

# League title should come down to Mercy, AQ

By Barbara Ann Homick  
Staff writer

It was business as usual for Our Lady of Mercy's Monarchs as they began their high school basketball season by winning the Honeoye Tournament Dec. 8.

Mercy lost Catherine Robinson — currently redshirting her first season at St. Bonaventure University — and Kim Cacamise to graduation, but Coach Kathy Boughton returns three powerhouse senior starters.

Point guard Mary Beth Cleary, center Natalie White and guard Sheila Doyle will once again try and propel the Monarchs to post-season success this winter. Last season the Monarchs reached the Section 5 Class A finals, where they fell to Brockport, 78-71, despite Robinson's record-breaking 39 points.

Rounding out the starters for Mercy are two sophomores in forward Amy Martin and guard Mimi LaMagna. The first player off the bench will be Mimi's sister, junior guard Gabby LaMagna.

Other returning players for Mercy are seniors Mary Ellen Carroll (forward) and Jennifer Quinn (forward); juniors Ellen Lennox (guard), Molly Cassidy (guard) and Brenda Seitz (forward); and sophomore Tiffany Pezzulo (forward).

Based on last year's performances, Boughton is counting on lots of scoring from Cleary (14 ppg), Doyle (12 ppg) and White (10 ppg). Because of her height, the 6-0 White is a strong low-post player who can dominate the boards, according to Boughton.

Cleary, a whiz at penetrating opposing defenses, is also not shy about throwing up three-pointers. Doyle is renowned for her speed, strong defensive play and scoring prowess.

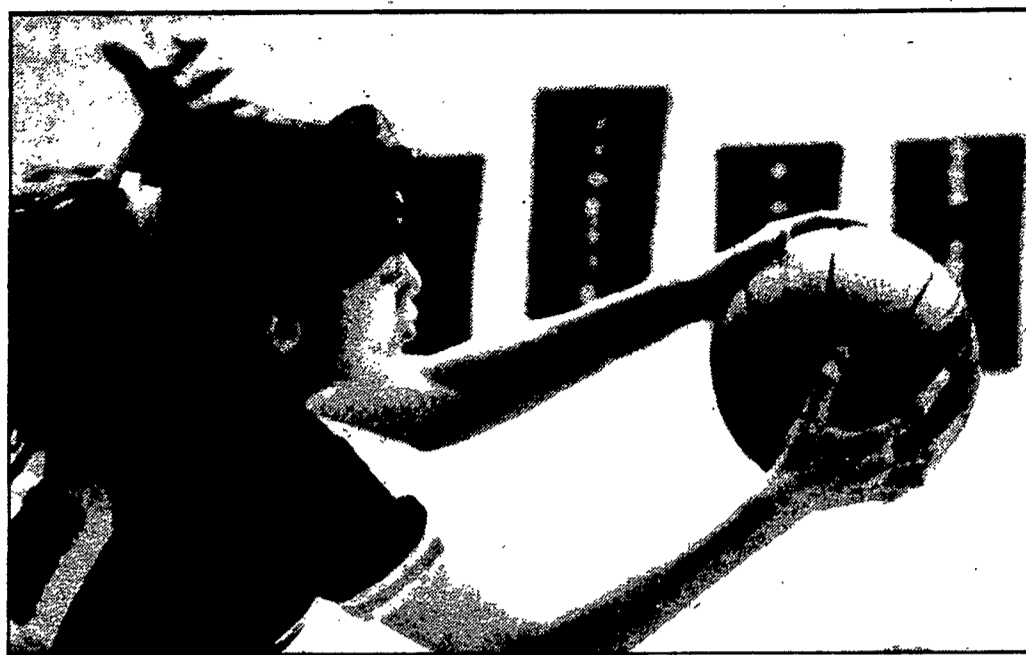
In the Dec. 8 championship game of the Honeoye Tournament, Mercy nipped Lockport, 67-59, at Honeoye Central School.

The Monarchs led by 20 midway through the third quarter, but the Lions came within six points in the fourth quarter. Doyle was on fire throughout the game, scoring 32 points and registering 10 steals. Cleary also reached double figures with 12 points.

In the first-round game on Dec. 7, Mercy never trailed in handing Victor a 62-46 loss. White collected 20 points and 10 rebounds, Cleary finished with 16 points and five assists, and Doyle tallied 14 points and five steals.

Mercy is the team to beat in the Private-Parochial League this season, but the Monarchs have learned not to take any league rival lightly.

In addition to competing in the Bishop



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

**Our Lady of Mercy guard Mimi LaMagna lunges for the ball during the Monarchs' 62-46 win over Victor in the first round of the Honeoye Tournament Dec. 7. Mercy went on to win the hoop tourney with a 67-59 win over Lockport.**

Moore High School Tournament in Orlando, Fla., over Christmas vacation, the Monarchs will host the Mercy Invitational at Nazareth College on Jan. 4-5. Other tough non-league games include Notre Dame of Utica (Dec. 15), Sacred Heart of Buffalo (Dec. 18), Syracuse-Nottingham (Jan. 8), and Fairport (Jan. 11).

## Aquinas anxious

Although Aquinas Institute won't begin its season until a non-league game against Webster Dec. 15, fourth-year coach Dan Bates said he and his team are raring to go.

Guards Kathy Thies and Tammy Rice graduated last June, but Bates said he has enough returning talent to pick up the slack.

Senior guards Mary Radford and Jill Banaszewski, and junior guard Amy Reynders are back for another season. Reynders and Radford are marking their third seasons as varsity starters. Senior forward Stacie Pullinzi and sophomore forward Kristina Dudley complete the starting lineup for the Little Irish.

Other returners include senior guards Molly Meagher and Beth Kelly. In addition, junior guard Marcie Meagher — Mollie's sister — is back. Moving up the ranks from the junior varsity squad are sophomores Kristin Burgmaster (guard) and Sandy Petty (forward).

Bates noted that Reynders — who averaged 15 points per game last year — was the catalyst for last year's AQ team. The Little Irish lost in last year's Section 5 Class BB championship game to Victor, 59-40.

In addition, Reynders played basketball

in the Empire State Games and was a member of the Amateur Athletic Union's Western New York squad last summer. Bates said Reynders has the ability to score from anywhere on the floor.

The biggest obstacle for the Little Irish this season will be their inexperience inside. Only three players have the experience to play underneath. Although the lack of depth inside may pose a problem for AQ, Bates said he is confident that his players will be up to the challenge.

On the other hand, the Little Irish do have experience and depth at the guard position. Bates said that Banaszewski will take the three-point shot, and Radford can score and run the team's offense.

Aquinas will need to keep big players on opposing teams in check to have any chance of beating league foes Mercy, Kearney and Nazareth. In addition to tough league games, the Little Irish will compete in the Greece Olympia Tournament against the host team, East Rochester and Brockport over Christmas vacation.

## Inside edge

During his first year as head coach of the girls' basketball team at Bishop Kearney, Paul Forte guided the Kings to a record of 18-4. He hopes to build on that success this season.

The Kings lost to Wellsville last year in the Section 5 Class BB semifinals, 43-33. Gone from last year's team are forward Marisa Shackelford (19 ppg) — the former standout is now playing basketball on a full scholarship at the University of Delaware — forward Mary Wideman (8 ppg) and point guard Sandy Supple.

Returning players include 6-2 senior center Eileen Jensen along with fellow seniors Teresa Dudley (forward/guard), Dawn Wiegand (forward), Beth Maring (guard) and Mandy Darlak (guard); juniors Nicole Geier (guard) and Jenny Klee (guard). Up from the JV team are Janet D'Agostino, Sue Kankaras, Jenny Lynch, Cathy Molinari and Megan Shackelford.

Jensen (14 points, 9 rebounds) — who recently accepted a scholarship to Towson State in Maryland — will be Forte's key shooter inside. Wiegand should lead the Kings in rebounding, and Klee is much improved over last year.

Kearney's depth will allow Forte to use his bench with confidence.

"Many people think we are one-dimensional because we have Eileen in the middle," Forte said. "But we have good outside shooting, too."

Relying on their press-and-run strategy, the Kings shocked Webster, 60-30, on Dec. 6. Forte said his team's strong pressure created numerous Warrior turnovers. Wiegand and Jensen each poured in 14 points, and Wiegand added 13 rebounds.

In a Dec. 4 game, Bishop Kearney clobbered host Franklin, 63-33. Jensen collected 26 points and 10 rebounds. Forte said the Quakers couldn't handle the Kings' size inside. "They had trouble matching up with her (Jensen). We pressed until we got ahead," Forte said.

Forte, who gives Aquinas the nod over Mercy for this year's league title, has his team playing in three tournaments this season — Eastridge (Dec. 28-29), Athena (Jan. 25-26) and Mendon (Feb. 15-16). Attica on Feb. 2 looms as another tough non-league game for the Kings.

## Green team

Nazareth Academy's basketball team experienced a mass exodus at graduation last year, losing all five starters — as well as two guards — to graduation. Gone are Kathy Doran (forward), Laura Salamone (guard), Missy Creamer (guard), Julie Sojka (center), Maria Webster (forward), Rory Cottrell (guard) and Alyssa Meinhard (guard).

Last year's Lasers finished with a record of 7-12 after losing to Batavia in the first round of the Section 5 Class BB sectionals, 45-37.

Veteran senior Bernadette Fetzner (guard) and juniors Lenore Suraci (forward), Jennifer Zumath (center), Christine Starpoli (point guard) and Stacy Doran (guard/forward) are all back. Senior guards Christine Marchese and Beth Gibson also return for Nazareth.

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What pitcher started the New York Mets' first World Series game?

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