

Mercy soccer two wins away from state crown

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

When this game ended, it was difficult to tell which was bigger: the victory margin, or the winning coach's confidence in her team.

"I don't think we're over-achievers. I just think we're where we belong," said Coach Kathy Boughton after her Our Lady of Mercy girls' soccer squad rolled to a 6-0 triumph over Orchard Park this past Saturday, Nov. 13.

The win in the Western Region Class A title game, held at Lewiston-Porter High School near Niagara Falls, sent Mercy into the state Class A semifinals for the second time in three years.

The Monarchs, who improved their record to 17-4, are back in action this Friday, Nov. 19, against Shenendehowa of Section 2. The semifinal contest is set for 10 a.m. at Alfred University, with the winner playing for the state championship the following day at Alfred against either Union-Endicott of Section 4 or Sachem of Section 11 (10:30 a.m. start).

Two other diocesan girls' soccer squads joined Mercy in state play last week, but both were defeated in their opening games.

Elmira Notre Dame, the Section 4 Class C champion, was edged 1-0 by Syracuse Westhill in quarterfinal action on Nov. 13 at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta. The defeat snapped the Crusaders' 14-game winning streak and gave them a final record of 18-3.

Bishop Kearney, the Section 5 Class CC champ, was dealt a 3-1 defeat by Bloomfield in a state Class CC-C qualifier game held Nov. 10 at Wayne Central High School. BK ended the year with a 12-9-1 mark.

Mercy 6, Orchard Park 0

After scouting Orchard Park in its Section 6 championship win over Lockport, Boughton felt pretty good about her team's chances.

"I thought our speed would devastate them," she said.

Her prediction was on the money, as the Monarchs scored three goals from short range to build a 3-0 halftime lead. Gina Montesano connected 6:27 into the game, and Melanie Heeder scored with 8:56 left in the first half before Montesano got her second goal



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Our Lady of Mercy team members jubilantly display their Western Region Class A championship plaque after a 6-0 win over Orchard Park on Nov. 13 at Lewiston-Porter High School.

earned the school's first-ever Section 4 girls' soccer title. ND also won the Sullivan Trail Conference crown, with Christina Bruner being named league co-player of the year and teammates Megan Smith, Lori Spaziani and Jen Beaty making the all-STC first team.

Heeder, who also played in Mercy's shootout loss to Shenendehowa in the 1991 state semis, is confident about her Monarchs' chances of a state championship this time around.

"I think we can do it; I really do," the senior forward said.

Westhill 1, ND 0

Westhill struck 9:37 into the game on an acrobatic play from Sarah Ungerer, who kicked a shot past Crusader goalie Michelle May while suspended in mid-air.

"Her feet went up, and her body went down," was ND Coach Steve Weber's description of the play.

Notre Dame was outshot 20-4, but May's stellar goaltending — she made 15 saves — kept the game close.

Weber said he was pleased with ND's effort against a Westhill team which brought a 31-1 scoring edge in post-season play into the game.

Despite the Nov. 13 defeat, it was a terrific year for a Crusader club which

earned the school's first-ever Section 4 girls' soccer title. ND also won the Sullivan Trail Conference crown, with Christina Bruner being named league co-player of the year and teammates Megan Smith, Lori Spaziani and Jen Beaty making the all-STC first team.

Bloomfield 3, BK 1

The Bombers' Amy Falsone gave her team all the goals it needed when she scored twice in the first half.

Kearney drew to within 2-1 when Mary Finucane tallied on an assist from Jenny Nicolay with 25:00 left in

the game, but Bloomfield's Trisha Raymore gave her team an insurance goal 11 minutes later.

Coach Paul Forte praised undefeated Bloomfield's level of play.

"They were a solid team, the type that takes advantage of your mistakes," said Forte.

Yet he added that his Kings were probably still feeling the effects of their 1-0 overtime win over Marcus Whitman in the Section 5 Class CC title game less than 48 hours earlier.

"We weren't ready to play, physically or emotionally," Forte commented.

Trieste excels in swim sectionals

Some sparkling season-ending performances by Nikki Trieste enabled Our Lady of Mercy to capture fifth place in the Section 5 Class B girls' swimming championships. The meet was held this past Saturday, Nov. 13, at the University of Rochester.

Trieste, only a seventh-grader, won the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes, 25.83 seconds. She also earned second place in the 200 free with a 2:03.29 clocking.

Despite Trieste's high finishes, she did not qualify for this coming week-

end's state meet because her times in the 500 and 200 free were not among the top three combined times from both Class A and Class B.

Mercy also had a strong sectional showing from the 400 freestyle relay, which took third with a school-record time of 3:58.40 (the old record was 3:58.59). Relay members included Emmie Ingersoll, Katie St. Martin, Michelle Moosbrugger and Trieste.

In team scoring, the Monarchs totaled 174 points to finish fifth. Victor won the Class B title with 450 points.

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