

McQuaid tastes first victory; AQ nips Kearney

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

The fourth weekend of high school football ended with McQuaid getting its first taste of victory — and Aquinas still perfect after nipping Bishop Kearney.

Meanwhile, DeSales dropped to 0-4 for the season while Elmira Notre Dame cruised to its third win.

When Aquinas traveled to Bishop Kearney Friday night, Oct. 4, the two teams had to contend with both each other — and the weather.

Despite the rain, a sloppy field, a 20-minute delay due to lightning, and three fumbles by both teams, the Little Irish (4-0) grounded out a 20-12 victory in the non-league battle of traditional rivals. Kearney fell to 2-2.

Aquinas' junior standout Matt Piccone tallied 208 yards on 28 carries.

Piccone's longest run came in the first quarter, when he raced 50 yards to the Kearney three-yard line. On the very next play, he scored on a three-yard run.

The pass for the two-point conversion failed, leaving Aquinas up 6-0.

On the ensuing kickoff, Kearney's Matt Hoffman returned the ball 57 yards to set up Mark Tytler's 10-yard scoring run. The pass for two points failed, keeping the two teams knotted at 6-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Aquinas regained the lead after an eight-play, 58-yard drive in the second quarter. The drive ended with Robert Smart's 16-yard touchdown run. Mike Sloane's successful point-after kick gave the Little Irish a 13-6 before halftime.

In the third quarter, Kearney pulled to within a point after a 21-yard punt return gave the Kings great field position. Moments later quarterback Demond Mack scampered nine yards for a touchdown.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Aquinas' Matt Piccone rushed for 208 yards and one touchdown against Bishop Kearney, helping the Little Irish defeat the host Kings on Oct. 4.

But the kick failed and the score remained 13-12.

AQ scored again in the fourth quarter when an eight-play drive culminated with Phil Wegman's 34-yard scoring romp. A successful kick by Sloane provided the final margin of 20-12.

Aquinas rushed for 280 yards on the ground while compiling 288 total yards of total offense. Wegman tallied 63 yards on nine carries.

Kearney was limited to just 131 yards of offense. Tytler rushed for 60 yards on 12 carries.

The Little Irish will seek their fifth consecutive win on Saturday, Oct. 12 when they host Edison. Kearney will try to regain the winning touch against visiting Midlakes on Oct. 12.

In City-Catholic League play, McQuaid (1-3) earned its first victory of the season with a 26-12 win over visiting Edison (1-2) on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Senior tailback Kullen Dickinson enjoyed a huge day, racing for 281 yards — including a 56-yard scoring romp with 45 seconds left in the game to seal the victory. He also caught a 20-yard pass, giving him 301 yards in total offense for the day.

The Knights compiled 391 yards in offense, but coach Tom Sprague credited his defense for the win. McQ's defense stopped Edison on three goal-line situations during the game.

McQuaid will try to make it two in a row Oct. 12 when the Knights host Canisius of Buffalo.

Over in the Finger Lakes West, DeSales (0-4) continued to struggle as host South Seneca (2-2) downed the inexperienced Saints, 32-0, on Oct. 5.

In addition to committing seven turnovers, DeSales hurt itself with costly penalties, according to DeSales coach Mark McCheyne.

The Saints will try to gain their first win of the season on Oct. 12 when they host Mynderse.

In action from Section 4, Notre Dame improved its record to 3-1 with a 35-6 trouncing of Elmira Heights Edison (2-1) at Brewer Memorial Stadium on Oct. 4.

The Crusaders jumped out to a 20-0 lead at the half. Edison's lone score came on the last play of the game.

Notre Dame quarterback Bryan Woodworth threw for two touchdowns and 123 yards on 10-for-18 passing. Chris O'Herron snagged seven of those passes for 94 yards and two touchdowns.

Notre Dame will try for its fourth win of the season when the Crusaders host Whitney Point on Friday night, Oct. 11.

Knights gearing for soccer sectionals

ROCHESTER — The McQuaid Jesuit Knights are playing soccer with bulls'-eyes in the middle of their chests for the rest of the season.

After beating Pittsford Mendon 1-0 on Sept. 26, the Knights (11-2-1 overall, 4-0 league) have once again established themselves as one of the top teams in the area.

Now the Knights, ranked as high as No. 5 (Class A) in the state soccer polls this season, must watch out for any Davids looking to slay their Goliath-like potential.

"We know everyone would like to beat us," said McQuaid Coach Dan Schied. "We just can't get caught flat."

The chances of that are slim. With a few exceptions, the Knights have dominated their opponents this fall. McQuaid over-

whelmed visiting Kearney, 9-3, on Oct. 3. The Knights followed that up with a 3-2 win at Pittsford Sutherland on Oct. 5.

"That was not our best soccer game of the season," Schied said, referring to McQuaid's win over Sutherland. "We just wore them down. Our talent carried us."

Nonetheless, the back-to-back victories came within a week of a tough 3-2 loss against Penfield. The Knights could see the Chiefs again in the post-season.

McQuaid's only other loss this season came against Lewiston-Porter — the top Class B team in the state — on a penalty kick with five minutes left in the game.

The schedule will help Schied prepare his team for the upcoming sectionals, which begin later this month. The Knights

were scheduled to play at Edison (Oct. 8) and home against Honeoye Falls-Lima (Oct. 10) before closing out the regular season with away games at Aquinas (Oct. 14) and Brighton (Oct. 16).

The Knights have been led offensively by Steve Roehrig (16 goals, three assists), Jim Pashalidis (eight goals, five assists) and Eric Pedersen (seven goals, two assists) this season.

Colin Lennon (0.95 goals against average) has come up big in goal for the Knights when called upon.

— Richard A. Kiley



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