

# AQ, Mercy girls look strong; ND wins first 2

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

This is one league where it truly seems that less is more.

Three years ago, two schools from the five-team Private-Parochial League won Section 5 championships — Our Lady of Mercy in Class A and the former Cardinal Mooney in Class BB. And even though the league has been reduced to just four teams since Mooney closed in 1989, once again there are two clubs capable of bringing home sectional titles.

Aquinas, which won its first-ever Class BB crown a year ago, will be led by the multi-talented Amy Reynders as well as a good nucleus of additional veterans. The Little Irish got their season off to a good start by capturing the Penn Yan Tournament, defeating Honeoye 50-28 on Nov. 29 and winning 46-42 over Penn Yan in the following evening's championship game.

Mercy, which has won or shared the



File photo  
Junior Janet D'Agostino is slated to play guard for the Bishop Kearney Kings this season.

Private-Parochial League title every year since Kathy Boughton took over as head coach in 1985-86, looks solid again with Sheila Doyle leading a speedy attack. The Monarchs' first game is Dec. 19 at Buffalo St. Mary's.

Elmira Notre Dame has made a convincing charge out of the gate, earning the title at the Spencer-Van Etten tournament. The Crusaders won 45-28 over Spencer-Van Etten on Nov. 29 and 42-33 over Corning West in the Nov. 30 finals.

Bishop Kearney, which has gone 33-11 in Paul Forte's first two years as head coach, has lost the services of star center Eileen Jensen but will remain competitive with lots of promising new talent from a junior varsity that finished 19-1 last season. The Kings face Rush-Henrietta at the War Memorial (11 a.m. start) in this Sunday's (Dec. 8) opening game of the Kearney Classic.

Geneva DeSales has six players who were part of last year's 7-14 squad. The Saints are in action on Dec. 10 at home against Bloomfield.

Nazareth, which possesses some good height, will most likely improve on its 3-17 finish from last season. The Lasers' next game is at home Dec. 11 against Northstar Christian Academy.

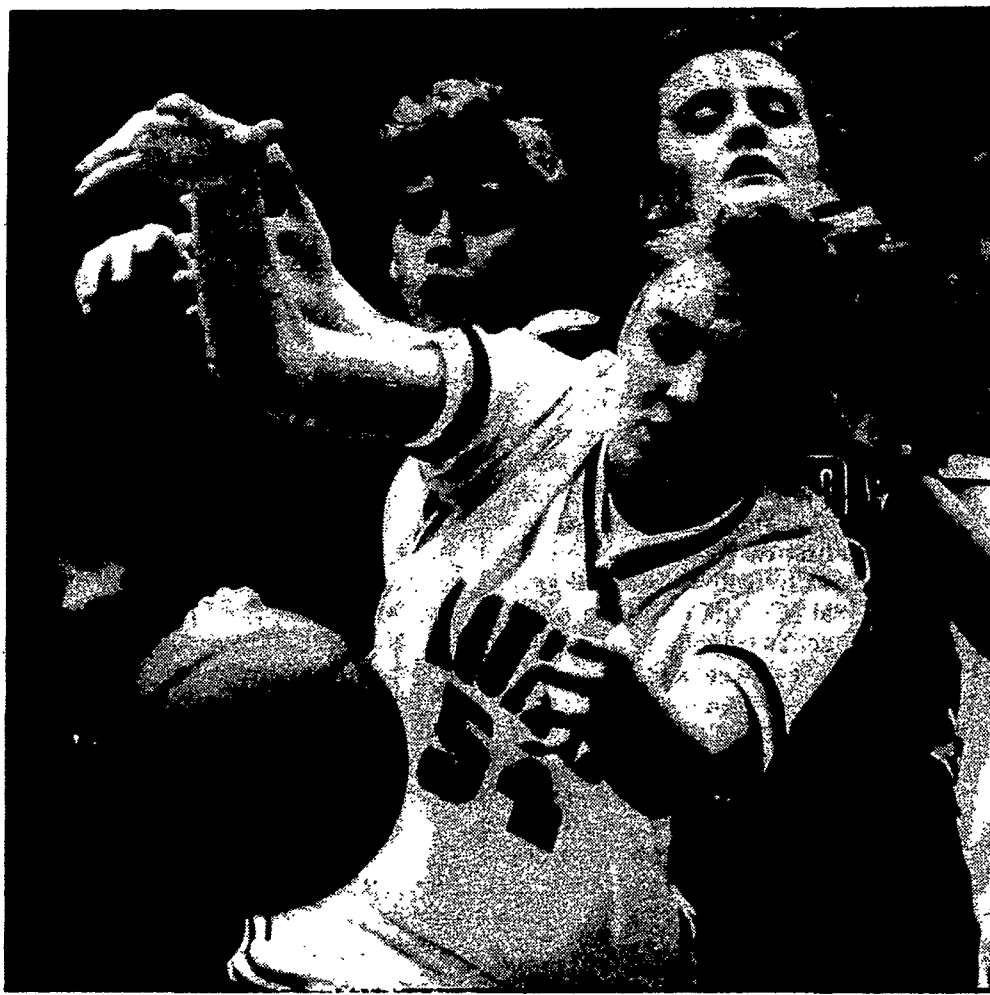
## Incredible Irish?

Aquinas has never before commanded this kind of pre-season attention. But that's what happens when you have your best player back from a team that won sectionals, advanced to the state finals and finished with a 20-7 record.

"I'd like the players not to think about (the hype). It's a long season, and four months from now is when the games are really going to count," said Tim Reynders, the first-year head coach who is Amy's older brother. Tim, who played on the 1986 Aquinas boys' team that reached the sectional finals, was an assistant to Dan Bates last year.

Amy Reynders was named Most Valuable Player of the Penn Yan tournament. The senior guard-forward, headed for Rutgers University on a full Division I scholarship, totaled 22 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists in the finals against Penn Yan; and had 20 points, 14 rebounds and eight steals against Honeoye.

Another returning starter is junior forward Kristina Dudley, who totaled 17 points over the weekend. Other players with varsity experience include senior guard Marcie Meagher, junior forward Sandy Petty and junior



File photo  
Aquinas Junior, Sandy Petty (center), will add her varsity experience to the defending Section 5 Class BB championship team.

guard Kristen Burgmaster.

Completing the roster are juniors Amanda Janas, Nicole Pelletier, Megan McCabe and Mary Beth Bell; and freshman Katya Metidieri.

In the win over Penn Yan, Aquinas was locked in a 42-42 tie with two minutes remaining but held the Mustangs scoreless the rest of the way. Petty scored with 1:30 left and Reynders added another basket with :43 to go.

## Monarchs may rule again

Get your neck muscles loosened up, because there's going to be a lot of back-and-forth action at this year's Mercy games.

"I don't think we're going to be a great set-up team, so we're just going to have to run other teams into the ground," Boughton remarked.

Boughton, who owns a six-season record of 109-15 at Mercy with sectional titles in 1986 and 1989, has three starters back from last year's team that went 17-4 and made the sectional semifinals.

Leading the way is Doyle, a senior guard who averaged 20 points and six steals per game last year. The other returning starters are junior guard-forward Mimi LaMagna and junior forward Amy Martin.

Others who played on the varsity in 1990-91 include seniors Gabby LaMagna, Ellen Lennox and Brenda Seitz; and junior Tiffany Pezzulo.

Two freshmen, Gina Montesano and Kelly O'Neill, are expected to play big roles. Montesano is a probable starter at point guard.

Additional Monarchs, all juniors, are Jenny Gulley, Cathy Botelho and Kristen Sorokti.

## Crusaders are cooking

Elmira Notre Dame appears to be an excellent candidate for most improved team in the Sullivan Trail Conference. The Crusaders could even be a league contender, even though they only finished 8-14 in 1990-91.

"The league is more balanced than it's ever been. On a given day, anyone can beat anyone," said fourth-year Crusader coach Jeff Sobkowski. "And I feel that a lot of people have taken us for granted, so we're going to play a real large spoiler role."

Notre Dame returns six key senior players in guards Bobbie Jo McMail, Becky Sherman and Kristen Tartinio; and forwards Theresa Gardner, Kara Bednarek and Bridget Klotz.

Other Crusaders include seniors Amy Morrell and Christine Coseo, along with juniors Heidi Hodder, Becky Fagan and Lisa Punzo.

McMail gained MVP honors at the Spencer-Van Etten tournament, and Tartinio was also chosen to the all-tournament team. McMail scored 18 points, including four three-point baskets, against Spencer-Van Etten; and had seven points and seven assists against Corning West.

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