

## AQ skates into state semifinals

BROCKPORT — Waiting one week for its next game sounds a lot better than waiting nine months.

Yet it was the latter prospect facing the Aquinas Institute hockey team 15 minutes into its state quarterfinal contest with Williamsville North. The Little Irish were saddled with a 2-1 deficit after one period against the Section 6 (Buffalo area) school.

However, a six-goal explosion in the second period carried Aquinas to a 7-3 victory — as well as a trip to the state Final Four for the second straight year.

AQ will now face Massena of Section 10 (Watertown area) in a state Division 1 semifinal matchup this coming Saturday, March 13. Game time is 2:30 p.m. at the Utica War Memorial. A victory over Massena would put the Irish in the March 14 championship contest at 3:30 p.m. against either Saratoga of Section 2 (Albany area) or Suffern of Section 1 (New York City area).

Aquinas' record is now 20-2-2, and its state ranking has climbed to No. 5. The Little Irish had qualified for states

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## Kazley places third at qualifying meet

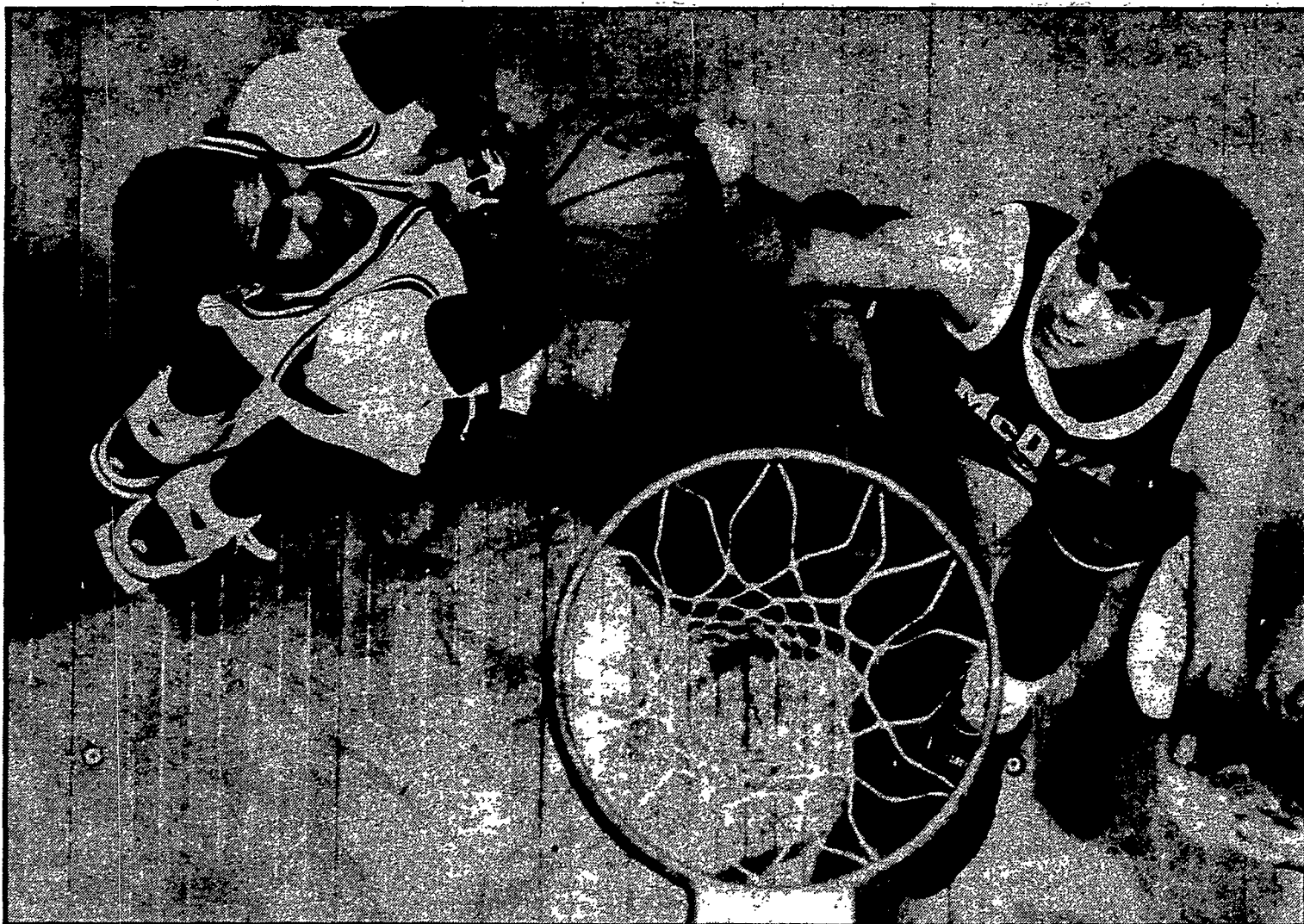
ROCHESTER — By virtue of his strong performance in the Section 5 state qualifier meet, McQuaid Jesuit swimmer Doug Kazley has extended his 1992-93 season one week longer.

Kazley placed third in the 100-yard backstroke during qualifying competition on Saturday, March 6, at the University of Rochester. Although his time of 56.41 seconds was not good enough for first place — Fairport's Ryan Prosser had the winning time of :52.93 — Kazley still became eligible for states because he finished under the predetermined cutoff time.

The McQuaid junior will be back in action this coming Saturday, March 13. Kazley will not have far to travel, since the state meet is taking place right back at the U of R.

Prior to his performance at the qualifier, Kazley finished second in the 100 backstroke during the Section 5 championships held Feb. 27 at SUNY College at Geneseo.

— Mike Latona



McQuaid Jesuit senior Jay Wandtke (right) shoots under pressure from Fairport's Keith Downing during the Section 5 Class A championship at the Rochester Community War Memorial March 6. The Knights went on to defeat the Red Raiders, 45-42.

S. John Wilkin/Photo intern

## Free throws lift McQ to crown

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — In navigating a sea of imperfection, Antonio Porretta couldn't have picked a better time to become the sure-handed skipper.

The senior guard sank all four of his free-throw attempts in the final 30 seconds, and also contributed a team-high 16 points, in leading his McQuaid Jesuit boys' basketball team to a 45-42 victory over Fairport in the Section 5 Class A championship game. The final was held on Saturday evening, March 6, at the Community War Memorial.

Porretta's clutch foul shooting stood in stark contrast to the game's overall play, which was marred by cold shooting on both sides.

"When I was at the line I said to my-

self, 'Please, God, please, God, please, God.' Then I just let it fly," said Porretta, who was named tourney MVP.

McQuaid's championship-game victory enabled Coach Joe Marchese to up his record to 4-0 in sectional finals. He also won in 1987, 1988 and 1991.

Prior to the Knights' triumph over top-seeded Fairport, the third-seeded Knights were 71-62 winners over No. 2 East in the Class A semifinals held three nights earlier at the War Memorial. McQuaid had suffered two close losses to the Orientals in two regular-season meetings.

McQuaid has now won nine straight games, and its record has reached 18-5. The Knights' win over Fairport enabled them to advance to a state quarterfinal contest this coming Saturday, March 13, back at the War Memorial.

McQ will take on Niagara Falls LaSalle of Section 6 in an 8:30 p.m. game.

The Knights looked good in the early going against Fairport, going on an 11-point run to take a 15-7 edge after one period. However, they were held to 10 second-quarter points and became locked in a 25-25 halftime tie.

Both sides struggled mightily in the third quarter. Each chewed up the clock with long possessions, most of which ended in either turnovers or missed shots. Still, the Knights managed to take a 33-30 lead into the fourth quarter.

Fairport scored eight of the final period's first nine points to go up 38-34. Then the Knights used a three-point basket by Matt Podmenik, a steal and layup by Porretta, and two free throws by Podmenik to take a lead 41-40 with 1:06 to go.

Porretta sank both ends of a one-and-one opportunity with 28 seconds remaining to make it 43-40. Fairport's Vinnie Esposito then drove for a layup

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