

McQuaid blanks Aquinas; ND improves to 7-0

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Could this really be the same McQuaid Jesuit football team that was humiliated by Edison Tech, 27-7, just two weeks earlier?

"That was a devastating loss. But now we've come up with two real, real tough wins," said McQuaid Head Coach Tom Sprague.

The Knights came up with a big defensive performance in defeating Aquinas Institute, 13-0, this past Saturday, Oct. 24. The City-Catholic League contest took place in a driving rain at Aquinas.

McQuaid, which had also won 20-8 over a talented Franklin squad the previous Saturday, improved its record to 3-2 in league play and 4-3 overall. AQ fell to 1-4 and 2-5.

Meanwhile, down in the Southern Tier, Elmira Notre Dame continued its quest for a perfect season by winning 27-0 over host Newark Valley in a Section 4 Division 5 contest played on Saturday, Oct. 24. The Crusaders, ranked 13th in last week's state Class C-D poll, now own a 7-0 record (3-0 in league play).

Geneva DeSales and Bishop Kearney came up with good efforts at breaking their season-long winless streaks before falling to Finger Lakes League foes. DeSales (0-6) was downed 6-0 by host Romulus on Oct. 24, and BK (0-6-1) was dealt a 21-6 home loss by Newark on Oct. 23.

No scoring occurred before halftime of the McQuaid-Aquinas game. AQ missed a golden opportunity in the first quarter when a botched snap led to a fumble recovery by McQuaid's Jamie Fishgold after the Little Irish drove to the Knights' 5-yard line.

McQuaid broke the scoreless tie early in the third quarter when quarterback Kelly Scanlon made a one-yard scoring run and Rich Mayewski followed with the extra-point kick for a 7-0 lead. The touchdown, Scanlon's fourth in the last two games, was set up after Ben DeLuca's 30-yard run.

Aquinas rallied right back, marching down to the Knights' 10-yard line. But the McQ defense stiffened again when it counted, with Pat Sadler sacking AQ quarterback Matt Dely on a fourth-and-seven situation.

McQuaid added the clinching TD with 1:40 to go when DeLuca scored from one yard out.

"Overall, I think the game was won on the line of scrimmage," said Sprague, who singled out the defensive effort of nose guard Dave Tipple.

Despite the big win, McQuaid had already been eliminated from any chance of qualifying for the Section 5 playoffs when, one night earlier, Gates-Chili clinched a spot with a 21-7 victory over Webster.

Although a win over Wilson Magnet this weekend would give McQ a chance at finishing with the same regular-season record as both Gates-Chili (5-2) and Greece Athena (5-2), the two Monroe County schools will still join East (7-0) and Fairport (6-1) in the Class A sectional playoffs because they have accumulated more seeding points than the Knights.

"We're hitting on all cylinders," claimed Coach Mike D'Aloisio following Elmira Notre Dame's latest rout. ND has now outscored opponents by a 207-37 margin this year.

In the Newark Valley game, the Crusaders scored two first-quarter touchdowns to take a 13-0 lead. Tom McNamara threw five yards to Shaun Bennett for the first score, and then a "flea-flicker" play paid off as receiver John Violette hit a wide-open Joel Stephens for a 23-yard TD.

Stephens scored on a two-yard run in the second quarter as ND roared to a 20-0 halftime head. Jon Sutterby added the game's final TD with a one-yard run in the third period.

Notre Dame finished the game with a 226-53 edge in total yards, and limited Newark Valley to one first down all day.

Ball control has been a major factor in the Crusaders' success this season, D'Aloisio noted.

"The defense has been giving us the ball in great field position," he said. "And we've played in a torrential downpour each of the last two weeks, and only had one turnover in each game."

DeSales hung tough all day against Romulus, but a 65-yard first-quarter touchdown run by the Warriors' Jamie Coleman turned out to be the difference.



After their 13-0 win, drenched and muddy McQuaid players celebrate their victory over the host Little Irish Oct. 24.

S. John Wilkin/Photo Intern

Although the Saints didn't put any points on the board, DeSales Coach Mark Mccheyne was encouraged by the fact that "we got inside the 20-yard line twice. We just couldn't score; it was a terrible mud bowl."

Kearney, meanwhile, trailed by only two points after three quarters against

Newark after the Kings' Vernon Banks scored on a three-yard run to cut into the Reds' 8-0 halftime lead.

Two fourth-quarter Newark touchdowns sealed BK's fate, however, as the Kings were dealt their fifth consecutive defeat following a 0-0 tie with Waterloo in the season's second week.

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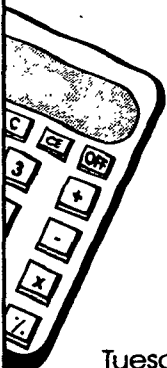
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