

Recruited athletes aim for success in college

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

Although continuing successful careers on the field or the court is a major concern for highly recruited high school athletes, many have come to realize the importance of other factors when it comes to deciding which college to attend.

For McQuaid basketball player Jason McKinney, wanting to be a part of a close-knit college community over the next four years had a lot to do with his decision to attend Siena College near Albany.

"I'll be spending four years with those kids," the 6-10 McQuaid center observed. "The kids will be almost like family. Of all the colleges I looked at, Siena had the nicest kids and the best coaches."

McKinney said he received more than 230 letters from college coaches, and he was actively recruited by 150 colleges from around the country. In addition to Siena, some of the other Division I schools McKinney considered were the University of Connecticut, the University of Maryland, the University of Virginia, Richmond University and Rutgers University.

As far as his basketball plans are concerned, McKinney noted that he was excited about getting the chance to possibly start as a freshman at Siena.

"Nothing's guaranteed, but if I go in and work as hard as I usually do, I have a good chance of becoming a starter since (the) senior center is graduating this year," McKinney said.

Although Mike Montesano — a teammate of McKinney at McQuaid — has yet to decide which college he will attend, he is being heavily recruited by several schools.

The McQuaid guard/forward — who was named the Most Valuable Player of the Ronald McDonald House All-Star Basketball Game on March 23 — is considering several Division I schools, including St. Joseph's College, Pa., Wagner College, James Madison University, Canisius College, St. Peter's College, N.J., and Duquesne University.

Montesano is also considering three Division II schools — LeMoyne College, American International College and Mercyhurst College.

"It depends on who recruits me. I'll take the best offer I get," acknowledged Montesano, who added that he hopes his performance in this year's post-season games enhances his chances for a full scholarship somewhere.

Although his decision on where to go to college was heavily affected by a knee injury sustained on the gridiron last

September, Bishop Kearney's Rene Ingoglia said he has no regrets about the way things have worked out.

The Bishop Kearney standout has accepted a four-year football scholarship to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, even though he was being heavily recruited by several Division I powerhouses such as Syracuse University, Penn State University, the University of Wisconsin and Boston College before his injury.

Ingoglia, who rushed for 1,288 yards and scored 14 touchdowns as a junior, said it was just a coincidence that former Kearney teammate Lamin Massaquoi — who now attends Webster High School — also decided to attend UMass. Ingoglia and Massaquoi played together on Kearney's sectional championship team two years ago.

"It will be nice to go up there with a good friend and to know someone from your hometown. I think it will be beneficial," said the Irondequoit resident.

BK classmate Eileen Jensen has also accepted a four-year basketball scholarship. The 6-0 senior will attend Towson State College in Maryland this fall.

Among the other schools Jensen considered were two other Division I colleges — Central Connecticut University and Bucknell University.

Nazareth Academy's Jennifer Olley is being courted with athletic scholarships at the University of Dayton and the University of Springfield, Mass. Olley has not yet decided which school she will attend.

Over in the Finger Lakes, DeSales basketball star Robert McFadden has accepted a four-year scholarship to attend LeMoyne College.

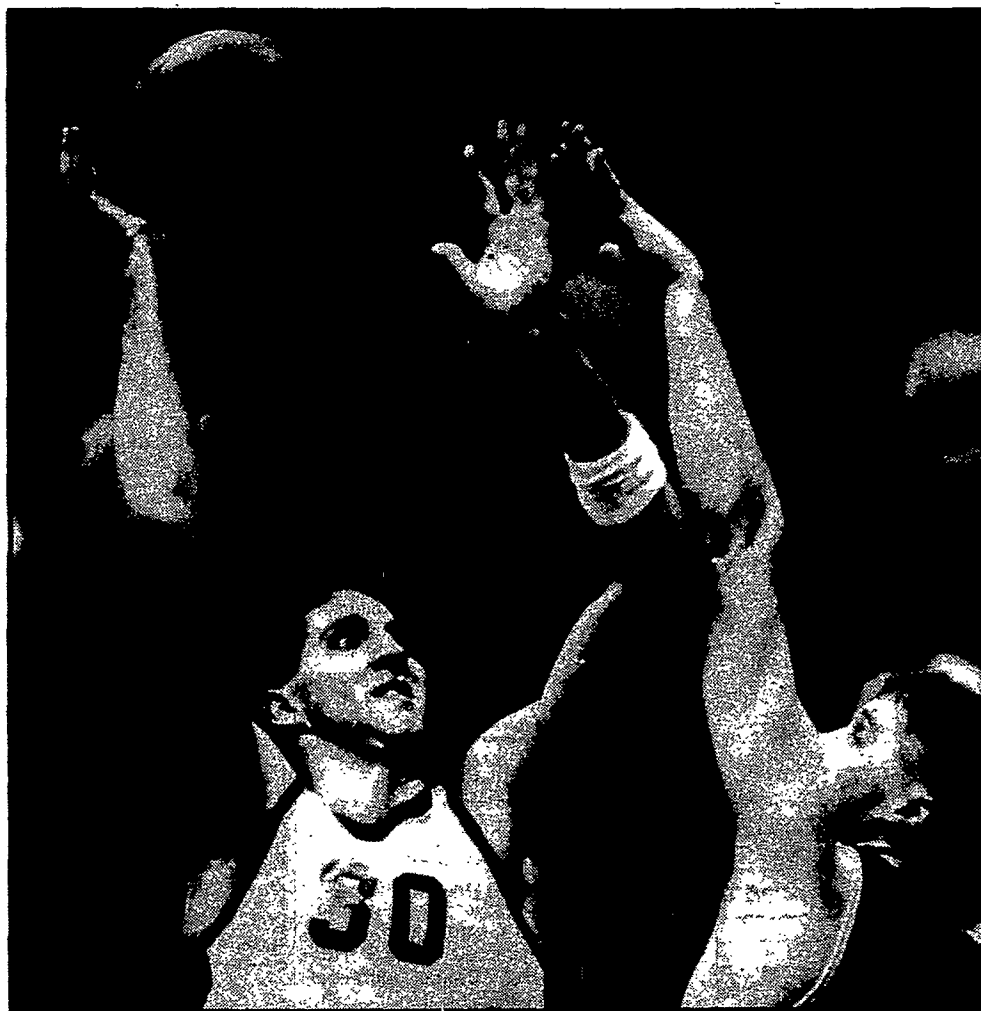
Although McFadden said he was considering other schools such as Colgate University, Nazareth College and the University of Rochester, he was impressed with the strong reputation of the Division II college's basketball program.

"My sister went there and I used to go up and visit her. I really liked the school and I also like the fact that it is close to home," said the 6-6 senior.

McFadden, who scored more than 1,200 points during his high school career and averaged 24.4 points per game his senior year, said LeMoyne Coach John Beilein hinted that the DeSales forward may start next year.

At Elmira Notre Dame, Athletic Director Mike D'Aloisio said he has several standouts being recruited by reputable schools.

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Rebecca S. Roth

McQuaid's Jason McKinney (left) shoots over Ralph Angelo of Honeoye during the annual Ronald McDonald House Greater Rochester High School All-Star Game at the University of Rochester Palestra on March 23. Along with McQuaid teammates Mike Montesano and Ted Naylon, McKinney helped lead the Gold to a 136-126 win over the Red.

McQuaid trio propels Gold over Red in all-star benefit

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Picking up where they left off after a championship basketball season, McQuaid's Jason McKinney, Mike Montesano and Ted Naylon helped propel the Gold Team to a 136-126 win over the Red Team in the annual Ronald McDonald All-Star Basketball Game at the University of Rochester Palestra on Saturday, March 23.

Among the players on the Red Team was Geneva DeSales center Robert McFadden.

In the girls' all-star game, the Red Team cruised past the Gold, 68-53. Among the players on the Red were Our Lady of Mercy's Natalie White and Mary Beth Cleary as well as Bishop Kearney's Eileen Jensen.

After playing in pressure-filled sectional and state tournament games, Naylon said he enjoyed performing a little razzle-dazzle during the all-star game.

"You don't really care if you win or lose, you just want to have fun," the 6-1 McQuaid guard explained.

Naylon, McKinney and McFadden each started for their teams. Naylon hit a three-pointer three minutes into the first quarter.

McFadden converted two shots from the charity stripe with 3:50 left in the quarter before Montesano got in on the scoring. After notching a three-point shot with 3:03 remaining, Montesano scored on a baseline jumper with 1:55 left. The McQuaid standout banked another trey with 17 seconds left to lead the Gold to a 42-26 margin at the end of the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Naylon added another two points with 7:45 to go in the half. McFadden then notched a field goal with six minutes to play. Montesano dominated the final minutes of the first half with two free throws (1:17) and a three-pointer (.56) to balloon the Gold team's lead to 75-53 at intermission.

In the first half alone, the teams broke two records for the all-star game: most points scored by two teams in one game (128), eclipsing the old record (127) set in 1989; and most points by one team in the first half (75) by the Gold, breaking the old mark of 60 set in 1989.

In the third quarter, McKinney started

the scoring with a basket just 15 seconds into the second half on a pass from Naylon. Montesano continued his scoring onslaught late in the quarter as he converted two shots from the line with 3:51 left and another basket with 1:07 remaining.

Still, the Gold only maintained a narrow two-point margin, 99-97, at the end of the third quarter after a buzzer-beating basket from the Red's Reggie Johnson (Pittsford Sutherland).

But the Gold team broke the game wide open in the final stanza thanks to the scoring of McKinney, Montesano and Naylon. Included in the scoring barrage were two baskets by Naylon at the 3:09 and 1:35 marks. Montesano later converted two free throws with 4:55 left before nailing a three-pointer from half court with 2:15. The McQuaid standout iced the game with two shots from the line with 47 seconds left and a thundering slam dunk at the buzzer.

Montesano had a game-high 27 points for the Gold, earning him the Most Valuable Player Award. Ralph Angelo of Honeoye was named MVP for the Red after pouring in 23 points.

Montesano said he was honored to be selected to the annual all-star game because it proved that all his hard work paid off this year.

"It's great that we can put all our hard work into helping someone else," said the 6-3 McQuaid guard.

He also noted that the game was special to him because it was the last time he and Naylon would be playing on the same team.

"We've been playing together since the sixth grade," commented Montesano.

DeSales' McFadden agreed with Montesano's observations about the game.

"It's a great honor to be selected for the team, especially coming from such a small school as DeSales," the DeSales center said. "It's good that such a great basketball team is coming together for such a good cause."

During intermission, McKinney, Montesano and McFadden competed with other players during a Slam Dunk competition won by the Red Team.

SPORT SHORTS



Swimmer splashes her way to new record

ROCHESTER — Nazareth College's Kim Schneider set a new school record in the 50-yard butterfly at the New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association meet at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from Feb. 14-16.

Schneider was the Golden Flyer's top individual finisher as she placed second in the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 27.54 seconds. The freshman from Naples shattered the old mark of 28.33 seconds set by Vicki Peuckert in 1986.

Schneider also finished sixth in the 100-yard butterfly and 13th in the 50-yard freestyle.

Program on steroids set

ROCHESTER — An informational session entitled "Anabolic Steroids: What Every Parent, Coach and Athlete Should Know" will take place at University Sports Medicine, 2180 S. Clinton Ave., on Wednesday, April 3, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The free program — originally scheduled for March 6 but cancelled due to the ice storm — is open to coaches, parents and athletes.

Dr. James Swenson, a specialist in sports medicine, and Alan Peppard, a certified athletic trainer who is director of physical therapy at University Sports Medicine, will lead the discussion.

The presentation will be followed by two separate discussions: one for parents and coaches concerning the signs of athletes abusing steroids and another offering alternatives to steroids for athletes trying to improve performance.

Pre-registration is suggested. Call 716/275-7379 for information.