

Little Irish top Greece in rematch

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Same location. Same huge crowd.
Same final score.
Same winner?
NOT!

A frustrating trend against Greece ended this past Saturday, Jan. 25, when the Aquinas Institute hockey team subdued the Lightning, 5-4, before a packed house at Lakeshore Rinks.

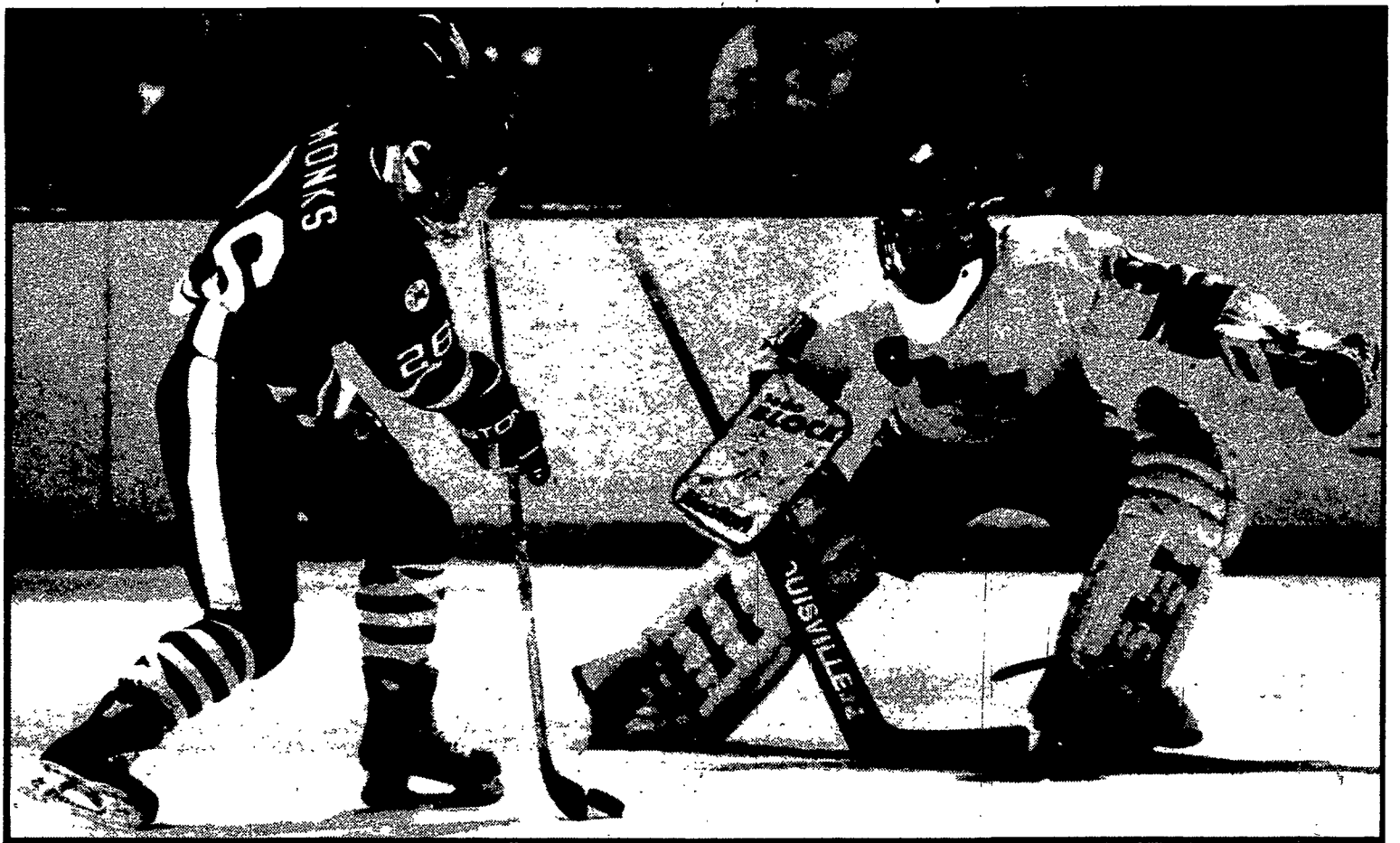
Senior forward Grady Monks was the clutch man, scoring three goals and assisting on AQ's other two.

It was an important achievement for the Little Irish, who had lost to Greece in overtime by an identical 5-4 count on Jan. 4 at Lakeshore. In their meeting prior to the Jan. 4 contest, the Lightning recorded a 3-2 upset victory over AQ in last year's Section 5 semifinals.

The Jan. 25 win greatly increased AQ's hopes of catching Greece for the Monroe County Division 1 championship. The Little Irish raised their Division 1 record to 11-2 (13-2 overall), while Greece (11-1) fell for the first time in league play.

Heading into the showdown, Greece was ranked fourth and Aquinas fifth in the state Class A hockey poll.

The rivals will clash again on Feb. 13 in Aquinas' second-to-last contest of



Aquinas center Grady Monks gives AQ a 3-2 lead as he steers the puck past Greece goalie Rob Strellick in the second period. The Little Irish went on to a 5-4 win on Jan. 25 at Lakeshore Rinks. Kellie Mc Cann/Photo Intern

the regular season, in what will most likely determine the league champion.

"The war isn't over," remarked AQ Coach Dave Montgomery.

Aquinas drew first blood in the game when Chris Sichak scored at 3:31 of the first period. Greece's Mike Sippel made it 1-1 at 5:57 before Monks gave the Little Irish a 2-1 lead at the 9:32 mark.

Despite leading by a goal at the period's end, Montgomery had hoped for better since his squad had dominated Greece up to that point with a 14-1 edge in shots on goal.

"We missed the net a couple of times and hit the crossbar. It could have been 5-1 or 6-1," said Montgomery.

Sippel made it 2-2 at 8:12 of the second period, before Monks responded by scoring at 10:12.

Sippel once again pulled Greece into a tie by scoring at 7:05 of the final period, but AQ's Chris Schultz gave his team the lead for good, 4-3, at 11:31 on a power play.

Monks added an empty-net goal with :28 left, and Greece's Jason Bon-signore closed out the scoring with :01 to go.

Monks' big day enabled him to extend his Division 1-leading point total

to 51 (19 goals and 32 assists).

The Greece triumph was Aquinas' second in three days; the Irish won 8-5 over Pittsford on Jan. 23 at Lakeshore.

Other diocesan teams enjoying great weeks were the McQUAID JESUIT and ELMIRA NOTRE DAME wrestling squads.

McQuaid clinched its second consecutive City-Catholic League championship by trouncing host Edison Tech, 60-9, on Jan. 23.

The Knights (4-0, 6-3) received pins from several wrestlers against Edison: John Zicari, 98 pounds; John Morris, 105; John Davies, 112; Brendan Shambo, 126; Matt Temple, 132; Eric Giunta, 145; and John Pemaselli, 167.

"It's always great to win your league title," said McQuaid Coach Lou Teike. "At the beginning of the year we didn't know how we were going make out, but after Marshall (a 49-18 win on Dec. 12) I knew we were in good shape for winning the league."

The Notre Dame wrestling team is working on a league championship of its own. The Crusaders (4-0 in the Sullivan Trail Conference, 9-0 overall) stayed unbeaten by winning 31-19 over host Groton in non-league competition on Jan. 22.

"We knew we'd be good this year,

but it's still kind of hard to believe we're 9-0," said Coach Steve Weber.

ND went on to record its highest finish ever at the Watkins Glen Tournament over the weekend, taking second place. Three Crusaders — Tim Steed at 112, Mike Clune at 167 and Dan Wilson at 177 — placed second in their respective weight classes.

Bishop Kearney and McQuaid also wrestled in the Watkins Glen event. BK's Gracen Porreca won an individual title at 105 pounds, and Mark Voci was high for McQuaid with a third-place showing at 119.

McQUAID had a great week in several other sports as well.

The Alpine ski team placed first among five schools in a Metro League meet on Jan. 22 at Brantling. McQuaid totaled 102 points to edge second-place Sodus, which had 98.

In hockey, the Knights improved their record to 7-5 with a pair of wins at Lakeshore: 5-2 over Irondequoit on Jan. 21 and 7-1 over Fairport on Jan. 23.

In indoor track, McQuaid won three events en route to a second-place team finish at the Western New York Relays, held Jan. 25 in Fredonia.

Finally, the McQ swim team (5-3) enjoyed a 53-28 dual victory over Edison-Marshall-Franklin on Jan. 21 at Edison.



Aquinas' Jeremy Giordano jumps for joy after a third-period goal by teammate Chris Schultz. The Little Irish raised their Division 1 record to 11-2 (13-2 overall).

Aquinas bowlers challenge for league supremacy

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Parity seems to be the operative word in this year's City-Catholic boys' bowling league, and Aquinas Institute is holding up quite nicely in the multi-team battle for first place.

AQ shook off a 2-1 loss to Edison Tech last Tuesday, Jan. 21, by coming back for a 3-0 victory over East High two days later to move into first place in the six-team league with a 13-5 record. Both matches were held at North Park Lanes.

"It's going to be a really close league this year," said Little Irish Coach Jim Scarfia. "We can definitely win the league. My job is to make sure my kids don't get ahead of themselves. They know they have the talent, but sometimes they lack concentration and miss easy spares."

Through last week, the Irish had the league's high-team series (1,821) and

game (967).

AQ features a potent one-two combination in junior Paul Wilson, with a team-high 188 average; and senior Dave Dobson, at 184.

Rounding out the club are senior Joe DiMaria and sophomore Ken Keilman, both with 169 averages; freshman Scott Richards, 159; senior Jim LaCava, 137; and senior Chad Hummel, 135.

Aquinas is attempting this season to earn its first league championship in seven years. The Little Irish have also won a Section 5 title (in 1988) under Scarfia, who heads the AQ girls' bowling program as well. Scarfia has coached at AQ since 1983.

Another talented unit is BISHOP KEARNEY, which used to bowl in the City-Catholic League but now competes as an independent.

BK has one of the best bowlers in Section 5 in junior Rich Pluta, who was carrying a 200 average through last week.

Other Kings include junior Derek

Hendrickson, 169 average; sophomore Jon Link, 152; freshman Matt Kost, 147; freshman Andre DeJesus, 131; and sophomore alternate John Powell.

"We're a young team, but we have a couple of excellent bowlers. So we're looking to the future," said Coach Kevin Mannara.

Youth abounds even more so at McQUAID JESUIT, where there are three juniors, two sophomores and a pair of eighth-graders on the roster.

Sophomore Brad Tucker carries the Knights' top average of 180. He's followed by juniors Brad Perkins and Rob Rutt, both at 160.

Other team members are sophomore Keith Yeager, 138; junior Bob Henry, 130; and eighth-graders Matt Constantino and Brian Chamberlain, who average 147 and 116, respectively.

"It's a lot of pressure for the eighth-graders to be bowling against juniors and seniors from other schools," McQuaid Coach Ed Waller remarked. "But we're learning."