

Knights relying on new faces to defend title

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The faces have changed, but hopefully the song will remain the same for the 1991-92 McQuaid Jesuit High School basketball team.

Gone are all five starters — and nine seniors overall — from last year's squad that tied for the City-Catholic League title, won the Section 5 Class A championship and advanced to the state semifinals. McQuaid's final record was 19-3.

Despite the mass exodus of players at last June's graduation, sixth-year head coach Joe Marchese thinks his newcomers are capable of having a solid season.

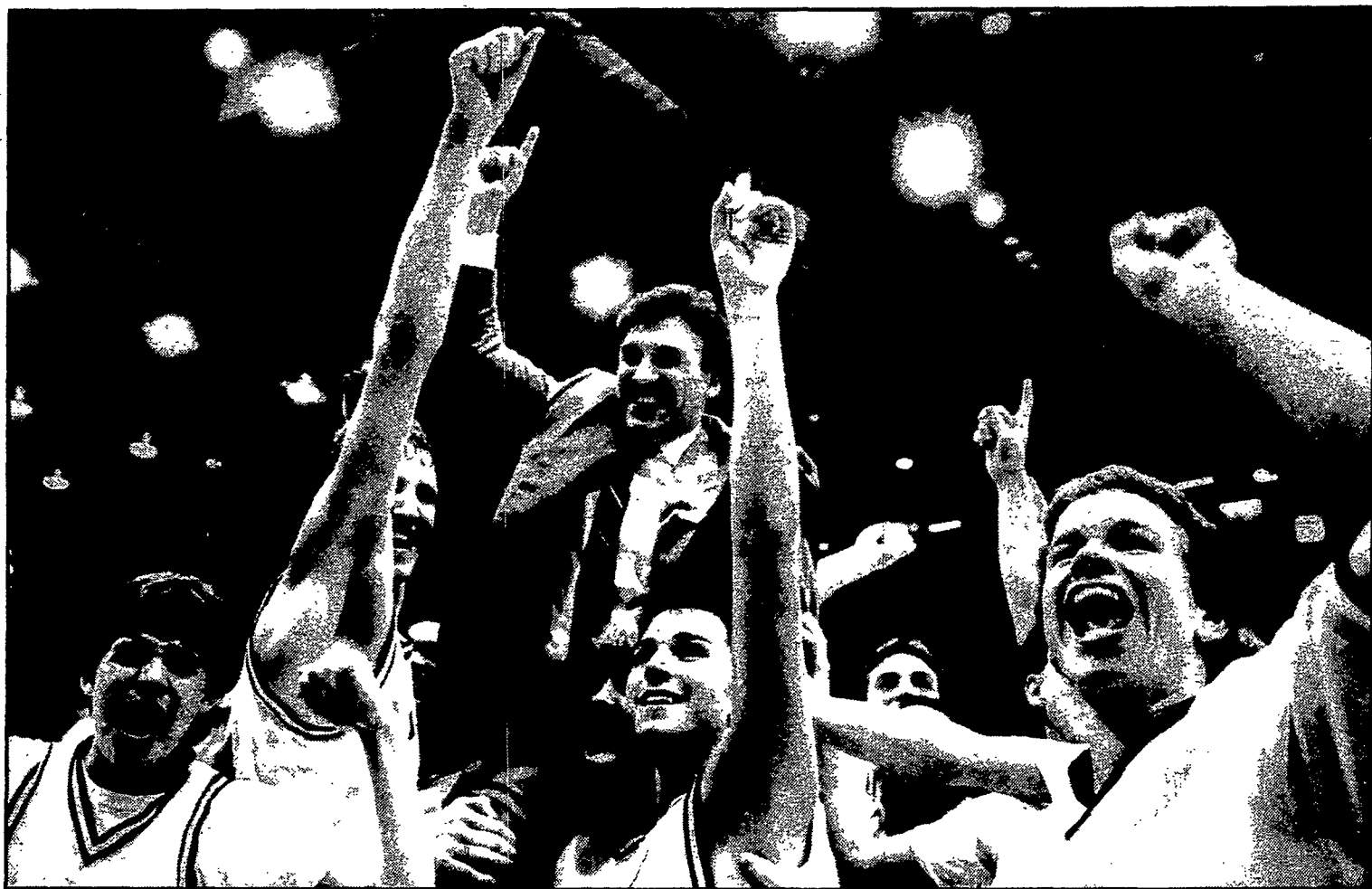
"It's going to be a learning type of year. If the players can meet the challenge, I think we could be very good toward the middle or end of the season," Marchese predicted.

McQuaid begins its 1991-92 season this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 29-30, by playing in the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Kickoff Classic near Syracuse.

Bishop Kearney is looking to continue last year's success after the Kings reached the sectional Class BB semifinals and finished with a 12-10 mark. The Kings are coached by Ed Nietopski, the longtime mentor at the former Cardinal Mooney High School. He's in his third year with the Kings, who open their season this weekend by playing in the Waterloo Tournament.

Aquinas Institute also advanced to the Class BB semifinals last year despite a final mark of just 7-16. Sixth-year coach Mike Dianetti has a 12-man roster made up entirely of juniors, but five of them have varsity experience. Aquinas opens up this Friday with a home game against Pittsford Sutherland.

Elmira Notre Dame has lost seven of its top nine players from last year's outstanding team that went 19-4, cap-



McQuaid Jesuit High School basketball coach Joe Marchese is carried on the shoulders of his players after the Knights clinched the Section 5 Class A championship last March.

tured the Sullivan Trail Conference championship and made the Section 4 Class C semifinal round. The Crusaders, under head coach Mike D'Aloisio, play their opening game Dec. 3 at home against Trumansburg.

Geneva DeSales, guided by veteran coach Tony Alvaro, is shooting for another great season. The 1990-91 campaign saw the Saints finish 20-3 and reach the Section 5 Class DD semifinals. DeSales hosts its annual tournament this Friday and Saturday, with East Rochester, Harley-Allendale-

Columbia and Port Byron also participating.

Knights rebuilding

Junior forward Tate Wandtke, last year's sixth man, is now a key starter. The 6-6 Wandtke will combine up front with junior center Dave Fox and senior forward Steve Roehrig.

In the backcourt, senior Brad Wilson, a transfer from Pittsford Mendon, appears to be the leading candidate at point guard while seniors Christian Klein and David Lorei will split time at off-guard.

Other top prospects include sophomore forward Matt Podmenik, a Fairport transfer; freshman guard-forward Rob Norris and junior guard Antonio Porretta.

Rounding out the roster are senior

center David Williams, junior forwards Tim Whelehan, Josh Sharer and Greg Connolly, sophomore guards Miles Wilson and James DeLuca and junior guard Tom Brewer.

"Our work ethic is outstanding. The players know they have a certain reputation to live up to. The McQuaid program has gotten to a certain point, and they don't want to diminish that," said Marchese.

Last year's team defeated East, 62-55, in the sectional finals at the Rochester Community War Memorial. McQuaid went on to defeat Niagara Falls LaSalle in the state quarterfinals before being nipped at the buzzer in the semis by Syracuse Henninger.

Marchese has compiled an outstanding 98-19 record in his five seasons at the Knights' helm, winning

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