

Final five teams fail to advance

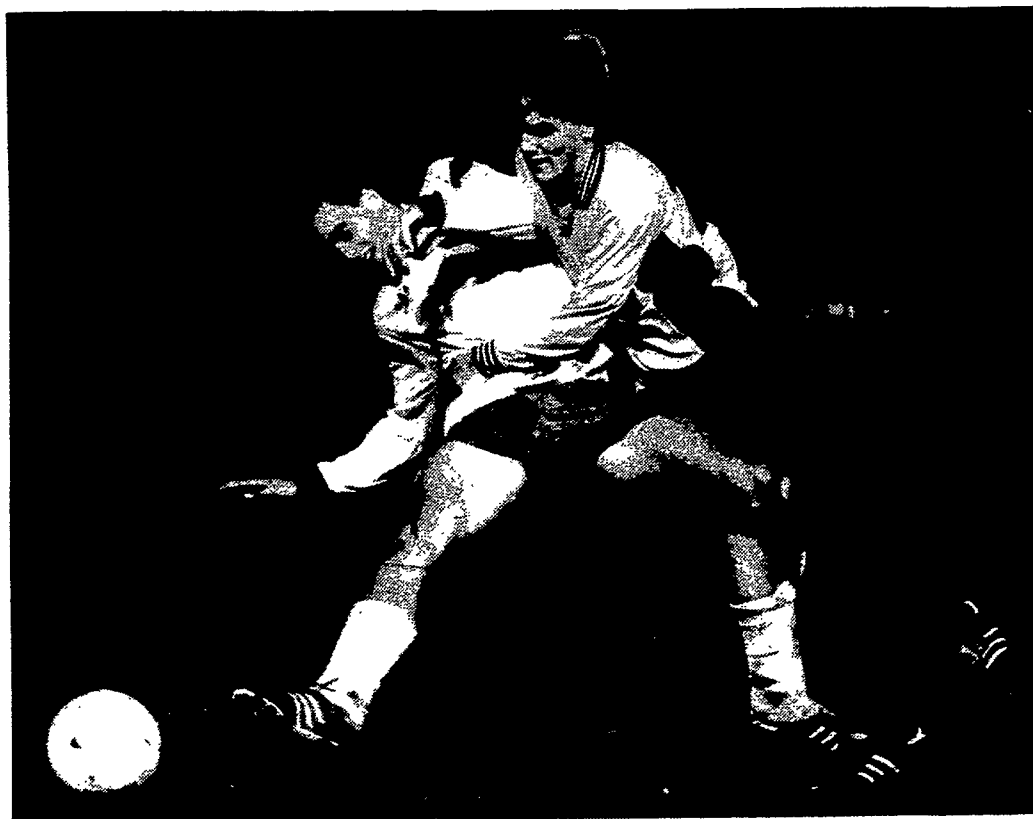
By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

The last hope for a diocesan high school soccer team to take home a sectional title ended last week when Elmira Notre Dame's Crusaders lost in the Section 4 Class C finals to Whitney Point.

Notre Dame was the only diocesan team to reach the sectional championship game. The boys' soccer teams at McQuaid Jesuit and Aquinas Institute dropped heartbreaking matches in the semifinals, as did the girls' teams at Our Lady of Mercy and Elmira Notre Dame.

The second-seeded Crusaders (11-8-1) advanced to the final game after drubbing No. 6 Newark Valley (13-6-2) at home, 6-0, on Oct. 30.

Eric Sira and Mike Ramich led the offensive attack for ND with three goals each. In addition, Sira tallied one assist and Ramich collected two. Mike Creighton



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

McQuaid's Tim Concannon collides with Penfield's Todd Morris during the Knights' 3-1 loss to the Chiefs in the Section Class AAA semifinals at Spencerport High School.



Matt Shields of McQuaid attempts to gain possession of the ball during his team's semifinal loss Oct. 31.



A dejected Concannon sits by himself after McQuaid's loss to Penfield.

also had two assists and Rob Stiles had one.

Sira fired in the first two goals to give the Crusaders a comfortable 2-0 lead at the half.

In the sectional championship game at Ithaca High School on Nov. 2, top-seeded Whitney Point (19-2) smothered Notre Dame, 4-1.

According to Notre Dame Coach Henry Ferguson, muddy playing conditions kept his team from taking advantage of its speed advantage against the Wildcats.

Stiles scored the Crusaders' lone goal of the game off of an assist from Ramich to trim the Wildcats lead to 2-1 at the break.

Whitney Point iced the sectional title in the second half with two more goals.

Ferguson said that despite its loss, his team earned one of the best records in the history of the boys' soccer program at Notre Dame.

In Section 5 boys' action, fourth-seeded McQuaid Jesuit (11-6-1) succumbed to No. 1 Penfield (17-2) in the Class A semifinals, 3-1, on Oct. 31, at Spencerport.

Alex Mayer and Todd Morris scored Penfield's goals in the first half to open up a 2-0 lead at intermission.

McQuaid's Damien Shields scored in the second half to pull the Knights to within one goal, 2-1.

But Shannon Moore dashed McQuaid's hopes when he iced Penfield's win by scoring a goal with five minutes left in the game.

The Chiefs went on to win the Class A title by beating Webster in a shootout to advance to the state soccer tournament.

McQuaid Coach Dan Schied said his

players took the loss hard.

"It's hard to say goodbye to the kids at the end of the year ... but that's all part of it, I guess," Schied said.

In Class BB, sixth-seeded Churchville-Chili (11-5-2) ended Aquinas' season by nipping the third-seeded Little Irish, 1-0, at Honeoye-Falls Lima on Oct. 31.

Although Aquinas Coach Gary LaPietra made some changes in strategy at the half, his team was unable to score and regulation play ended in a scoreless tie.

Aquinas' Jason Mucha chipped in a 30-yard goal over the Saints' keeper in the first overtime.

Three minutes later, the Saints scored off of a corner kick.

The score remained 1-1 through two 10-minute overtimes, but the Saints scored from directly in front of the goal just two minutes into the first five-minute overtime.

"Although we weren't always the best skilled, we played with a lot of emotion," LaPietra said. "We had a better year than we expected."

Churchville-Chili went on to win the Class BB title by beating Pittsford-Sutherland, 3-2, in the championship game Nov. 3.

The Little Irish finished the season 12-5-1.

In the Section 4 Class C girls' tourney, top-seeded Notre Dame fell to No. 2 Seton Catholic (8-5), 5-0, at Southside High School Nov. 2.

The Saints enjoyed a 3-0 lead at the half.

Notre Dame ended its season at 11-8-1.

In Section 5 Class A, Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton said her girls played their best game of the season, but the fourth-seeded Monarchs couldn't pull the match out as they fell to top-seeded Penfield (16-1-1), 2-1, at Brockport on Oct. 30.

Mercy's Julie Smith popped in the first goal to give the Monarchs a 1-0 lead at the half.

Penfield's Tanya Vogel scored the equalizer off of Jenny Vogel's corner kick with 20 minutes left in regulation play.

The game went into two 10-minute and two five-minute overtimes before Mercy lost in a shootout, 4-2.

"To come that close to almost beating the top seed, we can't look back on the season with anything but pride," said Boughton.

Mercy finished the season 12-3-1.

Alumni game slated

GENEVA — A basketball game between alumni of DeSales High School and Geneva High School is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 24, in the DeSales gymnasium, 90 Pultney St.

Anyone interested in playing can call Tom Higgins at 315/789-2644.

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We received 4 correct entries identifying **Georgia** as the College football team that became known as the Junkyard Dogs. The winner was **Leah Brown** of Brockport Middle School.

SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:
How many years must a player normally be retired before becoming eligible for election to Hockey's Hall of Fame?

A: _____

Rules:
Each week, the Catholic Courier, in conjunction with Locker Room Sports will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Catholic Courier. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.
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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DeSales Regional High School

Placement Examination Saturday, November 17th 8:30a.m. - 12:00 noon

(Pre-registration is requested, but not required)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
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