

Mercy soccer team captures championship

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Our Lady of Mercy High School won its first ever sectional soccer title with a 4-3 overtime win over top-seeded Penfield in the Section 5 Class A finals at Spencerport Nov. 2.

Mercy will play the Class A winner from Section 6 — not determined as of press time — at the University of Buffalo Nov. 9.

Private Parochial League champion Aquinas Institute fell short in overtime in the Class BB girls' finals, losing to Brighton 4-3 at Brockport High School on Nov. 2.

Overtime also proved fatal for McQuaid, which lost 1-0 in overtime to eventual Class A champion Penfield on Oct. 30 at Spencerport.

For second-seeded Mercy (14-2-2), the victory provided revenge for a loss to Penfield (14-4-2) in a shootout in last year's sectional semifinals.

Last Saturday's rematch was nip-and-tuck all the way, as the teams battled to a scoreless tie at the end of the first half.

Just 40 seconds into the second half, Penfield's Erin Sargent scored to give the Chiefs a 1-0 lead.

But Mercy's Sheila Doyle countered with the first of her three goals 20 minutes into the half to tie the contest at 1-1. Jenny Smith got the assist.

One minute later, however, Penfield's Kristen Boomsma netted the ball to again give the Chiefs the lead. That lead lasted a mere four minutes, when Doyle parleyed another Smith pass into a goal and a 2-2 tie.

Mercy took the lead with 15 minutes left in regulation after Anne Carney scored off a Tiffany Pezzulo assist.

Penfield came back to tie the score at 3-3 with just five minutes left in regu-

lation when Lara Warner connected on a corner kick. Neither team could score again as time expired, sending the contest into overtime.

Doyle scored her third goal of the game — and the 100th of her illustrious career — just 8:58 into the first overtime for a 4-3 lead.

Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton then moved Doyle to defense to capitalize on the senior striker's speed. The move worked, as the Chiefs were unable to score again.

Boughton attributed the win — and her team's big season — to speed and conditioning. "I figured we'd tire them out," she said. In addition, she said, "We tried to play a lot of long ball. Penfield prefers a long game."

Mercy goalie Ellen Lennox recorded 16 saves in the contest. The Monarchs outshot the Chiefs 21-16.

Mercy advanced to the finals with a 3-0 thrashing of sixth-seeded Rush Henrietta at Brockport Oct. 30. Smith scored the first goal for the Monarchs. Doyle netted the other two, while Lennox recorded her 10th shutout of the season.

Aquinas (17-3-1) managed to stop Doyle and Mercy during regular season play to claim the Private Parochial League crown.

But the Irish were unable to thwart Brighton's Karen Henrichs, who scored all four of the Barons' goals during AQ's 4-3 overtime loss in the Class BB finals Nov. 2 at Brockport.

"We didn't know that she was that good," Aquinas Coach Gary Page admitted after the loss. Page noted that Henrichs had missed the early part of the season due to a broken leg and the coaches had not realized how dangerous a player she was.

The third-seeded Irish took the early lead when Marcy Meagher scored off a



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

Our Lady of Mercy's Sheila Doyle (right) and a Rush Henrietta player leap for the ball in the Monarchs' 3-0 win in the Class A sectional semifinals at Brockport Oct. 30. Mercy won the title by beating Penfield.

corner kick just one minute into the contest.

That lead held up until 2:30 into the second half when Henrichs scored. Aquinas regained the lead 26 minutes

into the second half off an Alicia Burton header. But with 10 minutes to go, Henrichs knotted the score again.

With the game tied 2-2, the two teams went into the required two-period overtime. Henrichs scored just 42 seconds into the first overtime.

Aquinas' Missy Page tied the score at 3-3 with a goal 5:35 into the second overtime, but Henrichs scored again just a minute later for the win.

The shots on goal were even at 15 each. Aquinas' Mary Beth Bell recorded 12 saves.

The Irish advanced to the finals by beating third-seeded Newark, 4-0, at Wayne on Oct. 30. Michele Kuhns netted two goals, Meagher had one, and Trishia DiQuatro accounted for another. Bell recorded the shutout — her 11th off the season.

In Section 5 boys' Class A play, fourth-seeded McQuaid (12-4-4) lost to top-seeded Penfield (17-0-3) 1-0 in overtime at Spencerport Oct. 30.

The two teams were locked in a scoreless battle until two minutes into the second overtime when Todd Morris booted home the winning goal.

Penfield outshot the Knights 14-12 for the game. McQuaid goalie Colin Lennon recorded 10 saves.

The defeat marked the third consecutive year that Penfield defeated McQuaid in the semifinals.

And — as it had done the last two seasons — Penfield went on to claim the Class A crown. This year the Chiefs beat Gates Chili 2-0 on Nov. 2 at Spencerport. Gates finished the season 12-7.

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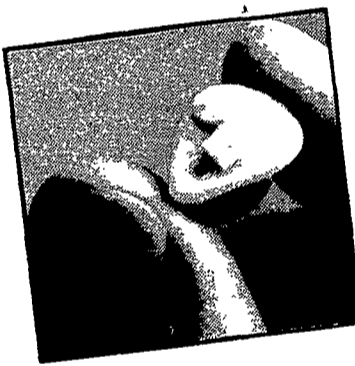
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