

ND makes playoffs; Knights iced by Olympia

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

While football playoffs are being eagerly anticipated by Elmira Notre Dame, they will be painfully remembered by McQuaid Jesuit.

Notre Dame claimed the Southern Tier League championship by scoring 26 unanswered points to erase an early 13-0 deficit in a 26-20 home win over Whitney Point last Friday evening, Oct. 29. The victory put ND into the Section 4 Class C playoffs as the No. 3 seed.

The Crusaders, who have won six straight games to up their season record to 7-1, will face top-seeded Walton this coming Saturday, Nov. 6, in a 7:30 p.m. semifinal encounter at Vestal High School. That game's winner takes on either No. 2 Tioga or No. 4 Windsor in the Class C Bowl Game the following weekend.

McQuaid, on the other hand, saw its hopes for a sectional title blow away into the chilly Halloween night Oct. 31. The Knights (6-3), seeded No. 1 in Section 5 Class A, were defeated 14-7 by No. 4 Greece Olympia at the University of Rochester's Fauver Stadium.

Two season-ending, non-league games closed out last weekend's football action involving diocesan teams. Bishop Kearney (4-5) came from behind to score a 12-9 home win over Brighton on Oct. 29. And Aquinas (4-5) was nipped 17-14 by host Penfield on Oct. 30.

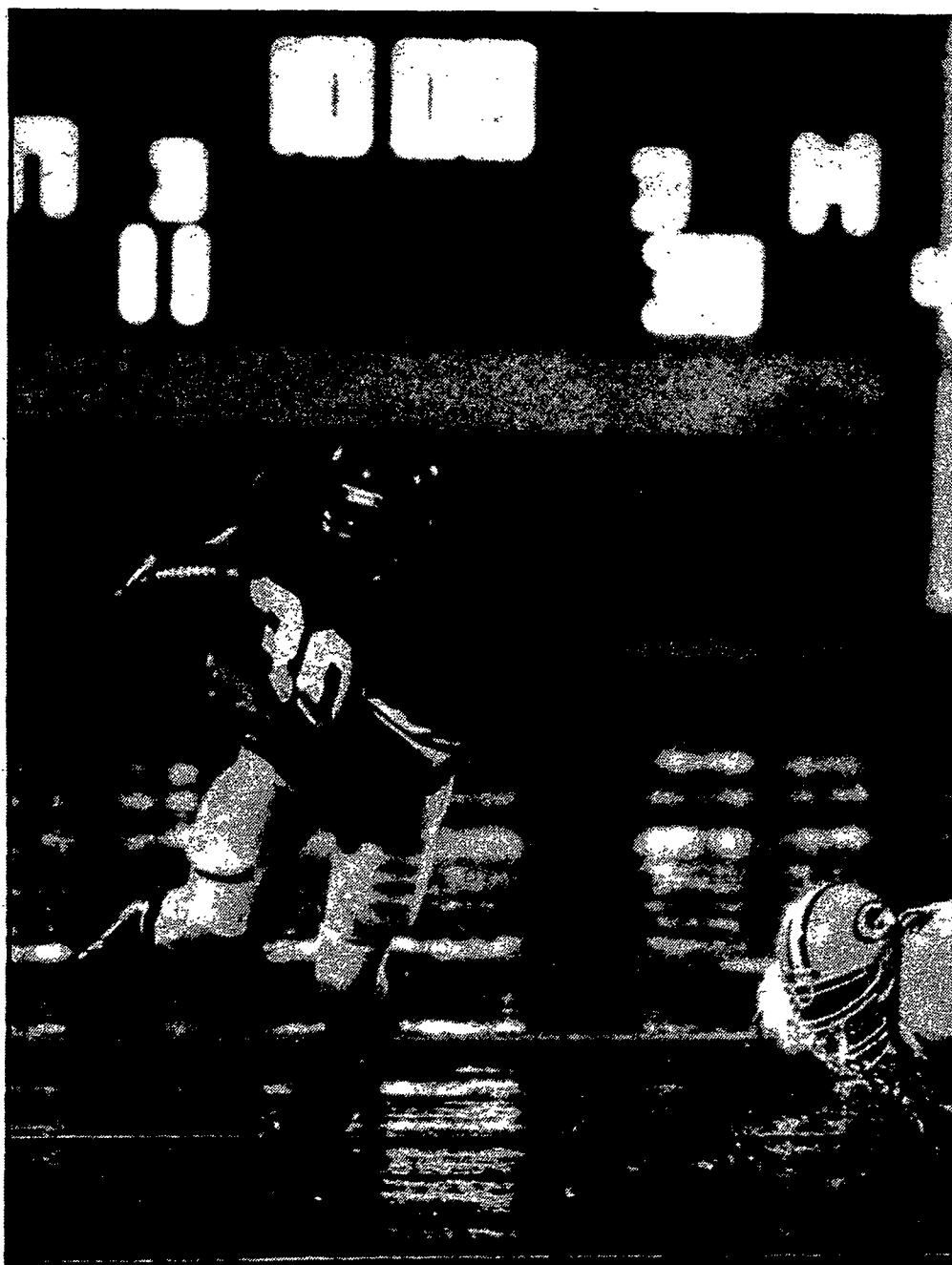
ND 26, Whitney Point 20

Down 13-0 after one quarter, the Crusaders staged a championship-caliber comeback.

Dan Wilson got Notre Dame on the board with a two-yard touchdown run, and quarterback Tom McNamara hooked up with Mike Berrettini on a 24-yard TD pass play to pull the Crusaders even, 13-13, at halftime.

The surge continued after intermission, with a one-yard scoring run from Wilson and a five-yard TD carry by Joel Stephens giving ND a 26-13 edge after three quarters. Whitney Point got to within 26-20 with a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter, but the Crusaders controlled the ball for the final six minutes.

The win broke a first-place tie between Notre Dame and Whitney Point, who both entered the game with 4-0



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
McQuaid Jesuit's Dave Medina keeps his balance while carrying the ball on Fauver Stadium's wet field. The Knights lost to Greece Olympia, 14-7, in the Section 5 Class A semifinal playoff game held Oct. 31.

records in Southern Tier League play. This marks the Crusaders' fourth league championship in the last five years.

However, ND won't have long to bask in its accomplishment. Walton is the No. 1-ranked Class C team in the state with a 9-0 record, while the Crusaders are rated 15th in Class C.

"They're very impressive, with a lot of skilled players," ND Coach Mike D'Aloisio said of Walton. "But we can match up with them."

Olympia 14, McQuaid 7

The Knights got off to a strong start against the Spartans, scoring the game's first touchdown when Rich Mayewski went around left end from two yards out with 3:16 remaining in the first quarter for a 7-0 edge.

Olympia answered quickly, however, when Adam Rodger reached the end zone from one yard away 1:09 into the second period to make it 7-7. Rodger had made a 41-yard carry on the previous play.

A steady wet snow appeared to hamper both teams' play over the next several minutes. However, it was Rodger who again conquered the conditions — and the McQ defense — when he shot up the middle for a 70-yard touchdown run with :02 left in the third quarter.

The Knights had two ensuing chances to pull even, but both drives ended in Olympia territory: one on an interception at the Olympia 5-yard line, the other on downs at the Spartan 38 with 1:59 to go.

Coach Tom Sprague said the play of Rodger — "he killed us" — and the weather doomed his club.

"We rely so much on our play-action pass, and we just couldn't throw the ball," Sprague remarked.

Kearney 12, Brighton 9

Two 80-yard scoring drives made the difference for BK.

The Kings' opening possession ended successfully when Sherrard Sloan made a one-yard scoring run midway through the first quarter. The Barons then used a field goal and touchdown to take a 9-6 lead by the fourth quarter.

Kearney put together another long drive to pull out the victory, with Bob Pellegrino throwing 16 yards to Vernon Banks for the deciding touchdown with only 2:00 remaining.

The win marked a nice season-ending surge for the Kings, who overcame manpower shortages to win three of their last four decisions.

Penfield 17, Aquinas 14

The Little Irish took an early 6-0 lead, scoring on their opening drive when Reggie Royston made a one-yard touchdown run. Penfield's touchdown and field goal put the Chiefs up 10-6 in the third period, but AQ recaptured the lead when Jim Miner made a one-yard scoring carry with 6:00 left in the game. Matt Delly then threw to Thad Brown for the two-point conversion to make it 14-10.

However, the Chiefs pulled out the win when Eric Williams threw four yards to Jeff Flannigan with just under two minutes to go.

"We had a good team. A few breaks here or there, and the season could have been reversed," said Coach Joe Munno, whose Little Irish were defeated by seven points or less in four of their five losses.

Kings, Monarchs rule in girls' volleyball quarterfinals

McQuaid to play at Canandaigua

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The Section 5 girls' volleyball quarterfinals were anything but an upsetting experience for Bishop Kearney and Our Lady of Mercy.

Both made short work of their opponents, recording three-game sweeps in matches played on Friday, Oct. 29.

Kearney, seeded No. 2 in Class BB, was a 15-4, 15-8, 15-11 winner at home over No. 7 Wilson Magnet. Not only did the Kings' record improve to 18-4 with the victory, but their 18 wins mark a single-season high for the program.

Mercy, the No. 3 seed in Class BB, gained a 15-12, 15-0, 15-3 rout over No. 6 Newark in a match held Oct. 29 at Edison Tech. The Monarchs' record went to 15-4.

These quarterfinal triumphs set up

an all-diocesan semifinal clash between Kearney and Mercy, who shared this year's Private-Parochial League title along with Harley Alledale-Columbia.

The BK-Mercy showdown was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2. That evening's winner advanced to the Class BB championship match against either No. 1 Victor or No. 4 Edison. The finals will take place on Friday, Nov. 5, at Edison Tech in a 7 p.m. start.

One other diocesan high-school volleyball team is slated for sectional action this week. The McQuaid Jesuit boys (11-6), seeded fifth in Section 5 Class A, travel to No. 4 Canandaigua on Thursday, Nov. 4, in a 6 p.m. quarterfinal match. The winner plays on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in the semifinal round at Fairport High School, most likely against undefeated and top-seeded Webster.

Nazareth Academy's girls, on the other hand, qualified for sectional play but did not survive into this week. The Lasers (7-16), seeded No. 7 in Section 5 Class CC, went down to a 15-6, 15-0,

15-1 loss to second-seeded Mynderse Academy in quarterfinal play on Oct. 30 at Mynderse.

Kearney, which had gone seven days without a match before meeting Wilson, showed few ill effects from the layoff.

"We came out sluggish, but then we put it together," said Coach Paul Coppini, who was substituting freely by the third game.

Ebony Pelemon led the Kings' assault with 19 assists. Patti Lynch added 11 serving points.

BK was perfect against Wilson this year, having also swept the Wildcats in two regular-season matches.

Mercy, like Kearney, experienced a slow start before coming on strong in its quarterfinal romp.

"Newark came out with a lot of hustle and we weren't returning their serves very well," said Coach Nancy Wunder.

However, 6-foot-1-inch Teresa Hartman helped step up the momen-

tum by serving for seven straight points in the second game. She finished the night with seven kills, five blocks and 10 serving points.

"She was a dominant factor," said Wunder. The Mercy coach added that "I got to play everyone, and everyone played fabulously."

Lesser, Nearpass star during recent meets

McQuaid Jesuit's Dan Lesser and Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass continued their season-long excellence by coming up big in cross-country meets this past Saturday, Oct. 30.

Lesser eased to a first-place finish at the Loyal Greenman Invitational in Binghamton. His time of 15 minutes, 52 seconds was 20 seconds better than the next-closest runner. The winning performance helped McQuaid to a second-place showing in team scoring.

Nearpass, competing in the Finger Lakes Championships at Stuart Park in Newark, finished in third place. She recorded a 21:03 clocking.