

## Irish hammer Greece, protect hockey crown

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — It's easy to see that Aquinas Institute and Greece are the class of Section 5 hockey, but it's been much more difficult to determine which team deserves the right to be called No. 1.

That is, until last week.

The Little Irish, fueled by a five-goal run that began late in the second period and broke a 1-1 tie, came away with a 7-3 victory over Greece on Feb. 13 at Lakeshore Rinks.

The big win, combined with a 5-1 decision over McQuaid Jesuit two days later at Genesee Valley Park, gave the Little Irish their second consecutive Monroe County Division 1 championship. AQ completed the regular season with a 16-2 league record (18-2 overall), while Greece had to settle for second place after leading the division most of the season.

AQ also took the regular-season ser-

ies from the Lightning. Greece, the defending Section 5 Class A champion, won 5-4 in overtime on Jan. 4 before the Irish came back for a 5-4 decision on Jan. 25.

Since those games were so close, as was the first half of the Feb. 13 meeting, AQ's decisive scoring flurry was a real shocker.

Greece had taken the early lead on a goal by Todd Yates 4:49 into the first period before Aquinas' Chris Sichak knotted the score just more than a minute later.

That was the extent of the scoring until Grady Monks got AQ rolling with 4:10 left in the second period. The Irish got a big lift when Jeremy Giordano won a faceoff with :03 left and slid a pass in the slot to Chris Schultz, who scored just as time ran out to make it 3-1.

AQ kept pouring it on after intermission. Giordano scored just 56 seconds into the third period, and the lead swelled to 6-1 on goals by Joe



McQuaid goalie Ron Lamendola turns away an Aquinas shot. Despite a strong game from the McQuaid netminder, the Little Irish defeated the Knights 5-1 at Genesee Valley Park Feb. 15.

Keille Mc Cann/Photo Intern



Aquinas captain Grady Monks disputes a call by the referee during the second period of the McQuaid-Aquinas game.

## Diocesan teams take titles

With the winter sports season winding down to a close, many diocesan high school teams appear to be saving their best for last.

The McQuaid Jesuit boys' swim squad produced a slew of first-place finishes at the City-Catholic League championships, held last Wednesday, Feb. 12, at East High.

Leading the way for the Knights was Doug Kazley, who won both the 50-yard freestyle and 100 backstroke. Other Knight event winners included: Pat Simpson, 200 free; John Halligan, 500 free; and the 400 free relay of Simpson, Halligan, Mike Byerts and Mike Rivers.

Aquinas Institute's top finisher at the meet was Mike McNelis, who ended up second in the 500 free.

In bowling, the Bishop Kearney girls claimed the Private-Parochial League title with a 56-10 record. BK ended its league competition with a 4-2 victory over Our Lady of Mercy on Feb. 11 at North Park Lanes.

Along with capturing the league, BK notched the season's top team game (902), two-game set (1,686) and individual game (Sarah Shea, 234).

Michelle Gerhard of Aquinas finished with the top average at 176. Lee Foss of Mercy ended the year at 167 as she led the Monarchs to a second-place finish for the year (44-22 record).

In boys' Alpine skiing, McQuaid placed an impressive second among 20

schools in the Section 5 championships held on Feb. 12 at Bristol. Joe Huss led the Knights by placing third in the slalom and fifth in the giant slalom. Huss's performance enabled him to qualify for the Section 5 state team.

Elmira Notre Dame closed out its dual wrestling season with a 61-3 pasting of host Hammondspoint on Feb. 15. The win gave the Crusaders a 13-1 record. At that meet, Brad Seymour (119 pounds) set a school record for take-downs in a season with 65 and Dan Wilson (177) set an ND mark for team points in a season with 81.

Seymour, along with Tim Steed (105), Chris Kamas (112) and Mike Clune (167), earned No. 1 seeds for the Section 4 Class D championships, scheduled for Feb. 22 at Deposit High School.

Bishop Kearney wrestler Gracen Porreca, a 112-pounder, recorded a pin to improve his season record to 23-1-1 during a 54-16 home loss to Greece Olympia on Feb. 15.

Boys' bowling saw a big performance by Aquinas on Feb. 11 at North Park. The Little Irish threw a 1,025 game, the league's best this year, in a 3-0 victory over McQuaid.

Highlighting AQ's big day was Paul Wilson's 439 series, with games of 194 and 245; and Dave Dobson's 419 set, with scores of 222 and 197.

— Mike Latona

Zabawa at 6:31 and Monks at 7:06.

"Greece started taking chances when they got behind, and that opened it up a little for us," said AQ Coach Dave Montgomery.

"I don't know what happened; something got into us," Monks added. "We all wanted to win so bad."

Greece finally got back on the board when Jason Bonsignore scored at the 7:54 mark, but Schultz picked up his second goal at 10:07. Greece's Fred Hilton closed out the scoring with :04 left.

AQ was outshot 32-27 for the game, but Little Irish goalie Brian Kelly made several spectacular saves.

The Irish, ranked fifth in the state last week, are the No. 1 seed for the five-team sectional Class A playoffs. Aquinas will be back in action next Wednesday, Feb. 26, with a semifinal game against either No. 4 Irondequoit or No. 5 Batavia.

Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Genesee Valley, with the winner of that game advancing to the Feb. 29 finals at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

Despite losing 6-3 to Greece on Feb. 11 and then to Aquinas four days later, McQuaid has still locked up the No. 3 sectional seed with a 10-7 record. The

Knights will face No. 2 Greece next Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. at Lakeshore.

Coach Al Vyverberg feels his club is capable of knocking off Greece.

"We've got to play physical, keep the pace up and score on our opportunities. We haven't done that with them or Aquinas this year," Vyverberg remarked.

Bishop Kearney ended its regular season in style with a 6-3 win over Fairport on Feb. 15 at Thomas Creek Ice Arena. That victory, which improved the Kings to 6-12, followed an 11-5 loss to Pittsford on Feb. 12 at Lakeshore.

BK was scheduled to play its opening sectional Class B playoff game on Feb. 19. The Class B tournament combines schools from Divisions 2 and 3.

The offense was sparked by Dan Flanigen's two goals and one assist. BK built its lead to 6-1 midway through the third period over the Red Raiders, who were in second place in Division 2 and had beaten Greece earlier this season.

"The kids played extremely well defensively. We came to play," said Coach Rob Liberatore.



### BK will host alumni game

ROCHESTER — Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway South, will host its annual Alumni Blue and White basketball game on Friday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door for \$2 per person and \$5 per family. All proceeds will benefit the Kearney basketball program.

Call Bill Loftus at 716/654-9263 for information.

### Reynders, Doyle tabbed as finalists for award

ROCHESTER — Two diocesan high school stars were chosen as finalists for this year's WVOR/Rochester Press-Radio Club High School Sportsman of the Year Award.

Amy Reynders, a senior at Aquinas Institute, and Sheila Doyle, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy, were among the five finalists.

The award went to East High's Zilla Higga. Others in that category were Amy Pullyblank (Caledonia-Mumford) and Tanya Vogel (Penfield).

In the College Sportsman of the Year category, St. John Fisher basketball player Michelle Skovrinski was named as a finalist. Rikki Cannoto (Brockport State) won that category.

Winners were announced on Monday, Feb. 3.