



McQuaid's Kelly Scanlon beats the tag of East High second baseman Luis Ortiz during the first round of the Section 5 Class AAA playoffs June 2 at East High School.

## Sweeney's arm leads Saints into semifinals

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

COHOCTON — Bill Sweeney wasn't in the mood to make excuses.

Most often, rainy conditions can be a pitcher's nightmare as baseballs become more slippery by the second. So all Sweeney did was throw a no-hitter, without walking any batters, in Geneva DeSales' 4-0 victory over Whitesville in the Section 5 Class D quarterfinals.

The game was played Friday, June 5, during a constant drizzle at the Cohocton High School sports complex. DeSales, the No. 1 seed, had reached the second round with an 8-2 home win over No. 16 Mount Morris on June 2.

DeSales (14-2) was scheduled to play No. 13 Gananda in a June 9 semifinal game at Colburn Park in Newark. The winner moves on to Rochester's Silver Stadium for a June 13 championship game, starting at 10 a.m.

The Saints became the only Catholic high school baseball team in the diocese to survive into the sectional semifinal round. The victory over Whitesville enabled DeSales to continue its quest for a fifth consecutive Section 5 championship. During the regular season, the Saints finished with a 12-2 record in Finger Lakes West league play to place second in that division.

Sweeney, a senior, had a perfect game through five innings against No. 8 Whitesville. The only two Bluejays to reach base all day were as a result of errors. Sweeney recorded eight strikeouts and was backed by single runs from the Saints in the first, second, fourth and fifth innings.

"Under those conditions, it was amazing he didn't walk anybody,"



The Orientals took an early lead when Ed Rodriguez slid by McQuaid's catcher Mark Scott. McQuaid rallied in its final at-bat and won 6-5 to advance in the playoffs.

Coach Pete French remarked. "And our infield was just super. Todd Hardy at shortstop and Jay Lamson at third base made about 10 plays between them that looked like they were major-league."

In their first-round win over Mount Morris, the Saints scored five first-inning runs and never looked back. Sweeney also picked up the victory that day, allowing four hits while striking out 10 in five innings of work.

In other sectional action, McQuaid Jesuit (13-9), seeded sixth in Section 5 Class AAA, kept its sectional title hopes alive into this week but was knocked out in its quarterfinal game.

The Knights were dealt a 5-0 defeat

by No. 14 Gates-Chili in a June 8 contest at Irondequoit High. The game had had been postponed twice by rain. The season-ending loss followed a 6-5 comeback victory over No. 11 East in a June 2 first-round game played at East.

McQuaid, in the win over East, came perilously close to making an early exit from sectionals. The Knights entered the bottom of the seventh inning trailing 5-2 before Mike Roselli led off with a double and Pat Derleth followed with a single. With one out, Jim Pashalidis nailed a two-run double to make it 5-4. Pat Colacino singled and Mark Scott walked to fill the bases, and the tying and winning runs scored on a throwing error.

No similar comebacks came against Gates-Chili, however, as the Knights were victims of a two-hitter by Spartan pitcher Scott Murrell.

In other sectional baseball action last week, three additional Catholic high school teams were eliminated in quarterfinal play.

Aquinas Institute (17-9), the No. 4 seed in Class AAA and this year's City-Catholic League champion, lost 7-3 to No. 12 Canandaigua on June 5 at Irondequoit High. The Little Irish had advanced with a 14-6 first-round home win over No. 13 Marshall on June 2.

AQ's offensive outburst against Marshall included a two-run homer by Tony Fanale. But the Irish could not score often enough against Canandaigua, the defending Class AAA champion, which scored four runs in the fourth inning to erase a 1-0 deficit.

Bishop Kearney (13-8), the No. 5 seed in Class AA, went down to an 11-5 loss against No. 4 Eastridge in the June 5 quarterfinals at Fairport High. The Kings won their first-round game, 7-1, over visiting and 12th-seeded Penn Yan, on June 2.

BK received a fine pitching performance against Penn Yan from Scott Delgatti, who threw a six-hitter while fanning eight. In the Eastridge loss, BK was victimized by the Lancers' six-run outburst in the fifth inning.

Elmira Notre Dame (9-10), the No. 5 seed in Section 4 Class C, lost 4-3 in eight innings to fourth-seeded Oneonta in a game played at Deposit on June 2.

Oneonta got the winning run in the bottom of the eighth to overcome a strong effort by ND pitcher Bryan Woodworth, who tossed a complete-game six-hitter.

## Track stars place at states; ND wins tennis sectional

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Members of the McQuaid Jesuit and Our Lady of Mercy track squad saved their best for last, and a doubles team from Elmira Notre Dame's Section 4 championship tennis team is hoping to do the same this coming weekend.

In track, McQuaid's Kris Weldon had the highest finish among Catholic high schools in the diocese as he took third place in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at the state championships, held June 5-6 at Dietz Stadium in Kingston.

Also performing well were the McQuaid 3,200 relay, which finished fourth; and Mercy's 1,600 relay, which took sixth place.

Weldon posted a time of :55.32 in the 400 hurdles finals, holding off a

tough challenge for the third spot (Doug Hazel of Nyack in Section 1 finished in :55.54 and Eddie Najeeulah of Edison Tech in Section 5 went :55.79). The senior had run a nearly identical time in the Section 5 Meet of Champions state qualifier one weekend earlier.

"He did a great job," said McQuaid Coach Dave Warth.

In the 3,200 relay, the quartet of Eric Garsin, Tim Kelley, Shawn Watts and Mike Keogh combined for a season-best time of 7:54.52. Watts, a sophomore, ran a particularly outstanding split of 1:56.5.

"I said that if we broke 7:55 I'd be psyched, and we did that. We couldn't have done any better," Warth said.

Mercy, meanwhile, ran a school-record 4:04.53 in taking sixth place in the 1,600 relay. The relay order included Gabby LaMagna, Colleen

O'Neill, Amy Martin and Jenny Smith.

"That was the most we could expect. The girls didn't care as much about where they placed — they wanted a school record," said Coach Tim Jones.

In tennis, Notre Dame captured the Section 4 Class C title on June 2 at Binghamton Tennis Center. The Crusaders finished decisively ahead of 31 other teams, scoring 67 points (Greene was a distant second with 44) for their first sectional crown since 1984.

Stig Reinecke, a senior exchange student from Denmark, also captured an individual sectional title as he won six matches to take the singles division. He defeated Sidney's Jeff Bourdone, 6-3, 6-2, in the finals.

However, it was senior Pete Finnerty and junior Sunil Abraham, not Reinecke, who became Notre Dame's

first representatives at the state level since 1981. Three days after sectionals, in the state-qualifying competition back at Binghamton Tennis Center, Finnerty and Abraham parlayed a huge upset into a trip to the states.

Finnerty and Abraham, seeded eighth, earned a 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 victory over the No. 1-seeded team of Andy and Ed Pan from Binghamton. The ND duo then beat a team from Seton Catholic to reach the finals, automatically qualifying them for the state tournament scheduled for June 12-13 in White Plains. (Finnerty and Abraham lost to a team from Owego in the finals.)

In first-round action of the state qualifier, Binghamton's David Ruan, seeded sixth, upset the third-seeded Reinecke, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.