

# Tourney wins abound for basketball squads

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Plenty of Christmas cheer was had by basketball teams representing Catholic high schools in the diocese.

Bishop Kearney's girls kept their record perfect at 8-0 by breezing to the Eastridge Tournament championship. BK won 53-15 over Irondequoit in the opening round on Dec. 28, and added a 50-20 rout over Wilson Magnet in the Dec. 29 finals.

McQuaid Jesuit upped its record to 5-1 with two lopsided wins of its own in the Brockport Tournament: 59-35 over previously undefeated Livonia on Dec. 29 and 72-43 over Brockport on Dec. 30. The Knights also recorded a 67-48 home victory over then-unbeaten Bishop Kearney (5-2) on Dec. 23.

Aquinas Institute's boys (3-5) took the top spot in the Canandaigua Tournament, winning 60-53 over Penfield on Dec. 29 and adding a 59-54 triumph over Irondequoit on Dec. 30.

In the Southern Tier, Elmira Notre Dame's boys (4-5) captured the small schools' division of the Elmira Tournament held at Southside High School. The Saints won 66-28 over Cincinnatus of Section 3 (Syracuse area) on Dec. 28 and 55-51 over Tioga on Dec. 30.

Superb defense has been the catalyst for the Bishop Kearney girls: the Kings have allowed less than 23 points per game during their 8-0 start.

"We spend probably 75 percent of our time practicing defense. We don't talk too much about offense," Coach Paul Forte commented.

Offensive balance has also become a BK trademark. Patti Lynch, Jenny Zambito and Kate Jensen all tied for high-scoring honors against Irondequoit with 10 points each; and Zambito and Jensen led the way against Wilson with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

McQuaid is emerging as a solid candidate to gain its second Section 5 Class A championship in the last three years. All five of the Knights' victories have been by at least 17 points, and their only loss was a 57-55 decision against fellow City-Catholic League power East on Dec. 8.

"We've played good defense, and that makes the difference," said Coach Joe Marchese.

Senior center Jay Wandtke came up big in both Brockport Tournament

games. He scored 26 points in the win over Livonia and collected 23 more against Brockport.

In the Kearney triumph, top Knight scorers were Tim Whelehan with 18 points and Wandtke with 16.

The Aquinas boys wiped away two frustrating statistics by winning the Canandaigua Tournament. The Little Irish not only snapped a five-game losing streak, but they also won back-to-back games for the first time since the 1990-91 season.

"The kids certainly enjoyed this, and it was well-deserved," said Coach Mike Dianetti. "We made some big plays, and that hasn't happened (recently)."

Top AQ scorers were Maurice Price with 21 points against Penfield, and Jeff Rice with 24 in the finals against Irondequoit.

Tough second-half defense was the key for Notre Dame in winning the Elmira tourney. The Crusaders held Cincinnatus to just eight points after halftime, and allowed 21 to Tioga in the last 16 minutes of the title contest.

"We're improving every game," said Coach Mike D'Aloisio.

ND's scoring was so balanced that Joel Stephens' 11-point effort against Cincinnatus ended up being the Crusaders' high individual effort for the tournament.

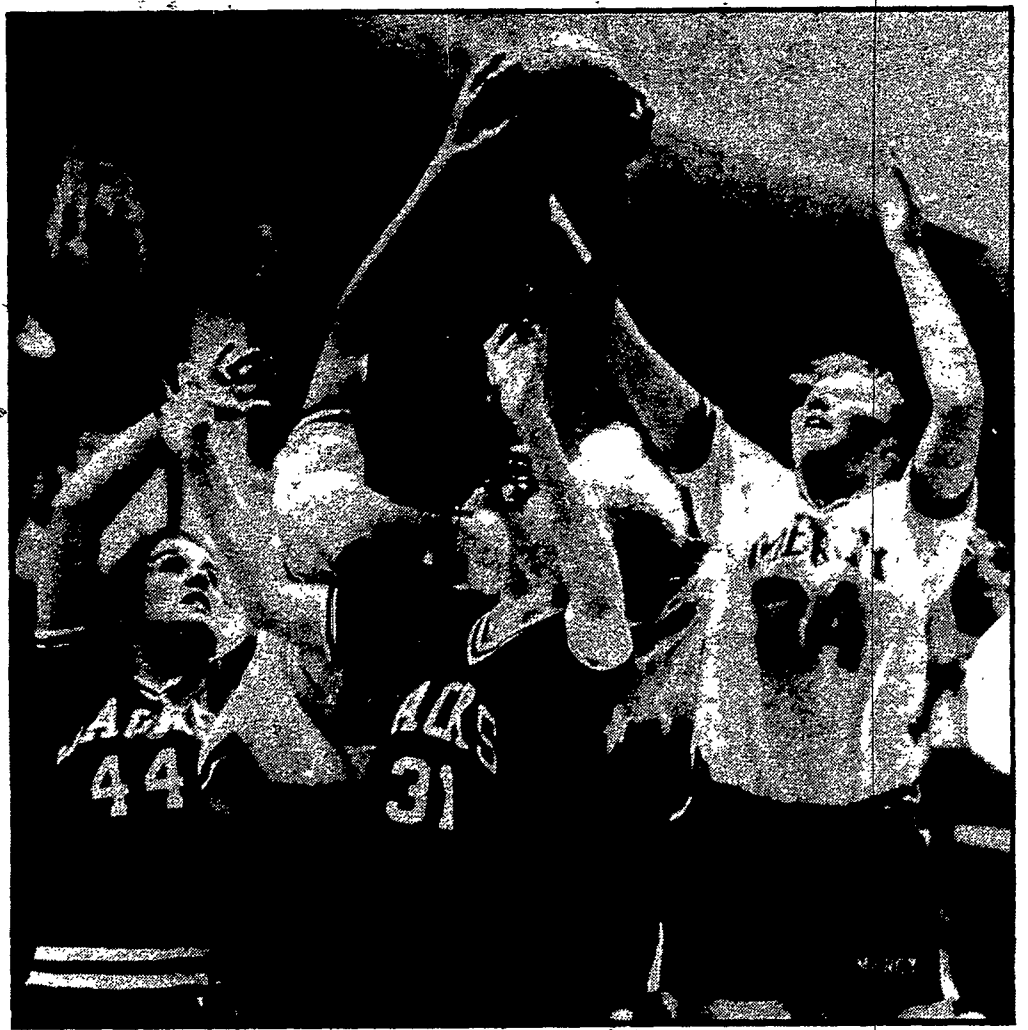
In other late-December basketball highlights from Catholic high schools in the diocese:

The Our Lady of Mercy girls (3-2) rolled to a 75-29 home win over North Tonawanda on Dec. 29. Prior to that game, the Monarchs were runners-up in their own tournament held at Nazareth College. They won 55-41 over Holy Angels on Dec. 19 and lost 44-39 to Syracuse Nottingham on Dec. 20.

The Aquinas girls (2-5) captured two consecutive games: 72-49 at Marshall on Dec. 18 and 45-18 at East on Dec. 22.

Nazareth Academy's girls (5-5) compiled a three-game victory streak: 32-30 over visiting Harley Allendale-Columbia on Dec. 17, 57-35 over visiting Lima Christian on Dec. 21 and 42-33 at Marshall on Dec. 23.

The Kearney boys, competing in the Hilton Tournament, recorded an 84-42 victory over Westfield in the Dec. 30 consolation round.



S. John Wilkin/Photo Intern  
Our Lady of Mercy's Kelly O'Neill (right) reaches for the ball in an attempt to keep it away from North Tonawanda's Kristin Ganschow (left) and Karin Piskor (middle) during the host Monarchs' 75-29 win over the Jacks Dec. 29. The Monarchs own a 3-2 record.

## Irish swimmers down McQ

### First victory over Knights since '85

McQuaid Jesuit's 21-year stranglehold on City-Catholic League boys' swimming appears to be loosening.

Aquinas Institute dunked the host Knights, 47-39, back on Dec. 17, marking AQ's first win over McQuaid since 1985.

The Little Irish went on to improve their record to 4-0 by defeating host East, 48-37, on Dec. 22. Meanwhile, McQuaid (1-2) dropped its second consecutive meet that day with a 44-42 loss to host Wilson Magnet.

The Knights have won or shared the league championship every year since 1971.

However, solid Knight performances in indoor track and wrestling have helped offset the swim squad's difficulties.

In indoor track, McQ captured three events during a Rochester Winter

League meet held Jan. 2 at the University of Rochester. Adam Reitz won the 600-meter run; Eric Garsin took the 3,200 meters; and the 3,312-meter relay comprising Reitz, Garsin, Shawn Watts and Jesse Yeager also claimed top honors.

In wrestling, McQuaid's John Pemaselli took first place in the 177-pound division at the Teike-Bernabi Tournament, held Dec. 29-30 at Spencerport High School. Pemaselli recorded a 5-4 victory over Brian Szalay of Orchard Park in the Dec. 30 championship match.

Pemaselli was one of two Knights to advance as far as the semifinals; the other was Todd Hinz at 167 pounds. In team scoring, McQuaid placed 12th among 16 schools.

Other recent wrestling success has come from Elmira Notre Dame, which won 34-28 over host Thomas Edison on Dec. 23; and Bishop Kearney, which picked up a 43-26 home win over Batavia Notre Dame on Dec. 17.

—Mike Latona

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