

Hoop squads look solid as playoffs approach

Five teams own winning records

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

In a couple of weeks, March Madness may no longer be a term reserved exclusively for college basketball.

As many as five diocesan high-school teams are in excellent positions to bring home sectional championships next month. Looking strong as the post-season approaches are the McQuaid Jesuit boys, Our Lady of Mercy girls, Bishop Kearney boys, BK girls and Elmira Notre Dame boys.

McQuaid improved its record to

13-5 with three recent victories. After winning 60-52 over visiting Aquinas Institute on Tuesday, Feb. 9, the Knights went on to a 72-67 triumph at Wilson Magnet on Feb. 12 and a 59-46 win over host Bishop Walsh of Olean on Feb. 13.

Jay Wandtke led his team in scoring twice last week: he had 19 points in the victory over Aquinas (6-12), and added 23 against Bishop Walsh. Matt Podmenik was the high man against Wilson with 21 points.

Mercy, the defending Section 5 Class A girls' champion, clinched the 1992-93 Private-Parochial League title with a 55-38 decision over host Kearney on Feb. 14. It marked the Monarchs' 13th consecutive win, raising their record to 15-2. Mercy also posted

a 60-53 victory over host Penfield on Feb. 8.

Kelly O'Neill and Amy Martin spearheaded the Monarch attack against Kearney with 16 and 14 points, respectively. Mercy only led 23-22 at halftime, but outscored BK 17-3 in the third quarter.

In the Penfield game, Mercy was led by O'Neill's 16 points and Gina Montesano's 15-point effort.

The BK boys improved to 14-4 on the year with a 79-40 blowout of host Midlakes on Feb. 13. It was the Kings' third straight win, and their seventh in eight games.

Joe Raniewicz led BK against the Screaming Eagles with a 22-point effort, marking the 13th time he's reached the 20-point mark this season. Also in the Feb. 13 win, Jason Randall contributed 13 points.

Kearney's girls, meanwhile, had the same 14-4 mark as their male counterparts after their Feb. 14 loss to Mercy. Ebony Pelemon topped BK that day with 12 points.

In its previous game, Kearney cruised to a 53-18 rout over host East on Feb. 8. Janet D'Agostino and Pelemon were the Kings' leading scorers with 13 and 12 points, respectively.

In the Southern Tier, the Notre Dame boys recorded a 64-51 win over host Hornell on Feb. 10. Although that

victory only lifted ND's record to 9-8, the Crusaders should still be a threat in the Section 4 Class D playoffs since they've played much larger schools tough throughout the season.

Pacing ND against Hornell was Brian Murray, who tied his season high with 21 points.

Three other diocesan basketball squads also came up victorious last week: the Aquinas girls (7-12), who won 49-30 over visiting Wilson on Feb. 8 and 42-29 over host Franklin on Feb. 13; the Geneva DeSales girls (7-11), who powered to a 59-44 home win over South Seneca on Feb. 9; and Nazareth Academy (8-11), which recorded a 60-36 win against host Northstar Christian Academy on Feb. 13.

Balanced scoring was the trend in AQ's two victories: the Little Irish got 10 points from Sandy Petty and nine each from Kristina Dudley and Kristen Burgmaster in the Wilson win, while Burgmaster collected 11 points and Petty had 10 against Franklin.

Three players scored in double figures in DeSales' victory over South Seneca: Emily Parshall with 15 points, Stephanie Nearpass with 13 and Lindsay Higgins with 11. The win avenged the Saints' 49-29 loss to the Falcons back on Jan. 12.

Nazareth received a 20-point effort from Dionne Robinson, along with 10 points from Mary Staropoli, in its win over Northstar.



AQ's Gionta attempts to keep his attention focused on the puck as McQuaid's Tom Savage (right) and Nate Lukaszonas prepare for forecheck.

AQ ices title

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tied 2-2 midway through the final period, AQ's Dennis Annechino fired home the game-winner on a pass from Giordano. All three Irish goals came on power plays.

Although a tie or win against Pittsford was needed to secure the league championship, last week's truly pivotal game for AQ came three days earlier before a packed house at Lakeshore.

McQuaid led 2-1 after one period on goals by Latsy Pierce and Sean Ritchlin, with Giordano scoring for Aquinas. Joe Zabawa made it 2-2 with just 10 seconds gone in the second period, and Giordano gave AQ the lead for good later in that period. Chris Sichak netted an insurance goal when he scored short-handed early in the final stanza.

With the one-goal win, the Little Irish avenged a 4-1 loss to the Knights back on Jan. 9.

Since both clubs own the top sectional seeds, there's a strong possibility of a rubber match in the tournament finals. Aquinas and McQuaid also met in the 1992 Class A title contest, with the Irish winning 9-5.

McQuaid recovered nicely from its

Feb. 10 loss to AQ by blanking Greece last Saturday. Ritchlin led the Knight offense with two goals, and goalie Ron Lamendola made 18 saves for the shutout.

In other diocesan high school sports highlights from last week:

The McQuaid boys' swim squad put together a dominating performance, winning six of 11 events, in the City-Catholic League championships held Feb. 11 at East High School.

Doug Kazley captured two events, taking the 200-yard individual medley and 100 butterfly. Other individual Knight winners were John Halligan in the 100 freestyle and Chris Stirling in the 500 free. In addition, McQuaid's 200 medley and 400 free relay squads were victorious.

Aquinas picked up one first place at the league championships when Mike McNelis won the 100 breaststroke.

In wrestling, McQuaid earned dual-meet victories on consecutive days by winning twice at home: 42-22 over Rush-Henrietta on Feb. 12 and 60-12 over Bishop Kearney on Feb. 13. Adam Lehmann, wrestling in the 155-pound weight class, recorded a pin at both meets.

Kearney junior plays in international baseball tourney

IRONDEQUOIT — Fred Tillinghast, a junior at Bishop Kearney High School, was selected to compete in an international baseball tournament over Christmas break.

Tillinghast played third base for the United States team in the Pan Pacific Baseball Challenge, held in Australia

Dec. 22-Jan. 1. Tillinghast was the youngest player on the squad, and the only one from New York state.

During his sophomore season with the Bishop Kearney varsity baseball team, Tillinghast batted .360 while playing third base and pitcher.

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Bishop McCormack at Mercy Kitchen

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