

Soccer teams gear for sectionals

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Based on the tournament seedings, sectional soccer titles could become a hot commodity this year among Catholic high school in the diocese.

An impressive total of six teams are seeded fourth or higher in their respective classifications.

Leading the way are the Aquinas Institute boys, who finished the regular season with a 15-1 record and are seeded No. 1 in the Section 5 Class BB playoffs.

The Little Irish, ranked No. 2 in last week's state Class B poll, came up big in their final regular-season game. Aquinas won 4-1 over visiting McQuaid Jesuit last Tuesday, Oct. 20, avenging its only defeat of the year. In addition, the victory enabled the Little Irish to tie the Knights for the City-Catholic League championship with a 5-1 record — the fourth straight year the Little Irish have either won or shared the title.

AQ took a 2-0 halftime lead over McQuaid — on goals by Doug Crowley and Lin Douangtavilay — before the Knights' Greg Stevens scored early in the second half to slice his team's deficit in half. Then Jeremy Giordano and Douangtavilay scored to put the Irish safely in front.

"Considering the pressure and circumstances, it was a great game to have right before sectionals," remarked AQ Coach Gary LaPietra.

The Little Irish received a first-round bye in the Class BB sectionals. They will play a quarterfinal contest at Spencerport High School on Thursday, Oct. 29 (5 p.m. start), against the winner of an Oct. 27 first-round game between No. 8 Batavia and No. 9 Irondequoit.

McQuaid closed out its regular season with a 3-0 City-Catholic League victory over host East on Oct. 23, behind goals from Franco Bari, Marshall Goldman and Tony Porretta.

The Knights (5-1, 13-2-1) are seeded No. 4 in the Section 5 Class A playoffs. McQ was scheduled to face No. 5 Webster in an Oct. 28 quarterfinal game.

Joining the AQ boys as a No. 1 seed are the Elmira Notre Dame girls, who finished with a 15-1-2 regular-season record. However, the Crusaders had to settle for second place in the Sullivan Trail Conference (8-1-1 league record) after losing 1-0 to host Horseheads, STC champion, on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

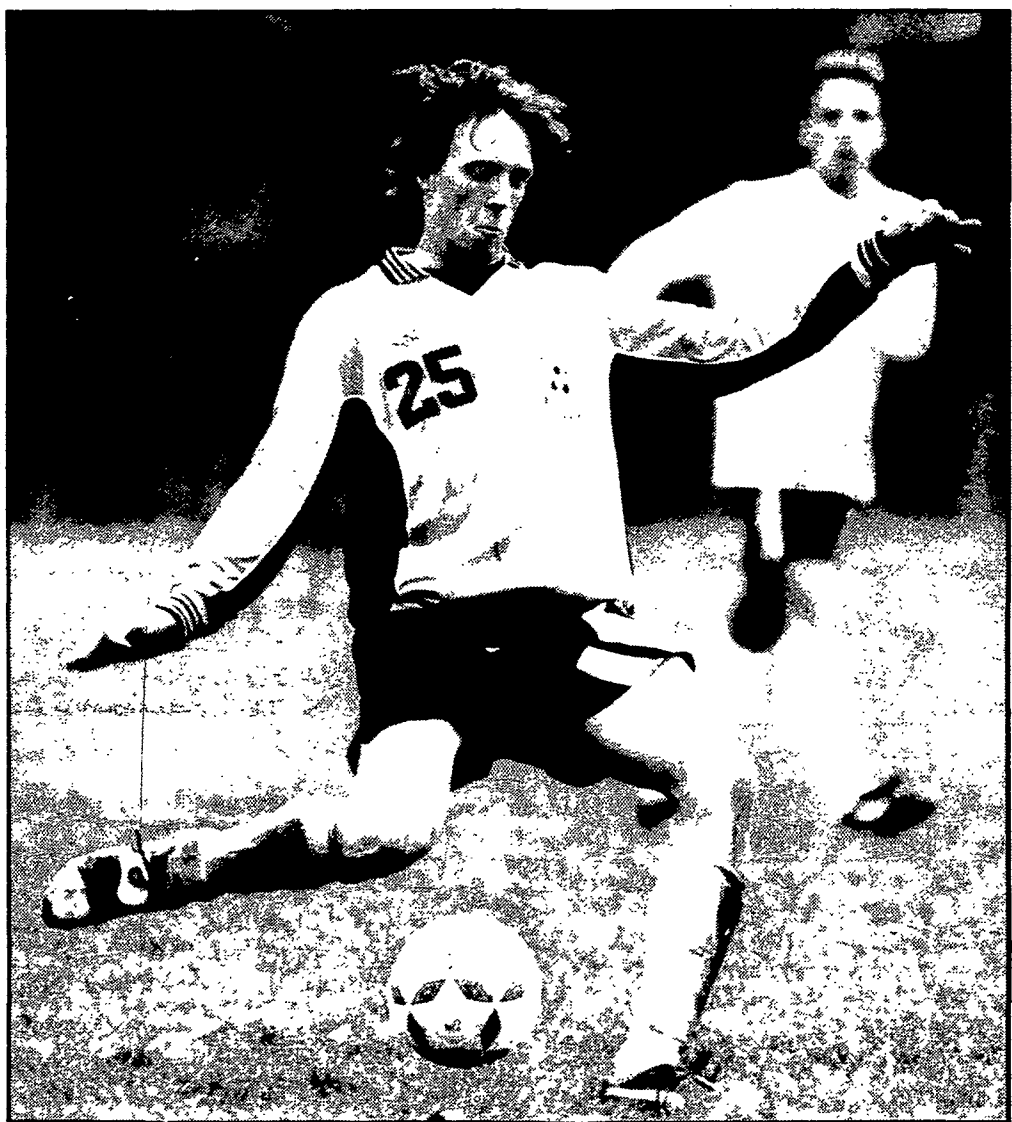
Despite that defeat, ND has earned its third consecutive No. 1 seed in Section 4 Class D. The Crusaders were



Aquinas captain David Ettipio (right) and Ryan Petrillo celebrate their 4-1 victory over McQuaid.



McQuaid Jesuit's Tris Burton (left) and Jeremy Giordano of Aquinas both go airborne in an attempt to gain control of the ball in their Oct. 20 match. The host Little Irish went on to a 4-1 victory over the Knights.



McQuaid's Jon McConville helps his fellow defenders out by kicking the ball down field. The Knights loss to AQ left the teams tied for the City Catholic League title with identical 5-1 league records.



McQuaid's Marshall Goldman receives a yellow card after pushing AQ's Brian Callahan.

scheduled to face 16th-seeded Davenport in a first-round game on Oct. 28.

Back in Section 5, the Aquinas girls claimed the No. 2 seed in Class A. The Little Irish, who did not play last week, own an 11-1-1 overall record and are this year's Private-Parochial League champions. They're in quarterfinal action at home on Oct. 30 (3 p.m. start) against either No. 7 Rush-Henrietta or No. 10 Brockport.

The Our Lady of Mercy girls, seeded No. 3 in Class A, will also play a quarterfinal game on Oct. 30. That contest will be held at Bishop Kearney (3 p.m. start) against sixth-seeded Gates-Chili. Mercy (11-5-2), the defending Class A champion, closed out its regular season by winning 4-1 over host Nazareth Academy on Oct. 20 and 3-1 over host Livonia on Oct. 22.

Nazareth, meanwhile, has earned the No. 4 seed in Section 5 Class CC. The Lasers (11-6-1) will travel to fifth-seeded Byron-Bergen in the quarterfinals on Oct. 30 (7 p.m. start).

Also qualifying for sectional tournament play were the Bishop Kearney girls and Elmira Notre Dame boys.

Kearney (5-11-1), seeded seventh in Section 5 Class B, was scheduled to play No. 10 Honeoye Falls-Lima in a first-round game on Oct. 28. Those same two teams battled to a 2-2 tie in BK's final regular-season game, played Oct. 23 at HF-L, as Michelle Olandese and Janet D'Agostino scored for the Kings.

Notre Dame (5-10), seeded No. 9 in Section 4 Class D, was scheduled to play No. 8 Roxbury on Oct. 27. The Crusaders completed their regular season by soaring to a 3-0 victory over visiting Athens on Oct. 21, as Alberto Martinez, Bob Cavalier and Chris Kamas scored one goal each.

In other high school sports highlights involving Catholic schools in the diocese last week:

Mercy and Aquinas tied for the Private-Parochial League girls' volleyball championship following an exciting match played at Mercy on Oct. 22. The Monarchs prevailed in the maximum five games, by scores of 15-3, 14-16, 7-15, 15-10, and 15-8, as both teams ended league play with 7-2 records.

The McQuaid cross-country team took first place in the Loyal Greenman Invitational in Binghamton on Oct. 24, finishing ahead of 10 other teams. The Knights' Adam Reitz was the No. 1 individual finisher for the meet.