

Boys' basketball squads enjoy perfect week

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Its opponent was a defending state champion with a 28-game winning streak. Facing credentials like those, Bishop Kearney may have been content just to play respectably.

Well, the Kings played so respectably that they chalked up one of the most memorable boys' basketball wins in school history.

BK roared back from an early 10-0 deficit to upend Mynderse Academy, 62-54, in the championship game of the Waterloo Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 5. The win came one night after the Kings opened their season with a 78-73 victory over Waterloo.

Mynderse won championships in both the public high school and federation Class C state tournaments last March. Their 28-game victory string had been the longest in the state.

"We've got an aggressive, hustling bunch of kids," remarked Coach Ed Nietopski. "It was a real coach's reward to see their effort."

BK's tournament win highlighted a perfect week for boys' teams at Catholic high schools in the diocese.

Also gaining victories last week were McQuaid Jesuit (2-0), which recorded a 55-38 home win over Marshall on Dec. 1; Elmira Notre Dame (1-0), which opened up with a 52-45 victory over visiting Greene on Dec. 3; and Geneva DeSales (1-2), which rolled to a 64-47 triumph over host Honeoye, the defending Section 5 Class DDD champion, on Dec. 4.

Aquinas (1-1) did not play last week.

Kearney recovered from its early disadvantage against Mynderse to get to within one point, 22-21, by halftime. The Kings led the Blue Devils 38-35



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
McQuaid Jesuit's Ben Wandtke (left) and Thomas Brewer (right) wrestle for control of the ball with Marshall's Ivory White during the Knights' 55-38 win over the visiting Jurists Dec. 1. The Knights won despite falling 32 points short of their offensive output in an 87-47 season-opening win over Olean's Bishop Walsh Nov. 28.

after three quarters, and senior guard Joe Raniewicz gave BK the lead for good when he canned a three-point basket that broke a 44-44 tie midway through the fourth quarter.

Raniewicz put together a sensational effort down the stretch, scoring 23 of his 26 points in the second half. Jason Randall added 18 points.

The Waterloo victory came against an Indians club which reached the Section 5 Class B finals in 1991-92. Raniewicz poured in 32 points that night.

McQuaid began its City-Catholic League schedule by racing to a 31-16 halftime lead over Marshall. The Knights led by 23 points, 50-27, going into the final quarter.

Jay Wandtke compiled 15 points and eight rebounds, while Matt Podmenik added 12 points and eight boards.

The Knights were victorious despite falling 32 points short of their offensive output in an 87-47 season-opening win over Bishop Walsh of Olean on Nov. 28. McQ's defense is permitting just 42.5 points per game.

Elmira Notre Dame came out firing against Greene, going up 20-11 after one quarter. The Crusaders led 32-21 at the half and 40-32 after three periods, and never allowed Greene to get closer than five points the rest of the way.

John Violette led ND with 16 points, followed by Joel Stephens with 14 and Luke Sheehan with 10.

DeSales held Honeoye to a single point in the first quarter in taking a 7-1 lead. The Saints broke away from a 37-32 edge after three quarters by scoring 27 points in the final eight minutes.

Todd Hardy led DeSales with 22 points, with James Stoops scoring 16 and Jayson Lamson adding 11.

AQ rolls to pair of victories

Aquinas Institute's hockey team is starting right where it left off in March.

AQ, which won the 1992 Monroe County Division 1 and Section 5 Class A titles, recorded two lopsided wins in first-week league action for 1992-93. The Little Irish hammered Gates-Chili by a 10-1 count last Thursday, Dec. 3; and went on to a 6-1 win over Fairport on Dec. 5. Both games were played at Lakeshore Rinks in Greece.

Dennis Annechino led AQ in both games. He scored three goals against Gates-Chili, and added two goals and one assist in the Fairport win.

In other recent sports highlights involving Catholic high schools in the diocese:

McQuaid Jesuit is also off to a strong start on the ice. The Knights won 3-0 over Irondequoit on Dec. 2 at Genesee Valley Ice Arena, and then recorded a 5-2 victory over host Batavia on Dec. 5.

Goalie Ron Lamendola made 21 saves to get the shutout against Irondequoit, and Sean Ritchlin and Marty Reasoner had two goals each against Batavia.

In wrestling, Elmira Notre Dame earned a 39-23 win over host Spencer-Van Etten on Dec. 2 in the Crusaders' season-opening meet. ND was led by pins from Paul Tuite, in the 112-pound weight class; Alex Jordan, 119; Chris Kamas, 126; Dan Wilson, 177; and Paul Tomkins, 215. The Crusaders are defending Section 4 Class D champions.

In boys' indoor track, both McQuaid and Aquinas Institute boasted first-place finishers at a Rochester Winter League meet held Dec. 5, at Hobart College. McQ winners included Shawn Watts in the 600-meter run, Eric Garsin in the 3,200 run and Joe Tiffany in the high jump (Tiffany tied with Fairport's Brian Chessman). AQ's Joe Hayes won the shot put.

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