

Mercy knocks off AQ; Knights gain revenge

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Were those the same players coming out of the locker room who went into it at halftime?

It took more than two quarters, but the Our Lady of Mercy girls' basketball team's chief strength — deadly defensive pressure — finally paid dividends after intermission as the Monarchs defeated Aquinas Institute for the second time this year.

Mercy went on a 10-point run to rally from a seven-point deficit, and forced several AQ turnovers down the stretch, in achieving a 45-42 victory over the Little Irish before a standing-room-only crowd at St. John Fisher College this past-Sunday, Jan. 19.

"We started off slow, but once we got into the swing of things we were OK," said senior guard Sheila Doyle, who scored a game-high 21 points to go over the career 1,000-point mark.

Mercy kept its record perfect at 9-0, while Aquinas slipped to 9-2 in a rematch of two of Section 5's premier teams. The Monarchs also won 38-37 over the Little Irish on Jan. 4.

Sunday night's game was the first part of an all-diocesan doubleheader; the McQuaid boys won 44-39 over Aquinas in the nightcap.

Aquinas star guard-forward Amy Reynders scored seven points to lead her AQ ladies to a 15-8 advantage after one quarter. The score was 25-20 at the half and 31-24 midway through the third quarter before the Doyle-led Mercy's surge.

Doyle followed a basket with a steal and layup to make it 31-28, and Amy

Martin hit two free throws to get the Monarchs within 31-30. Doyle raced for another layup with :21 left to put Mercy in front, 32-31; and Mimi LaMagna completed the streak with a basket :55 into the final quarter.

The game was nip-and-tuck over the next several minutes. Mercy took the lead for good, 43-41, on Martin's basket with 2:16 left. AQ's Marcie Meagher made one of two free throws with 1:35 to go to make it 43-42, and Mercy's Kelly O'Neill scored what proved to be the game's final points on a basket with 1:10 left.

Mercy, with the aid of a couple of Irish turnovers, held on for the win despite missing the front end of three one-and-ones in the last 26 seconds.

The Monarchs' suffocating defense held Reynders to just two points over the final three quarters.

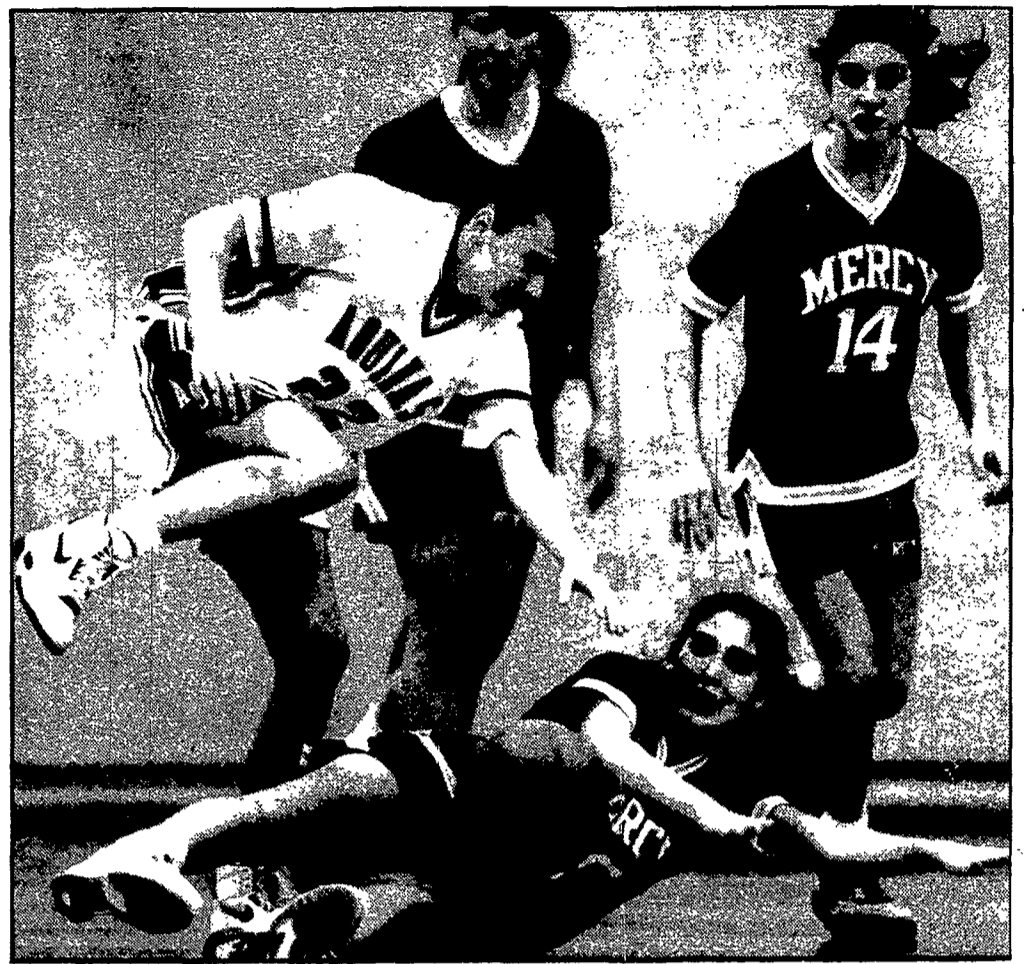
"Our press had a lot to do with (the win)," said Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton. "Our main objective was not to let Reynders bring the ball up. And once this team gets a few steals off the press, they get motivated."

Aquinas Coach Tim Reynders agreed that Mercy's pressure was the difference in the game.

"In the first half we moved the ball very well. The girls played the best they've played all year," he said. "Unfortunately, we couldn't keep it up over the last two quarters. They pressured us well; we just didn't break the press the way we should have."

Both teams were coming off decisive road wins three nights earlier: Mercy, 51-27 over Bishop Kearney; and Aquinas, 60-26 over Franklin.

The McQUAID-AQUINAS boys'



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Our Lady of Mercy High School's Mimi LaMagna attempts to keep the ball in bounds as she collides with Kristen Burgmaster of Aquinas during the Monarch's 45-42 win Jan. 19 at St. John Fisher College.

game, which pitted two clubs experiencing sub-par seasons, also featured some momentum swings.

McQuaid went out to an early 11-2 lead before Aquinas came back to take a 17-16 edge at halftime. The Knights then proceeded to outscore the Little Irish 15-1 in the third quarter to go up by 13 points, 31-18.

"Our man-to-man defense made the difference. It's not often that you hold a team to one point in a quarter," remarked McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese.

Aquinas got to within four points in

the final quarter, but the Knights hung on as they made up for a 37-30 home loss to AQ on Dec. 20. McQuaid's record went to 5-9 with Sunday's victory, while the Irish tumbled to 1-12.

McQuaid's Steve Roehrig and Aquinas' Steve Spencer tied for high-scoring honors with 14 points each.

In other basketball highlights, the GENEVA DeSALES boys improved their record to 7-3 with a 43-39 home win over Red Jacket on Jan. 17.

The Saints, clinging to a one-point
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Aquinas, Greece gearing for showdown this weekend

ROCHESTER — Bills-Redskins won't be the only super matchup this weekend.

Try Aquinas-Greece on Saturday, Jan. 25. The 4 p.m. hockey game at Lakeshore Rinks should be a great one, especially if it can approach the excitement and superior skill level achieved the last time these two talented rivals clashed.

Aquinas Institute lost that contest, 5-4 in overtime on Jan. 4, but has been unbeaten in four games since while averaging more than 11 goals per game. The Little Irish (10-2) unleashed their high-octane offense on two opponents last week, winning 12-5 over McQuaid on Jan. 16 at Lakeshore and 8-2 over host Brockport on Jan. 18.

The McQuaid victory was highlighted by an amazing scoring burst that saw the Little Irish score five unanswered goals within a stretch of 2:37 late in the second period to erase a 4-1 deficit.

High AQ scorers in the McQuaid game were Jeremy Giordano with four goals and two assists, and Grady Monks with two goals and five assists.

The Irish must now defeat the Lightning, who are still undefeated in Monroe County League play at 10-0, this Saturday to have a realistic chance at winning their second consecutive Division I title.

"It's a goal we have. Nobody's been repeat league champs for quite a few years," said AQ Coach Dave Mont-

gomery.

McQUAID (5-5) bounced back from its loss to Aquinas by defeating Gates-Chili 10-7 on Jan. 18 at Genesee Valley Park. The Knights were led by Eben Carroll's three goals; and Geoff Kufta, who collected two goals and four assists.

BISHOP KEARNEY (4-7) picked up a hockey win on Jan. 15, blasting Brighton 9-2 at Lakeshore as Marcus Pace notched three goals.

In other sports, the ELMIRA NOTRE DAME wrestling team continued its tremendous season by rallying for a 35-32 win over host Elmira Southside on Jan. 15. Sophomore Dan Wilson, a 215-pounder, scored a pin in the evening's final match to keep ND un-


defeated at 3-0 in the Sullivan Trail Conference and 8-0 overall.

McQUAID'S wrestlers (4-3) gained a 34-26 home win over Greece Arcadia on Jan. 14 as Matt Bazar and John Parnaselli recorded pins and Mark Voci added a technical fall.

In boys' swimming, McQUAID (4-3) won twice last week: 52-33 over host East on Jan. 14 and 52-34 over host Brighton on Jan. 16. The Knights' Doug Kazley was a double winner in both meets.

AQUINAS' swimmers (3-4) earned a 52-31 win over host Edison-Franklin on Jan. 16 as Steve Cudzilo captured two events.


— Mike Latona



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