

# Irish, Knights battling for league supremacy

## Rivals to meet in Jan. 9 game

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Although both teams will be coming off recent losses, the upcoming hockey game between Aquinas Institute and McQuaid Jesuit should still be a classic confrontation.

The Little Irish and Knights are due to lock horns this coming Saturday, Jan. 9, in a 3 p.m. encounter at Lakeshore Rinks in Greece. It marks the two schools' first matchup since the 1991-92 Section 5 Class A championship game, in which AQ emerged with a 9-5 victory. The Little Irish went on to reach the state semifinals.

Both clubs have continued their late-season success from a year ago, with each winning its first seven games. However, the Irish and Knights each lost on Saturday, Jan. 2.

Aquinas owned a 7-1-1 record after a 4-3 Monroe County League loss to Irondequoit at Lakeshore Rinks. McQuaid (7-2) also faltered at Lakeshore that day, losing 5-4 to Fairport. The Irish and Knights will take 5-1 league records into their Jan. 9 meeting.

Bishop Kearney, meanwhile, appears to be turning the corner after dropping five of its first six games in 1992-93. The Kings (2-4, 3-5) picked up their second straight win by edging Webster, 2-1, in a league game on Jan. 2 at Lakeshore.

Aquinas is actually off to a better start in 1992-93 than last year's team, which finished with a 21-3 record while gaining its second sectional championship in three seasons.

"We're 7-1-1 now, and we were 7-2 a year ago at this time," noted Dave Montgomery, AQ's fourth-year head coach.

Although the Little Irish have come



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Aquinas Institute's team captain Jeremy Giordano (center) is congratulated by teammate Joe Gionta (left) and co-captain Barry Hussar after Giordano scored the game's first goal during the Little Irish's 4-3 loss to Irondequoit Jan. 2 at Lakeshore Rinks.

out of the gate strongly, Montgomery expects a close race for the Division I championship.

"Everybody's been saying us and McQuaid, but I really wasn't surprised at the way Irondequoit played (in AQ's Jan. 2 loss)," said Montgomery.

Alex Vigneri and Jared Zambito, AQ's two fine freshman goalies, have combined to limit opponents to 12 goals in the first nine games. "Those two guys have been playing great," said Montgomery.

Defensive stars are seniors Barry

Hussar, Jason Bannon and Brian Mastrella, along with freshman Michael Saporito and junior David Bosco.

Top front-line players are seniors Jeremy Giordano and Chris Sichak, juniors Joe Gionta (a McQuaid transfer), Joe Zabawa and Dennis Anichino, and freshman Shane Kavanagh.

McQuaid's top three scorers are tal-

ented beyond their years: Marty Reasoner and Sean Ritchlin are sophomores, and Larry Pierce is only a freshman. Other leading forwards are senior Greg Mulbury and juniors Mike Viscardi and Matt Albertsen.

On the back line, the Knights feature seniors Zach Wagner and Jon McConville, junior Mike Mulbury (Greg's brother) and sophomore Nate Lukaszonas.

Senior goalie Ron Lamendola has turned in some solid early-season performances, according to ninth-year Coach Al Vyverberg.

Overall, Vyverberg is pleased with his team's start.

"It's a good group of kids; they've worked hard," said Vyverberg, whose team finished with a 12-10 record last year. "We've gotten good scoring, goaltending and defense, so I'm happy."

Bishop Kearney's offense is led by seniors Dan Flanigen, Rob Chinappi and Tony Todaro, juniors Trevor Smith and Joe Albert, and freshman Dave Principe.

Leading the defense are senior Dave Flanigen (Dan's twin brother) and sophomore Dave O'Neil.

In goal are sophomore Chris Ashton and senior Mike Colicchio.

Smith and Dan Flanigen scored first-period goals in the Jan. 2 win over Webster, and Ashton made 20 saves as the Kings held on for the low-scoring win.

"It was just a great game. We're making a turn for the better," said third-year Coach Rob Liberatore, whose team was coming off a 9-6 win over Spencerport in its previous game on Dec. 30.

BK finished with an 8-14 record last season but came on strong in the sectional Class B playoffs, reaching the semifinal round.



Photo intern attempt to Karin Pisciotti Dec. 29.

## McQ

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