

Irish dunk McQ again in pivotal league meet

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Seeing double in this manner isn't about to send the Aquinas Institute boys' swim squad running for the eye doctor.

The Little Irish recorded a 47-39 victory over McQuaid Jesuit last Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the Marshall High School pool. It marked the second time this season that Aquinas has defeated the Knights by that score; AQ also posted a 47-39 win back on Dec. 17.

Not only has this double-dip of McQuaid marked Aquinas' first victories over the Knights since the 1985 season, but it's also put the Little Irish in excellent position to gain a share of the City-Catholic League crown.

Although the Irish went on to suffer a 44-36 loss to East on Jan. 21, McQuaid helped Aquinas' cause by edging previously undefeated Wilson Magnet, 42-38, that day.

That sets up a climactic confrontation in AQ's regular-season finale at Wilson next Thursday, Feb. 4, when the Little Irish will put their 5-2 league record (they're 7-3 overall) on the line against Wilson's 6-1 mark. An AQ victory would give first-year Coach Tina Dickerson's club the league co-championship along with the Wildcats.

"I think (Aquinas and Wilson) are pretty equal teams. Everybody (for Aquinas) has just got to swim their best," said Dickerson.

Aquinas won six of 11 events en route to its Jan. 19 defeat of McQuaid. The day began with junior Steve Cudzilo, senior Mike McNelis, junior Wade Brown and freshman Jeff Conte capturing the 200-yard medley relay. McNelis then came right back to take the 200 freestyle.

McQuaid eighth-grader Andy Stirling triumphed in the 200 individual medley, but AQ's Brown answered by taking the 50 free as the Little Irish assumed a 21-10 lead.

The Knights erased their 11-point deficit by winning the next four events to pull into a 31-31 tie: junior Doug Kazley in the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle; Stirling in the 500 free; and the 200 free relay combination of Kazley, senior John St. Martin, sophomore Brian Kazley (Doug's younger brother) and eighth-grader Chris Stirling (Andy's twin brother.)

The meet's turning point came in the 100 backstroke. Apparent winner Chris Stirling was disqualified, so his first-place points were instead awarded to AQ's Cudzilo as the Little Irish went in front 37-32.

McNelis went on to win the 100



S. John Wilkin/Photo intern
Aquinas Institute's Mike McNelis pushes through the water on his way to winning the 100 breaststroke during AQ's 47-39 win over McQuaid Jesuit Jan. 19. The City-Catholic League meet was held at Marshall High School.

breaststroke as his team assumed a 41-35 lead, and Aquinas clinched the meet by capturing the final event, the 400 free relay. That quartet included freshman Mike Doell, freshman Joe Kessler, junior Eric Gustafson and Cudzilo.

In addition to Chris Stirling's disqualification, McQuaid was weakened due to the absence of one of its top performers, sophomore John Halligan.

"You can't worry about that forever; things happen," commented McQuaid Coach John Tobin.

Tobin's teams have won or shared an incredible 21 consecutive City-Catholic titles, but the Knights were out of the running at the end of last week. Even though they came back to defeat Wilson two days after their second AQ loss, they were still two wins

behind the Wildcats in the standings with a 3-3 league mark (4-4 overall.)

AQ also met up with misfortune last week in its loss to East, when the host Little Irish were forced to forfeit three events after officials determined that backstroke flags hanging over the Marshall pool — which are used so swimmers can tell when they are approaching the pool wall — were too short. The officials' investigation was prompted by a complaint from East Coach Bill Krystan.

Meanwhile, McQuaid made a successful weekend journey downstate by winning two events at the Long Island Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 23. First places came from the medley relay of Doug Kazley, St. Martin, Brian Kazley and Halligan, as well as the 400 free relay of Doug Kazley, St. Martin, Halligan and junior Kieran Bezila.

Knights pin down City-Catholic wrestling championship

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Although the McQuaid Jesuit wrestling team is feeling pretty good about winning the City-Catholic League championship, the Knights also know that their biggest test still lies ahead.

"The league title is something we do for school pride. Now that we've done that, we're looking forward to hopefully placing high in the sectionals," remarked Coach Lou Teike after his squad posted a 65-6 rout over visiting Marshall last Thursday, Jan. 21.

The Knights finished with a 3-0 record in the four-team league, and are 3-1 overall. After a series of upcoming non-league dual meets, the Knights will compete in the Section 5 Class A

championships on Feb. 19-20.

Seven Knights won by pin against Marshall: Paul Carlos-Claus at 98 pounds; John Morris, 112; Murat Tekbilek, 119; John Zicari, 126; Matt Temple, 132; Todd Hinz, 167; and John Permaselli, 177. The lopsided win enabled McQ to gain its fourth league title in Teike's five seasons as head coach.

McQuaid went on to wrestle in the 23-team Watkins Glen Tournament on Jan. 22-23. Temple posted the team's best individual finish, placing second.

In other sports highlights from Catholic high schools in the diocese last week:

The Elmira Notre Dame wrestlers also competed in the Watkins Glen tourney, with Dan Wilson earning the

best Crusader finish by taking second place at 167 pounds.

In boys' basketball, Bishop Kearney (10-3) displayed its dominance by recording a 79-40 rout of visiting Canandaigua on Jan. 22. Joe Ranievicz led BK with 20 points.

The Aquinas Institute boys (5-8) picked up a 63-57 home win over Marshall on Jan. 22 as Shaun Barnett poured in 25 points.

The Our Lady of Mercy girls (9-2) rolled past host Aquinas (4-9), 63-34, in Private-Parochial League action on Jan. 21. Gina Montesano and Mimi LaMagna each had 15 points to lead the Monarchs, and Kristina Dudley led AQ with a 13-point effort.

Nazareth Academy's girls came away with two lopsided home wins over the weekend. The Lasers (7-10) downed Harley Allendale-Columbia, 41-25, on Jan. 22; and came back for a 63-44 triumph over Marshall on Jan.

23. Dionne Robinson led Nazareth with 22 points against Harley Allendale-Columbia, while the top scorer against Marshall was Margaret Grabowski with 19.

The Kearney girls (11-3) scored a 36-29 win over Midlakes in the Greece Athena Tournament's consolation game on Jan. 23. Jenny Zambito was BK's leading scorer with 10 points.

In hockey, Aquinas stayed a half-game ahead of McQuaid in the battle for Monroe County Division I supremacy by posting a 5-1 victory over Brockport on Jan. 23 at Genesee Valley Ice Arena. Jeremy Giordano had a hand in all five goals — collecting three goals and two assists — as the Little Irish improved their league record to 9-2.

McQuaid's Marty Reasoner also figured in all his team's goals during a Jan. 23 win — yet this feat may have been even more spectacular than Giordano's. That's because Reasoner combined one goal and an amazing seven assists to key the Knights' 8-6 non-league defeat of host Oswego. Teammate Sean Ritchlin added four goals and an assist in that contest. Three nights earlier, McQ upped its league mark to 8-2 with a 6-2 win over Pittsford at Genesee Valley.

In boys' Alpine skiing, McQuaid, which competes in the Wayne County League, posted a first-place finish among five schools on Jan. 20 in a meet held at Brantling.

The McQuaid indoor track squad won five events en route to a second-place team finish in the Western New York Relays, held Jan. 23 at the University of Buffalo. The Knights triumphed in the 3,200-meter relay, two-man 55 hurdles, distance medley, sprint medley and two-man pole vault.

Also on Jan. 23, Aquinas' Joe Hayes won the shot put during a Rochester Winter League indoor track meet at the University of Rochester.

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