

DeSales wins tourney; McQ edged in finals

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

If the Geneva DeSales boys' basketball team is still playing in late February like it did in late November, then this could be a big, big year for the Saints.

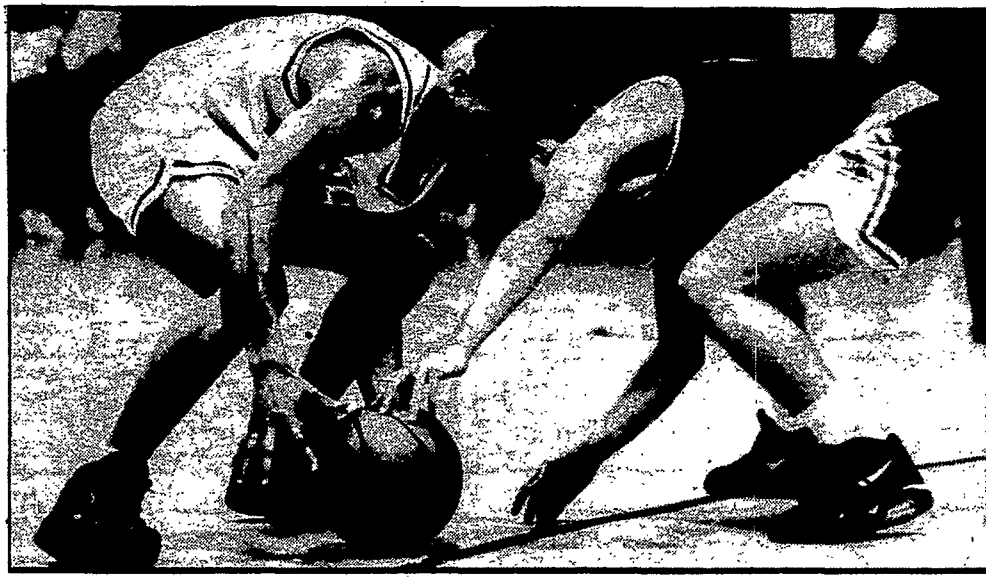
DeSales won its own season-opening tournament last weekend, scoring a 53-49 win over East Rochester on Nov. 29 before wiping out Port Byron, 64-35, in the Nov. 30 championship game.

"For our first two games, I thought we played really well — better than I expected," said Coach Tony Alvaro.

In other action involving diocesan high schools last weekend, McQuaid Jesuit played two tough games at the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Classic near Syracuse and had to settle for runner-up status. The Knights won 87-78 in double overtime over V-V-S in the Nov. 29 first-round game, but were defeated 45-43 by Glendale, Ontario, in the Nov. 30 finals.

Aquinas Institute was the only diocesan team to play at home over the weekend, but there was no home-court advantage as the Little Irish suffered a 46-40 non-league loss to Pittsford Sutherland on Nov. 29.

Bishop Kearney endured two setbacks in the Waterloo Tournament.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Aquinas' Maurice Price (left) wrangles for the ball with Tim Allen of Pittsford Sutherland during the Little Irish's 46-40 loss to the Knights Nov. 29.

The Kings lost 67-53 to Waterloo on Nov. 29 and 83-67 to Mynderse Academy on Nov. 30.

Elmira Notre Dame was not in action last week.

DESALES hit on all cylinders in its title game win over Port Byron, never looking back after gaining a 37-10 halftime bulge. Mark Higgins led all scorers with 28 points, with Bill Sweeney getting 13 points and Todd

Hardy combining seven points and 16 assists.

The East Rochester contest was much tighter. Although the Saints took a 26-19 halftime lead, they weren't assured of victory until Sweeney made three late free throws. Sweeney finished with 13 points, with Hardy getting 18 points and seven assists.

MCQUAID made a terrific comeback in its sloppy win over V-V-S, erasing a 12-point deficit with 5:30 to play. The Knights' Dave Lorei hit the tying basket, a three-pointer, to make the score 69-69 with less than a minute to go in regulation.

In the first overtime, McQuaid nearly won as time expired but the officials ruled Steve Roehrig's basket came after the buzzer. The Knights then broke away from the 73-73 deadlock as Roehrig, Jay Wandtke and Dave Fox all made three-point plays.

"I can't believe that we committed 35 turnovers and still won," Coach Joe Marchese remarked.

Wandtke, a junior forward, was named tournament Most Valuable Player for scoring 26 points against V-V-S and 21 in the loss to Glendale. Fox

had a team-high 27 points in the victory over V-V-S.

AQUINAS gained a quick edge against Sutherland when Nick Reisinger drove for a layup just four seconds into the game, but that turned out to be the Little Irish's only lead of the night. The Knights ran off the next seven points and led 11-6, 24-16 and 33-22 at the quarter breaks.

The Little Irish, who were plagued by turnovers and poor outside shooting, fell behind by as much as 14 in the final period before they started converting on the inside.

Jeff Rice was Aquinas' only player to score in double figures. He finished with 12 points.

"We made some poor decisions on offense, but we'll get better," said Coach Mike Dianetti. "Other than that, I wasn't too unhappy. We played pretty well defensively."

KEARNEY was outscored in every quarter in its loss to Waterloo, although the score was only 30-26 at halftime. The Kings were led by junior guard Joe Raniewicz, who scored 20 points.

BK cut a fourth-quarter deficit from 18 points to eight in its game against Mynderse, but the Blue Devils' excellent free-throw shooting made the difference. Mynderse converted 30 of 35 foul shots for the evening, during which three Kearney players fouled out.

"When you're small like we are, you've got to scrap a little on the boards," Coach Ed Nietopski said.

The Kings' balanced offense against Mynderse saw Jason Randall lead the way with 17 points, followed by Desmond Mack with 15, Raniewicz with 13 and Dan Staub with 12.

Girls hoops

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Team effort at BK

This is the first time in three years that Kearney will be without a Division I player on the front line (1990 graduate Marisa Shackelford is playing at the University of Delaware and Jensen is at Towson State University).

But that doesn't necessarily signal a dropoff in the program's success level, which included a record of 15-7 last year.

"Before we were able to rely on a post game, and now we're going to have to run and press more. An advantage for us is that we do have good balance," said Forte.

Two seniors, guard Nicole Geier and forward Jenny Lynch, started last season. Other veterans are senior forwards Jenny Klee and Sue Kankaras, and junior guard Janet D'Agostino.

BK's four talented sophomores are Patti Lynch, Kate Jensen (Eileen's younger sister), Sheila O'Hanlon and Jenny Zambito. The team's three juniors are Nicky Cooper, Chris McIntyre and Samantha McQuown.

DeSales building

Even though the Saints' top six players all played varsity last season, only one — guard-forward Pauline

Thompson — is a senior.

"We're still building, but we look bright for the future. We're working hard and constantly improving," said 12th-year coach Steve Muzzi.

Other veterans are junior guard Cecilia McCann, junior guard-forward Shannon Grifa, sophomore guard Emily Parshall and sophomore guard-forward Lindsay Higgins.

Muzzi is also hoping to get junior guard-forward Krista Devaney back for the season's second half. Devaney is recovering from major knee surgery.

Lanky Lasers

If height alone could determine wins and losses, then Nazareth would be looking pretty good this year. Two seniors, forward Nuala Hetzler and center Jennifer Zumath, hover around the 6-foot mark.

Other key veterans are senior forward Stacey Doran and junior guard Corinne Strassner.

Coach Walt Gordinier is looking for big things from freshman forward Dionne Robinson. Remaining team members, all juniors, are center Tiffany Adams and guards Mary Staropoli and Donna Sergeant.

"I think we're going to be very competitive in 75 percent of our games," said Gordinier, in his 10th season. "We have a little bit of height and experience."

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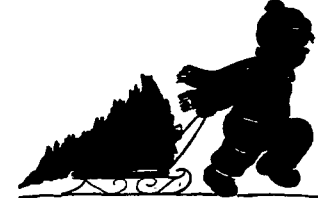
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