

Irish, Monarchs play to scoreless tie in soccer

AQ, Mercy rate with best in area

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Even though Our Lady of Mercy is the defending Section 5 Class A champion, the Monarchs were perceived as somewhat of an underdog in their girls' soccer showdown against Aquinas Institute last week.

"This year I lost 12 seniors, and I think (Aquinas) only lost two," noted Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton.

The defending Private-Parochial League champion, Aquinas did outshoot Mercy by a 2-to-1 ratio. The Monarchs, however, withstood the pressure and came away with a 0-0 overtime tie in a game played Sept. 17 at AQ.

"That was one of the best games I'd ever seen. Both teams just went at it for 100 minutes," said AQ Coach Gary Page, whose Little Irish reached the sectional Class BB finals a year ago.

The scoreless deadlock enabled the Little Irish to stay unbeaten. Aquinas (5-0-1) later captured the Clarence Tournament in Buffalo, winning 3-0 over Nichols on Sept. 18 and 1-0 over Clarence in the Sept. 19 finals.



S. John Wilkin/Photo Intern
Nazareth's Traci Sergeant (right) and Jen Warren of Northstar Christian Academy vie for a loose ball.

Mercy, meanwhile, improved its record to 4-2-1 with a 5-0 blanking of host Bishop Kearney on Sept. 19.

Joining AQ in the unbeaten ranks is Elmira Notre Dame, which has started out with a 6-0-1 mark. In action last week, the Crusaders won two home games: 8-1 over Corning on Sept. 16 and 4-2 over Hammondsport on Sept. 19.

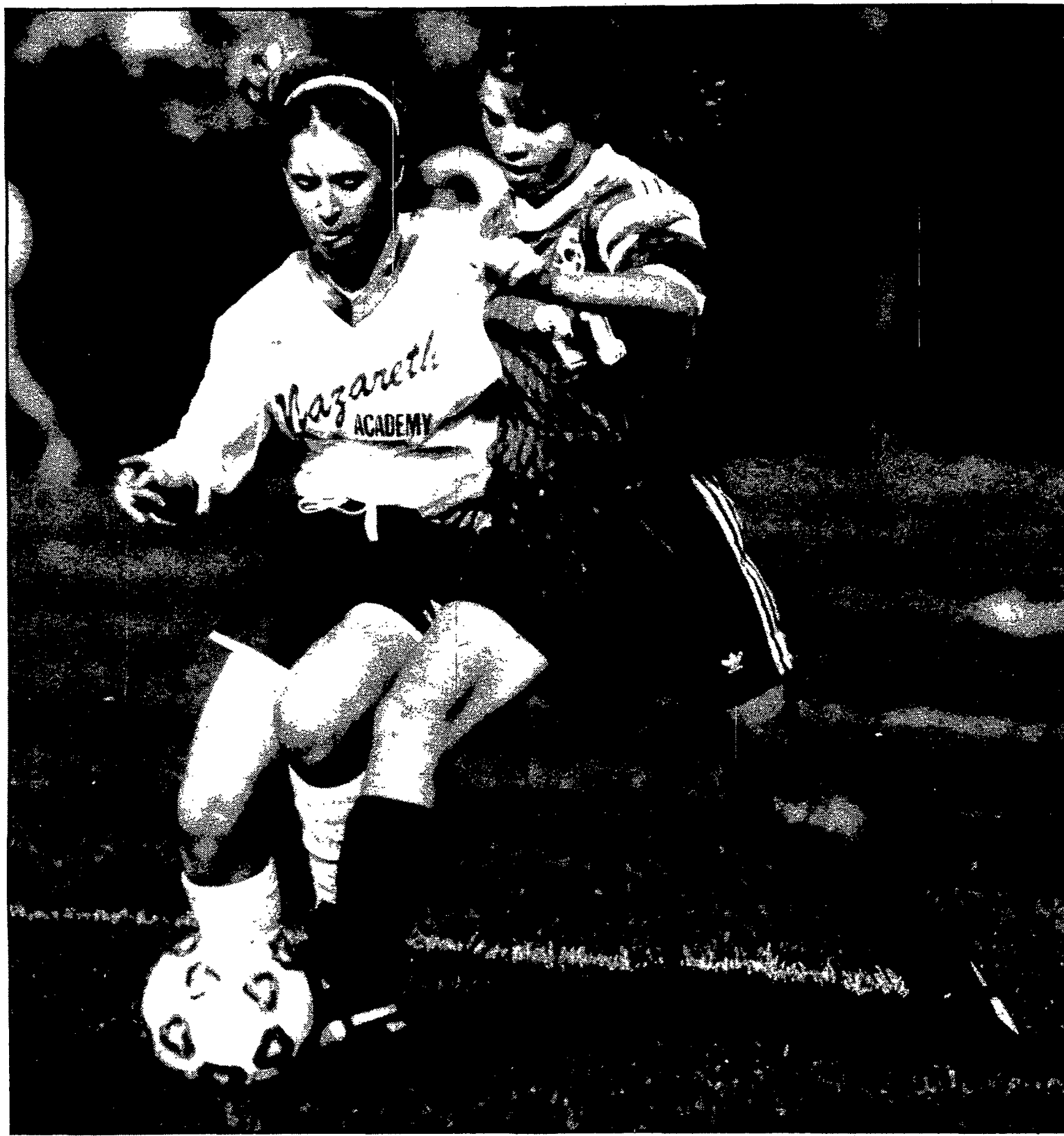
Nazareth Academy is also looking solid, having nearly matched its 1991 win total already. A 4-0 victory over visiting Northstar Christian Academy on Sept. 17 gave the Lasers a 3-1-1 record after they finished 4-14 a year ago.

Kearney is 2-5 thus far in 1992. Prior to the Sept. 19 Mercy loss, the Kings lost to Aquinas, 4-0, on Sept. 15.

A ray of hope has emerged for the Geneva DeSales program: the Saints' 0-0 tie against visiting South Seneca on Sept. 15 marked the first time in four years that a DeSales girls' soccer game hasn't ended in defeat. DeSales (0-1-1) also lost 3-0 to visiting Romulus on Sept. 17.

Aquinas's offense is led by senior Michelle Khuns, who scored a team-high 22 goals last season. Another top forward is sophomore Tricia DiQuattro.

Senior Alicia Burton is a standout at



S. John Wilkin/Photo Intern
Nazareth Academy's Corinne Strassner (left) attempts to gain control of the ball from Amy Kopeczewski of Northstar Christian Academy during the Sept. 17 game at La Grange Field. Nazareth won the non-league match 4-0.

midfield. Anchoring the defense are senior Ariana Martinez and junior April Baker, with senior Mary Beth Bell in goal.

Khuns' second-half goal marked the only scoring in the Sept. 19 win over Clarence. Bell picked up her fifth shutout of the season in that game.

AQ is coming off a 17-3-1 finish in 1991 which included a 4-3 overtime loss to Brighton in the sectional finals. This year, the Irish have moved up to Class A — a situation that's just fine with Page.

"We'll play anybody; I don't care who they are," said Page, who has compiled a cumulative record of 39-7-2 in his first three seasons as AQ's head coach.

Mercy has a mix of youth and veterans among its top players: senior defenders Sarah Bertucci and Mimi La-Magna, junior forward Melanie Heeder, junior midfielder Jenny Smith, sophomore goalie Kelly O'Neill, and sophomore forward Gina Montesano.

In the Sept. 19 win over Kearney, Heeder collected two goals and one assist while Smith, Montesano, and La-Magna added one goal each.

The Monarchs enjoyed their finest season ever in 1991, winning their first sectional Class A title with a 4-3 overtime victory over Penfield. They advanced to the state semifinals and

ended up with a 13-3-2 mark.

Boughton, in her seventh season, thinks that her current group could also be a contender.

"So far, I've been very impressed. Sometimes they don't look like they're skipping a beat at all," said Boughton.

Yet, she added, "It's so hard when you come off a title with so many new players. I'm just trying to take every-

thing one day at a time."

Elmira Notre Dame's leading players are junior forwards Christina Bruner and Lori Spaziani, senior defender Jill Fusco, junior defender Jen Beaty, sophomore midfielder Megan Smith, and senior goalie Margo Forsythe.

Bruner, Smith, and Spaziani scored.

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Special Olympics plans soccer meet for MDC

ROCHESTER — Monroe County Special Olympics will hold a soccer meet on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Monroe Developmental Center, 620 Westfall Road.

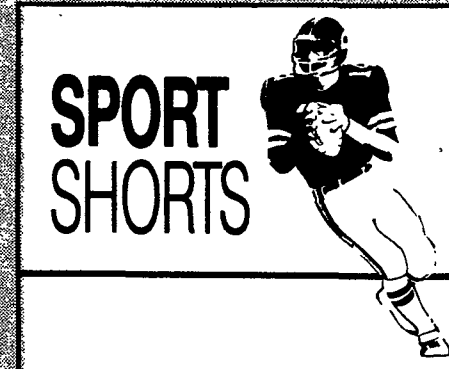
The day will begin with registration at 9 a.m., followed by opening ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. and games between 9:45 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For details, call Marian Turner at 716/586-7400.

Amerks game to benefit county Special Olympics

ROCHESTER — A pre-season Rochester Americans hockey game will benefit Monroe County Special Olympics.

The contest between the Amerks and the Hamilton Canucks will take place at the Rochester Community War Memorial on Saturday,



Sept. 26, at 7:35 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$6, with \$1 from each ticket benefiting the Special Olympics program in Rochester. Tickets can be ordered at all Ticket Master outlets, or by calling the Special Olympics office at 716/586-7400.