

# AQ pulls out another; ND beaten for bowl bid

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

High school football games involving Aquinas Institute, McQuaid Jesuit and Notre Dame went down to the wire last weekend with mixed results.

Meanwhile Bishop Kearney and DeSales found themselves on the losing ends of lopsided scores.

Aquinas (5-0 City-Catholic League, 7-0 overall) came within inches of falling from the ranks of the unbeaten on Oct. 26. But a 30-yard field goal try by City-Catholic League opponent Marshall (3-3, 3-3-1) as time expired fell a foot short of the goal post, allowing the host Little Irish to escape with a come-from-behind 16-14 win.

The two teams were locked in a close contest throughout. The Little Irish jumped on top 3-0 in the first quarter on a Mike Sloan 38-yard field goal. The Jurists responded with a second-quarter touchdown followed by a two-point conversion to take an 8-3 lead.

The Jurists drove deep into Little Irish territory two more times in the second quarter, but the Aquinas defense stopped them both times — including a tackle at the goal line as time expired.

In the third quarter, the Irish stopped a faked punt at the 30, and Matt Piccone (25 carries, 107 yards) capped a five-play drive with a seven-yard scoring run. The kick failed, however, leaving Aquinas clinging to a 9-8 lead.

The score didn't stay that way for long. Two plays after the ensuing kickoff, Marshall's William Worth connected with Eric Reynolds on a 70-yard scoring pass. The two-point conversion failed, keeping the Jurists' lead at 14-9.

The Irish then ate up the clock with a 14-play, 73-yard drive, culminating with Phil Wegman's 11-yard run just five sec-

onds into the fourth quarter. Sloan's extra point gave the Little Irish a 16-14 lead.

After the Irish regained possession after an interception, Piccone and Wegman (five carries, 75 yards) began wearing down the Marshall defense with huge chunks of yardage. But then a fumble at the one-yard line gave Marshall the ball back with 1:05 left, setting up a drive that ended with the missed field goal as time expired.

Aquinas will take its perfect record to Fauver Stadium Nov. 1 for a game under the lights against traditional rival McQuaid. The City-Catholic League game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Knights (2-4-1) found themselves in a similar position as Marshall on Oct. 26. Trailing host Wilson (0-3-3) 36-28 with just 64 seconds left on the clock, McQuaid took over the ball on its own 45-yard line.

Less than 50 seconds later, Tommy Wilmarth gathered in a 20-yard touchdown pass from Christian Klein to pull McQuaid to within two points. Klein then connected with Tim Whelehan on the two-point conversion, allowing the Knights to gain a 36-36 tie in the City-Catholic League contest.

It looked as if Wilson would record its first win of the season in the early going as the Wildcats built a 28-14 second-quarter lead. But Klein (15-for-23, 210 yards) teamed up with Warren on a 65-yard toss at the end of the half to slice the lead to 28-20.

After a scoreless third quarter, Kullen Dickinson (15 carries, 104 yards and two touchdowns) dashed five yards into the end zone for a score. A Klein-to-Warren conversion pass knotted the score at 28-28.

Wilson responded with a touchdown and a two-point conversion to regain the lead at 36-28, setting up McQuaid's last-



Bette G. Augustin/Staff photographer  
Bishop Kearney's Mark Tytler (right) plows through the East Rochester defense during the Kings' 27-0 loss to the host Bombers on Oct. 25; Tytler carried the ball 29 times for 133 yards.

minute heroics.

Bishop Kearney (3-4) compiled 251 yards on the ground against East Rochester, but the Kings were unable to score in a 27-0 non-league loss on Oct. 25.

The Kings were stymied a number of times inside ER's 20-yard line, according to coach Nick Teta.

East Rochester benefited from big plays, scoring on a 59-yard touchdown run by Brian Faucher in the second quarter and a 51-yard touchdown toss from quarterback Jason Rucker to Sal Vanagas in the third quarter.

Kearney's Mark Tytler carried the ball 29 times for 133 yards.

The Kings will visit Eastridge (2-5) on Nov. 2.

In Section 4, Elmira Notre Dame (2-1 Division IV, 4-3 overall) lost more than a game when the Crusaders fell to visiting Windsor, 19-12, in a divisional game on Oct. 25.

The defeat cost the Crusaders the division championship, eliminating Notre Dame from the post-season bowl picture for the first time in four years.

Notre Dame had a chance to pull out a win, taking over the ball at its own 6-yard line after stopping Windsor on downs with a minute to go in the game. But the Crusaders could only advance to midfield by the time the clock ran out.

Notre Dame was once again victimized by turnovers, according to Coach Mike D'Aloisio.

Two interceptions and a fumble in the third quarter led to a pair of Windsor touchdowns, digging a 19-6 hole for Notre Dame.

Quarterback Bryan Woodworth connected with Chris O'Herron (six catches for 73 yards) for a five-yard touchdown with five minutes left in the game to pull the Crusaders to within 19-12. Notre Dame was unable to score again, however, guaranteeing Windsor at least a tie for the league title and ensuring itself a bowl bid. Notre Dame will travel to Susquehanna Valley Nov. 2.

Over in the Finger Lakes West, DeSales (0-7) was able to keep host Romulus (2-5) in check for most of the first quarter.

But Romulus broke through late in the first quarter on a 85-yard scoring run after picking up a DeSales fumble. Romulus never looked back after that in a 44-7 win over the Saints.

The only highlight for DeSales was quarterback Bill Sweeney's one-yard score on a keeper late in the fourth quarter. Bill Pinkerton connected on the conversion kick.

DeSales will try to avoid a winless season when the Saints host Canistota (0-6-1) Nov. 2 in a non-league contest.



Matt Hoffman (right) appears to be taking a stroll by several East Rochester defenders during the first half of Kearney's non-league loss.

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