

Irish start out at 2-0; McQuaid, BK triumph

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — No matter what the year, the words Aquinas, hockey and success all seem to belong in the same sentence.

And nothing has happened early in 1991-92 season to make anyone think that trend is about to change. The Little Irish (2-0) gained a pair of victories last week, winning 4-1 over Irondequoit on Dec. 3 and 7-3 over Batavia on Dec. 5. Both games were played at Lakeshore Rinks.

McQuaid and Bishop Kearney settled for season-opening splits. McQuaid lost 5-1 to Greece on Dec. 4 at Lakeshore before winning 7-1 over host Batavia on Dec. 7, and Kearney shook off a 7-4 to Hilton on Dec. 3 at Lakeshore by winning 4-3 over Gates-Chili on Dec. 7 at Genesee Valley.

Irish look solid again

Aquinas is coming off an excellent 1990-91 season that produced a Monroe County Division 1 championship and a final record of 17-2-2.

The player who could be most responsible for carrying Aquinas to further success is senior goalie Brian Kelly, who stopped 27 of 28 shots against Irondequoit.

Aquinas fell behind 1-0 in that game, but Grady Monks scored midway through the second period and added another goal early in the third period to put the Irish up for good.

"Everybody's going to look at Grady's two goals, but Kelly is the one who should get the most credit,"

said third-year Coach Dave Montgomery.

Joining Monks as leaders up front are senior Chris Schultz and junior Jeremy Giordano. Other key players are juniors Chris Sichak, Paul Camelio and Jason Bannon; and sophomore Dennis Annechino.

Top defensemen are seniors Mike Sloan — who also scored against Irondequoit — and Brook Lesler, along with juniors Barry Hussar and Brian Mastrella. Kelly's backup in goal is junior Shawn Schell, who played the entire Batavia game.

Giordano had two goals against Batavia, with five other players getting one each. The Irish were down 3-1 early in the second period before scoring the last six goals.

"We have high hopes. I certainly think we can compete with everyone," said Montgomery.

Big victory for Knights

The Dec. 7 thrashing of Batavia was a big boost for the Knights after a tough loss to Greece, the defending Section 5 champion.

This very young Knight team features a first line of sophomore Geoff Kufta at center with senior Eben Carroll and sophomore Franco Bari on the wings. The second line includes junior Greg Mulbury at center with wings Joe Gionta, a sophomore; and Rick Rambaldo, a senior.

Top newcomers at forward include freshmen Marty Reasoner and Sean Ritchlin, along with eighth-grader Larry Pierce.

Leading the defense are senior Matt Wambach and juniors Jon McConville, Eric Sawyer and Zach Wagner. The top goaltender is junior Ron Lamendola.

McQuaid led Batavia 3-0 after one period on goals from Reasoner, Gionta and again Reasoner. The score swelled to 6-0 after two stanzas as Albertson, Sawyer and Rambaldo scored. Kufta added a third-period goal.

The Knights are looking to improve their 6-12-2 record of a year ago.

"We've got a real good group of kids. I'm guessing we're going to finish over .500," said eighth-year Coach Al Vyverberg.

BK shoots to improve

Another team in search of a better year is Kearney, which finished 7-9-5 in 1990-91.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
McQuaid Jesuit's Geoff Kufta (right) gets a glove in the face while trying to check Greece's Fred Herb off the puck during the Knights' 5-1 loss to the Lightning Dec. 4 at Lakeshore.


"When we come to the end of the season, we should be in the thick of everything in Division 2," said second-year Coach Rob Liberatore, whose team competes one division lower than Aquinas and McQuaid in the league.

The back-and-forth win over Gates-Chili saw Kearney's Marcus Pace score just eight seconds into the game. The score was tied three times until Dave Flanigen finally netted the winner for BK with 5:56 to go in the game. Other King scorers that day were Joe Albert and Cory Tinsley.

Pace is the only senior on BK's top line, which also includes sophomore center Trevor Smith and junior wing Robert Chinappi. Second-line players are the brother combination of juniors Dave and Dan Flanigen, along with Albert, a sophomore.

Tinsley is one of three senior defensemen, the others being Todd Smith (Trevor's brother) and Keith McMahon. Freshman Dave O'Neil is also a key defenseman.

Sophomore Chris Lattanzio and freshman Chris Ashton provide solid goaltending for the Kings.



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