

# Saints inch closer to first; McQuaid wins in OT

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Jan. 24 wasn't that long ago, but it must seem like the distant past to the Geneva DeSales boys' basketball team.

That's when the Saints' Finger Lakes West record was 6-4 following a 72-47 loss to Honeoye — not the stuff league champions are made of.

Yet only three weeks later, after the Saints' four-game winning streak and Bloomfield's three-game slide, DeSales moved within a half-game of the Bombers after a 68-59 victory over host Romulus last Friday, Feb. 14.

The Saints improved to 10-4 in the league (12-4 overall) with two games remaining in the regular season, while Bloomfield was at 11-4 with one game to go. DeSales was scheduled to host Dundee on Feb. 18 and travel to Red Jacket on Feb. 20.

Two nights before the Romulus win, the Saints came through in a must-win situation by soundly defeating Bloomfield, 53-41, at home.

The Romulus game sent DeSales Coach Tony Alvaro back to the school where he coached for 27 seasons until 1981. DeSales took command early by outscoring the Warriors 17-8 in the first quarter. The Saints led 33-20 at halftime and 45-38 after three periods.

Senior forward Mark Higgins hit his season high with 34 points, followed by Todd Hardy with 16.

"Higgins played extremely well, and we played well defensively," Al-

varo said.

Higgins was almost just as hot against Bloomfield, hitting for 29 points in that important victory.

Also coming up with a big win last week was McQuaid Jesuit (8-10), which scored a 66-65 overtime win over visiting Edison Tech on Feb. 14. Christian Klein's three-point basket at the buzzer made the difference.

McQuaid led by as many as nine points in the second quarter, but was forced into OT when Edison's Marvin Phillips made a three-pointer at the end of regulation.

The Inventors disputed Klein's winning three-pointer in overtime, claiming that his foot was on the three-point line when he released the shot.

"We should have won in regulation, so there shouldn't have been any controversy in the first place," remarked McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese.

Jay Wandtke, with 19 points, and Tom Brewer, with a season-high 18, led the McQuaid offense.

Elmira Notre Dame (8-10) received scoring from nine players en route to a 56-40 victory over host Corning West on Jan. 14.

ND was led by 14 points from Aaron Mekos and 12 from Bryan Woodworth.

Bishop Kearney (10-9) won for the 10th time in 13 games, 73-43 over host Hilton on Feb. 12.

Three players scored in double figures against Hilton: Joe Raniewicz with 19 points, Demond Mack with 18 and Jason Randall with 11.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Bishop Kearney's Jenny Zambito (foreground) attempts to kick the ball out of the grasp of Mercy's Sheila Doyle (center) during the Monarchs' 61-17 win over the visiting Kings Feb. 11. Doyle still retrieved the ball and passed it to teammate Kelly O'Neill (left, background).

## Mercy girls clinch league

Applying the defensive excellence that has been its trademark all season long, the Our Lady of Mercy girls' basketball team rolled to a 61-17 home victory over Bishop Kearney last Tuesday night, Feb. 11.

The win clinched the Private-Parochial League championship for the Monarchs, whose record improved to 5-0 in league play and 16-0 overall. The perfect mark has also earned the Monarchs the No. 1 seed in the Section 5 Class A playoffs, which begin next week.

Sheila Doyle led Mercy with 18 points, followed by Gina Montesano with 13 and Mimi LaMagna with 10. The Monarchs raced to a 33-13 half-time lead and then allowed BK only four points the rest of the way.

Kearney (11-7) bounced back from its loss to Mercy by recording a 40-27 win at Edison Tech on Feb. 14. Jenny Zambito led BK with nine points.

Aquinas Institute (16-3) played three home games last week and won them all: 48-47 in overtime over Penfield on Feb. 10, 55-36 over Wilson on Feb. 11

and 52-41 over Franklin on Feb. 13.

Amy Reynders did it all in the Franklin game, scoring a season-high 36 points and adding eight rebounds, seven steals, five blocks and four assists.

Nazareth Academy (7-12) was a 33-25 winner over visiting Harley-Allendale Columbia on Feb. 11. Dionne Robinson sparked the Lasers' victory by combining 10 points and eight rebounds.

Elmira Notre Dame (6-12) went down to a pair of close losses, 38-33 at Hornell on Feb. 11 and 43-38 to visiting Corning West on Feb. 14. Bobbie Jo McMail was the top Crusader scorer in both games with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Geneva DeSales' Lindsay Higgins was also her team's leading scorer twice last week. Higgins had 10 in a 46-29 loss to visiting South Seneca on Feb. 11, and she added nine in a 46-27 home defeat against Red Jacket on Feb. 13.

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