

Erik Kunkel/Photo intern McQuaid Jesuit's Greg Mulbury (9) and Sean Ritchlin (23) try to maneuver the puck past Aquinas' Bob Nuccitelli (9) during the Section 5 Class A championship game at Brockport State College Feb. 29. The Little Irish won 9-5.

Irish put yet another hockey title on ice

By Mike Latona Staff writer

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This game was a statistician's delight: 14 goals scored and 30 penalties assessed.

The key stat — the "W" — belonged to No. 1 Aquinas Institute, which won its second Section 5 Class A hockey championship in three years with a 9-5 victory over third-seeded McQuaid Jesuit. The final was played Saturday, Feb. 29, at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

Led by three goals and two assists from top scorer Grady Monks, AQ raised its record to 20-2 and further solidified its No. 1 state ranking.

The Little Irish will return to the Brockport State ice this coming Saturday, March 7, with a 3 p.m. game against Williamsville North of Section 6. The winner moves on to the state Final Four the weekend of March 14-15 in Utica.

The Little Irish seemed to hold back their elation a bit after knocking off McQuaid — as if winning the sectional championship might not be satisfying enough in itself.

"Two years ago we won sectionals

and it was a great thing, but now a lot of these same players have already won it," said AQ Coach Dave Montgomery.

Aguinas had advanced to the final with a 5-2 win over No. 4 Irondequoit on Feb. 26 at Lakeshore Rinks. McQuaid, which ended its season with a 12-10 mark, made the finals by scoring a 6-3 upset victory over secondseeded Greece on Feb. 25 at Lakeshore.

The championship game saw Aquinas jump out to a 3-0 lead after one period on goals by Joe Zabawa, Jeremy Giordano and Monks.

Larry Pierce brought McQuaid to within 3-1 early in the second period, but AQ's Monks and Mike Sloan made it 5-1.

Marty Reasoner gave McQ its second goal before Monks came up with the back-breaker, a shorthanded score with :20 left in the period.

Paul Camelio provided AQ its biggest lead, 7-2, when he scored early in the final stanza. Goals by Eben Carroll and Geoff Kufta brought McQuaid to within 7-4 before Chris Sichak scored for the Little Irish.

McQuaid's Matt Wambach and AQ's Gabe Marconi closed out the game's scoring.

Monks garnered all of his goals in the first two periods even though he spent nine of those 30 minutes in the penalty box.

"I wanted to end my high school career on a good note," said Monks, who set AQ's career scoring mark this year.

Aquinas held a 33-27 edge in shots on goal. Little Irish goalie Brian Kelly made 22 saves.

Although he didn't have any goals, Aquinas' Brook Lefler was named the game's Most Valuable Player for his outstanding defensive play.

"I was very surprised," was Lefler's reaction to the MVP award.

Prior to the championship game, Monks totaled two goals and two assists to lead AQ over Irondequoit in the semifinals.

Bishop Kearney's hockey team also was involved in Section 5 tournament action last week. The Kings faced Pittsford in the Class B semifinals and were handed a 13-1 loss on Feb. 26 at Genesee Valley Ice Arena.

BK ended up with an 8-14 record. The Kings had allowed a total of two goals in previous sectional wins over Brighton and Brockport.

Girls' in semis

Continued from page 18

final play, but that's where their seasons ended.

BK (12-9), the sixth seed in Class B, was a 34-30 winner at home over No. 11 Hornell on Feb. 25. The Kings were then eliminated by No. 3 Waterloo, 48-30, on Feb. 28 at Waterloo.

Kearney was up by 12 early in the fourth quarter over Hornell, but fell behind by a point with just under one minute remaining before Jenny Klee's basket and Jenny Lynch's three foul shots provided the Kings with the game's final five points.

Kearney trailed 24-12 at halftime against Waterloo, and closed to within six before going down to the 18-point

BK Coach Paul Forte said he was basically happy with his team's performance this year.

"We had a few more losses than we would have liked, but we played a tough schedule and we had a lot of young kids on the varsity. We made a real good team effort," he said.

Notre Dame (7-14) went two rounds in the Section 4 Class C tournament, winning 46-23 over visiting Newark Valley on Feb. 26 before losing 50-39 to host Whitney Point, the defending champion, on Feb. 29.

ND was in peak form against Newark Valley, racing to a 28-8 halftime bulge behind 50 percent shooting. Bobbie Io McMail was the squad's top scorer that night with 15 points.

The Crusaders were deadlocked 24-24 early in the second half against Whitney Point before faltering down the stretch.

With the loss, ND Coach Jeff Sobkowski ended his four-year career as ND's head coach with a 43-43 overall record. Sobkowski plans to stay on as an assistant football coach at the school.

"Even though the wins weren't there, it was still a real gratifying season," said Sobkowski. "We did a tremendous job defensively; we just didn't have big scorers."

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Eight McQuaid runners to compete in state meets

McQuaid Jesuit has already proven that it's the class of Section 5 indoor track. This weekend, the Knights will get to test their skills at a higher level in six events.

Eight Knights in all earned the right to go on to the state meet by recording high finishes in the Section 5 state qualifier held on Saturday, Feb. 29, at the University of Rochester.

Adam Reitz, who placed first in the 3.200-meter run with a time of 9:43.2; Eric Garsin, who won the 1,000 meters in 2:38.3; and the 800 relay of Les Bernard, Mike Keogh, Damon Wade and Kris Weldon, with a first-place time of 1:35.4 led the Knights.

Also advancing were Tim Kelley, who finished second in the 1,000 (2:38.6); and Keogh, who was second in the 600 (1:26.4).

In addition, Weldon and Knight teammate Dan Lesser will compete along with Spencerport's Bob Stewart and Hornell's Dave Shepherd on the intersectional medley relay.

The state meet will take place Saturday, March 7, at Cornell University.

"We had an excellent day. We qualified the most of any team," said McQ Coach Bob Bradley, whose Knights also captured the Section 5 Class A crown on Feb. 22 at the U of R.

Wrestlers at Catholic high schools in the diocese weren't as fortunate in their efforts to reach the states.

Elmira Notre Dame, which earned its first-ever Section 4 Class D championship on Feb. 22, sent 10 team members to the sectional state-qualifying meet last weekend at Cornell University. With first-place finishes needed to advance, the best showing was Brad Seymour's (119 pounds) fourth place.

McQuaid Jesuit's Mark Voci reached the Section 5 Super Sectional state qualifier finals at 119 pounds, but lost 3-2 to Fairport's Mike Kohl on Feb. 29 at Webster Junior High School.

And Bishop Kearney's Gracen Porreca, who entered the Section 5 Super Sectionals with a 27-1-1 record and the sectional Class B 105-pound championship to his credit, was eliminated in the quarterfinals.

In boys' swimming, McQuaid's Doug Kazley achieved his team's best finish, second place in the 100-yard backstroke (:57.39), in the Section 5 Class A championships on Feb. 29 at the U of R. Kazley led the Knights to an eighth-place showing.

The Aquinas Institute boys and BK girls, who each recently won their respective league bowling titles, are back in action on March 7 when they compete in the Section 5 championships at North Park Lanes in Rochester.

