

# DeSales squads excel in weekend contests

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Even with a 10-point halftime lead, you got the feeling that the Geneva DeSales boys' basketball team still hadn't shown its best stuff.

That's mainly because the Saints' leading scorer, Mark Higgins, had only accounted for two points by intermission. But the senior forward exploded soon afterward, scoring 10 third-quarter points en route to a 71-47 victory over host Gananda last Friday, Jan. 31.

DeSales used a combination of pressure defense and Higgins' great play in the paint to outscore Gananda 18-9 in the third period. Higgins, a 20 point-per-game scorer, finished with 14.

"He does great things. He's really blossomed," Coach Tony Alvaro said of Higgins. "A lot of Division III (college) people have missed the boat on him, I think."

The victory over Gananda improved the Saints' record to 7-4 in Finger Lakes West play and 9-4 overall.

The DeSales girls (3-9) were also victorious on Jan. 31, breaking a six-game losing streak with a 45-33 home win over Romulus.

Like the boys team, the Saints' decisive quarter was the third. Leading only 21-19 at the half, they outscored the Warriors 14-5 over the next eight minutes.

"We played great man-to-man defense," said Coach Steve Muzzi.

Sophomore guard-forward Lindsay Higgins — Mark's sister — led the way with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Krista DeVaney also contributed with

10 points while Stephanie Nearpass had 14 rebounds.

In an all-diocesan matchup, the McQUAID JESUIT boys came through with their second 11-point victory over BISHOP KEARNEY this season — but it bore little resemblance to the first time these clubs met.

The Knights were 64-53 winners over the host Kings on Jan. 31, a sharp contrast to the 32-21 game of Dec. 10 when BK used a slowdown offense.

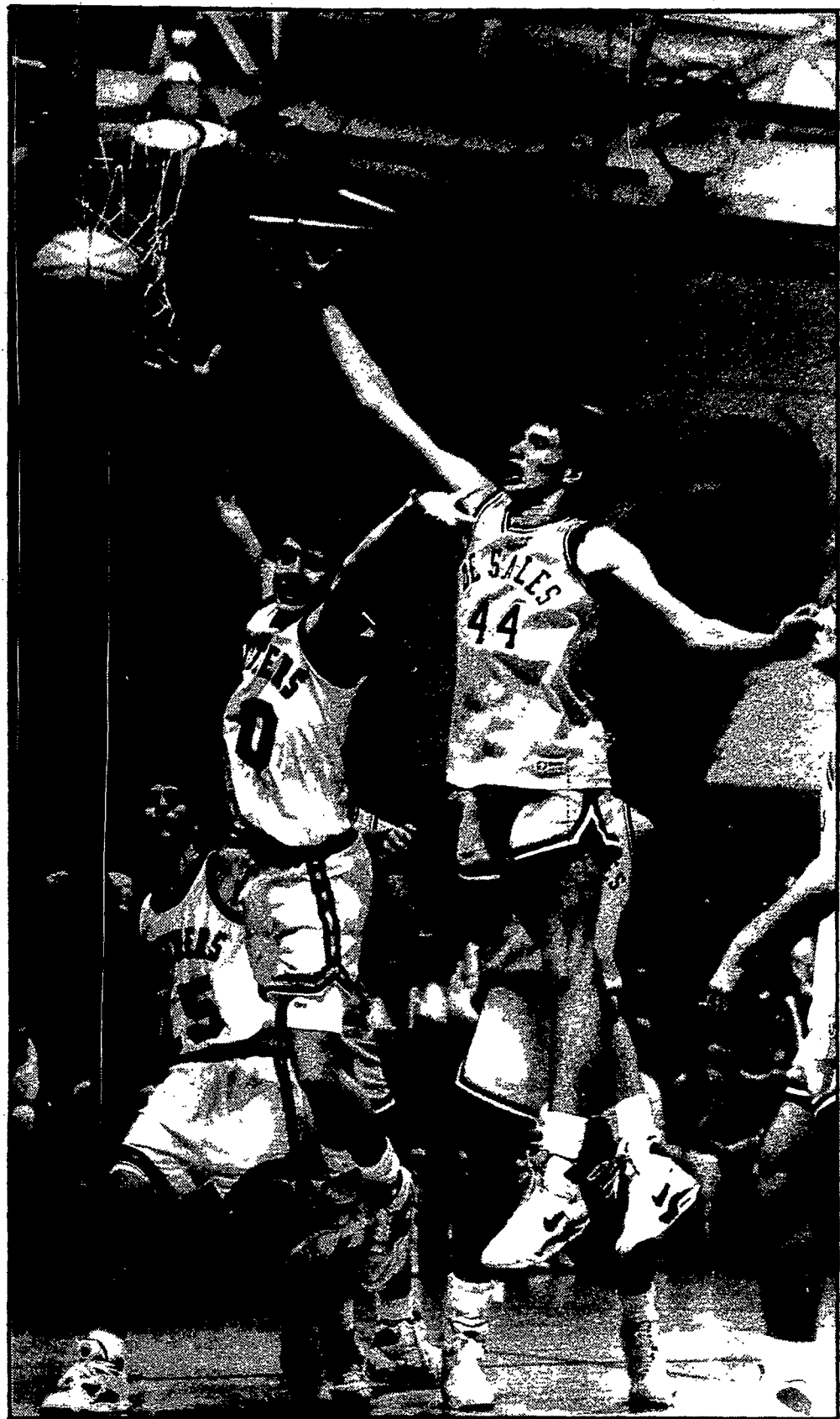
McQuaid senior forward Steve Roehrig scored a season-high 27 points to lead all scorers as the Knights (7-9) won their third consecutive contest. Junior guard Joe Raniewicz led Kearney with 23 points, his fifth straight game of 20 or more points.

For BK (8-8), the Jan. 31 defeat snapped a four-game winning streak. Three days earlier, the Kings had taken a 55-52 decision at home over a tough Franklin squad as Raniewicz tossed in 20 points.

In Private-Parochial League action, AQUINAS INSTITUTE (10-2) got 20 of the game's first 22 points on its way to a 55-42 win over visiting NAZARETH ACADEMY (6-9) on Jan. 30.

Senior guard-forward Amy Reyners topped AQ with 26 points, followed by Kristina Dudley with 14. Corinne Strassner and Mary Staropoli led all Nazareth scorers with eight points each.

OUR LADY OF MERCY'S girls won their 11th game without a loss, squeaking by visiting Sacred Heart of Buffalo, 51-48, on Feb. 1. Senior guard Sheila Doyle's 22-point showing led the Monarchs.



DeSales forward Mike Higgins (44) goes up for a rebound in the Saints' 71-47 win over host Gananda Jan. 31. Higgins, who averages 20 points a game, finished with 14.

Erik Kunkel/Photo intern

# ND wrestlers bounce back from season's first defeat

Two reasons why the Elmira Notre Dame wrestling squad didn't get too bummed out over its first loss of the 1991-92 season last week:

One, the Crusaders never expected to go undefeated for this long. Two, with important meets still to come — including the Section 4 Class D championships on Feb. 22 — now would not be a good time for head-hanging.

Notre Dame lost 39-22 to visiting Horseheads last Thursday, Jan. 30, as its season-opening dual meet winning streak was halted at nine. Two days later, the Crusaders rebounded with a 32-24 road victory over a tough Tioga club.

The Horseheads loss gave ND a 3-1 record in the Sullivan Trail Conference, while Horseheads remained unbeaten in the STC.

However, ND Coach Steve Weber pointed out, "Winning the league was never our goal in the first place. Our goal is to win sectionals because we've never done that."

Chances are good that ND will complete its mission. Aside from Horseheads, the Crusaders have been flawless against schools with enrollments much larger than theirs — so it stands to reason they'll excel against more comparably sized schools at sectionals.

Scott Ruhmel, at 145 pounds, and Dan Wilson, at 177, recorded pins to key the win over Tioga. Other victorious Crusaders in that meet were Brett Owen, 98 pounds; Tim Steed, 112; Brad

Seymour, 126; Kevin Wilson, 138; and Rich Kunz, 155.

In other wrestling news, McQUAID JESUIT improved its record to 8-4 with two dual triumphs in as many days: 60-12 over BISHOP KEARNEY on Jan. 31 and 54-18 over Canandaigua on Feb. 1. Both meets were at home.

In indoor track, McQuaid placed first in the Feb. 1 Southern Tier Classic at the State University of New York College at Cortland. The Knights' 800-meter relay team of Les Bernard, Mike Keogh, Damon Wade and Kris Weldon set a school record with a time of 1 minute, 34.9 seconds.

In hockey, McQuaid's offense was unstoppable in a 17-2 win over Hilton on Feb. 1 at SUNY Brockport. Sean Ritchlin led the Knights (8-5) with four goals and four assists.

The AQUINAS INSTITUTE hockey team got a big boost on Feb. 1. Not only did the Little Irish win 8-5 over Gates-Chili at Lakeshore Rinks, but Greece suffered a 4-3 upset loss to Fairport that day.

That turn of events pushed AQ into first place in Monroe County Division 1, with the Little Irish at 12-2 in the league (14-2 overall) and Greece falling to 11-2 in league play.

— Mike Latona

Please patronize  
our advertisers

**CRAFTERS**  
Need a place to display or sell your crafts & projects?  
Year-Round Craft Show Featuring over 100 vendors  
Come to ...  
**BARB'S RENT-A-SHELF STORE**  
2680 W. Ridge Rd. Suite 202 • 225-1520  
HOURS: WED., FRI., SAT., 10-5, TUES., THURS., 10-8, CLOSED HOLIDAYS

**TOM CHAPIN**  
Saturday  
February 15  
1 & 3 p.m.  
Tickets \$7

Folk singer Tom Chapin's music for children tickles as it teaches, emphasizing a positive awareness of life, family and the environment. He'll sing songs from his three albums aimed at 4 to 11 year olds, including his latest "Mother Earth." The whole family is sure to be charmed by Chapin.

Nazareth College  
Arts Center

Box Office 586-2420  
Groups 424-2979