

Mercy succumbs to Sweet Home

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

BUFFALO — Nine days after hitting its highest peak, the Our Lady of Mercy girls' basketball team discovered its deepest valley.

The Monarchs, who cruised into the Western Region playoffs with a 21-0 record, lost 73-69 to Amherst Sweet Home on Saturday, March 14. The state quarterfinal game was played at SUNY College at Buffalo.

In addition to watching a 17-point first-half lead disappear, the Monarchs also suffered the loss of several key players: Gabby LaMagna and Amy Martin had both fouled out by early in the fourth quarter, and starting point guard Gina Montesano didn't make the trip.

Mercy came out storming with 26 first-quarter points and led by 12 after the period. The margin swelled to 40-23 before Sweet Home scored the first half's final six points to make it an 11-point game, 40-29, at intermission.

The tide continued to turn in the second half as Mercy's lead shrank to 55-47 by the end of the third quarter. The Monarchs' depleted lineup succumbed to Sweet Home in the final eight minutes as the Panthers scored the fourth quarter's first 14 points to go up 61-55.

"We were sapped; that's the best explanation I can come up with. We tried to use everything we could against them," said Coach Kathy Boughton.

Mercy was also on the short end of a lopsided situation at the foul line. The Monarchs only had 12 attempts the whole game and converted seven, while the Panthers were 23-for-40.

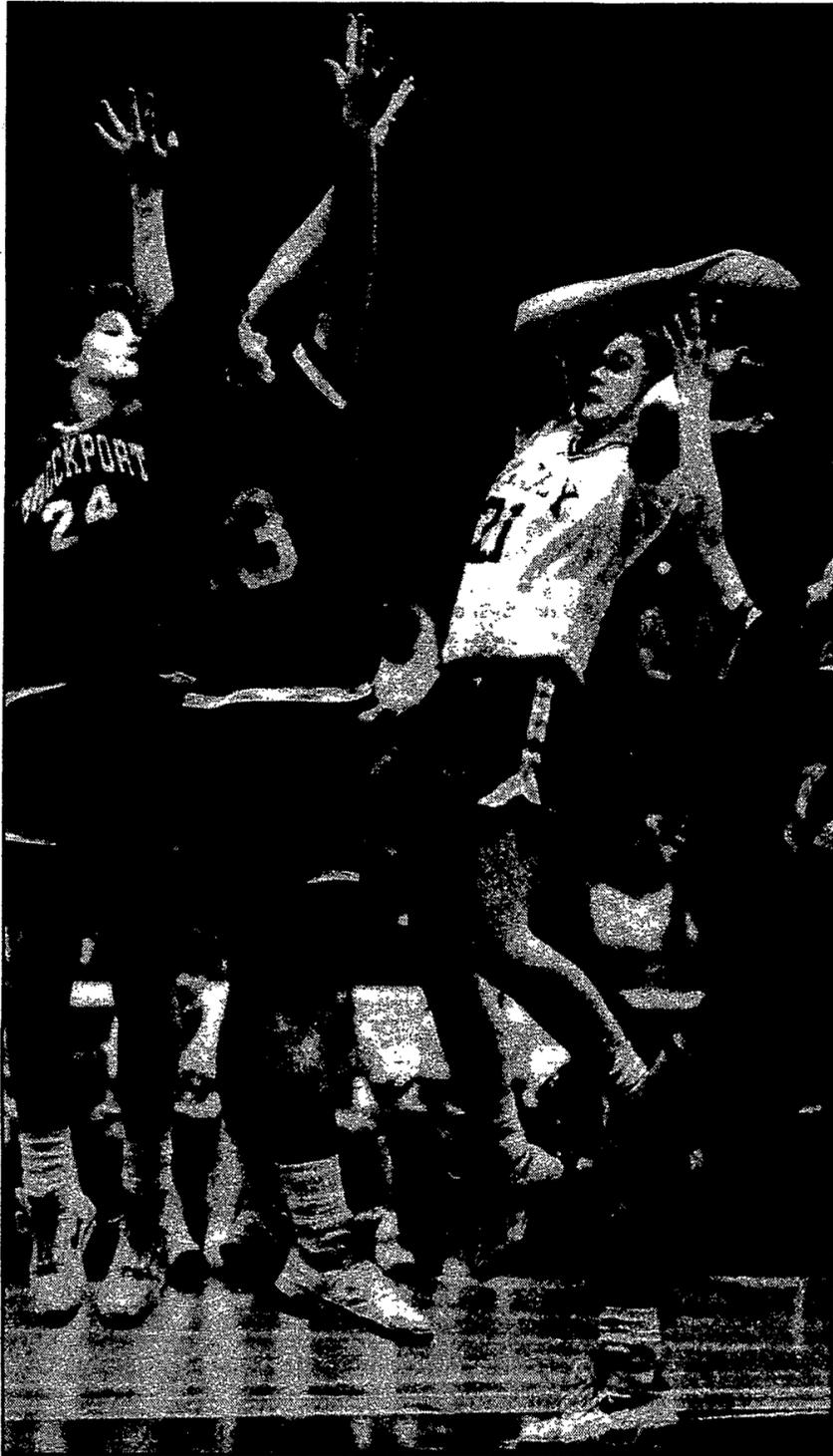
"I had a problem with the officiating. I got a technical foul (midway through the fourth quarter), and it's only the second technical I've had in eight years," said Boughton.

Sheila Doyle ended her illustrious high school career in style, finishing with a game-high 26 points. Three other Mercy starters were in double figures: Mimi LaMagna, 16 points; Kelly O'Neill, 11; and Martin, 10.

Mercy's other starter, Montesano, stayed behind in Rochester because her father, Joseph, was gravely ill. He died Sunday morning, March 15, after a long bout with cancer.

"This has been a difficult time for all of us," Boughton said.

Despite the troublesome times of the past week, 1991-92 will rank right up there with the all-time great seasons in Mercy's proud basketball history. The Monarchs swept through the regular season with a perfect 18-0 record that included three close victories over Pri-



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Mercy's Sheila Doyle (right, #21) goes up for a shot against Brockport's Teresa Hamlin (left), Jill Finkbeiner (center) and Betsy Hogan (right) during the Monarchs' March 5 win over the Blue Devils in the Section 5 Class A title game at the Rochester Community War Memorial. Mercy did not fare as well against Section 6's Amherst Sweet Home, March 14, losing the Western Regional playoff game, 73-69, at SUNY College at Buffalo.

vate-Parochial League archrival Aquinas Institute.

Mercy then claimed the Section 5 Class A championship with a 53-36

triumph over Brockport in the March 5 finals at the Rochester Community War Memorial. The Monarchs were the top seed in the sectionals.

SPORT SHORTS



Nazareth adds women's lacrosse for 1993 season

ROCHESTER — Nazareth College has added women's lacrosse to its spring sports ledger, with play scheduled to begin in 1993.

The program will start out by playing a limited schedule next year against junior varsity and club teams, according to Athletic Director Bill Carey. He added that the program hopes to go to a full NCAA Division III schedule by the 1994 season.

Nazareth already has an outstanding men's lacrosse program. Established in 1986, the Golden Flyers have qualified for the Division III playoffs three of the last four seasons.

Cheerleading teams excel at Aquinas and Kearney

ROCHESTER — Cheerleading squads at Aquinas Institute and Bishop Kearney High School were both tabbed for recent honors.

The Aquinas cheerleaders secured three first-place awards in last month's Greater Rochester Invitational at the Rochester Community War Memorial. AQ gained top honors in the Varsity C, Junior Band and Freshman divisions.

At Kearney, four varsity cheerleaders have been named to the City-Catholic All-Star Team: Tricia Sutherland, Kristin Lester, Terri DeWind and Katie Quinn.

Author to host seminar at Fisher on March 26

ROCHESTER — Robert Simon, a sports philosophy expert from Hamilton College, will speak at St. John Fisher College on Thursday, March 26.

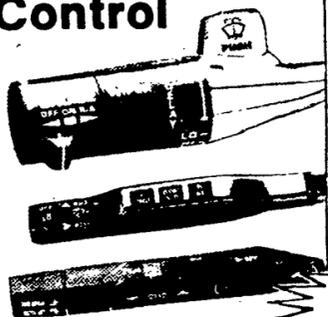
Simon will give a free seminar at 12:30 p.m. in the college's Elaine P. Wilson Formal Lounge, Haffey Hall, 3690 East Ave.

Simon is editor of the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* and author of *Fair Play: Sports, Values and Society*.

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