

Mercy, Aquinas gain quarterfinal victories

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

With the elimination of Bishop Kearney, Geneva DeSales and Elmira Notre Dame from post-season basketball action, only two diocesan girls' basketball teams remain in the race for a sectional title.

After receiving a first-round bye in Section 5 Class A, second-seeded Our Lady of Mercy (17-3) advanced to the quarterfinal round where the Monarchs stung seventh-seeded Rush-Henrietta, 59-36, on Feb. 22 at Penfield High School. R-H finished the season 8-12.

Although Mercy started out slowly in the first quarter — the Monarchs only scored 10 points but held the Royal Comets' to just two — Sheila Doyle sparked the offensive onslaught in the second quarter by pouring in nine of her 16 team-high points.

Mary Beth Cleary paced the Monarchs in the third quarter by scoring six of her 11 points.

Natalie White added 14 points and nine rebounds for Mercy, and Doyle also collected seven of the Monarchs' 17 steals.

Mercy faced No. 6 Brockport at Edison Tech on Feb. 26 in the semifinals. The winner of that game will play the winner of the other semifinal game between No. 1 Fairport and No. 4 Penfield in the Class A championship at the War Memorial on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 8:30 p.m.

In Section 5 Class BB, fourth-seeded Aquinas (15-6) ousted fifth-seeded Bishop Kearney, 44-33, on Feb. 23, at Hilton High School.

Amy Reynders tallied 17 points and 10 rebounds for AQ, while Jill Banaszewski collected 13 points and Mary Radford added 10 for the Little Irish.

The quarterfinal win was the first sectional game for AQ, which drew a first-round bye. In order to advance to the Class BB finals, the Little Irish had to defeat top-seeded Pittsford Mendon on Feb. 26 at Roberts Wesleyan College.

The Aquinas-Mendon winner will play

either No. 6 Churchville-Chili or No. 7 Victor in the Class BB Championship at the War Memorial at 6:45 p.m. on Feb. 28.

In the game against Aquinas, Kearney's Eileen Jensen provided the Kings' scoring punch in the paint. The senior poured in 16 points and 10 rebounds for Kearney.

Jenny Lynch collected seven points and Theresa Dudley scored five points and seven rebounds for Kearney.

Although BK Coach Paul Forte said he wished his team had played better against Aquinas, he added that the loss shouldn't take away from his players' accomplishments this season. Bishop Kearney finished the season 15-7 overall and 2-4 in the league.

Before losing to AQ, the Kings clobbered visiting and 12th-seeded Brighton, 69-38, on Feb. 19.

Kearney took an early lead and maintained it throughout the first-round game.

Jensen iced 16 points and 12 rebounds, Dawn Wiegand tallied 11 points and four rebounds, Lynch scored 10 points and sophomore Janet D'Agostino added nine points for the Kings.

In Section 5 Class D, the Geneva DeSales girls were eliminated from post-season play by No. 8 Houghton, 49-24, at Avoca High School on Feb. 19.

The Saints' first-round defeat was a result of shooting troubles, according to coach Steve Muzzi.

"We never got into our offense and we had a hard time stopping Houghton's Aimee Bence who had 29 points," explained Muzzi.

The Saints never led in the first-round loss. Danielle Boncaro scored eight points and Diane Reilly collected five points.

DeSales wrapped up its season with a record of 7-14 overall and 2-12 in the Finger Lakes West.

In Section 4 Class C, eighth-seeded Notre Dame fell to top-seeded Delhi, 51-36, at Maine-Endwell High School on Feb. 23.

Mary Valeant, who came down with the



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Mary Radford of Aquinas just misses intercepting the ball during the Little Irish's 44-33 win over Bishop Kearney at Hilton High School on Feb. 23. Aquinas' Beth Kelly, right, makes a second attempt at gaining control of the ball.

flu just before the start of the game, sat down after scoring her only two points.

Bobbie Jo McMail tallied 10 points and five steals, and Jenny Fagan registered eight points and five steals. Sophomore Heidi Hodder also had five steals.

Although the Crusaders buckled offensively, they did cause 28 turnovers by Delhi.

Earlier in the week, ninth-seeded Notre Dame nipped eighth-seeded Moravia, 47-39, on Feb. 19.

Valeant poured in 17 points and Fagan iced 14 points for the Crusaders. Claire Ramich registered nine rebounds while Theresa Gardner collected seven.

Although his Crusaders experienced an up-and-down season, ND Coach Jeff Sobkowski said he and his players were pleased with their achievements.

"We made a lot of people stand up and look at us," said Sobkowski, who coached his team to a record of 8-14 overall and 2-10 in the Sullivan Trail Conference.

Three teams still alive after BK, AQ fall

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

Three diocesan high school boys' basketball teams enjoyed banner games last week, while Bishop Kearney and Aquinas fell from the sectional ranks.

Top-seeded McQuaid Jesuit clobbered eighth-seeded Rush-Henrietta, 91-74, in a Section 5 Class A game on Feb. 23 at Greece Athena High School.

The quarterfinal game marked McQuaid's first taste of sectional play since the Knights (18-2) received a first-round bye. The sweetness of the victory was tempered somewhat by news of the start of the ground war in the Persian Gulf. The announcement of the ground campaign was made over the public-address system during intermission.

McQuaid's Ted Naylon shook off the sobering news by pouring in a whopping 41 points — including four three-point shots — before a sold-out crowd. Naylon was perfect — 9-for-9 from the field and 7-for-7 from the foul line — in the fourth quarter. The McQuaid star only missed two shots all night.

Jason McKinney collected a triple double — double figures in three areas — with 19 points, 10 blocked shots and 10 rebounds against Rush-Henrietta (12-10).

Mike Montesano popped in 17 points and three treys, Jeff Reese registered 12 rebounds and Rob Armbrister collected seven points and 10 assists.

"Montesano started us off by hitting the threes, and then we just steamrolled them," McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese

said.

To advance to the Class A finals, the Knights had to get by fourth-seeded Fairport in one of two sectional semifinals at the War Memorial on Feb. 26. With a win over Fairport, the Knights would advance to play the winner of the game between defending Class A champion and second-seeded East or No. 3 Greece Athena in the finals on March 2, at 9 p.m. in the War Memorial.

Fifth-seeded Bishop Kearney was eliminated from Section 5 Class BB competition when ninth-seeded Wilson nipped the Kings, 59-56, in a semifinal game on Feb. 25 at the War Memorial.

Kevin Pawlak paced Kearney with a game-high 26 points, and Raul Hagins scored 24 points for Wilson (11-11).

Since no Kearney team in school history had ever advanced past the sectional quarterfinal round, BK Coach Ed Nietopski said he was pleased with his team's successes this season.

"Wilson could have blown us out several times, but we rallied back and stayed in the game," noted Nietopski, who guided the Kings to a 12-10 record this season.

Kearney advanced to the semis after crushing fourth-seeded Churchville-Chili, 69-51, at Edison Tech on Feb. 22.

BK's Kelly Ryan iced 21 points and 14 rebounds, Demond Mack collected 20 points and seven rebounds, and Kevin Pawlak tallied 19 points, eight assists, five rebounds and five steals during the upset.

The Kings dominated the Saints

(13-9) offensively throughout the game. Kearney began to open things up in the second quarter as the Kings jumped out to a 14-point lead.

In their first-round game, the Kings nipped visiting and 12th-seeded Brighton, 44-42, in double overtime on Feb. 19.

Mack poured in 15 points and collected 11 rebounds. Pawlak added 13 points and five assists in the game.

The two teams went into the first overtime tied at 36. A second overtime period was necessary after the score remained deadlocked, 38-38.

Brighton finished its season at 5-15. In the other Class BB semifinal on Feb. 25, No. 9 Franklin held off 11th-seeded Aquinas Institute, 54-51.

The Little Irish trailed by two points after the first quarter, 13-11, but tied the score, 22-22, at intermission.

Aquinas grabbed a three-point lead by the end of the third quarter, 40-37, but Franklin (12-7) rallied in the fourth period.

The Quakers, who shaved their heads prior to the game in a show of solidarity, iced the game with 15 seconds left when Emmanuel Johnson hit two free throws.

Aaron Boucher poured in 18 points and Chris Valentino iced 11 points for Aquinas.

The Little Irish finished their season 7-16 overall and 1-9 in the City-Catholic League.

Aquinas advanced to the semis by trouncing 14th-seeded Victor, 56-38, in a quarterfinal game on Feb. 22, at Pittsford

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Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Mike Montesano, left, and Jason McKinney celebrate after McQuaid Jesuit's 91-74 win over Rush-Henrietta in the Section 5 Class A quarterfinals on Feb. 23.