

Aquinas teams advance to soccer semifinals

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Thanks to quarterfinal wins, Aquinas Institute took one step closer toward cashing in on a great two-for-one deal: a pair of Section 5 soccer titles in the same year.

The AQ boys, seeded No. 1 in the sectional Class BB playoffs, won 3-0 over ninth-seeded Irondequoit in a game played last Thursday, Oct. 29, at Spencerport High School. That triumph put Aquinas into a semifinal contest against No. 5 Brighton, scheduled for Nov. 3.

Meanwhile, the Aquinas girls' soccer team, seeded No. 2 in Class A, advanced with a 2-1 home win over seventh-seeded Rush-Henrietta on Oct. 30. AQ earned a Nov. 3 semifinal matchup against its Private-Parochial League arch-rival, Our Lady of Mercy. The winner of that game will play in the title game this Saturday, Nov. 7.

Mercy, seeded No. 3 and the defending champion in Section 5 Class A, won 2-0 over No. 6 Gates-Chili in a game played on Oct. 30 at Bishop Kearney.

The Elmira Notre Dame girls' soccer team also advanced to the semifinals. ND survived a first-round scare in the Section 4 Class D playoffs, winning 2-1 in sudden-death overtime over 16th-seeded Charlotte Valley on Oct. 28 at Conklin. The No. 1-seeded Crusaders then recorded a 4-0 win over No. 9 South New Berlin on Oct. 31 at Susquehanna Valley. The two victories sent ND into a semifinal game against No. 5 Stamford, which was scheduled for Nov. 4.

Back in Section 5, four other squads from Catholic high schools in the diocese were eliminated from sectional soccer play last week.

McQuaid Jesuit High School was the victim of an upset, losing 2-0 to Webster in an Oct. 28 quarterfinal game at Wayne. The Knights were seeded No. 4 in Section 5 Class A, and Webster was No. 5.

The Nazareth Academy girls, seeded No. 4 in Section 5 Class CC, were bumped by host and No. 5 seed Byron-Bergen, 3-2, in quarterfinal action on Oct. 30.

Bishop Kearney's girls, seeded No. 7 in Section 5 Class B, won 1-0 over host and 10th-seeded Honeoye Falls-Lima in an Oct. 28 first-round game. The Kings were eliminated on Oct. 31 by host and second-seeded Wellsville, 2-0.

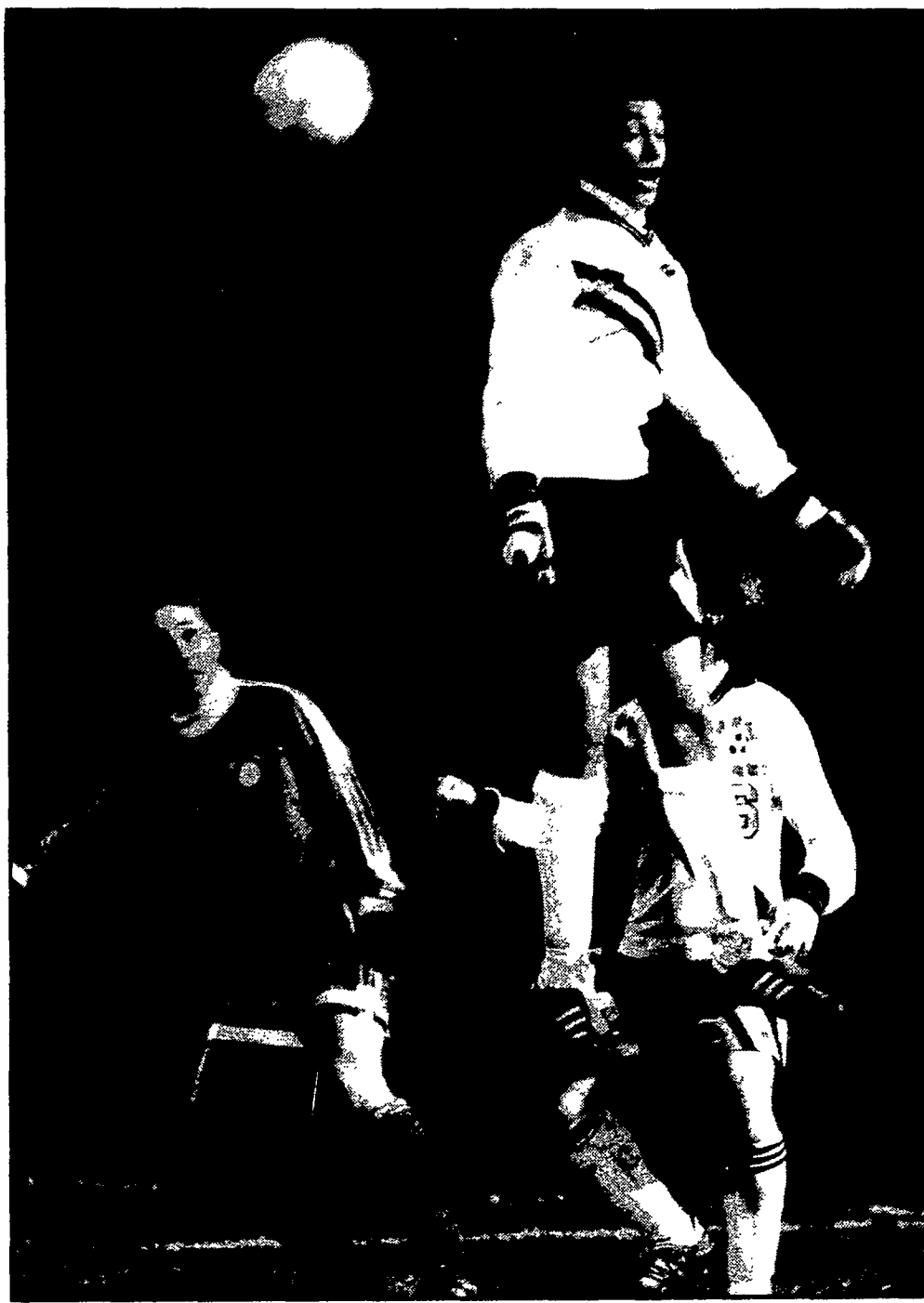
Finally, the Notre Dame boys, seeded ninth in Section 4 Class D, lost 4-1 in overtime to No. 8 Roxbury in first-round action on Oct. 27 at Franklin, N.Y.

The Aquinas boys' team, which held the No. 2 position in last week's state Class B rankings, hiked its overall record to 16-1 with the win over Irondequoit. Ryan Petrillo, Jason Mull and Lin Douangtavilay all scored to help the Little Irish pull away after a scoreless first half.

In girls' action, Aquinas, the No. 7-ranked squad in the state Class A poll, improved to 12-1-1 by edging Rush-Henrietta. Shelly Pigano scored the deciding goal with just three minutes remaining in the game. Alicia Burton had AQ's first goal.

Mercy (12-5-2) received second-half goals from Mimi LaMagna and Jen Vogel to overcome Gates-Chili and set up the Monarchs' third meeting with Aquinas this season.

Notre Dame's girls, No. 6 in the latest state Class D rankings, upped their record to 17-1-2 with their two



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
McQuaid Jesuit's Tony Poretta flies high for a header while Webster's Dave Urbanski (left) keeps his eyes on the ball during the Knights' 2-0 sectional quarterfinal loss to the Warriors Oct. 28 at Wayne Central High School.

ND rolls to eighth straight victory; McQuaid offense buries Wilson

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The regular season is over, and the Elmira Notre Dame football team still doesn't know what it's like to face a late-game pressure situation.

ND, ranked 12th in last week's state Class C-D poll, hiked its record to 8-0 with a 41-6 home win over Watkins Glen last Friday evening, Oct. 30. That victory gave the Crusaders their first perfect regular season in the school's 34-year history.

By defeating Watkins Glen, ND also won the Section 4 Division 5 championship with a 4-0 league record. The Crusaders now move on to the sectional playoffs, facing Division 7 champ Tioga this Saturday, Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. The game will be played at Tioga.

"The kids have really matured. I just hope we can continue the roll we're on," remarked Coach Mike D'Aloisio.

McQuaid Jesuit also had a productive weekend, rolling to a 40-14 win over Wilson in a City-Catholic League game played on Oct. 31. The Knights improved their record to 5-3 while winning their third consecutive game.

In another City-Catholic League contest from Oct. 31, Aquinas Institute wound up on the short end of a 26-13 decision against host Marshall. The Little Irish's record tumbled to 2-6 with the loss.

Also enduring defeats were Bishop

Kearney and Geneva DeSales, which each faltered in Finger Lakes League action over the weekend. Kearney (0-7-1) fell to host Geneva, 17-6, on Oct. 30; and DeSales (0-7) was downed by visiting South Seneca, 24-0, on Oct. 31.

Notre Dame jumped out to an early 6-0 lead over Watkins Glen on Joel Stephens' one-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. After the Senecas tied the score at 6-6 early in the second quarter, the Crusaders added two TDs for a 21-6 halftime edge: Jon Sutterby and Shaun Bennett hooked up on an 81-yard pass play, and Sutterby then threw four yards to Pat Palmer.

ND tacked on three additional touchdowns in the second half: Luke Sheehan to Pat Palmer on a 37-yard flea-flicker pass play; Marc Della Sala on a four-yard run; and Dan Wilson on a six-yard run.

The Crusaders head into the playoffs having outscored their regular-season opposition by a 248-43 margin.

McQuaid scored two of its first three TDs through the air to take a 21-6 halftime lead over Wilson. Kelly Scanlon hit Jamie DeLuca for 25 yards, and, after a one-yard scoring run by Jim Malvaso, Scanlon connected with Ben Wandtke on a 12-yard TD.

The Knights added three second-half touchdown runs: Ben DeLuca, from three yards; John Pineau, from 12; and Brad Mitchell, from 30.

sectional victories last week. The Crusaders, however, came perilously close to an early exit, playing to a 0-0 tie after regulation and overtime play against Charlotte Valley.

ND's Lori Spaziani scored in the first five-player shootout, which ended in a 1-1 tie. Finally, the sister combination of Amanda and Jill Fusco scored in the sudden-death shootout as the Crusaders hung on for the win.

The McQuaid boys entered the Webster game with a 13-2-1 record and No. 20 state Class A ranking, but the Knights were victimized by two second-half goals from the Warriors' Jamie Pucci.

Nazareth got goals from Trish Umiker and Corinne Strassner in its Class CC playoff loss to Byron-Bergen. The Lasers finished their season with an 11-7-1 mark.

Bishop Kearney's Janet D'Agostino accounted for the game's only goal against Honeoye Falls-Lima. The quarterfinal loss to Wellsville gave BK a final record of 6-12-1.

The Notre Dame boys forced overtime in their Section 4 game against Roxbury on Alberto Martinez's second-half goal. The Crusaders then surrendered three goals in OT and ended the season at 5-11.

AQ, Mercy net volleyball wins

Catholic high schools are making their presence felt in the Section 5 Class BB girls' volleyball tournament, as Aquinas Institute and Our Lady of Mercy each advanced to the semifinal round with weekend victories.

AQ, the No. 2 seed in Class BB, was a 15-9, 15-13, 12-15, 15-12 winner over No. 7 Edison Tech. That quarterfinal match was played on Oct. 31 at Edison.

Mercy, the defending champion, recorded a three-game sweep of Wilson Magnet in its quarterfinal battle, also held on Oct. 31 at Edison. The fourth-seeded Monarchs, who shared this year's Private-Parochial League championship with Aquinas, defeated the fifth-seeded Wildcats by scores of 15-9, 15-10 and 15-10.

Both Aquinas and Mercy were scheduled to play their semifinal opponents on Nov. 3, with AQ facing No. 6 Canandaigua and Mercy taking on No. 1 Victor. The championship match is this Friday, Nov. 6.

Two other Private-Parochial squads, Bishop Kearney and Nazareth Academy, were knocked out of sectional play in the first round.

BK, seeded No. 9 in Class B, lost 15-4, 15-6, 8-15, 15-9 to host and No. 8 seed Attica on Oct. 29.

Nazareth, seeded No. 9 in Class CC, lost 11-15, 15-13, 15-4, 15-6 to host and No. 8 seed Wayland on Oct. 29.

The McQuaid Jesuit cross-country team had its No. 1 state Class A ranking seriously challenged by Coming on Oct. 31. However, the Knights prevailed by a 25-30 score in the dual meet held at Genesee Valley Park. The Knights will be the prohibitive favorites in the Section 5 Class A championships, which will be held this Saturday, Nov. 7, in Newark.

The Mercy girls' swim squad gave a solid performance in the City-Catholic Invitational, which took place on Oct. 22 at East High. Maureen Halligan captured both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, and Monarch teammate Nicole Piersa took first in the 200 free.

— Mike Latona