

McQuaid wins once again in cross-country

NEWARK — If this were the Oscars, Dan Lesser would be a shoo-in for Best Actor — with best supporting roles being shared by Ian Sohn and Mike Perrotta.

Lesser gained individual honors at the Section 5 Class A championship cross-country meet, recording a 21-second victory with a time of 16 minutes, 38 seconds.

Yet it was late charges by McQuaid teammates Sohn and Perrotta which made the difference as the Knights won their third consecutive team title on Saturday, Nov. 6, at Stuart Park.

"We were at the final part of the course yelling, 'The sectionals are right in front of you.' And they responded," said Coach Bob Bradley of his fourth and fifth runners.

Sohn and Perrotta passed a group of opponents to finish 17th and 22nd, respectively. Meanwhile, Lesser's winning run was supplemented by a fifth-place showing from Jeff Clark and a sixth place from Adam Reitz as McQuaid's 51 points edged out Penfield's final count of 54.

Lesser will be an individual favorite as he leads the Knights into the state meet — where they're defending champs — on Saturday, Nov. 13, back at Stuart.

Also qualifying for states was Our Lady of Mercy, which placed second to Victor in the Class BB girls' sectionals on Nov. 6 at Stuart. The Monarch made it into states — also to be held at Stuart on Nov. 13 — because they recorded the second-best finish among Class BB and B schools.

"I'm very happy to be going," said Mercy Coach Tim Jones.

Individual state qualifiers include Karen Scozzafava and Carolyn Courtright of Nazareth Academy, as well as Stephanie Neerpass of Geneva DeSales.

— Mike Latona



Elmira Notre Dame's Georgia Grieco (second from right) celebrates Christina Bruner's goal as Trumansburg players look on dejectedly. The Crusaders beat the Blue Raiders 2-0 at Southside High School in Elmira on Nov. 5 to win the Section 4 Class C championship game.

ND girls capture Section 4 crown

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ELMIRA — Christina Bruner wasn't about to complain that her 27th goal of the season wasn't a textbook play.

A corner kick by Bruner, which came early in the Section 4 Class C title game, was knocked into the net by a Trumansburg defender. The break propelled Elmira Notre Dame to a 2-0 victory over the Blue Raiders on Friday, Nov. 5, at Southside High School.

"I just put it into play. We'll take what we can get," remarked Bruner, a senior forward whose 27 goals and 18 assists are both school records. She is also the Sullivan Trail Conference's all-time leading scorer.

ND's win gave the school its first-ever sectional girls' soccer championship. The Crusaders, who own an 18-2 record, have now won 14 consecutive games.

Next up for Notre Dame is a state Class C quarterfinal contest this coming Saturday, Nov. 13, at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta. The Crusaders will face either Cooperstown or Westhill of Section 3.

Bruner's goal against Trumansburg came with 9:45 gone in the first half. Notre Dame then got a two-goal cushion when Megan Smith knocked a shot 20 yards through a crowd with 7:19 left before halftime. Smith was assisted by Jenny Hill.

Neither team scored after intermission, as players struggled to maintain their balance on the slippery Southside field. Notre Dame's Lori Spaziani came the closest when her shot deflected off the top of the Trumansburg goal post with 25:05 remaining.

The Crusaders outshot the Blue Raiders by a 19-13 count, with Notre Dame goalie Michelle May recording her 11th shutout of the season.

ND Coach Steve Weber praised May as well as the entire Crusader defense.

"Michelle makes every save she has to make, and our defense plays well enough so she doesn't have to make difficult ones," Weber commented.

As for the offense, Weber was equally happy. "The front line passed the ball real well. Because of the field, we had to make adjustments and start making shorter passes."

Notre Dame had beaten Trumansburg by an identical 2-0 count in a regular-season contest on Oct. 2.

With the Sullivan Trail Conference and now the sectional championship in the bag, the Crusaders are now turning their thoughts to a possible third title — the state crown. Bruner, for one, thinks the trifecta is well within reach.

"I hope we can go all the way; we've got the potential," she said. "About six games ago, we started to jell. This team knows each other so well."

Montesano sparks Monarchs to Class A championship

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — Gina already knew basketball. Gina now knows soccer.

And, more than anything else, Gina knows championships.

It's the latest title which has made Gina Montesano — who once considered soccer a secondary activity — switch her priorities for the time being.

"Basketball's just going to have to wait. Soccer is my sport now," stated an exuberant Montesano this past Saturday, Nov. 6.

Yes, it's quite hard to prepare for the upcoming basketball season when your soccer team still has a state tournament to look forward to. It may be a couple more weeks before Montesano is blistering basketball nets instead of soccer nets.

The Our Lady of Mercy High School junior striker sparkled in the Section 5 Class A title game, scoring two goals in leading her Monarchs to a 3-1 victory over Greece Athena at Bishop Kearney High School.

Montesano, who improved her school-record season goal-scoring total to 38, also kept alive her incredible

streak of at least one goal scored in every game this year.

This marks the Monarchs' second Class A title in three years, and it raises their season record to 16-4.

Mercy, seeded fourth, had advanced with a tense 2-1 shootout win over No. 9 Brockport on Nov. 3 at Kearney.

The Monarchs will now play a state Class A quarterfinal game this coming Saturday, Nov. 13, at Lewiston-Porter High School near Niagara Falls. Game time is 5 p.m. against either Orchard Park or Lockport of Section 6.

In the win over second-seeded Athena, Jen Vogel gave Mercy a 1-0 lead with only her third goal of the season. She knocked home a rebound past fallen Trojan goaltender Dayna Tantalo with 25:26 remaining in the first half.

Montesano then struck with just :22 to go before halftime, lofting a shot from the left side over Tantalo to give the Monarchs a 2-0 lead.

This free-wheeling offensive show, which saw Mercy hold a 23-18 in shots, became a 2-1 game when Athena's Janeen Bartlett beat Mercy goalie Kelly O'Neill with 22:06 left in the game.

But Montesano quelled the Trojan threat when she blasted a bullet from 15 yards away with 4:38 remaining.

Montesano, to no one's surprise, was selected the game's most valuable offensive player while O'Neill, a junior, garnered defensive MVP honors. Both players have also been integral parts of Mercy's two-time defending sectional Class A basketball champs.

"They just seem to step it up at playoffs," Coach Kathy Boughton commented.

Boughton, who also heads the Monarch basketball program, has now won four sectional titles in the two sports in her last five tries.

Her team's second soccer title in three years became possible when the

Monarchs emerged with their narrow semifinal victory over Brockport. The two clubs battled to a 0-0 tie through regulation, and Montesano then put Mercy on top with a goal in the first 10-minute overtime before the Blue Devils' Besty Hogan answered in the second OT.

Mercy prevailed in the five-person shootout, with Montesano, Cassie Shea and Melanie Heeder — the first, second and fourth shooters — scoring. O'Neill, meanwhile, allowed only Brockport's second player, Melissa Maleski, to score. Mercy, going last, clinched on Heeder's conversion.

Kearney works overtime for title

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

HOLLEY — Seems like there were a few too many zeros floating around for Bishop Kearney's taste.

Here the score was tied 0-0, and the game was heading for some more round numbers — as in exactly 100 minutes of scoreless soccer.

The story line changed quickly, though, thanks to the footwork of

Mary Finucane, Janet Lansing and Sandy Moll. They combined to move the ball from midfield in just 15 seconds — the end result being Moll's goal that decided the Section 5 Class CC championship.

Moll's score came with just seven seconds remaining in the second 10-minute overtime as Kearney edged Marcus Whitman, 1-0, for the Catholic high school's first-ever sectional girls'