

# AQ ties for league title; playoffs start this week

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

A late-season win over McQuaid after an earlier loss to the Knights. A City-Catholic League co-championship.

Wait, this story seems awfully familiar. Are we sure we're not talking about the 1992 season?

No, it's indeed 1993. And, with the Section 5 playoffs beginning, the Aquinas Institute boys' soccer team would like to make history repeat itself one more time.

AQ, the defending sectional Class BB champion, is seeded No. 3 for the tournament which began this week. The Little Irish, with an 11-5-1 record, received a first-round bye and are scheduled to face either 11th-seeded Edison Tech or No. 6 Greece Arcadia this coming Friday, Oct. 29, in a 7:30 p.m. quarterfinal game at Spencerport High School.

Plenty of post-season momentum for Aquinas was derived from a 2-1 home win over McQuaid last Thursday, Oct. 21. The triumph enabled AQ to tie the Knights for the City-Catholic championship; both teams finished with 4-1 league marks.

Doug Crowley scored the deciding goal when he broke a 1-1 tie with 30 seconds remaining before halftime. Earlier in the half, Andrei Lapine had given the Irish a 1-0 lead before McQuaid's Mike Ahern got his team's lone tally.

This marks the second straight year the Little Irish and Knights have shared first place. In both situations, McQuaid gained an early-season home win before AQ triumphed late in the year on its own field. The Knights had defeated the Irish, 4-1, this past Sept. 23.

"They pretty much embarrassed us. We've been talking about that all year," said AQ Coach Gary LaPietra.

For McQuaid, last Thursday's loss broke a six-game winning streak. The Knights, seeded No. 5 in Section 5 Class A with a 12-3-3 record, were scheduled to host 12th-seeded Rush-Henrietta in a first-round playoff game on Oct. 26.

Five additional diocesan high-school



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
McQuaid Jesuit's Ryan Frischmann (left) kicks the ball away from Marc Falone of Aquinas Institute during their City-Catholic League showdown at Aquinas Oct. 21. The Little Irish defeated the Knights, 2-1.

soccer teams qualified for sectional play. Their seeds and pairings are as follows:

- The Elmira Notre Dame girls (16-2) are the No. 1 seed in Section 4 Class C. ND received a first-round bye and will play either No. 4 Dryden or No. 5 Union Springs on Oct. 29 (time and location were not known as of press time). The Crusaders ended their regular season with a 12-game winning streak — and perfect 10-0 record in Sullivan Trail Conference play — by virtue of their 6-2 home victory over Horseheads on Oct. 19.

- Bishop Kearney's boys (10-6-1) gained the No. 4 seed in Section 5 Class CC. The Kings will take on No. 5 Cuba-Rushford in quarterfinal play on Oct. 28 at Cohocton in a 7 p.m. game. BK scored a 6-0 win over Geneva on

Oct. 20 to finish with a 9-2-1 record in Finger Lakes East play. That triumph enabled Kearney, a first-year participant in the league, to finish in a second-place tie with Canandaigua — just one point behind Victor.

- The Aquinas girls, who reached the Section 5 Class A finals a year ago, have moved to Class BB and are seeded No. 4 with an 11-4-2 mark. They're scheduled to host fifth-seeded Churchville-Chili in quarterfinal play on Oct. 30 at 1 p.m.

- Our Lady of Mercy's girls (13-4), who won this year's Private-Parochial League crown, are seeded No. 4 in Section 5 Class A. The Monarchs are at home against No. 5 Spencerport on Oct. 30 at 1 p.m.

- The Kearney girls (9-8-1) claimed the No. 6 seed in Section 5 Class CC. BK plays No. 3 Perry on Oct. 29 at

Warsaw High School in a 3 p.m. start.

## Other sports highlights

Nazareth Academy did not qualify for post-season girls' soccer play, but the Lasers (5-8-1) did pick up a 4-1 home win over East on Oct. 18 behind three goals from Traci Sergeant.

In girls' volleyball, both Kearney and Mercy finished in a three-way tie with Harley Allendale-Columbia for the Private-Parochial League title. All had 6-2 league records. BK (17-4) clinched a tie with a 15-0, 15-1, 15-8 home win over Nazareth on Oct. 19, and the Kings also picked up non-league triumphs last week over Wayne, Wilson Magnet and Canandaigua. Mercy, meanwhile, upped its overall record to 14-4 with non-league decisions over Palmyra-Macedon, Wilson Magnet and Newark.

Also victorious in girls' volleyball was Nazareth (7-15), which won 7-15, 15-8, 9-15, 15-12, 15-9 over visiting C.G. Finney on Oct. 18 and added a 3-15, 15-11, 15-7, 15-10 decision over host Marshall on Oct. 20.

The McQuaid boys' volleyball squad (11-5) picked up a 15-9, 16-14, 15-17, 15-10 road victory over Livonia on Oct. 19.

In girls' tennis, Mercy singles player Sue Ciccone, along with the doubles team of Caitlin Reilly and Lynne Keogh, each won their first-round matches before being eliminated in the Section 5 state-qualifier quarterfinals on Oct. 22. Earlier in the week, the Monarchs earned a 3-2 win over Victor in Section 5 team competition before losing 3-2 to Batavia.

In cross-country, Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass took first place for girls in the seven-school Canandaigua Homecoming Classic, held Oct. 23 at Finger Lakes Community College. Nearpass posted a time of 21 minutes, 26 seconds over the 3.1-mile course.

McQuaid's Dan Lesser gained second place at the Brown University Invitational on Oct. 23 in Pawtucket, R.I. Lesser ran the 3.03-mile route in 15:10 as the Knights finished ninth in team competition.

Mercy's runners settled for third place among 13 schools in the Class A-B girls' division at the Clarence Invitational held Oct. 23 in Buffalo.

## McQ snags top seed in Class A with win over Fairport

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Perhaps no regular-season victory has ever been so profitable for the McQuaid Jesuit football program.

With their 14-9 triumph over host Fairport this past Saturday, Oct. 23, the Knights' fortunes turned around as quickly as a homeless person who's won the lottery:

- The non-league win came against the defending Section 5 Class A champions on the Red Raiders' home field.

- It was the Knights' first win ever over Fairport; all three previous losses came in sectional play.

- It enabled McQuaid to qualify for the four-team Class A playoffs for the first time since 1989.

- It vaulted the Knights all the way to No. 1 in sectional seeding points.

"It was a good win for our program, no question about it. I've always considered Fairport to be the premier program from top to bottom," remarked Coach Tom Sprague, whose Knights finished 6-2 in the regular season. They also shared the City-Catholic League championship with Edison Tech after going 5-1 in league play.

McQuaid will take on fourth-seeded Greece Olympia in sectional semifinal action this coming Sunday, Oct. 31, in a 4 p.m. game at the University of Rochester's Fauver Stadium.

Moving closer to post-season play was Elmira Notre Dame, which earned a 14-8 home win over Trumansburg on Oct. 22. The victory, ND's fifth straight, improved the Crusaders to 4-0 in the Southern Tier League and 6-1 overall. ND hosts Whitney Point — also 4-0 in league play — in a crucial showdown on Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Geneva DeSales (1-5, 2-6) won't be seeing any playoff action, but the Saints did end their turnaround season on a positive note by whipping Lyons, 20-6, in a Finger Lakes West home game on Oct. 23.

Aquinas Institute and Bishop Kearney were still in the playoff hunt entering last weekend, but both teams fell out of contention by suffering defeats on Oct. 23. Aquinas (4-4) was dealt a 28-12 non-league loss by host Pittsford, and BK (3-3, 3-5) fell by a 14-0 count to visiting Penn Yan in Finger Lakes East play.

Both AQ and Kearney will play non-league games this weekend to end

their seasons. The Irish travel to Penfield on Oct. 30 at 1 p.m., and BK hosts Brighton on Oct. 29 in a 7:30 p.m. contest.

### McQuaid 14, Fairport 9

The Knights struck early against the Red Raiders, taking a 14-0 lead on a one-yard touchdown run by Rich Mayewski in the first quarter and a 27-yard pass play from Mayewski to Tim Tyre in the second period.

Although Fairport responded with nine points before halftime, the Knight defense — led by Aaron Medina's 15 tackles — blanked the Red Raiders over the last two quarters.

This game marked the two teams' first meeting in four years, and the first ever during the regular season. Fairport knocked McQuaid out of the sectional semifinals in 1989, and the Red Raiders also won narrow decisions in the sectional championship game in both 1984 and 1985.

There's a strong chance that a third title-game clash will occur in '93. Fairport is the No. 2 seed and faces third-seeded Gates-Chili in the other Class A semifinal, while McQuaid contends with a Greece Olympia club entering

the playoffs with a 7-1 record.

### ND 14, Trumansburg 8

Dan Wilson gave the Crusaders a 7-0 halftime lead when he bulled into the end zone for a seven-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Joel Stephens made it 14-0 with his two-yard TD carry on Notre Dame's opening possession of the second half. Trumansburg's only score came in the fourth quarter.

ND's vaunted running attack saw Stephens finish with 125 yards on 27 carries, while Wilson collected 87 yards on 19 rushes.

Although the Crusaders could still earn a Section 4 Class C wild-card playoff berth even if they lose to Whitney Point this weekend, ND Coach Mike D'Aloisio doesn't care for that line of thinking.

"We don't want to back into anything," he commented.

### DeSales 20, Lyons 6

This victory proved that the Saints' triumph over Spencer-Van Etten two weeks earlier — ending a three-year, 20-game losing streak — was no fluke.

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