

Ten teams to play In Kearney Classic

IRONDEQUOIT — The fourth annual Bishop Kearney High School Invitational Basketball Classic will take place this Sunday, Jan. 17, at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

Ten teams are scheduled to participate, with the Kearney girls playing the opening game at 1 p.m. against Rush-Henrietta. The BK boys' squad will wrap up the day with a 7 p.m. contest against Greece Olympia.

Three other boys' contests are also scheduled: St. Joseph's Collegiate of Buffalo vs. Waterloo, 2:30 p.m.; Greece Athena vs. Newark, 4 p.m.; and Greece Arcadia vs. Irondequoit, 5:30 p.m.

Advance tickets, which cost \$4, can be purchased at any participating high school or the War Memorial. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Call 716/342-4000 for details.

Marion student excels In tennis competition

MARION — Jinny Welch, a parishioner at St. Gregory's Church, 3806 Union St., recently completed an outstanding season for the Marion Central High School girls' tennis team.

Welch, a junior, played first singles for the Black Knights. She finished undefeated in regular-season play for the second straight year to help Marion capture the Wayne County League co-championship. Welch was named league Most Valuable Player in both 1991 and '92.

In the Section 5 Class C tournament, Welch advanced to the semifinal round. She also competed in the sectional state qualifier tournament, reaching the quarterfinals.

In addition to her tennis exploits, Welch plays basketball and softball at Marion.

She also serves as a religious-education instructor at St. Gregory's.

Nazareth junior triumphs at national tournament

PITTSFORD — Toshimi Sugimoto, a native of Japan, recently became a national champion for the Nazareth College women's tennis team.

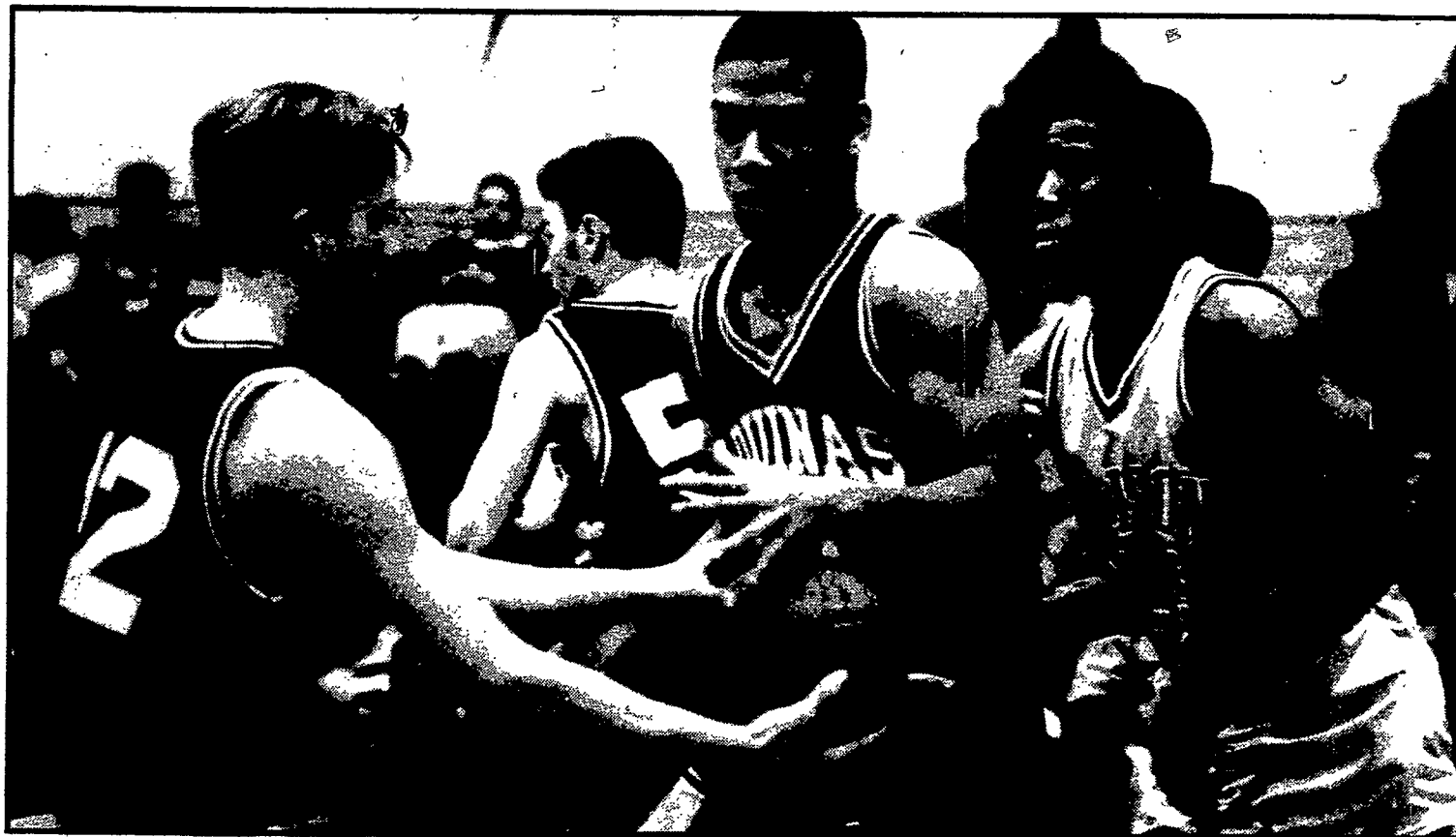
Sugimoto, a junior, scored a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Stephanie Desmond of Trinity College, Texas, in the finals of the Rolex National Small College Tennis Championships. The title match was held on Friday, Oct. 23, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Sugimoto finished the 1992 season with a 28-2 record.

AQ graduate helps MCC reach national title game

Catherine Wright, a graduate of Aquinas Institute, recently concluded her sophomore season with the 1992 national runner-up women's soccer team at Monroe Community College.

Wright, a sophomore midfielder, helped the Lady Tribunes achieve a final record of 19-3-1. MCC won this year's National Junior College Athletic Association Region III championship, and then advanced to the NJCAA finals before falling, 3-0, to Missouri CC of Missouri.



Aquinas Institute's Pat O'Toole (left) hands the ball off to teammate Maurice Price as Edison Tech's Shamas Johnson looks on during the host Inventors' 56-46 loss to the Little Irish Jan. 8. Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Wins keep piling up for BK squads

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

It's a coach's dream: his players have won every game in sight, yet Paul Forte hasn't found it necessary to seek a cure for swelled heads.

"They're almost embarrassed by all the attention," said Forte, whose Bishop Kearney girls' basketball team improved its record to 10-0 with a pair of victories last week.

The Kings made it look easy, winning 48-24 over host Franklin on Jan. 5 and 48-30 over visiting Aquinas in the Private-Parochial League opener for both schools on Jan. 8.

Not to be outdone, the BK boys improved to 7-2 with two road wins: 60-51 over Midlakes on Jan. 5 and 71-47 over Canandaigua on Jan. 7.

The girls' strong beginning has been built around an unusually balanced offense, with all five starters averaging between 5.3 and 8.7 points per game.

Patti Lynch was the scoring leader against Franklin with 10 points. Janet D'Agostino and Jenny Zambito led the way against Aquinas (2-7) with 14 and

11 points, respectively.

The BK boys feature less evenly-distributed scoring, but nearly just as much success. Joe Raniewicz (24.3 PPG) and Jason Randall (14.7 PPG) have accounted for more than 60 percent of the Kings' offense.

"I've always liked a balanced team, and Joe and Jason are unselfish. But they're still the best shooters we've got, so they get most of the shots," explained Coach Ed Nietopski.

Raniewicz, who has been his club's leading scorer in all but one game, took top honors in both of last week's triumphs with 32 points against Midlakes and 29 against Canandaigua.

Kearney's boys and girls were just two of several Catholic high school basketball teams in the diocese which emerged victorious last week.

The McQuaid boys (7-1) gained two wins: 61-44 over host Aquinas Institute on Jan. 5 and 47-38 over visiting Wilson Magnet on Jan. 8. Tim Whelehan paced the Knights against Aquinas with 16 points, and Jay Wandtke was tops against Wilson with 19.

In the Southern Tier, the Elmira Notre Dame boys (6-5) rose above the .500 level by winning twice at home: 63-35 over Athens on Jan. 5 and 55-48 over Hornell on Jan. 8. Brian Murray led the Crusaders both nights with 21 points against Athens and 19 against Hornell.

The Aquinas boys (4-6) rebounded from their McQuaid loss by topping host Edison Tech, 56-46, on Jan. 8. Four Little Irish players scored in double figures: Jeff Rice with 14 points, Maurice Price and Shaun Barnett with 12 each, and Shawn Finein with 10.

The Geneva DeSales girls (4-4) recorded a 43-36 overtime win over visiting Harley Allendale-Columbia on Jan. 5. Lindsay Higgins keyed the victory with 21 points.

Our Lady of Mercy's girls (5-2) eased to a 71-41 victory over visiting Nazareth Academy on Jan. 5. Kelly O'Neill led the Monarchs with 18 points, and Dionne Robinson topped the Lasers (5-7) with 20. Mercy went on to a 72-58 home win over Mount Mercy of Buffalo on Jan. 9 as Gina Montesano had 22 points and Mimi LaMagna added 20.

Bona coach

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"Aquinas was a great experience. They had great tradition there," he remarked.

While coaching Aquinas, Baron also played professional basketball with several of his former St. Bonaventure teammates for the now-defunct Rochester Zeniths of the Continental Basketball Association.

In 1978-79, Baron began a string of one-year assistant college coaching jobs, which included the University of Rochester, Loyola College of Baltimore, Md., and St. Bonaventure. He then spent six years as an assistant at the University of Notre Dame before gaining his first head position at St. Francis College, Pa., in 1987.

Baron turned the Red Flash program into an NCAA tournament-caliber team during his five seasons there. St. Francis gained its first-ever NCAA berth in 1990-91, posting a 24-8 record.

Yet as well as things had been going at St. Francis, Baron responded quickly when the head post at his alma mater

became available upon the firing of previous St. Bonaventure coach Tom Chapman in July of 1992.

On Aug. 10, Baron officially began yet another tour of duty in Bonnie land. And thus far, the reunion has been a fairly joyous one.

St. Bonaventure is coming off a three-year tailspin, which produced an overall record of 22-62. But, under Baron's guidance, the 1992-93 Bonnies captured their first five games and had a 6-2 record after dropping a heartbreaker to Rutgers University, 90-87 in double

overtime. That contest, which served as St. Bonaventure's Atlantic 10 Conference opener, was held last Thursday, Jan. 7, in Olean.

Even though Bona failed on several opportunities to put Rutgers away in the final moments, Baron refused to criticize his players during the post-game press conference.

"We showed a tremendous amount of courage," he said.

There it was again: forget the loss, remember the journey.

Vintage Jim Baron.



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