

# Lacrosse's popularity rising at diocesan schools

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

For one of the 1993 diocesan high school varsity lacrosse squads, "How does this year's club compare to last year's?" will be an impossible question to answer.

After operating a junior varsity program in 1992, Aquinas Institute has moved up to the varsity level for the first time. In addition, beginning in 1994, Elmira Notre Dame plans on becoming the fourth diocesan high school to offer varsity lacrosse.

Meanwhile, McQuaid Jesuit will attempt to improve upon its final 1992 record of 6-11. The Knights, coached by Tony Levine, have lost the services of two stars who are now starting at the Division 1 level: Robbie Warren, an attackman at Penn State; and Rich Rund, a defenseman at Michigan State.

Bishop Kearney's biggest graduation losses were on defense. Some offensive potential, however, gives Coach John Kleehammer's crew a good chance to better its 2-14 mark from last year.

Surprisingly, Levine believes that his McQuaid club may actually raise its level of play now that his big guns have graduated.

"This year I think we're a better team," said Levine. "Sometimes you have individual stars, but honestly, it doesn't work out as well because the other kids wait for them to pick it up. Now we're more well-rounded."

Leading the attack is senior Brian Holmes, who has committed to play D-1 lacrosse at Delaware next year. Other top attackmen are senior Dan Doyle and sophomore Mike Kehoe.

Spearheading the midfield are senior Paul Danchak, juniors Franco Bari and Jeff Shepard, and sophomore Chris Schiller. Senior Ben DeLuca and junior Pat McAvoy are top defensemen, and senior Ian McCartney returns in goal.

Kearney features seniors Chuck O'Loughlin and Rick Nienhuis, along with junior Todd Delehanty, on attack.

Midfielders with good scoring potential include seniors Mike Coyle, Doug Vorndran and Colby Shores. However, Shores will be lost for the next few weeks with a broken thumb and will most likely be replaced in the lineup by junior Colin Davis.

"When Colby comes back we should be much better on offense," Kleeham-



S. John Wilkin/Photo intern  
Aquinas Institute's Brian Callahan (left) knocks the ball loose from Webster's Dave Ladwig during the Little Irish's inaugural varsity lacrosse game on April 5. The host Warriors defeated the Little Irish 13-3.

mer observed.

Senior Sean Rook is the team's only clear-cut starter on defense. Goaltending duties are handled by senior Bob Hilburger and junior Sean Mack.

Any Aquinas victories will most likely be low-scoring affairs, the Little Irish coach predicts.

"Defensively, I like my team. I don't think anybody's going to blow us out. And we'll score some goals, but I don't know if it will be very many," commented Dave Stein, who played for Webster High School in the mid-1980s.

Stein's AQ troops faced his alma mater in their inaugural game and were dealt a 13-3 loss by the host Warriors on Monday, April 5.

Leading Little Irish attackmen are junior Steve Bell, freshman Kevin Callahan and senior Valentino Girolamo. Top midfielders include junior Ted Lauzon, who scored two goals against Webster; senior Brian Callahan and junior Doug Crowley.

On defense, Stein is expecting big things from seniors Mike Mandrino and Chris Wilson and junior Thad Brown. Senior Dave Ettipio is the No. 1 goalie.

Elmira Notre Dame, which established its program last year, has elected for one additional season of JV experience before going varsity next spring.

"My decision was so that the players wouldn't jump in and get discouraged," said Coach Kevin Hogan. "It's quite a jump to varsity."

## Football stars to play in benefit hoops game

PITTSFORD — Members of the New York Giants football team will compete in a charity basketball game on Saturday, April 17, at St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave.

Scheduled to play are Pepper Johnson, Mark Ingram (who recently signed with the Miami Dolphins), Dave Meggett, William Roberts and Rodney Hampton.

Game time is 7 p.m., with an autograph session at halftime.

Proceeds will benefit the diocese's Northeast Quadrant schools. Tickets are available for \$15 each by calling Ticket Express at 716/222-5000.

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