

All-around effort lifts Notre Dame to 23-6 win

AQ, McQuaid fall by narrow scores in first-week play

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

It's usually a pretty good sign of things to come when a team displays late-season form in its very first game.

It was this type of solid, all-around play that guided Elmira Notre Dame to a 23-6 victory over host Tioga. The season-opening contest was held last Saturday, Sept. 12.

"We executed pretty well for this early in the year," commented head coach Mike D'Aloisio, whose team scored in every quarter and did not commit a turnover all day.

ND, however, was the only Catholic high school in the diocese to come away with a win in Week One.

Aquinas Institute, which went undefeated during the 1991 regular season, began 1992 with a 22-21 City-Catholic League road loss to Wilson Magnet. The Little Irish made a stirring last-minute rally, but were stopped on a two-point conversion attempt with two seconds remaining.

McQuaid Jesuit, despite holding Pittsford scoreless after halftime, was dealt a 15-12 defeat by the visiting Panthers on Sept. 12.

Bishop Kearney, playing its first game as a member of the Finger Lakes League, was defeated at home by Canandaigua, 38-6, on Sept. 11.

Geneva DeSales, in a home matchup against Marcus Whitman, suffered a 28-0 loss on Sept. 12.

• • •

Elmira Notre Dame scored on its opening possession against Tioga when Joel Stephens made a seven-yard touchdown run. The Crusaders led 9-0 at halftime on a 24-yard field goal by Pat Palmer in the second quarter.

Stephens picked up his second touchdown in the third quarter on a nine-yard reception from Tom McNamara. ND's final score came on another McNamara throw, this one going eight yards to Shaun Bennett.

A Tioga touchdown in the final two minutes stopped the Crusaders' shut-out bid.

Stephens finished the day with 132 yards on 20 carries, and 35 yards on three receptions. McNamara went 11-for-15 for 118 yards.

Defensively, the Crusaders were led by John Maio, Mike Cornacchio, Jason Cresswell, Luke Sheehan, Matt Fogarty, and Dan Wilson.

Tioga is coached by Jim Haggerty, the former Notre Dame coach who began the Crusader football program more than 30 years ago.

• • •

Aquinas did an admirable job of bouncing back from a 14-2 deficit after one quarter. The Little Irish used a pair of scoring runs by Tony Bianchi — one from eight yards in the second quarter and the other 13 yards in the third period — to go up 15-14 with one



Kellie McCann/Photo Intern

Kicker Patrick Derleth unsuccessfully attempts to carry the ball into the end zone after a missed snap from center on the point-after attempt during the host Knights' non-league game against Pittsford Sept. 12. The Panthers defeated the Knights 15-12.

quarter to play. Rickey Gamble's 40-yard scoring run, combined with a two-point run by Shannon Smith, put the Wildcats back in front, 22-15, early in the fourth period.

AQ rallied in the closing minutes, with Matt Delly's 12-yard TD throw to Mark Johnson making the score 22-21 with :02 left.

However, the Irish's gamble for a two-point conversion — and the win — ended in heartbreak when Gabe Bauza was brought down on the one-yard line.

Coach Joe Munno said he never considered going for an extra-point kick that would have produced a tie.

"You've got to go for wins. I don't play for ties," he stated.

Bianchi led the AQ offense with 59 yards on 13 carries, and he also led the defense with nine tackles and one fumble recovery.

• • •

McQuaid got off to a bad start when the game's opening kickoff return was fumbled, setting up Pittsford's first touchdown. That was followed by a one-yard scoring run from Ben De-

Luca, set up by a 30-yard pass play from Jim Malvaso to Casey Sanderson, that brought the Knights to within 7-6 after one quarter.

Pittsford added another touchdown in the second quarter to take a 15-6 lead into the locker room. Following a scoreless third period, the Knights got their final touchdown with 3:30 left in the game on a two-yard keeper by Malvaso. That TD was again set up by a long pass play from Malvaso, this one a 50-yarder to Dave Kollar.

Coach Tom Sprague noted that his Knights hurt themselves with costly mistakes, including five turnovers.

"They didn't make the mistakes, and we did," he remarked.

• • •

Playing the defending Section 5 Class BB champions proved to be too much for Bishop Kearney. The Kings fell steadily behind, trailing 6-0, 17-0 and 24-0 at the quarter breaks.

The deficit swelled to 38-0 before BK finally got on the board in the final minute of play. Vernon Banks scored on a one-yard run to complete an 85-yard drive, during which quarterback Chad Gunerra completed three passes for 78 yards.

Despite the final score, BK coach Nick Teta was encouraged by his team's performance.

"I wasn't displeased. We showed a lot of things we've been working on," said Teta.

• • •

Geneva DeSales held tough early against Marcus Whitman, trailing 6-0 at halftime. But the Saints allowed three second-half touchdowns, and the offense failed to penetrate inside the Wildcats' 20-yard line all afternoon.

"They just wore us out," said Coach Mark Mccheyne. "We were basically out-manned in the second half."

Mark Casasanta led DeSales with 90 yards on 20 carries, and Jay Lamson recorded two interceptions.

COUPON SENIOR CITIZENS COUPON

With This Coupon

ANY NEW PHILANZ OLDSMOBILE

Can Be Yours For **\$100** Over Oldsmobile Invoice

SENIORS ONLY! SENIORS ONLY!

All we keep is \$100 & our holdback. Prior sales excluded. Not valid with any other promotion. Must present coupon before making your deal. Expires September 30, 1992.

PHILANZ OLDSMOBILE 266-2900

1335 E. RIDGE RD. (BETWEEN GOODMAN AND PORTLAND AVE.)

CLIP & USE

ST. JUDE'S FESTIVAL

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
September 18th - 19th & 20th
4100 Lyell Road

(In Gates between Elmgrove and Manitou Roads)

FOOD • FUN • GAMES • PRIZES

AUCTION SUNDAY AT 1 PM!
SPECIAL BINGO - Every night at 8:30 pm
KIDDIE ATTRACTIONS

FRIDAY FISH FRY \$6.00 4-8 P.M.	SATURDAY ROAST BEEF DINNER \$6.00 4-8 P.M.	SUNDAY LASAGNA \$6.00 1-7 P.M.
---------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------

Children Under 12 Half Price!

REDEEM This Ad For Your Choice Of:

- One free Children's Dinner, or
- Three Kiddie Ride Tickets, or
- \$1.00 Off An Adult Dinner Entree

Before you run ...

Call the Covenant House 9-LINE, a hotline for troubled youth and families, open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the U.S.

1-800-999-9999

The street is no solution.
Old problems get worse, and new ones are created.