

# Three basketball teams triumph in quarterfinals

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

A quick message from Geneva DeSales to the Section 5 soothsayers: throw your crystal balls in the trash.

For the second straight year, the Saints are wreaking havoc with sectional girls' basketball playoff predictions. DeSales, seeded No. 7 in Class DD, scored a 44-39 quarterfinal shocker over host and second-seeded Avoca this past Saturday, Feb. 27.

This marks the second consecutive season DeSales has made a surprise trip to the semifinals. Last year, competing in the Class D sectionals, the Saints upended No. 2 Prattsburg and No. 7 Friendship after being seeded 15th.

Coach Steve Muzzi, noting the difficulty of his team's regular-season schedule in the Finger Lakes West league, wasn't terribly surprised about the win over Avoca.

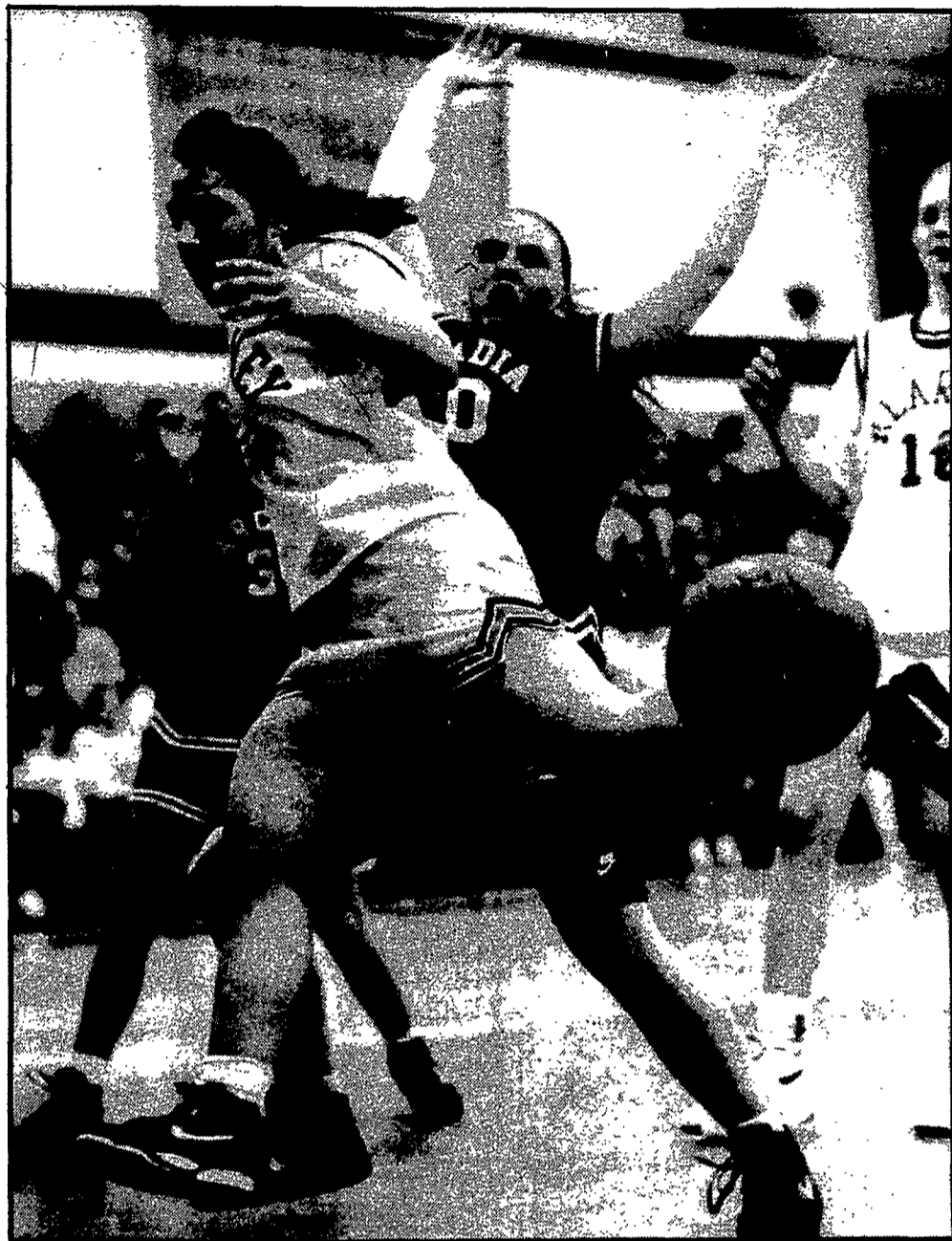
"We don't consider it an upset. Our league is so tough that it really gets you ready for sectionals," Muzzi observed.

DeSales, which raised its record to 10-12 with that victory, also won 48-25 over No. 10 Jasper-Troupsburg in a first-round game on Feb. 21 at Penn Yan High School. The Saints were scheduled to play their semifinal contest against No. 3 Scio on March 3, with the winner facing either No. 1 Elba or No. 4 Arkport in the finals this coming Friday, March 5, at SUNY College at Alfred (7:30 p.m. start.)

Two additional diocesan high-school teams — the McQuaid Jesuit boys and Our Lady of Mercy girls — advanced to Section 5 semifinal play with weekend-quarterfinal victories.

McQuaid (16-5), seeded No. 3 in Class A, recorded a 56-43 win over No. 6 Rush-Henrietta on Feb. 27 at the Rochester Community War Memorial. The Knights were set to face No. 2 East in the March 3 semifinals, with the victor meeting either No. 1 Fairport or No. 5 Gates-Chili for the championship on March 6 at the War Memorial (9 p.m. scheduled start.)

Mercy (17-2), seeded No. 4 in Class A, romped to a 60-34 decision over No. 5 Gates-Chili on Feb. 26 at East Rochester High. The Monarchs were scheduled to take on No. 1 Fairport on March 2, with the winner facing either No. 2 Penfield or No. 3 Greece Athena



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor  
Bishop Kearney's Janet D'Agostino collides with Julie Sterling of Greece Arcadia after losing control of the ball while driving the lane during the host Knights' 37-36 loss to the Titans Feb. 27.

for the title on March 4 at the War Memorial (8:30 p.m. scheduled start.)

Four diocesan squads — the Bishop Kearney boys and girls, Aquinas Institute boys and Elmira Notre Dame boys — saw their season end in the sectional quarterfinals.

BK's boys (15-7), seeded No. 7 in Section 5 Class B, won 91-60 at home over No. 10 Geneva on Feb. 24, but lost 64-45 to second-seeded Newark on Feb. 27 at Finger Lakes Community College.

The Kearney girls (16-5), seeded third in Section 5 Class BB, came up

short in a nail-biter against No. 6 Greece Arcadia, losing 37-36 to the visiting Titans on Feb. 27.

The Aquinas boys (7-15), seeded No. 13 in Class BB, were impressive in a 66-50 upset of host and No. 4 seed Pittsford Mendon on Feb. 23. The Little Irish then fell to No. 5 Wilson Magnet, 83-47, on Feb. 26 at Rush-Henrietta High.

Notre Dame's boys (10-10), competing in Section 4 Class D, won 76-67 over No. 10 Edmeston on Feb. 24 at Johnson City High. However, the seventh-seeded Crusaders were defeated 55-49 by No. 2 Marathon in quarterfinal action on Feb. 27 at Owego High.

Completing the list of diocesan playoff competitors were the Aquinas girls, Nazareth girls and DeSales boys,

who each dropped opening-round contests.

AQ's girls (7-14), seeded 10th in Section 5 Class BB, were defeated 32-27 by host and No. 7 seed Franklin on Feb. 24.

The Nazareth girls (8-13), seeded 11th in Section 5 Class CC, were eliminated 62-43 by No. 6 Cuba-Rushford in a Feb. 24 game played at Letchworth High.

The DeSales boys (4-17), seeded 12th in Section 5 Class DD, dropped an 81-37 decision to host and No. 5 seed Elba on Feb. 23.

DeSales' girls were locked in a 29-29 tie with Avoca through three quarters, but they held a 15-10 scoring edge over the final eight minutes. Krista Devaney was the Saints' leading scorer with 16 points, and DeSales shot 12-for-14 from the foul line for the game.

In their first-round win over Jasper-Troupsburg, the Saints led 11-4 after one quarter and increased their advantage to 23-10 at halftime and 36-18 after three periods. Stephanie Nearpass had a team-high 16 points.

McQuaid led at each quarter break against Rush-Henrietta: 14-10, 27-20 and 39-31. The game's high scorer was Jay Wandtke, who finished with 22 points.

By defeating R-H, McQuaid moved within two games of the Class A title it last captured in 1991. The quarterfinal victory also marked the Knights' seventh straight win.

No surprises came out of Mercy's opening-round matchup with Gates-Chili, as the Monarchs made a successful first step toward defending their 1992 Class A crown. Mercy scored the game's first 12 points, and was up 32-13 by halftime as it ran its winning streak to 15.

Amy Martin poured in a season-high 19 points, going 8-for-12 from the field and 3-for-4 from the line. She added nine rebounds.

## Swimmers excel at Section 5 meet; wrestlers fall shy in state qualifying

McQuaid Jesuit's Doug Kazley and Aquinas Institute's Mike McNelis were their respective teams' top performers in the Section 5 boys' swimming championships, held this past Saturday, Feb. 27, at the State University of New York College at Geneseo.

Kazley, a junior, took second place for the 100-yard backstroke event in the Class A sectionals. His time was 57.24 seconds.

McNelis, an AQ senior competing in the Class B sectionals, also achieved a second-place showing. He swam the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.79.

By placing among the top two in their section, Kazley and McNelis gained berths in the Section 5 state qualifier this coming Saturday, March 6, at the University of Rochester.

State-qualifying wrestling competition took place this past weekend, but no diocesan grapplers were successful in advancing.

In the Section 4 meet, held at Thomas Edison High School in Elmira Heights, senior Chris Kamas and junior Dan Wilson led eight Elmira Notre Dame wrestlers by each recording third-place showings — Kamas at 119 pounds and Wilson at 167.

However, only first-place finishers moved on to state competition from this qualifying meet which combined all four sectional classes. Notre Dame had won the Section 4 Class D tournament one week earlier.

McQuaid's John Pernaselli ran into bad luck in the Section 5 Super Sectionals, held at Webster Junior High School. The outstanding 177-pound senior was forced to default in his quarterfinal match against Avon's Chad Washburn when he suffered a recurrence of a shoulder injury.

Pernaselli finished his season with a 30-2 record. Both losses were by default.

— Mike Latona

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