

# Sports titles becoming the norm at Mercy

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

**BRIGHTON** — Kathy Boughton wasn't entirely happy that Our Lady of Mercy High School had developed such a sterling basketball reputation by the mid-1980s.

"That was unfortunate," said Boughton, the school's athletic director, varsity basketball and soccer coach. "Other sports got ignored not only by the school, but by the community, too."

Not so any longer.

Yes, Mercy is still a basketball power, as evidenced by the Monarchs' Section 5 Class A championship this past winter. It marked the team's fifth sectional title in

ing turnover: she has guided varsity basketball since 1985-86, and soccer since 1986-87; while two other coaches — Tim Jones in cross-country and track, and Nancy Wunder in volleyball — have also logged lengthy tenures.

School support outside of the athletic department has also been a key, Boughton remarked. "Our administration supports our athletic program 110 percent," she said.

Among Mercy's 460 students in grades 7 through 12, Boughton estimated that around 185 were sports participants this past school year.

Although it did not win its first sectional title until 1983-84, Mercy's athletic program has been



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor  
Mercy's Sheila Doyle (left) and Gina Montesano celebrate after the Monarchs captured the Section 5 Class A title against Brockport at the Rochester Community War Memorial last March.

lege ball. Hess, as well, reached the Division I level when she resigned after the 1984-85 season to become the head coach at American University.

The late 1980s were highlighted by the accomplishments of standout female athletes such as Colleen Sheehy, Julie Buntich and Catherine Robinson. Nowadays, Mercy followers are familiar with the likes of multi-sport stars Mimi and Gabby LaMagna, Sheila Doyle and Gina Montesano.

Boughton noted that these young women have set a solid tradition for future Mercy athletes.

"A lot of Catholic grammar schools know what Mercy's about. It's funny — the kids walk in here, and they already know what's to be expected of them," she said.

The program has reached a rather satisfying dilemma: with its success ratio at such a high level, there's not much room left for improvement.

"The biggest disadvantage is to have that pressure to win every single year. The community expects it," said Boughton. "But I think it's positive pressure. You re-establish your goals; you can always go one more step."

Although success has been rather routine at Mercy, Boughton warned that the thrill of victory should never be taken for granted.

"When you lose that feeling, that's when you want to step back and get out of coaching," she commented.

## Soccer tryouts set for Greece Olympia

**GREECE** — Tryouts for the Cobra Soccer Club are scheduled for Aug. 18-19 at Greece Olympia High School, 1139 Maiden Lane.

Registration is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. each day, with tryouts from 6-8 p.m. These sessions are open to boys and girls from anywhere in the Rochester area. The Cobra Soccer Club features 10 boys' travel teams and six girls' squads.

Those who are unable to attend the tryouts, or would like more information, should call Mike Balducci at 716/225-3936.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor  
Our Lady of Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton (right) anxiously awaits the outcome of the 1992 Section 5 Class A title game along with Gabby LaMagna (left) and Gina Montesano.

the last nine seasons.

Mercy, however, reflected its ever-increasing status as an all-around girls' athletic power by winning three other sectional titles during the 1991-92 school year — in soccer, volleyball and track. Those championships were a first for each sport.

The feat is astounding when you consider that Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, is an all-girls' school. With only 10 varsity sports, this means that 40 percent of Monarch teams brought home sectional crowns last year.

Prior to Boughton's arrival as athletic director in 1985, the school's only two sectional titles had been in basketball — during the 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons, under Shirley Hess.

Since that time, the athletic program has produced nine additional sectional champs in six different sports. Monarch teams have also piled up more than 30 first-place finishes in Private-Parochial League competition.

Boughton attributes much of the success to Mercy's low coach-

a strong one ever since Section 5 began varsity girls' sports in the mid-1970s.

At the time, Boughton was on the other side of the field and court as a multi-sport star at the former Cardinal Mooney High School. A 1979 Mooney graduate, Boughton recalled that Mercy was "really good in volleyball and softball. That was the biggest rivalry for us."

The basketball program began a string of three consecutive sectional championships in 1983-84. The following year Mercy won not only sectionals, but also the state title. Three of those team members — Kelly Lane, Anne Peacock and Beth Wambach — all went on to play Division I col-

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