

# McQuaid, ND possess the talent to win titles

By Barbara Ann Homick  
Staff writer

As the McQuaid Jesuit Knights prepared for their first game of the high school basketball season Nov. 30, they warmed up to the tune of "The Power" by the group Snap.

After trouncing Nicholson Catholic of Ontario, Canada, by the score of 81-64, the Knights left little doubt as to why they chose that song.

Under the guidance of fifth-year coach Joe Marchese, McQuaid will get its starting power this season from returning senior starters such as 6-10 center Jason McKinney, 6-3 guard Mike Montesano and 6-4 forward Jeff Reese. Returning seniors such as 6-1 guard Ted Naylon and 5-10 guard Jeff Armbrister add more weapons to the Knights' offensive arsenal.

Last year, McKinney — who recently signed a letter of intent to Siena College — averaged 12.4 points per game. Montesano (12.1 ppg), Naylon (11.5 ppg) and Reese (8 ppg) were also offensive threats.

Other senior veterans include 6-3 forward Jim Meagher, 6-1 guard Myles Webster, 6-4 forward Jim DeBloom and 6-0 guard Kevin Hill.

Although McQuaid returns plenty of talent to fill the hoop this winter, the Knights did lose two key offensive weapons from last year's team. Kevin Brown (St. John Fisher College) and Jay Moore (Amherst College) both graduated last June.

McQuaid, which finished with a record of 18-5 last season after losing to East in the semifinals of the Section 5 Class AAA tournament, is loaded with the potential to win the City-Catholic League Division I title this year, Marchese said.

The McQuaid coach said he is looking for Naylon and Montesano to provide the Knights' scoring from the outside, while McKinney and Reese provide additional points from inside the paint.

"In any given game we can hurt a team from the inside, then on the next night hurt them from the outside," Marchese said of his team's multi-faceted offense.

Although Marchese said his team possesses legitimate speed, it may have some difficulty against quicker teams such as East, Franklin and Wilson.

One of McQ's assets is its passing game, said Marchese, who noted that his team can move the ball well. Defensively, the Knights are also adept at creating turnovers, he said.

In the game against Nicholson, Naylon set the tone of the game by nailing a three-pointer only seconds into the opening quarter. The Knights led throughout the game — 25-15 at the end of the first quarter, 47-33 at the break and 67-48 at the



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer  
Highly touted McQuaid Jesuit center Jason McKinney pushes off the backboard as he slam dunks the ball during the Knights' win over Nicholson Catholic of Canada.

end of the third quarter. Naylon paced McQuaid offensively with 27 points. McKinney tallied 14 points, Montesano tossed in 12 and Reese poured in 11.

Aquinas Institute and Bishop Kearney will find the going tough early on, but both schools are capable of pulling off an upset or two in the City-Catholic League.

Aquinas experienced a mass exodus from its team last June, losing seven

players to graduation. Dwayne Postell (forward), Matt Hill (guard), Allen Schlageter (guard), Joe Valentino (guard), Mike Enright (forward), Geff Page (guard) and Rich DiMarco (forward) are all gone.

Those seniors helped carry the 17-6 Little Irish to the Section 5 Class BB semifinals before they lost to Newark.

Although fifth-year coach Mike Dianetti admits that he lost a lot of his offensive fire power, he is relying on several returning players to keep AQ competitive.

Returning senior starters include 6-1 forward Aaron Boucher, 6-3 forward Rick Bardwell, 5-9 guard Chris Valentino and 5-11 forward Jason Newton. Junior Maurice Price will also start for the Little Irish.

Top newcomers include senior Tim Hecht, juniors Tom Mercurio, Joe Spano

and Joe Brown and sophomores Jeff Rice, Steve Spencer, Shawn Barnett and Todd Gillenkirk.

Dianetti is looking to Boucher, Newton and Bardwell for their perimeter shooting. Although he said his team doesn't have a lot of size, Dianetti said the Little Irish have speed.

In the Victor Tournament Nov. 30, the Little Irish lost to Hornell, 56-55, at Victor High School. After building a 10-point lead in the first half, Aquinas failed to put the Red Raiders away. The lack of a killer instinct cost the Little Irish when Hornell's Steve Carson scored with five seconds left on the clock to put the Red Raiders ahead by one.

The Little Irish set up a play and converted a layup but officials ruled the basket came after the buzzer. Dianetti called the game "a heartbreaker."

In the consolation game Dec. 1, Aquinas clobbered host Victor, 71-48. Boucher had 19 points, Newton scored 11 and Bardwell tallied 14.

Even though he lost all five starters to graduation, Bishop Kearney Coach Ed Nietopski isn't worried.

Among the players to graduate from last year's team were Shawn Rhodes, Greg Mikell, Burt Richardson and David Armanini. Rene Ingoglia won't be returning to the team either because of a knee injury he sustained during the football season.

Returning senior starters include 6-2 forward Kevin Pawlak, 5-11 forward Mike Canali and 5-6 guard Dan Finnegan. Returning juniors include 5-11 forward Demond Mack and 5-11 guard Scott Delgatti.

Other veteran players include Kelly Ryan, Brendan McDonald, Kory Khuns, John Brunner, Dan Staub, Mike Grenolds, Tom Kennedy and Joe Raniewicz. Munro O'Dwyer, an exchange student from Ireland, will join the BK squad this year.

Nietopski noted that Pawlak is one of the finest players he has ever coached. He is also counting on Mack, Ryan and Canali to score.

In early-season tournament action, Kearney lost in overtime to Waterloo, 67-64, in the championship game of the Waterloo Tournament on Dec. 1. Raniewicz poured in 20 points and Pawlak added 18.

The Kings advanced to the title game by nipping Mynderse, 74-68, on Nov. 30. Pawlak paced the offense with 22 points and Mack tallied 18.

Over in Class D, Geneva DeSales only returns four seniors to the varsity this season. Center/forward Pat Mooney graduated, leaving only veteran 6-5 center Bob McFadden, 6-3 guard/forward Edward Marsteiner, 6-1 guard Todd Hardy and 6-0 point guard Jim McDermott.

The Saints will be without McDermott, who broke his ankle during the football season, until after the new year. Bill Sweeney, a 6-0 guard will start for the Saints in the meantime. Guard John Carroll (5-9) and 6-3 forward Chris Dendis will

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**SPORTS TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**  
What two Super Bowl winning clubs did Forrest Gregg play for?

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_

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