



Mike Montesano puts up a shot in the semifinal win over Fairport.



Above, McQuaid's Jeff Reese calls timeout as East players swarm around him during the Knights' 62-55 win over East March 2. At right, McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese gets a ride on his players' shoulders after guiding McQuaid to its sectional championship.



McQuaid settles score with East

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

The debt has been paid. That's what members of the top-seeded McQuaid Jesuit (20-2) basketball team said after beating No. 2 East, 62-55, in the Section 5 Class A title game at the Rochester Community War Memorial on March 2. Before the match, McQuaid's Ted Naylor said the Knights were bent on avenging the loss they suffered at the hands of East (21-3) in last year's Class A final. The Orientals rolled to a 75-62 win over the Knights in last year's title tilt. "We owe them for last year," Mc-

Quaid said. The Knights trailed East at the end of the first quarter after 6-10 center Art Long gave the Orientals a 19-18 lead with 1:13 left in the opening stanza.

And even though East increased the margin to six points at the end of the half — the Orientals led 38-32 — McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese said he never lost confidence in his squad.

As they have done throughout the season, the Knights rallied in the third quarter after switching to a 3-2 defense to help deny East's inside game.

By the final minute of the third quarter, Naylor had propelled McQuaid to a 47-44 lead after nailing two consecutive three-point baskets. The Orientals then proceeded to stage a rally of their own as Carlton Burrows, Darrell Barley and Mark Genthner each scored a basket to give East a 50-47 margin after three quarters.

But the turning point came halfway through the fourth quarter when — after East's Genthner deadlocked the game at 53-53 — McQuaid blew the game wide open, scoring nine unanswered points in three minutes.

Naylor — who was named Most Valuable Player in the Class A tournament — finished with a game-high 27 points for McQ. McKinney tallied 18 points and 11 rebounds, Montesano registered 10 points and five assists and Jeff Armbrister added 10 assists. Reese had 13 rebounds for the Knights, who were 14-for-19 from the charity stripe.

Although Naylor said the sectional title and the MVP award were dreams that he never thought would come true, he said his teammates deserved much of the credit.

"Without them it couldn't have happened, and I love them," Naylor exclaimed. Marchese described his feelings after the

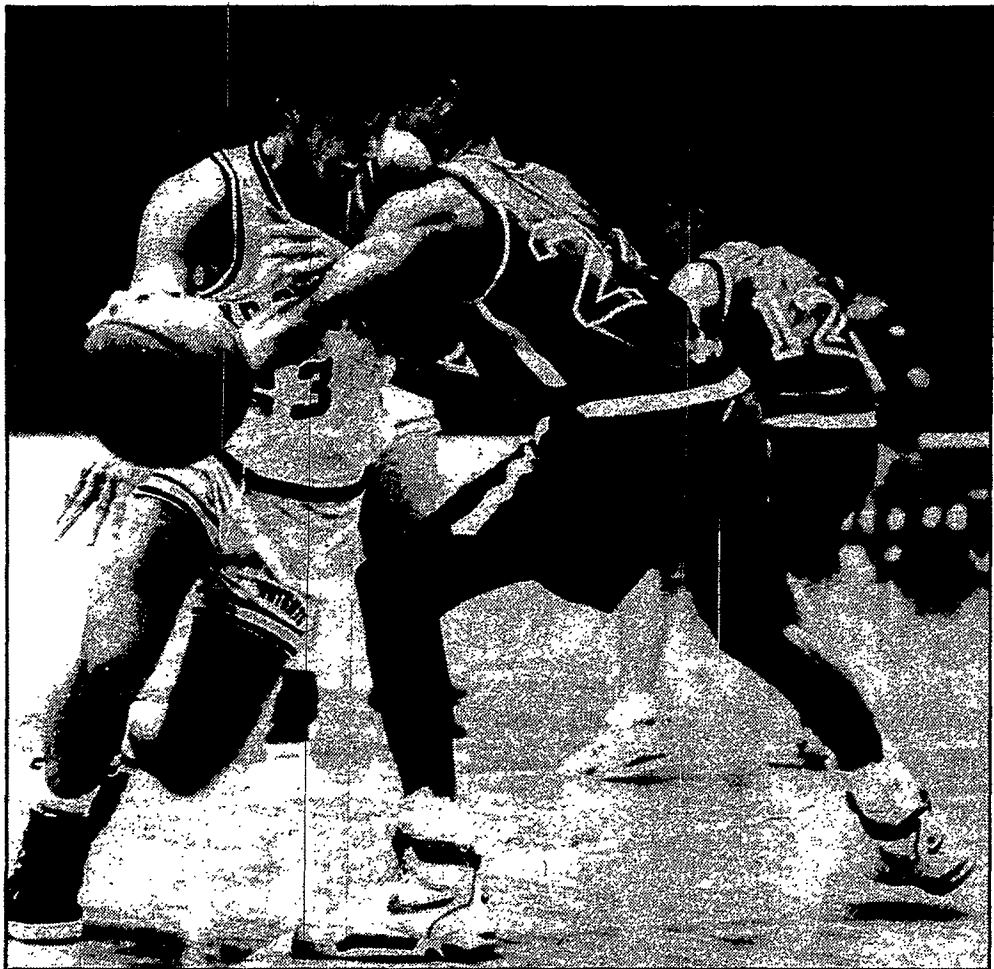
game in one word — "ecstatic."

"There is no feeling like it. It's the best way to win — to beat the best. Who could want for more?" asked the winning coach, who was lifted onto his players' shoulders immediately after the victory.

The Knights advanced to the final game after crushing fourth-seeded Fairport, 71-46, in a Class A semifinal in front of 6,025 fans at the War Memorial on Feb. 27.

After McQuaid gained the opening tap, Naylor and McKinney combined for six of the Knights' first 10 points. Quick hands enabled Fairport (17-5) to cause several key turnovers and even the score at 10-10 after the first quarter.

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McQuaid's Ted Naylor dribbles past Fairport's Phil Harlow during the Knights' resounding 72-46 win over the Red Raiders at the War Memorial Feb. 27.



Jason McKinney slam dunks the ball during McQ's win over Fairport.


Courier photos
by
Babette G. Augustin

Quaid's 6-1 guard said prior to the game. "I don't think they can beat us; we can only beat ourselves."

The Knights showed no signs of self-defeat in front of 6,502 fans at the "Big House" Saturday night, as McQuaid's Lethal Weapon III — Jason McKinney, Mike Montesano and Naylor — combined with Jeff Reese and Jeff Armbrister to overcome the Orientals.

Two other diocesan high school boys' basketball teams were not as fortunate in their sectional showdowns, as Geneva DeSales and Elmira Notre Dame both lost heartbreakers.


McQuaid sent its fans home with their hearts set on continuing the road to the Final Four, but it wasn't easy.



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