



McQuaid Jesuit's John Pernaselli records a pin against Dan O'Marra of Churchville-Chili during a first-round match at the Section 5 Class A tournament at Fairport High School Feb. 19-20. Pernaselli, who boasts a 30-1 record this season, will compete in the Super Sectional state qualifier Feb. 26-27 at Webster High School.

Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

ND makes successful title defense

In Steve Weber's estimation, you don't have to be a championship-caliber wrestler in order to be a vital part of a title-winning team.

Four individual champions, along with a few unsung heroes, combined to give Elmira Notre Dame its second consecutive Section 4 Class D championship. The tournament was held last Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19-20, at Thomas Edison High School in Elmira Heights.

"We definitely weren't the favorites going in, but everybody wrestled close to what they were seeded," said Weber, the Crusaders' head coach.

"And we had some unseeded kids who wrestled extremely well. They wrestled early and got a few pins, and that got everybody else going," Weber pointed out.

ND finished ahead of 11 other

schools with 152 points, while second-place Lansing had 138 1/2.

The Crusaders were entrenched in third place entering Saturday's championship matches, but four of ND's five finalists scored victories: Brett Owen, at 98 pounds; Chris Kamas, 119; Dan Wilson, 167; and Paul Tomkins, 215.

This quartet now advances to the Section 4 state qualifier tournament Feb. 26-27 at Cornell University. In addition, four other Crusaders will make the trip to Ithaca based on their top-four finishes at sectionals: Tim Wilson-croft, who placed second at 250 pounds; Chris Steed, fourth at 91; Paul Tuite, fourth at 105; and Kevin Wilson, fourth at 138.

Section 5 also conducted its wrestling championships this past week-

end, and McQuaid Jesuit made a very strong showing in the Class A tournament held at Fairport High School.

The Knights, led by John Pernaselli's first-place performance, finished sixth out of 20 schools. Pernaselli now owns an incredible 30-1 record this season.

McQ's 177-pounder will search for further success in the Super Sectional state qualifier Feb. 26-27 at Webster High School. He will be joined by three other Knights who all placed third at the sectional championships: Paul Carlos-Claus, at 91 pounds; John Zicari, 119; and Matt Temple, 126.

Also heading for the Super Sectionals is Bishop Kearney's Sam Lopez, who took third place at 132 pounds in the Section 5 Class B tournament. That meet was held at Geneva High School.

— Mike Latona

Basketball teams earn high playoff seeds

Our Lady of Mercy's girls own the best record, but the McQuaid Jesuit boys and Bishop Kearney girls have pulled down the highest sectional playoff seeds among diocesan high school basketball teams.

McQuaid ended its regular season with a 15-5 record to earn the No. 3 seed in the Section 5 Class A playoffs. The Knights gained a first-round bye and will play this coming Saturday, Feb. 27, in a quarterfinal contest against No. 6 Rush-Henrietta at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

Also coming in as a No. 3 seed are the Kearney girls, who are competing in Section 5 Class BB. BK (16-4) earned a first-round bye and will host either No. 6 Greece Arcadia or No. 11 Brighton on Feb. 27.

Mercy enters sectional play with a 16-2 mark. The Monarchs, seeded No. 4, received an opening-round bye and will see quarterfinal action on Feb. 26 against No. 5 Gates-Chili, at a site not determined by the time the *Catholic Courier* went to press.

All remaining diocesan teams, with the exception of Elmira Notre Dame's girls (0-17), were sectional qualifiers.

Kearney's boys (14-6) captured the No. 7 seed in Section 5 Class B. They were scheduled to face No. 10 Geneva in a first-round game on Feb. 24, with the winner playing either No. 2 Newark or No. 15 Penn Yan on Feb. 27.

The Elmira Notre Dame boys (9-9) captured the No. 7 seed in Section 4 Class D. ND's opening-round game

was scheduled for Feb. 24 against Edmeston City, with the winner going up against No. 2 Marathon on Feb. 27.

Geneva DeSales' girls (8-12) received the No. 7 seed in Section 5 Class DD. The Saints were set to face No. 10 Jasper-Troupsburg in a first-rounder on Feb. 24, with No. 2 Avoca taking on the winner on Feb. 27.

Aquinas Institute's girls (7-13) gained the No. 10 seed in Section 5 Class BB. They were set to play a first-round game against No. 7 Franklin on Feb. 24, with the victor meeting No. 2 Hilton on Feb. 27.

Nazareth Academy's girls (8-12) got the No. 11 seed in Section 5 Class CC.

McQ takes 2nd in track sectionals

Despite first-place finishes in four events, the McQuaid Jesuit indoor track team had to settle for runner-up status at the Section 5 Class A championships.

The meet took place this past Saturday, Feb. 20, at Roberts Wesleyan College in Chili. McQuaid, the defending champion, finished with 113 1/2 points. Fairport took top honors in the 12-team meet with 141 1/2.

The Knights practically owned the distance events, including an amazing pair of one-two-three showings: by Dan Lesser, Eric Garsin and Adam Reitz in the 3,200-meter run; and by

Reitz, Lesser and Garsin in the 1,600 meters.

Shawn Watts added a pair of first places with victories in the 1,000 and 600. Also taking top honors was the Knights' 3,200 relay quartet of Garsin, Tim Kelley, Lesser and Matt Bunce.

In the Class B sectionals, also held at Roberts Wesleyan, Aquinas Institute came away with a fourth-place team showing among 12 schools.

The Little Irish featured two first-place performers: Gabe Bauza, who won the 50 hurdles; and Joe Hayes, who took the shot put.

— Mike Latona

AQ, Knights ice sectional competition

It may have been a day for underdogs, but Aquinas Institute and McQuaid Jesuit had no intention of allowing their opponents to partake in the festivities.

Aquinas, the No. 1 seed in the Section 5 Class A hockey tournament, recorded a 5-1 quarterfinal victory over No. 8 Gates-Chili this past Saturday, Feb. 20, at Lakeshore Rinks in Greece.

Also that day, second-seeded McQuaid scored six third-period goals en route to a 9-2 triumph over No. 7 Fairport at Genesee Valley Ice Arena in Rochester.

Saturday's success left the Little Irish and Knights one game away from meeting in the Class A finals for the second straight year. AQ was scheduled to play No. 5 Batavia in a Feb. 23 semifinal contest, while McQuaid was set to face No. 6 Greece in the other semi on Feb. 24. The title game is this Saturday, Feb. 27, at SUNY College at Brockport (3:30 p.m. start.)

Both Batavia and Greece scored upset wins in their quarterfinal games on Feb. 20: Batavia won 2-0 over fourth-seeded Pittsford, and Greece was a 5-3 victor over No. 3 Irondequoit.

In other sectional action, Bishop Kearney saw its season come to an end with a 10-1 Class B quarterfinal loss to top-seeded Rush-Henrietta on Feb. 20 at Brockport State. The eighth-seeded Kings' final 1992-93 record was 5-15.

Aquinas, whose record improved to 17-2-2 with the Gates-Chili win, took control early as two first-period goals by Jeremy Giordano and one by Chris Sichak gave the Irish a 3-0 edge.

Sichak scored again in the second period, and Joe Zabawa put AQ up 5-0 with a third-period goal before the Spartans got their only tally in the closing moments.

AQ goalie Alex Vigneri played all but the game's final five minutes, allowing no goals while making 11 saves.

"(Gates-Chili) played as well as they could, but they couldn't skate with us," commented Aquinas Coach Dave Montgomery, whose team is the defending Class A champion.

McQuaid (16-4) encountered more of a struggle in its quarterfinal game, only holding a 3-2 lead after two periods against Fairport — a team which had dealt the Knights a 5-4 loss back on Jan. 2.

However, the third period saw McQ acting more like the Knight club which won 7-2 over the Red Raiders in a regular-season rematch on Feb. 2.

Marty Reasoner led McQuaid with three goals and two assists, followed by Larry Pierce with two goals and one assist. Other big contributors were Sean Ritchlin with a goal and two assists, and Greg Mulbury with three assists.

— Mike Latona

Volleyball squads needed

HENRIETTA — The Easter Seal Volleyball Marathon will be held Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27-28, from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. each day.

Games will take place at the Rochester Institute of Technology's Student Life Center as well as The Creek, 300 Jefferson Road.

Teams at both the power and recreational levels are invited to participate at a cost of \$150 per squad. To reserve playing time, call 716/264-9550.