

Pitching a plus for AQ baseball, Mercy softball

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Teams with only one dominant pitcher live in constant fear of a scheduling backup.

Aquinas Institute, on the other hand, thrives on big bunches of games.

The Little Irish pulled off an amazing feat last week, winning five contests over a four-day span and hiking their season record to 13-4. Even more spectacular is the fact that the Irish limited opponents to a combined total of five runs over that stretch.

AQ began its streak with a 4-0 blanking of host McQuaid last Wednesday, May 5, and then winning 4-3 over visiting Bishop Kearney on May 6 and 10-0 over host Franklin on May 7. The Irish closed out their week in style by capturing the Brighton Tournament title on May 8, beating Kearney 7-2 in the opening round and Brighton 8-0 in the championship game.

"We haven't hit very well, so the pitching has been a good thing," said Aquinas Coach Richard Pillitter. "My three pitchers (Ken Keilman, Sam DiGaetano and Brian Natale) have been outstanding."

Pitching also made the difference for Our Lady of Mercy's softball squad (8-4) in its 4-3 home win over previously undefeated Nazareth Academy (7-1) on May 4.

Jen Gulley threw a two-hitter for the Monarchs, who moved into a first-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Nazareth Academy's Mary Staropoli gets Katie Fitzgerald of Our Lady of Mercy on a force play as the Monarch runner slides into second base. Mercy went on to defeat the visiting Lasers 4-3 on May 4.

place tie with the Lasers in Private-Parochial League play with a 2-1 league mark.

Mercy gained the key win with two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning as Mimi LaMagna and Maggie Steinbrenner crossed home plate on a throwing error. It was the second one-

run victory in as many days for Mercy, which won 10-9 over visiting Penfield on May 3.

"These (close) games will help us down the road when sectionals come around," noted Monarch Coach Mike Baxter.

In other diocesan high school sports highlights from last week:

The Aquinas softball team (8-4) turned in a 7-5 home win over league-rival Bishop Kearney on May 4 as Sandy Petty broke a 5-5 deadlock with her two-run homer in the fifth inning. AQ then edged visiting Greece Olympia the next day, 7-6.

BK (7-5) bounced back from its Aquinas loss to post two high-scoring home wins: 21-10 over Spencerport on May 6 and 15-11 over Webster on May 8. The Kings scored 14 runs in the first two innings against Spencerport, and rallied from a 5-0 deficit against Webster.

The Geneva DeSales softballers (5-3) captured two lopsided home decisions in as many days: 17-9 over Honeoye on May 6 and 22-2 over Dundee on May 7. Krista DeVaney led the way with three hits in each game.

Back on the baseball diamond, McQuaid (7-5) gained three road wins: 7-4 over Edison Tech on May 3, 11-4 over East on May 4 and 12-2 over Kearney on May 7.

BK (6-5) ended a four-game losing streak with an 18-1 rout of Marshall in the Brighton Tournament's consolation game on May 8.

In the Southern Tier, Elmira Notre Dame (6-2) went out to an 8-2 lead and held on for a 9-8 victory over host Hornell on May 3.

The DeSales nine (3-4) rolled over visiting Dundee on May 7, 12-5, as Bob

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Monarchs, Knights hope to track down sectional titles

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Perhaps Tim Jones' comments best epitomize what a powerhouse sports program is all about.

"We lost a lot of people. We've got our work cut out for us; we're a very young team," said the Our Lady of Mercy girls' track coach.

Yet if this is supposed to be a rebuilding year for the Monarchs, it hasn't shown up in meet results. Mercy, which has won all four of its Private-Parochial League meets by lopsided scores, is coming off a second-place finish among 28 schools in the Hornell Invitational held this past Saturday, May 8.

Jones sounds a little more optimistic when assessing his squad's chances of successfully defending its Section 5

Class A championship at Pittsford Mendon High School on May 29.

"I think we're where we want to be right now. We're in line to possibly win sectionals," Jones remarked.

Another diocesan dynamo looking for a second straight sectional is the McQuaid Jesuit boys. The Knights' coach, as well, is not guaranteeing a repeat but still feels that his unit will be in the thick of things.

"This year it's so up in the air," said McQ mentor Dave Warth, whose team is 3-0 in dual meets. "I'd say we're an underdog contender to Fairport, and I think they'd agree with that at this point."

Mercy's youthful lineup features only two prominent seniors: Amy Martin in the 400-meter hurdles and 800 and 1,500 runs, and Maureen Halligan

in the shot put and discus.

Junior Melanie Heeder is dominant in the 200 as well as the long and triple jumps. Sophomore Danni LaMagna excels in the 800 and 1,500, and junior Christina Wierenga also competes in the 800.

Other big contributors are sophomore Christine DeMott in the 400 run and 100 hurdles, freshman Katie McDonald in the 400 hurdles, sophomore Yothana Dickerson in the 100 and high jump, junior Jen Vogel in the 400, and junior Mandy Block and eighth-grader Sara Zona in relay events.

Mercy's traditionally strong 1,600 relay currently comprises McDonald, DeMott, Vogel and Martin.

At the Hornell Invitational, the Monarchs got first-place finishes from Martin in the 400 hurdles along with the 400 relay of Block, DeMott, Heeder and Dickerson.

McQuaid is so dominant in the individual distance events that Warth envisions a staggering accomplishment

at the sectional meet.

"We could, very conceivably, go 1-2-3 in the mile and two-mile," Warth commented.

The trio in search of those trifectas is senior Eric Garsin and juniors Dan Lesser and Adam Reitz, all of whom are among the section's best in the 1,600 and 3,200.

Warth is also looking for a big performance from the 3,200 relay, which consists of Reitz, junior Shawn Watts, Garsin and senior Tim Kelley. Kelley, however, has been sidelined by mononucleosis and may be lost for the season.

Other top Knight performers are Watts in the 400 and 800, senior Joe Tiffany in the sprints and hurdles as well as jumping events, senior Mark Beresiewicz in the 400 hurdles, sophomores Tim Tyre and Alan LaChapelle in the sprints, junior Adam Missell and senior Harry Gill in the shot put and discus, sophomore Greg Schlacter in the pole vault, and juniors Brian Kubiak and Chris Curtin in the high jump.

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