

Diocesan teams weathered storm in 1992-93

Champs thrived in frigid settings

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

These clubs bring new meaning to the expression "ice water in their veins."

Cold weather and championships seemed to go together for sectional title-winning diocesan sports teams in 1992-93.

Thirty-degree weather provided the setting for Aquinas Institute's Section 5 boys' soccer title. That same frigid weekend, McQuaid Jesuit's eventual state-champion team dominated the Section 5 cross-country scene.

Four months later, the Our Lady of Mercy and McQuaid basketball teams managed to squeeze in their sectional championships just a few days before the infamous "Blizzard of '93" shut down western and central New York.

Other sectional team titles won by diocesan high schools included Aquinas ice hockey, Elmira Notre Dame wrestling and Bishop Kearney girls' bowling.

In addition, several individuals brought home titles in track, swimming and wrestling.

Here's one more glance at the championship squads of 1992-93:

MCQUAID CROSS-COUNTRY — The Knights, led by meet champion Adam Reitz, swept the top three spots



Our Lady of Mercy head coach Kathy Boughton (far left) holds her head in disbelief as Kristen Sorokio, Cathy Boselko and Cassie Shea celebrate the Monarchs' 72-66 double overtime Section 5 Class A win over Greece Athena at the Rochester Community War Memorial March 4.

in setting a meet record for low score as they captured the Section 5 Class A title. One week later, McQ gained another championship as it won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association meet.

AQUINAS BOYS' SOCCER — The Little Irish edged Pittsford Sutherland,

1-0, to earn the Section 5 Class BB championship. AQ went on to reach the state semifinals and finish with a 20-2 record.

MERCY GIRLS' BASKETBALL — One of the greatest all-time girls' basketball games in the Rochester area saw the Monarchs outlast Greece Ath-

ena, 72-66 in double-overtime, during the Section 5 Class A finals. Mercy successfully defended its sectional crown and finished with a 19-3 record.

MCQUAID BASKETBALL — In a low-scoring yet exciting title game, the Knights edge Fairport, 45-42, for the Section 5 Class A championship. McQuaid's final record was 18-6.

AQUINAS HOCKEY — The Little Irish downed McQuaid in the Section 5 Class A finals for the second consecutive year, defeating the Knights 4-3 in overtime. AQ made the state semis and finished 20-3-2.

ELMIRA NOTRE DAME WRESTLING — The Crusaders successfully defended their Section 4 Class D title, producing four individual winners en route to the team victory.

BISHOP KEARNEY GIRLS' BOWLING — The Kings were in dominant form at the Section 5 tournament, outdistancing defending champion Wayne by 130 pins.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES — Mercy's Maureen Halligan was a double-winner at the Section 5 Class B girls' swim meet ... McQuaid's John Parnaselli earned a Section 5 Class A wrestling title ... McQuaid's Shawn Watts won two events at the Section 5 Class A indoor track championships ... Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass and McQuaid's Dan Lesser each captured Section 5 long-distance event titles in outdoor track this past spring. Both runners went on to place 12th in the state.

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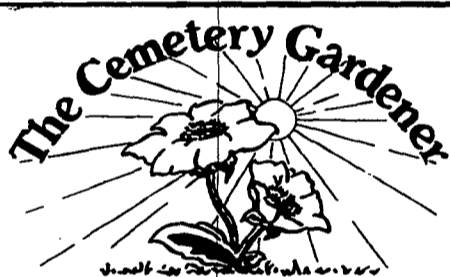
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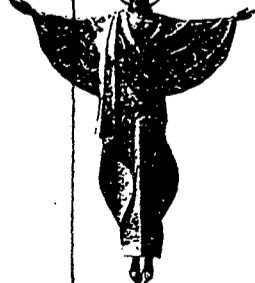
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MCC soccer coach remembered for his warmhearted personality

ROCHESTER — Organizing 11 players on a soccer field should have been a piece of cake for Joe Mancarella. Heck, if you can successfully raise nine kids like he did, you're probably qualified to run an army.

And Mr. Mancarella was obviously doing a few things right during his 26 years as the head men's soccer coach at Monroe Community College. He compiled a staggering record of 364-76-13 before retiring as the nation's all-time winningest junior-college coach.

However, the illness that forced him into retirement in 1990 claimed Mr. Mancarella's life last week at the age of 65. He died of cancer on Monday, June 14, 1993, at the Genesee Region Home Care Association Hospice located at St. Mary's Hospital.

Mr. Mancarella was admired for much more than his win-loss record, as evidenced by the nearly filled Sacred Heart Cathedral — where he was a parishioner — for his Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, June 18.

"The soccer players felt like he was a second father," said son Jay.

Yet as devoted as he was to the MCC community, family still came first for Mr. Mancarella.

"We know the way he felt about his players, but if you can imagine, his family meant that much more," remarked another son, Mike.

Mr. Mancarella, a Watertown native, began his coaching career at the former Scottsville High School in 1953. He became head football and assistant basketball coach at the fledgling McQuaid Jesuit High School in 1956 and, six years later, moved on to another new institution, MCC.

In his roles as physical-education instructor and soccer coach, Mr. Mancarella influenced literally thousands

of lives. His coaching highlights occurred in 1965, when MCC won the National Junior College Athletic Association national championship; and in 1967 and 1971, when the Tribunes finished as national runners-up.

Perhaps Mr. Mancarella's greatest attribute was his ever-friendly, down-home demeanor. His MCC office would frequently be filled with athletes munching away on apples or oranges — fruit that Mr. Mancarella supplied from his travels to the Rochester Public Market. As they ate, the students would listen to their coach reminisce fondly about great MCC games of yesteryear.

Mr. Mancarella humbly shrugged off any type of praise for his coaching abilities, noted Jay Mancarella. "All he said was that it was always the players, and he was just in the right place at the right time — which was not totally true," said Jay.

In addition to Jay and Mike, Mr. Mancarella is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, John, Thomas, Paul and Marc; daughters, Margaret, Patricia and Theresa; mother, Margaret; sisters, Marie Owen, Theresa Augsburg and Nancy Mammano; and 13 grandchildren.

Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Those wishing to make donations in Mr. Mancarella's memory may contribute to the MCC Athletic Scholarship Fund or to Genesee Region Home Care Hospice.

— Mike Latona

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