

# Mercy, Aquinas, DeSales advance in softball

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Our Lady of Mercy has always found it tough to reach the Section 5 softball semifinals, and this year was no exception.

The only difference in 1993 is that the Monarchs have succeeded.

An incredible five-run rally in the bottom of the seventh inning vaulted Mercy past Churchville-Chili, 8-7, in a Class BB quarterfinal game held Monday evening, June 7, at McAvoy Park in Irondequoit.

"It was great; it was amazing. This was really a great win for the school and the softball program," said Coach Mike Baxter.

The comeback victory gave Mercy its first appearance ever in the softball Final Four. The Monarchs, seeded No. 3 with a 14-8 record, were scheduled to face No. 2 Hornell in a semifinal matchup on June 9. The championship contest is set for June 11 at McAvoy.

Also reaching the Class BB semis with a narrow victory was top-seeded Aquinas Institute (15-6), which outlasted No. 8 Eastridge, 2-1, on June 7 at McAvoy. The Little Irish were scheduled to play No. 4 Brighton in a June 8 semifinal game.

Joining Mercy and Aquinas in semifinal play was Geneva DeSales in Section 5 Class D. The Saints (10-7), seeded fourth, advanced with a 16-9 quarterfinal triumph at home over No. 5 Arkport on June 4. They were scheduled to play top-seeded Scio on June 8, with the winner facing No. 3 Alfred-Almond or No. 7 Romulus for the title on June 11 at Hornell High School.

Nazareth Academy and Bishop Kearney, the other diocesan schools which qualified for Section 5 tournament play, were both eliminated.

Nazareth (20-5), the No. 3 seed in Class B, was the victim of a no-hitter in a 13-0 loss to No. 6 Wellsville. The quarterfinal game was played on June 7 at McAvoy.

Kearney (13-11), seeded No. 6 in Class BB, fell to an 8-4 defeat at home in a first-round game against No. 11 Churchville-Chili on June 2.

Mercy was faced with a 7-3 deficit against Churchville-Chili after the Saints scored four sixth-inning runs.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
Bishop Kearney's Janet D'Agostino makes contact during a sectional playoff game against visiting Churchville-Chili on June 2. The Saints defeated the Kings 8-4, ending Kearney's season.

sectionals, proceeded to deliver a two-run double to make it 7-6. Michelle McLaren then singled Kurycki home with the tying run — and still nobody was out.

Tricia Russell added a single, and, following a fly-out by Mimi LaMagna, Maggie Steinbrenner drilled the game-winning single that scored McLaren.

All three runs in the Aquinas-Eastridge game were produced in the first inning, as the Little Irish spotted the Lancers a 1-0 lead and came back quickly to take the lead.

Stacey Lauricella doubled and then scored on Sandy Petty's single, and Shawndralynn Joiner's ground-ball single through the right side brought home Petty with what proved to be the winning run.

Pitcher Amy Bierley came up big, throwing a two-hitter and permitting no hits after the first inning.

Coach Dave Herbst noted that Bierley also received strong support in the field.

"Our defense played great. We work so hard on defense at practice; our infielders literally take hundreds of ground balls," said Herbst.

AQ's victory over Eastridge enabled the Little Irish to avenge a loss to the Lancers in last year's Class BB finals.

DeSales' hitting, which has been the club's strength all season, rose to the occasion once more in the win over Arkport. The Saints finished with 15 hits.

"We hit shots all over the place," Coach Vic Harris commented.

Arkport actually amassed more hits than DeSales, getting 16, but Harris pointed out that "they were all singles."

DeSales took leads of 11-3 and 16-5 before the Blue Jays narrowed the gap somewhat at the end. Lindsay Higgins led the Saints with three hits, and Sarah Cataline nailed a two-run homer.

Nazareth met its match against hard-throwing Wellsville pitcher Jessica Regan, who recorded 15 strikeouts in achieving her no-hitter.

"Wellsville is about the best team I've ever seen," remarked Coach Dave Pisano. "I knew in my heart that we had a chance to win, but I knew in my brain that we didn't."

The quarterfinal defeat ended a terrific year for the Lasers, who set a school record for victories and tied Aquinas for the Private-Parochial League championship. During the regular season, Nazareth defeated three schools later seeded No. 1 in the sectionals: Greece Athena in Class A; Aquinas in Class BB; and Prattsburg in Class D.

Kearney, which had defeated Churchville-Chili 19-9 back on May 10, could not duplicate the feat in its first-round playoff game.

Churchville's two-run sixth inning gave the Saints a 6-2 edge. The Kings rallied with two runs in the bottom of the sixth, but Churchville scored two insurance runs in the seventh while BK went scoreless in its half.

Coach Paul Forte noted that the Saints were a much stronger club than the first time they met BK.

"They made a lot of changes; it basically amounted to a brand-new team. But they were 7-2 in their last nine games," said Forte.

## COME JOIN US IN OUR 42<sup>ND</sup> PILGRIMAGE



Prayer to St. Anne

O God, You bestowed on St. Anne such grace that she was found worthy to become the mother of Mary, who brought forth Your only begotten Son. Grant that we may be helped by her intercession.

Feast Day: July 26

Patroness of Motherhood

Holy Mary,  
St. Joachim and St. Anne,  
grant you protection to all  
Christian families.



### Honoring our Blessed Mother St. Anne and our beloved saints July 17th - 20th (Four Days)

Visits will include:

Our Lady of the Island Shrine, Eastport, Long Island; St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Shrine, New York City; St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City; The National Blue Army Center Shrine, Washington, N.J.; The National Shrine of St. Ann, Scranton, Pa.; Our Lady of the Martyrs' Shrine, Auriesville, N.Y.; Blessed Kateri National Shrine, Fonda, N.Y.

For more information and reservations, call Norbert & Marlene Figurski, Marian Tours at 814-455-7163 or 1-800-752-8856. Pilgrimages through the Erie, Buffalo & Rochester Diocese are conducted each year in honor of Our Blessed Lady to various Shrines in North America and Canada.



However, when the Monarchs retired Churchville 1-2-3 in the seventh, Baxter sensed that something big was about to happen.

"It just seemed like momentum changed then," he remarked.

The last-ditch rally began with a triple by Katie Fitzgerald. Liz Marchese then reached on an error as Fitzgerald scored, and Jen Agustin followed with a single.

Pinch-hitter Katie Kurycki, who was called up from the junior varsity for

## BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto  
Personalized service in the community  
since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue Rochester, NY 14606

conveniently located near 390

(715) 254-5400