

# Aquinas girls survive tough volleyball wars

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Last week provided a mixture of new and old for the Aquinas Institute girls' volleyball team.

The new part is that Aquinas defeated Bishop Kearney and Our Lady of Mercy — something that had never occurred previously in the fourth-year program's history.

And, to quote the TV commercial, the Little Irish reached their achievement the old-fashioned way: they earned it.

AQ was extended to the maximum five games in both of its Private-Parochial League battles: the Little Irish won 12-15, 15-6, 15-13, 7-15, 15-13 over Kearney on Sept. 22; and went on to a 12-15, 15-10, 15-5, 12-15, 15-10 victory over Mercy on Sept. 24. Both matches were held at AQ.

"If they can keep their mental game together, they have the possibility of making the sectional finals," stated Mary Beth Davidson, AQ's second-year coach, whose club had achieved a 6-1 overall record through last week and appeared well on its way to bettering the 9-9 finish of a year ago.

Mercy, the defending Section 5 Class BB champion, stood at 6-3 entering this week's action. In addition to last week's Aquinas loss, the Monarchs won 15-2, 15-10, 15-8 over visiting Nazareth Academy on Sept. 22.

Kearney, the only Catholic high school in the diocese to field both a girls' and boys' volleyball team, has posted a 3-6 record in girls' play and a 3-7 showing in boys' action.

The McQuaid boys, who reached the sectional Class A finals a year ago, are off to a 5-3 start in 1992 and could again challenge for the sectional title with the return of two key players over the next couple of weeks.

The Nazareth girls have begun the year with a 2-6 record. The Lasers ended last week on a victorious note, surviving a 15-3, 6-15, 15-12, 12-15 16-14 marathon against visiting Franklin on Sept. 25.

Aquinas suffered a letdown after its exhausting wins over Kearney and Mercy: the Little Irish were swept 15-12, 15-10, 15-12 by visiting Newark on Sept. 25. AQ bounced back, however, for a 10-15, 15-11, 15-8, 13-15, 15-11 victory over host Harley Allendale-Columbia on Sept. 26.

Davidson believes that her team's strength lies in the hitting abilities of seniors Kristina Dudley and Sandy Petty and sophomore Jenny Warner, supplemented by the setting of sophomore Chrissy San Filippo.

"I have three really strong hitters and a very natural setter," Davidson remarked.

Other top AQ players include seniors Amanda Janas, Rachel Toombs, Alissa Childs, and Cheryl Miller.

Mercy has lost a good deal of firepower from last year's club, which finished with a 21-2 record and won its first-ever sectional Class BB title by sweeping Wayne.

However, 10th-year Coach Nancy Wunder thinks her current club could approach that same high level by year's end.

"They're rising to the occasion and I'm real proud of them. I foresee us in the finals against either Victor or Aquinas," said Wunder, whose team is also the defending Private-Parochial champ.

Although the Monarchs were edged out by Aquinas last week, Wunder



McQuaid's Tony Molina (right) returns a block as Brighton's Stuart Hul unsuccessfully tries to answer the shot during the host Knights' 8-15, 15-5, 4-15, 15-10, 15-11 loss Sept. 25.



Amanda Janas returns the ball for Aquinas Institute Sept. 24 during the Little Irish's 12-15, 15-10, 15-5, 12-15, 15-10 win over visiting Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Photos by Babette G. Augustin, Photo editor

noted that her team will get a return match with the Irish on Oct. 22.

"It's going to be quite a race," she predicted.

Senior Laura Heinlein and junior Kathy Eisenberg are the Monarchs' setters, while hitting duties belong to seniors T.J. Hettrich, Julie Case and Meredith Weider, junior Michelle McLaren, and sophomore Teresa Hartman.

Injuries have impeded the Kearney girls' progress thus far in 1992, according to Coach Paul Coppini.

"Last year we snuck up on people, and that's not happening this year. Trying to cope with injuries is something that's really difficult," said Coppini, whose Kings finished 11-6 last year.

Coppini is in his second season with the girls after a four-year layoff. He also coached the BK boys for 14 years, achieving a 119-46 record and a sectional title in 1983.

Terry Teo, an exchange student from New Zealand, is the only senior in BK's starting lineup. The rest, all juniors, include Jen Zambito, Lynne Wiegand, Patti Lynch, Ebony Pelemon, and Jody Durick.

Zambito has been hampered by a shoulder injury, while Lynch has experienced back problems and Pelemon has battled tendinitis.

BK's boys are coached by Dan Hosenfeld, a 1989 Kearney graduate who is in his first year as head coach. Hosenfeld had the unenviable task of inheriting a team that finished with a 0-20 record last season.

"I'm trying to put Kearney back on the map as a volleyball power, and that's going to take some time," said Hosenfeld.

Kearney picked up one win last week, and did so convincingly: the Kings swept host Sodus by scores of 15-8, 15-0, and 15-2 on Sept. 21.

Top BK players are seniors Kevin Bartnicki, Scott Atwood, Doug Vorn-dran, Brian Zimmerman, and Steve Geier; and sophomore Mark Jensen.

In the win over Sodus, Bartnicki compiled eight kills and five assists while Zimmerman and Geier finished with four kills each.

Continued on next page

The Rochester Theater  
Organ Society



Dedicated to preserving the  
sound of the King of Instruments

Presents:  
**DAVID PECKHAM**  
Saturday, October 10th  
8:15 pm  
**AT THE AUDITORIUM CENTER**  
875 Main St. East  
Special Discount for Senior  
Citizen Groups of 10 or More.

**50¢ OFF**

This ad entitles single-ticket buyers  
to 50¢ off the \$5.50 purchase price by  
presenting this ad at the box office  
the evening of the concert.

For further information, call  
R.T.O.S. at 544-6595