

Mercy

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Although he lost all his top scorers from last season, seventh-year coach Walt Gordinier said he is counting on Suraci offensively and for Zumath to rebound.

As the coach of such a young team, Gordinier said he will have to be very patient this winter. The Lasers will find the going tough in the league, which should come down to a close fight between Mercy and Aquinas, Gordinier predicted.

"I'd go with Mercy because of their experience, but I think Aquinas can do it, too," he said.

Nazareth took a beating from visiting Geneva DeSales, 60-35, on Dec. 7. Suraci scored 10 points and collected 12 rebounds. On Dec. 8, Nazareth succumbed to host Norstar Christian, 35-30.



Mercy's Mary Ellen Carroll puts up a shot against Victor in the Honeoye tourney, which the Monarchs won with a victory over Lockport.

Pressing for points

Eleventh-year DeSales Coach Steve Muzzi was pleased by his team's first win of the season against Nazareth. Danielle Boncaro poured in 27 points and Krista DeVaney scored 14.

Muzzi is also optimistic about this year's team, even though he lost such key players as forward Jeneane Donahue (13 ppg) and guard Jeanette Marvin to graduation.

The Saints finished 11-11 last year after losing to Whitesville in the second round of the Section 5 Class D sectionals, 39-24.

The starting lineup includes veteran senior players such as Boncaro (guard) and Diane Reilly (forward), junior Pauline Thompson (forward) and sophomore

DeVaney. Senior guard Beth Anne LeRoux and junior guard Sarah Peters will alternate at the No. 5 starting position.

Sophomore forward Sharon Rose moves up to the varsity squad, and freshmen players such as Lindsey Higgins, Emily Parshall and Sara Madigan bring experience from their CYO teams with them.

In addition to three-point threat Boncaro, Muzzi will count on Reilly and DeVaney for scoring punch.

The DeSales coach said his Saints will once again rely on their defense for transition points.

"We like to run the ball, play a lot of the girls and play the press," Muzzi said.

Tough games on DeSales' horizon include Honeoye and Dundee.

Short on size

Last year, the girls' basketball team at Elmira Notre Dame finished second in the Sullivan Trail Conference with a record of 16-5. The Crusaders eventually lost to Greene in the second round of the Section 4, Class C sectionals, 40-35.

Coach Jeff Sobkowski lost all of his team's rebounding power when he graduated three-point shooter Kathy Lynch (point guard), Julie Cox (forward) and Cara Cleveland (center). Lynch — who is now playing at Nazareth College — averaged 15 points per game, Cleveland averaged 11 points and 12 rebounds, and Cox — now playing for Alfred State College — contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds per game.

Third-year starter and senior guard Jenny Fagan returns to the team. She will be joined by veteran seniors-Mary Valeant and Erin Kernan, and juniors Bobbi Jo McMail, Becky Sherman and Theresa Gardner. Joining the squad from the junior-varsity team will be Kristen Tarrantino, Claire Ramich, Bridget Klotz, Heather Hanrahan, Heidi Hodder and Amy Morrell.

Third-year coach Sobkowski will look to Fagan (14 ppg), Valeant (11 ppg) and McMail (8 ppg) for offense. Valeant can also sink the three-pointers, Sobkowski said.

Notre Dame will not tower over any teams this winter — the average height of the Crusaders is 5-5 — so Sobkowski knows it will be necessary for ND to run the ball whenever possible.

"I guess you'd call us a run-and-gun team because of our size," Sobkowski said. "We need to rely on quickness."

Notre Dame crushed Trumansburg, 67-49, on Dec. 4. Fagan scored 20 of her 23 points in the second half. She also finished with 10 steals.

With Kernan out because of illness, Gardner stepped in and collected 11 points and 10 rebounds.

On Nov. 30, the Crusaders host nipped Tioga, 49-43, in overtime. Although Sobkowski didn't think his team played to its potential, he noted that Tarrantino played well off the bench.

Tarrantino sparked the win by scoring a basket in the waning moments of regulation to force OT. She added another basket and two steals in overtime to finish with 16 points. Valeant poured in 14.

McQuaid, Aquinas create magic on ice during wins

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The hockey teams at McQuaid Jesuit and Aquinas Institute performed a little magic on ice last week.

McQuaid scored three goals in 16 seconds against Bishop Kearney to set a school record, and Aquinas scored eight goals on eight shots against Brockport.

The Little Irish (3-0) smothered Brockport, 11-2, at Lakeshore on Dec. 8. Grady Monks notched the hat trick (three goals). Jeremy Giordano fired in two goals, and Dave Perrotta, Mark Simmons, Chris Schultz, Mike Sloan, Joe Zabawa

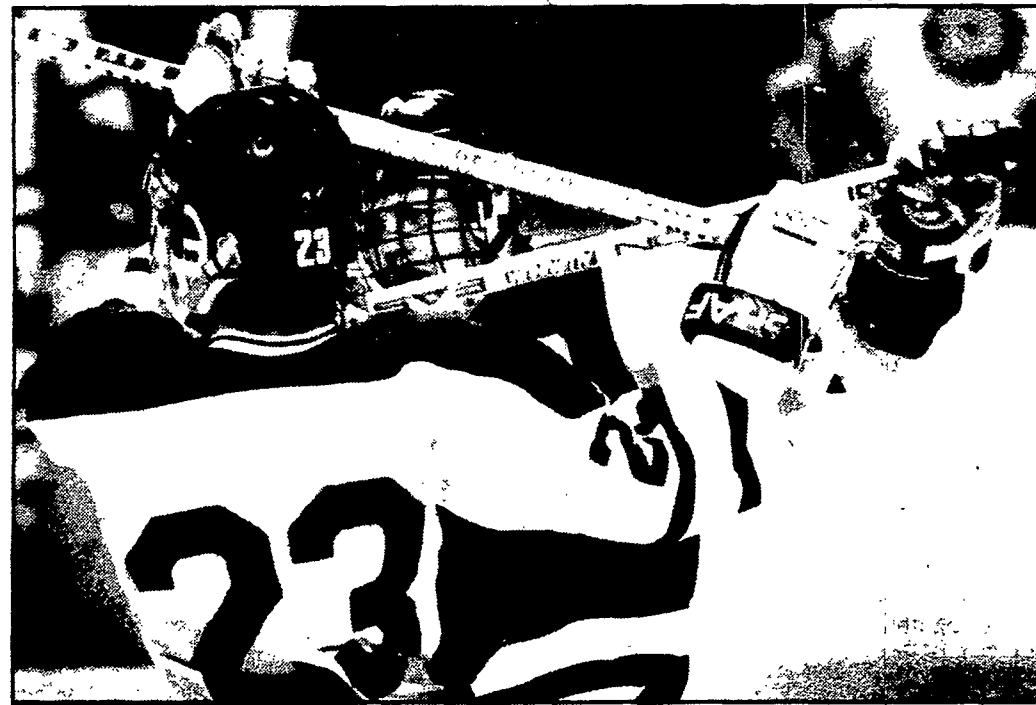
Ewing added the fourth goal.

Brian Kelly recorded the shutout in goal for AQ.

Coach Dave Montgomery credited his team's defense for the win. The Little Irish outshot the Knights, 27-12.

Four days after losing to Aquinas, the Knights crushed Bishop Kearney, 10-2, on Dec. 8.

In the first period, Jim Viscardi scored on an assist from Peter Wambach and Rob Clark. Mike Sawyer had a goal with the help of Geoff Kufta, and Derek Sylvester iced an unassisted shot to give McQuaid a 3-0 lead at the end of the period.



Aquinas forward Chris Schultz checks McQuaid's Eric Ashton during the Little Irish's win at Lakeshore.



McQuaid goalie Brandon Wiggins prepares to make a save during his team's 4-0 Monroe County Hockey League loss to AQ.

and Chris Sichak scored one each.

With the score 3-1 going into the third period, Aquinas scored eight goals on eight consecutive shots. The Little Irish outshot Brockport, 36-22.

Earlier in the week, the Little Irish blanked McQuaid, 4-0, at Lakeshore on Dec. 4. Nursing a bad shoulder, Perrotta scored three goals on just four shifts. Tony

Bishop Kearney scored its first goal off of a power play when the Kings were a man up early in the second period. Then the Knights set a new school record when they iced three goals in 16 seconds by Eric Ashton from Steve Sawyer (4:49), Viscardi from Ashton (4:58) and Peter Wambach from Ashton (5:05).

Peter Wambach added a goal on an assist from Ashton five minutes later. Eric Sawyer scored off of an assist by Rick Ramboldo and Ashton added a power play goal on a five-on-three situation.

Kearney scored a little more than 10 minutes into the third period to make the score 9-2. McQ's Ramboldo later iced a goal from Joe Gionta and Eric Mace to close out the scoring.

McQuaid goalie Jeff Osminkowski recorded 12 saves in two periods for the win. Ron Lamendola and Bob Taylor each made three saves while splitting goaltender duties in the third period.

The Knights outshot the Kings, 35-20.

Kearney Coach Rob Liberatore said he was disappointed with his team's defensive play against the Knights.

The Kings' defensive struggles began Dec. 4 when they lost to Pittsford, 9-3.

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