

Monarchs succumb in state semis

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The finest season in the history of Our Lady of Mercy girls' soccer came to an exciting, yet disappointing close last Friday, Nov. 15, when the Monarchs lost to Shenendehowa, 1-0, in the state Class A tournament semifinals.

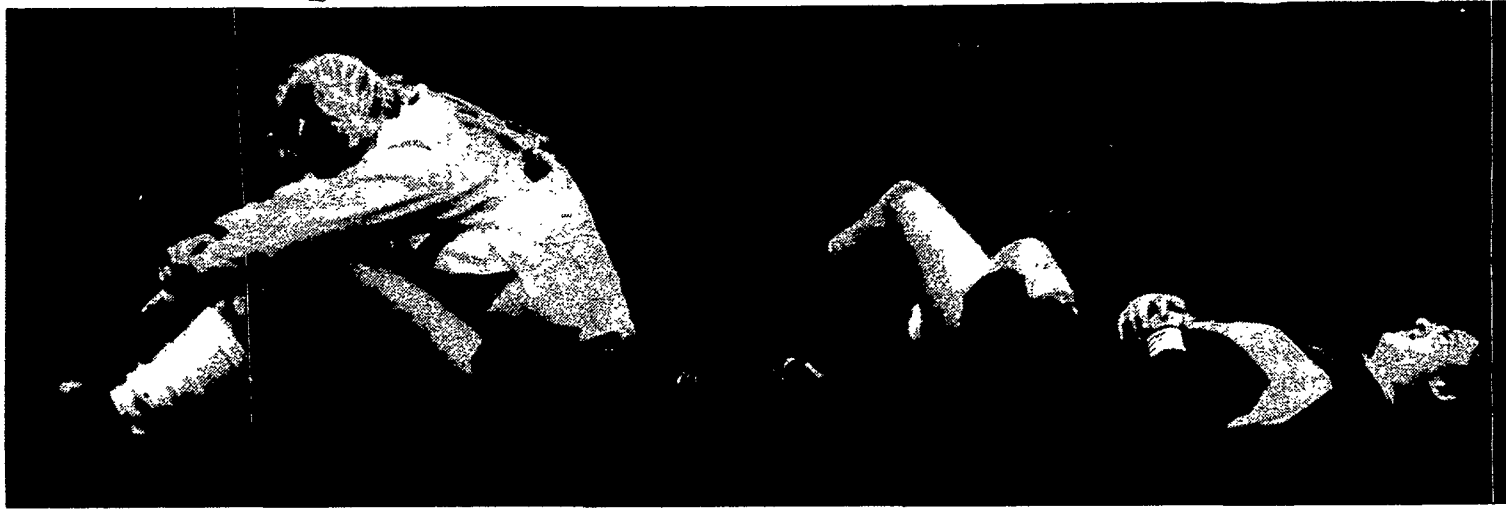
The game went into overtime and was eventually decided by penalty kicks. It was played at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.

Mercy's final 1991 record was 13-3-2. The Monarchs had advanced to the semifinals with a 7-0 victory over Williamsville North in a quarterfinal game played the previous Saturday.

Prior to the state tournament, the Monarchs captured their first-ever Section 5 Class A tournament championship by defeating Penfield, 4-3 in overtime, in the title game.

Friday's loss to Shenendehowa of Section 2 came against the No. 2-ranked team in the nation — according to *USA Today* — and the top-ranked team in the state.

However, the Plainsmen, visibly worn out from their battle with Mercy, lost 3-0 to Herrich of Long Island in Saturday's title game to end the year with a 20-1 record.



Our Lady of Mercy's Maureen McCarthy (left) and Shenendehowa's Antoinette DeLucci show their exhaustion after regulation play and two overtime periods couldn't determine a winner in the Nov. 15 state Class A semifinals at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Shenendehowa eventually won the game, 1-0, after a sudden-death shootout.

"We watched them play in the finals, and they were tired," noted Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton.

Goalie Ellen Lennox, one of 12 seniors on the Monarch roster, was outstanding against Shenendehowa. Mercy was outshot 20-4 in regulation and two 10-minute overtime periods, but Lennox came up with 18 saves to keep the score knotted at 0-0.

"She had a fabulous game," Boughton commented.

Mercy's best chance at scoring came with less than a minute remaining in the first overtime, when a rocket by scoring star Sheila Doyle was stopped by Plainsmen goaltender Danielle Rontoni.

When the game remained scoreless after the overtime periods, a shootout

was employed where each team had five penalty-kick opportunities. Boughton inserted sophomore Kelly O'Neil in place of Lennox at that point.

The stalemate remained after each squad converted three kicks, with Doyle, Julie Smith and Gina Montesano scoring for Mercy.

At that point, a sudden-death penalty kick tiebreaker came into play. The Monarchs' Anne Carney missed to the right, and Shenendehowa's Liz Villamil finally ended the marathon affair when she scored.

"At the end of the game you still felt like you had won, because we were playing the No. 1 team in the state. Coming into the game, we just didn't want to embarrass ourselves. They'd only given up four goals all year," said

Boughton.

Despite the defeat, this will long be remembered as a special season for a terrific group of seniors. Leading the way was the speedy Doyle, who scored 103 goals for her career and had 36 this season. Lennox recorded 12 shutouts.

"We may not have had the best skills or the best footwork, but having 12 seniors helped. We played with a lot of guts. I never had any trouble getting these players motivated," said Boughton.

In addition to this year's sectional soccer title, Boughton has also won two sectionals as Mercy's basketball coach. She's coached soccer for six seasons and is beginning her seventh year with Monarch basketball.

Amy Reynders signs letter of intent to play at Rutgers

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — With her perfect 4.0 grade-point average, nobody can dispute Amy Reynders' ability to make intelligent decisions.

So, even though more than 200 colleges pursued the Aquinas Institute basketball star, it's very likely that Reynders made the right choice by committing to Rutgers University last week.

The 5-foot-11 senior guard, who led the Little Irish to their first-ever Section 5 title as well as a trip to the state finals last season, signed a letter of intent to Rutgers last Thursday morning, Nov. 14, at Aquinas. She will receive a full scholarship to the New Jersey-based school and will also join one of the top Division I women's basketball programs in the country.

Reynders chose Rutgers over three

other colleges she visited: Connecticut, Georgetown and Providence. After visiting Rutgers the weekend of Nov. 2-3, she was so impressed with the school that she cancelled a trip to Boston College and made her decision Nov. 11.

"I called some coaches I knew to see what they thought about the Rutgers program, and then I just kind of sat there for a few minutes, came downstairs, and said, 'I'm going to go to Rutgers,'" said Reynders. "My parents (Hank and Marcia) were really happy with my decision.

"I just felt that what I needed both academically and athletically was there (at Rutgers)."

Reynders plans on enrolling in a pre-med program and eventually going to medical school.

The Scarlet Knight basketball program has been among the nation's best since head coach Theresa Greutz took the helm 14 years ago: She has compiled a 329-102 record at Rutgers, which ended up ranked 18th in the



Aquinas senior Amy Reynders will attend Rutgers University on a full scholarship next fall.

country last season after finishing with a record of 23-7.

It's quite possible that Reynders will make a quick contribution next year, since she is one of Rutgers' few recruits at guard.

"I love basketball so much that I know I wouldn't be happy sitting the bench," she said.

Now that her decision about college is behind her, Reynders can get back to focusing on the upcoming season at Aquinas, where her brother, Tim, is the new head girls' basketball coach.

Amy is coming off a memorable 1990-91 campaign during which she averaged 17 points and 10 rebounds per game. The Little Irish defeated Churchville-Chili in the Section 5 Class BB championship contest and went all the way to the state Class B finals, finishing runner-up with a 20-7 record. Reynders scored 32 points in a state semifinal win over Amityville, the state's No. 1-ranked team.

Her numerous athletic honors include: second team All-State in 1990-91; Most Valuable Player of the 1990-91 sectional tournament; Most Outstanding Player at Aquinas the last two seasons; and two-time member of the Western Region scholastic team at the Empire State Games. She earned MVP honors at last summer's ESG as Western won its second consecutive gold medal.

McQuaid wins title at Jesuit Championships

The McQuaid Jesuit High cross country team turned in a dominating performance at the 47th Jesuit Championships, placing first out of eight Northeastern schools Nov. 16.

McQuaid totaled 26 points, and Loyola of Baltimore came in a distant second with 53 points.

Adam Reitz was the Knights' top finisher, posting a second-place time of

13:26 on the 2.5-mile course at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. Also placing in the top 10 were teammates Dan Lesser, who took third in 13:45; Tim Kelley, fifth in 13:50; Eric Garsin, seventh in 14:08; and Matt Bunce, ninth in 14:12.

Saturday's win marked the 12th time McQuaid has placed first at the competition among Jesuit schools.

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