donahue led the Saints with nine

points.

DeSales advanced to the second round with a 50-43 win over eighth-seeded Batavia Notre Dame (11-9) at Livonia on Feb. 21.

Danielle Boncaro led the Saints with 16 points. Donahue tallied 15.

In Section 4 Class C, top-seeded Elmira Notre Dame was plagued by poor shooting during a 40-35 upset by ninth-seeded Greene (11-10) at Elmira Free Academy on Feb. 24.

The Crusaders (16-6) hit only 13 of 58 shots from the field. They were also hindered when Jenny Fagin and Julie Cox were forced to sit out early in the game because of foul trouble. In addition, Cara Cleveland — who suffered a sprained ankle in a 51-42 loss to Horseheads on Feb. 16 — aggravated the injury and was only able to score five points.

Kathy Lynch led Notre Dame with 12 points.

Despite their loss to Greene, the Crusaders enjoyed a stellar season. The 16 wins marks the most ever by a Notre Dame girls' basketball team.



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We received 4 correct entries identifying "Spalding" as the company who manufactures Top-Flite golf balls.
The winner was Gene Northrop of Rochester.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:
What is the prescribed length, in feet, of an NHL rink?

A: _____

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