

Young Knight, Monarch runners will contend

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

As usual, the stables are jammed at McQuaid Jesuit and Our Lady of Mercy.

Yet there is also a fair number of thoroughbreds within other diocesan high school cross-country programs. Names such as Nearpass, Hasert, Courtright, Scozzafava and Weishaar have shown up consistently near the top in early-season meets.

When it comes to team scoring, however, McQuaid and Mercy are perennial Section 5 championship contenders. This year is no different, despite the presence of several new faces on both squads.

McQuaid will knock heads with some of the finest runners in the northeastern United States and Canada at the 29th annual McQuaid Invitational. The 180-team meet will be held this coming Saturday, Oct. 2, at Genesee Valley Park in Rochester.

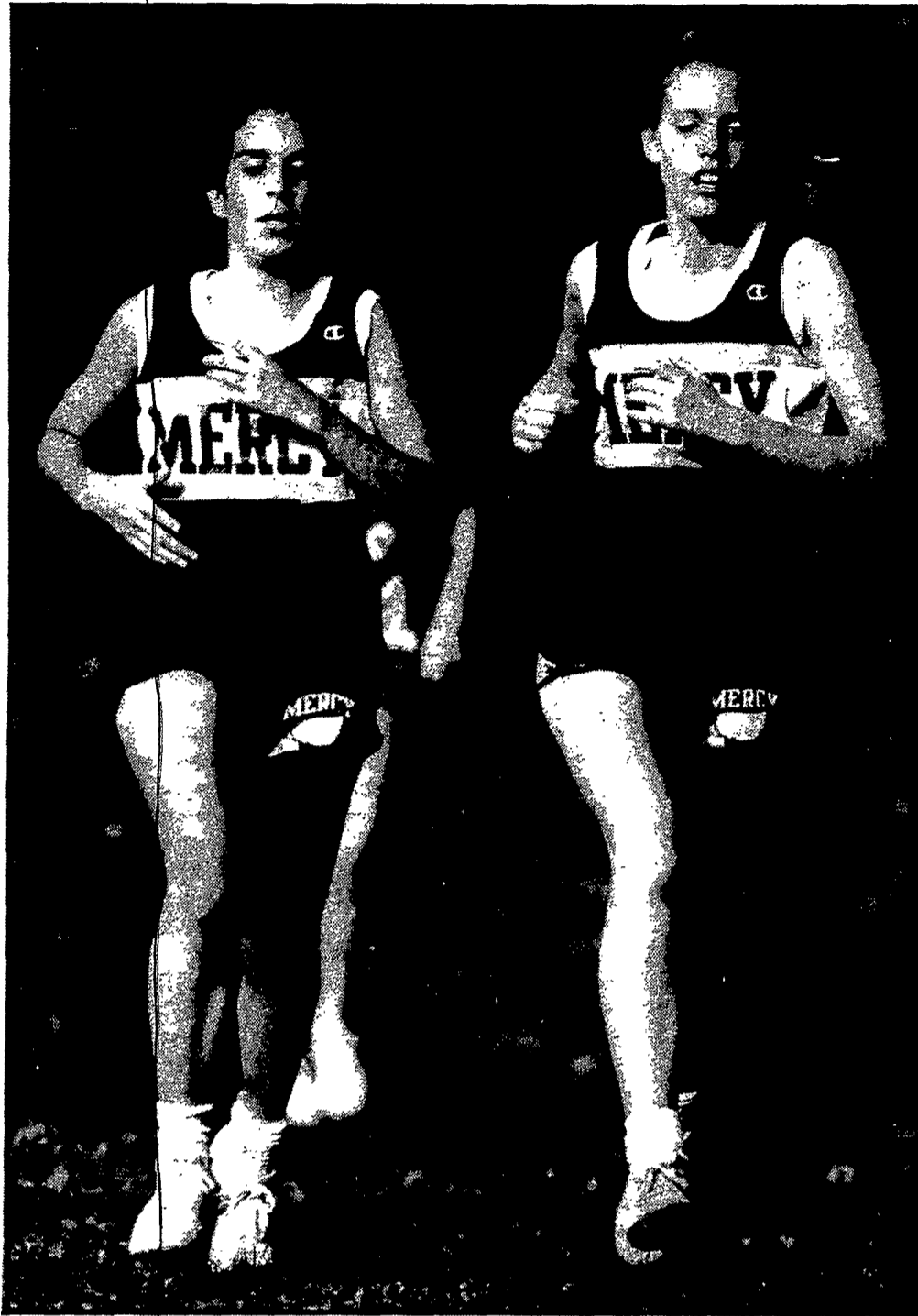
The Knights are the defending state Class A champions. More recently, they placed 12th in the Class A seeded boys' race at the Newark Invitational, held this past Saturday, Sept. 25, at Stuart Park in Newark.

Mercy also competed at Newark, placing fifth in the girls' B division. Three days earlier the Monarchs captured first place at the H-A-C Invitational, held at Allendale-Columbia School in Pittsford. Mercy is coming off a runner-up finish in the 1992 Section 5 Class BB competition.

Here's a look at the top runners with each diocesan high-school program:

It will be impossible for McQuaid's Adam Reitz and Dan Lesser to top their 1992 Section 5 meet performances: the duo, now seniors, finished one-two last year.

Lesser took second place at the Newark Invitational, running the diffi-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Kathryn Belgioro (left) and Christina Wierenga of Our Lady Of Mercy High School match strides along the Harley Allendale-Columbia Invitational course Sept. 22. Mercy won the meet with a total of 55 points.

cult 2.95-mile Stuart Park course in 16:35.8.

"I think he's beginning to realize he can run with anybody in any race," commented Coach Bob Bradley, now in his 32nd season.

However, McQuaid's team score at Newark was hampered by the absence of Reitz, due back this week after a long bout with mononucleosis; and senior Ian Sohn, who is Jewish and was observing Yom Kippur on race day.

Other prominent Knights include sophomore Jeff Clark, junior Pat Bernal and junior Mike Perrotta.

"By the end of the season we'll have a real solid group," predicted Bradley. However, he added that "we were spoiled with a great bunch of seniors last year, so we'll have to scramble to win sectionals."

Mercy's consistency was reflected in its H-A-C victory: although no individual finished in the top five, the Monarchs placed five runners in the sixth through 18th positions to total 55 team points, compared to 79 for second-place Dansville.

This accomplishment was significant because Mercy only returns one of its top seven runners from 1992.

"I think coaches in the area are surprised at how good we are already," remarked Coach Tim Jones.

Mercy's top-four runners have been junior Kathryn Belgioro, senior Christina Wierenga, junior Becky Beecher and freshman Nora Doebrich. Lending further strength to the club are sophomore Danyel Gardner and eighth-grader Teresa Jones, the coach's daughter.

Belgioro was the top Mercy finisher at both H-A-C, where she finished sixth with a time of 20 minutes and 2 seconds; and Newark, where she was 32nd with a time of 22:41.

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McQuaid, Aquinas, Elmira Notre Dame chalk up wins

Late touchdown carries Knights

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

This time, single-digit scoring was just enough for the McQuaid Jesuit football team.

The Knights surrendered a 3-0 half-time lead and fell behind 7-3, but came through with a fourth-quarter touchdown run from Dave Medina for a 9-7 home victory over East. The City-Catholic League contest was played this past Saturday, Sept. 25.

The victory marked a nice turn of events from a bitter 7-6 loss to Gates-Chili two weeks earlier. In that contest, McQuaid failed to hold a 6-0 second-half advantage.

"It was a very, very similar game," remarked Knights Coach Tom Sprague, whose club raised its record to 2-1 in league play and 3-1 overall. "The only difference was that in this game, after (East) went ahead of us, we had time to go back down and score."

Aquinas Institute (2-2, 2-2) also gained a City-Catholic win, rolling to a 29-8 decision over visiting Franklin on Sept. 25.

Elmira Notre Dame (1-0, 2-1) cruised in its first Southern Tier League clash of the season. The Crusaders steamrolled host Moravia, 43-7,

on Sept. 25.

Bishop Kearney (1-2, 1-3) had the home field, but no advantage, in a 39-6 non-league loss to Clyde-Savannah on Sept. 24.

Geneva DeSales (0-4, 0-4) scored its first touchdown of the season, but could not gain its first win as the Saints were defeated 31-7 by visiting Romulus in Finger Lakes West action on Sept. 25.

Rich Mayewski accounted for all of the McQuaid-East game's first-half scoring when he nailed a 40-yard field goal — which cleared the crossbar with ease — with five minutes remaining in the second quarter.

Malik Person put the Orientals up 7-3 when he scored on a five-yard run late in the third period.

McQuaid fought back quickly, thanks to a 35-yard run by backup quarterback Mike Kehoe. That set up Medina's four-yard touchdown run with 9:30 remaining in the game.

McQ's Anthony DiMarco made an interception with five minutes to go, and the home team ran out the clock from there.

The Knights take the field for their first-ever night home game this Friday, Oct. 1, when they square off against undefeated Edison Tech in a 7 p.m. City-Catholic clash.

Aquinas' overpowering ground game produced a touchdown in every

quarter against Franklin, and the defense limited Quaker star Jermaine Stafford to 80 yards rushing.

AQ got on the board with a 35-yard TD run from Gabe Bauza in the first quarter. James Miner added a three-yard scoring run in the second quarter; Reggie Royston scored from four yards out in the third period; and Miner capped the productive day with a 15-yard TD gallop in the final period.

AQ's offense gained 290 rushing yards. Coach Joe Munno credited his offensive line of Dennis Annechino, Israel Sak, David Khuns, Matthew DiPaolo, Mike Benedict, Andy Wegman and Thad Brown for opening big holes.

"These guys are really working hard," Munno commented.

The Irish host Bishop Kearney in a 2 p.m. non-league contest on Oct. 2.

Notre Dame touchdowns were plentiful against Moravia.

Joel Stephens scored on a 10-yard run in the first quarter. Second-quarter TDS came from Tom McNamara, on a one-yard run; Matt Fogarty, on a 12-yard pass reception from McNamara; and Stephens, on a 42-yard run.

In the third period, Ian Lampman reached the end zone on a two-yard run. Tim O'Herron capped the Crusader scoring in the final period when he blocked a punt and recovered the ball in Moravia's end zone.

Although ND had a 278-69 edge in total yards against its outmanned op-

ponents, Coach Mike D'Aloisio feels that room for improvement remains.

"We executed well, but we still have some mental mistakes to clean up," he commented.

The Crusaders head up to Watkins Glen for another league contest on Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. It will mark their final road game of the regular season, with four home contests still remaining.

Kearney found out quickly why Clyde-Savannah is the state's No. 1-ranked Class D school. The Golden Eagles took a 27-0 edge after one quarter, and led 33-0 at the half and 39-0 after three periods.

The Kings averted a shutout when Brendan Murray scored on a one-yard carry in the final quarter.

The upcoming Aquinas game will serve as a homecoming of sorts for BK Coach Nick Teta, who also served as varsity coach at AQ in the 1980s.

DeSales gained its inaugural touchdown of 1993 in the first quarter after recovering a fumble deep in Romulus territory. Eric Colton scored on a two-yard carry, and Steve Davoli's extra-point kick put the Saints up 7-0.

The Warriors closed to within 7-6 after one period and then pulled away, leading 22-7 at the half and 31-7 after three quarters.

DeSales travels to South Seneca on Oct. 2 for a 1 p.m. league contest.