

# Title dreams thwarted

## Four squads fall in semifinal play

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Despite Final Four playoff appearances by a quartet of diocesan baseball and softball teams, none gained the opportunity to play for a Section 5 championship last week.

Aquinas Institute's baseball team put up the strongest fight. The Little Irish, seeded fifth in Class AAA, extended top-seeded Webster to 11 innings before suffering a 3-2 defeat to end the 1993 season with a 19-8 record. The game was played last Thursday, June 10, at Eastridge High School.

AQ's softball squad (15-7), seeded No. 1 in Class BB, was on the wrong end of a 9-1 decision against No. 4 Brighton in a semifinal contest played on June 8 at McAvoy Park.

Our Lady of Mercy (14-9), the No. 3 seed in Class BB, fell victim to a 13-0 beating at the hands of No. 2 Hornell, the section's eventual champion. That game was held June 9 at McAvoy.

And in Class DD, fourth-seeded Geneva DeSales (10-8) was dealt an 8-3 loss by another eventual champ, No. 1 Scio, in semifinal action on June 8 at Hornell.

The airtight Aquinas-Webster pitcher's duel saw AQ take a 1-0 lead in the top of the second inning when Sam DiGaetano tripled and Ken Bianchi singled him home.

That's how the score stood until the Warriors made it 1-1 in the sixth when Kevin Reimer walked, stole second base and was driven home by Jim Baker. That two-out single marked the first hit all day off AQ starter Ken Keilman.

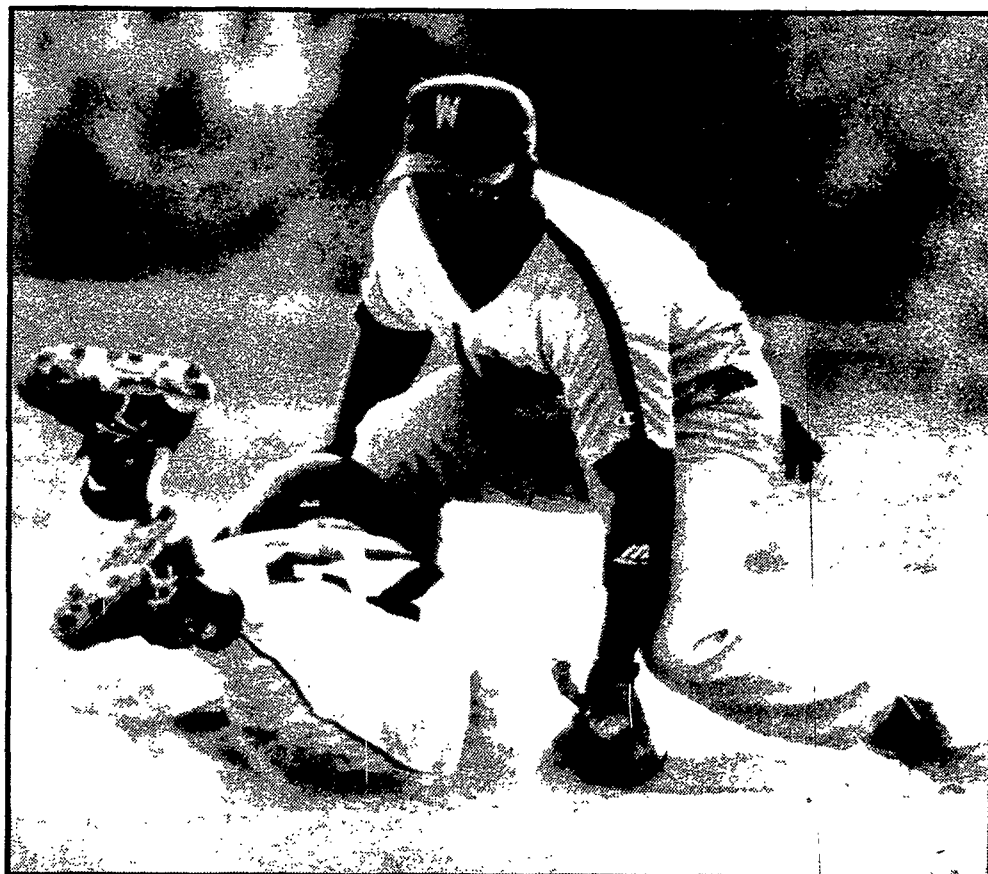
Keilman was replaced on the mound at that point by DiGaetano, who proved to be equally effective as extra innings ensued.

Aquinas broke the 1-1 deadlock in the top of the 11th when Jim Miner singled, stole second and third, and came home on Tony Bianchi's sacrifice fly.

Unfortunately, control problems plagued DiGaetano in the bottom of the inning. After walking the first two Webster batters he faced, DiGaetano appeared to escape trouble when catcher Marc Johnson caught a popped-up bunt and then doubled the lead runner off second base.

But DiGaetano issued two more walks to fill the bases, and the tying run was forced home when Webster's Andy Steinorth was hit by a pitch. Reimer then followed with a game-ending single.

Keilman and DiGaetano combined



Webster's Cedric Williams applies the tag in time to get Jeremy Giordano of Aquinas at second base. The Little Irish's season ended with a 3-2 loss in 11 innings at Eastridge June 10.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Nearpass, Lesser each place 12th at state championship track meet

To better understand the level of competition this meet contained, one needed only to look at the plight of Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass.

The sophomore ran the best 3,000 meters of her life, completing the event in 10 minutes, 29.1 seconds. That was 16 seconds better than her sectional-winning effort two weeks earlier, and an entire 30 seconds quicker than any other girl from Section 5 Class D has ever gone.

In the state championships, however, 11 runners fared better than Nearpass. The DeSales runner recorded her 12th-place finish at the state meet on Friday, June 11, in Kingston.

Although Nearpass faced some tough opposition at the states, her excellent effort was the best among anyone from the Rochester area. She finished 1.5 seconds better than Honeoye Falls-Lima's Wendy Bensley, who had won the 3,000 one weekend

earlier during the Section 5 Meet of Champions held at SUNY College at Brockport.

Also capturing 12th place at Kingston was another distance specialist, McQuaid Jesuit's Dan Lesser. The junior posted a time of 9:38.7 in the boys' 3,200-meter run on June 11.

Lesser and Nearpass were the only two diocesan competitors to advance out of Section 5 and into the states. Lesser took first in the 3,200 while Nearpass placed third in the 3,000 at the Meet of Champions, which served as a state qualifier.

Both Lesser and Nearpass captured Section 5 championships in their respective events one week prior to the Meet of Champions. Lesser took the top spot for the 3,200 in Class A, and Nearpass, along with her victory in the 3,000, also won the 1,500 meters at the Class D sectionals.

— Mike Latona

for a four-hitter, but they walked nine batters and hit two others. The Warriors' Steinorth, meanwhile, threw a complete-game six-hitter with only two walks.

AQ Coach Rich Pillitter noted that it was quite an accomplishment for his team to come so close to reaching the finals in light of AQ's problems at the plate during its three playoff games.

"I'm very proud of my kids' pitching and defense, that they were able to go that far having only scored six runs," Pillitter remarked.

The Little Irish had advanced to the semis against Webster with a 3-2 win over East and a 1-0 decision over Brockport.

Aquinas, Mercy and DeSales all succumbed to superior pitching in their playoff losses.

AQ managed just two hits off Brighton's Kim Kantor. The Little Irish fell behind 6-0 before getting their only run in the fourth inning as Sandy Thies singled. Finch-runner Dee Anzalone then stole second and third before

coming home on a wild pitch.

Coach Dave Herbst said that a 2-1 quarterfinal win over Eastridge one night earlier may have sapped his players' collective strength.

"It had been a real emotional win, and I think it took the starch out of us," he commented.

Mercy could not produce any runs at all off Hornell's Sherri Rollins. In fact, it wasn't until the seventh and final inning that Tricia Russell singled for the Monarchs' first — and only — hit.

"She's definitely the best pitcher we've seen," said Coach Mike Baxter of Rollins' abilities.

Scio's Jaci Edwards limited DeSales to a mere two hits. The Saints hung close through the early innings, but the Tigers went in front to stay with a five-run fourth.

DeSales Coach Vic Harris paid homage to Scio's pitching, commenting, "I didn't expect it was going to be that good. It was just flat-out better than anything I've seen. (Edwards) was blistering fast."

## AQ's Petty bringing volleyball skills to St. Bonaventure

OLEAN — Sandy Petty, a graduating senior from Aquinas Institute, has accepted an athletic grant-in-aid to play volleyball at St. Bonaventure University this coming fall.

The 5-foot-10-inch Petty led the Aquinas girls' volleyball team to a 16-5

record this past fall as well as a trip to the Section 5 Class BB semifinals. She also participated in basketball and softball.

Petty plans on majoring in physical education at St. Bonaventure.

## Tickets remain for final Pete Pavia dinner

ROCHESTER — Tickets are still available for the fifth, and final, Pete Pavia Sports Celebrity Dinner.

The banquet is scheduled for Monday evening, June 21, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 Main St. E.

This event will honor the late Pete Pavia, a nationally recognized basketball official from Rochester. Mr. Pavia died last October at the age of 54 after waging a courageous 13-year battle with cancer.

Returning as master of ceremonies will be P.J. Carlesimo, head men's basketball coach at Seton Hall University. Other celebrities set to attend include basketball coaches Jim Boheim (Syracuse), John Calipari (Massachusetts), Rick Barnes (Providence), Gary Williams (Maryland), Tom Penders (Texas), Jim Baron (St. Bonaventure), Jack Arm-

strong (Niagara) and Steve Steinwedel (Delaware).

The dais will also feature celebrities from professional sports such as football and boxing.

Proceeds from the June 21 Pete Pavia banquet, as well as the previous four, are going toward the construction of the Pete Pavia Pavilion. This building will become a part of Camp Good Days and Special Times located on Keuka Lake.

Mr. Pavia was a longtime supporter of Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc., an organization providing recreation, education and support services for children with cancer and AIDS-related diseases.

Tickets are \$85 each and can be purchased in advance by calling 716/624-5555 or 383-1910. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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