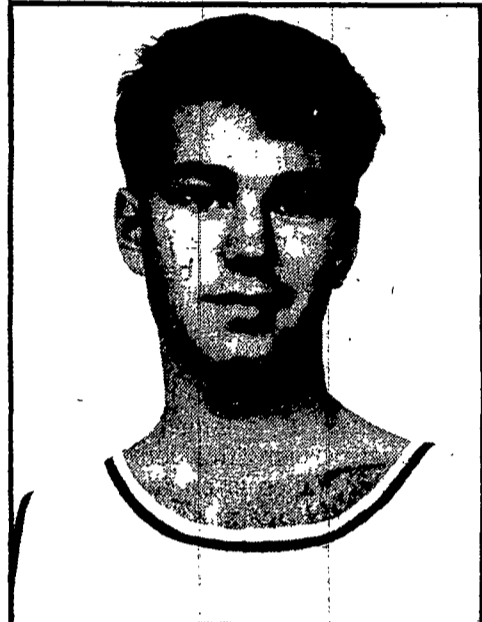


# McQuaid grads fuel U of R to national finals

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — John Kelly has experienced his share of championships over the last few years, but had to settle for a near-miss this time around.

The McQuaid Jesuit High School graduate was a key figure on the 1991-92 University of Rochester men's basketball team that reached the NCAA Division III championship game. The Yellowjackets were defeated by Calvin College of Michigan, 62-49, in the national finals held this past Saturday, March 21, at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.



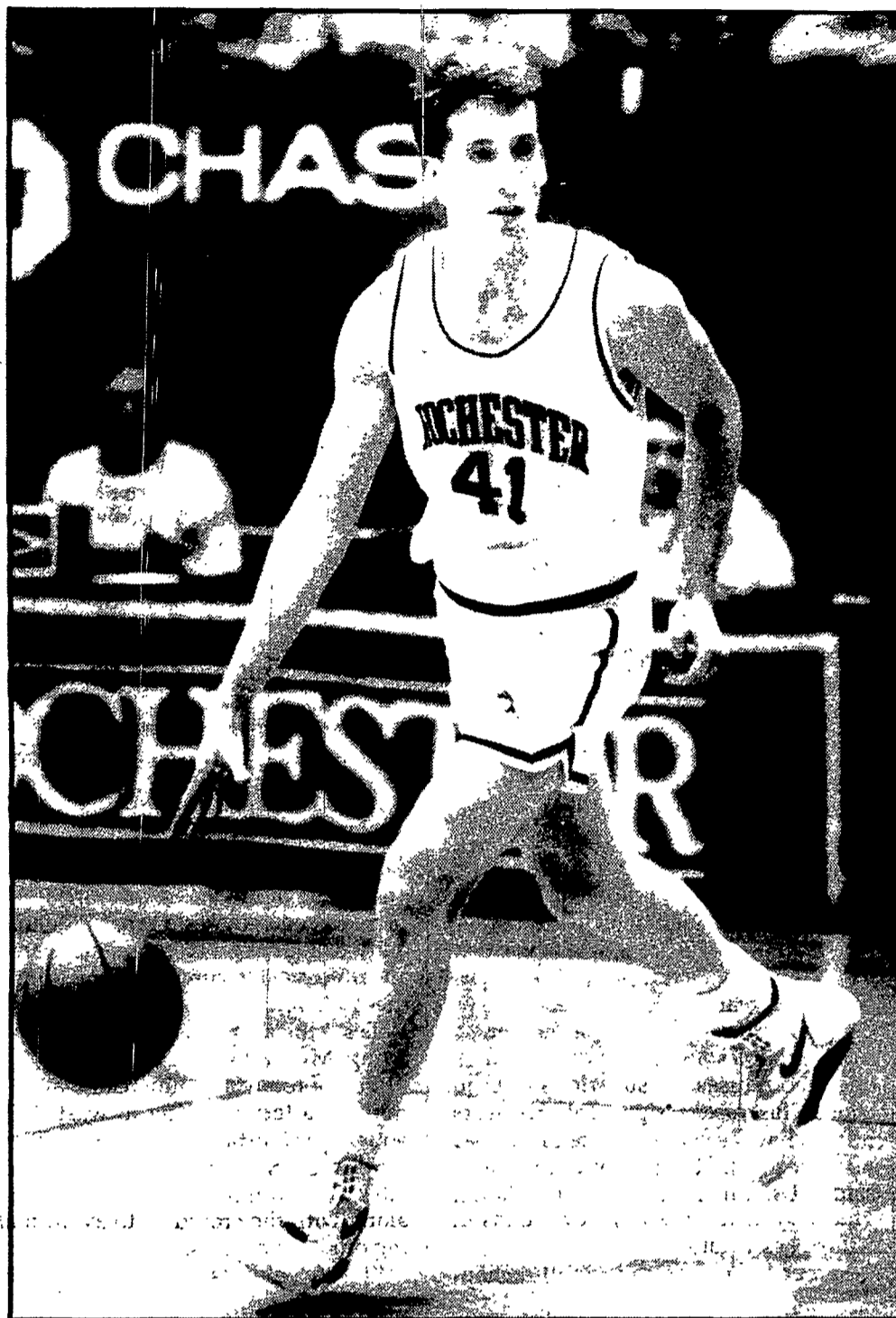
Former Knight Ted Naylor is a freshman guard for the the U of R.

It was U of R's second trip to the finals in three years. The Yellowjackets had advanced by winning 61-48 over Wisconsin-Platteville in a March 20 semifinal contest.

Kelly, a 6-foot-3-inch senior who was a third-year player for the Yellowjackets, became a starter this season at the small forward position and responded by averaging 9.0 points per game.

A 1988 McQuaid graduate, he is one of three former Knights who helped the 1991-92 Yellowjackets to a final record of 28-3. The others, both substitutes, were Matt Parrinello (1989 McQuaid grad), a junior guard; and Ted Naylor (1991), a freshman guard.

Kelly came on strong late in the year, achieving double-figure scoring in nine of his last 12 regular-season games. He was the top free-throw shooter among the Yellowjacket starting five, making 39 of 44 attempts (88.6 percent).



John Kelly, a McQuaid Jesuit High School graduate, played a key role in helping the 1991-92 University of Rochester men's basketball team reach the NCAA Division III championship game.

"John is a good ballhandler and a good three-point shooter. He was a very good complement for our team and had some big games for us," commented Mike Neer, the Yellowjacket head coach.

Unfortunately, Kelly struggled at the national Final Four. He was held scoreless against Wisconsin-Platteville, and his only points against Calvin came on a three-point basket in the first half.

Parrinello missed the first part of this season with a back injury and saw limited action in eight games.

Naylor, who starred for McQuaid's sectional title squad of a year ago, had a promising freshman season at U of R as he scored 5.0 PPG and converted 50.8 percent of his field-goal attempts.

Prior to arriving at U of R, Kelly teamed with Parrinello on McQuaid's outstanding 1988 team that won the Section 5 and state Class A championships. In addition, Kelly played on McQuaid's 1987 sectional title squad.

Both Kelly and Parrinello then went on to become part of U of R's national championship club in 1990.

This year's starting role was a pleasant change for Kelly, whose productivity had been hampered up to that point by injuries.

He missed his entire freshman season of 1988-89 due to a bad ankle. After seeing limited playing time in 1989-90 — "the ankle was still a mess," he said — he broke his wrist early in his junior year and missed 13 more games.

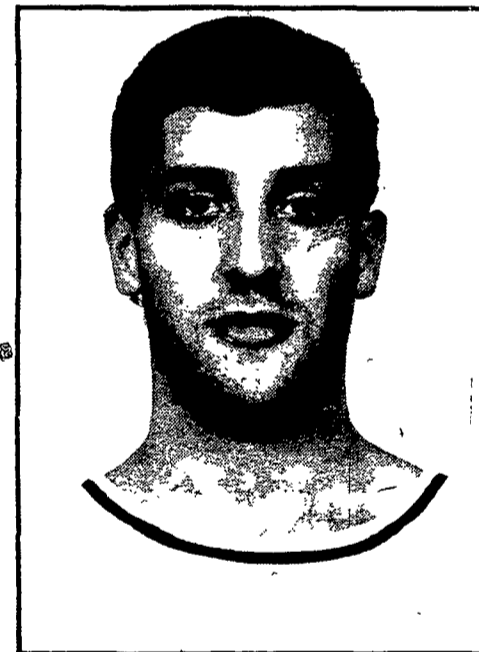
Kelly has one year of eligibility remaining, but at this point academics are his top priority. He plans on attending law school next year, possibly at the University of Notre Dame or Boston College.

"I've considered coming back to play, but I've had a couple of injuries and I'd kind of like to go out on top," said Kelly. "It's kind of funny — after the (Calvin) game I was thinking, 'Now I'm never going to have to wear tape on my ankle again.'"

Neer said that he'd obviously look forward to having Kelly back for one more season. But, he said, "I'm not going to exert any pressure at all. You go to the U of R with the idea of getting your degree in four years, and then you get on with it."

Should this be the end of his collegiate career, Kelly is grateful that his swan song was a memorable one.

"I'm about as fortunate as you can get. I'm not the type of player who ever got an MVP award, but it was great to just have a starting role on a team like this," he said.



Matt Parrinello, a 1989 graduate of McQuaid, is a junior guard for the University of Rochester.

## Aquinas hosts Mission Bouts

ROCHESTER — The 60th annual Aquinas Mission Bouts were held Friday, March 6, at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave.

The following boxers received the evening's special awards: Glenn Deacon, Tommy Amico and Pete Montagliano were honored as Fighters of the Night; Most Improved boxer went to John Bartholomay; Technical Knockout, Luigi Carozzi; and Dave Baldwin earned the Al Broccuto Award.

Winning fighters, along with their weight divisions, were: Strawweight, Brendan Stiner; Featherweights, Jason Vetter and Justin Callahan; Super lightweight, Brian Natalie;



Middleweights, Mike Quinlan, Matt Nicol, Tommy Amico and Dave Baldwin; Cruiserweight, Mike Benedict; Super welterweight, Glenn Deacon; Welterweights, Todd Fleming, Jason Johnson and Kirk Deacon; Junior heavyweights, Dave Stagnitto and Luigi Carozzi; Junior middleweight, Chris Catalano.

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