

Knights' clutch play extends into new season

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Whether it's the Rochester Community War Memorial in March or its home court in November, McQuaid Jesuit has exhibited a tendency that's been very, very pleasing to Coach Joe Marchese.

When the game's on the line, the foul shots go down.

The Knights were 11-for-12 from the charity stripe in the fourth quarter of their season-opening boys' basketball game against Syracuse Bishop Ludden this past Saturday, Nov. 27. The result: a 61-58 win on the McQ hardwood.

"It wasn't pretty, but we'll take it. We made the free throws when we needed to," said Marchese, whose Knights had also made six foul shots in the final 1:06 to edge Fairport, 45-42, in the Section 5 Class A finals nearly nine months earlier.

Two other diocesan squads opened their seasons this past weekend by taking part in two-day tournaments.

Bishop Kearney won 45-40 over Marshall on Nov. 27 in the consolation round of the New York Chiropractic College Tournament in Seneca Falls. BK had lost 72-43 to Mynderse Academy in first-round play on Nov. 26.

Geneva DeSales hosted its own tourney and had to settle for runner-up honors: the Saints won 48-45 over Harley Allendale-Columbia on Nov. 26 and were downed by East Rochester, 60-40, in the Nov. 27 finals.

Meanwhile, Elmira Notre Dame and Aquinas Institute begin play this week. ND opens on Dec. 3 at home against Marathon (7:30 p.m. start), and AQ takes part in the Victor Tournament on Dec. 2 and 4.

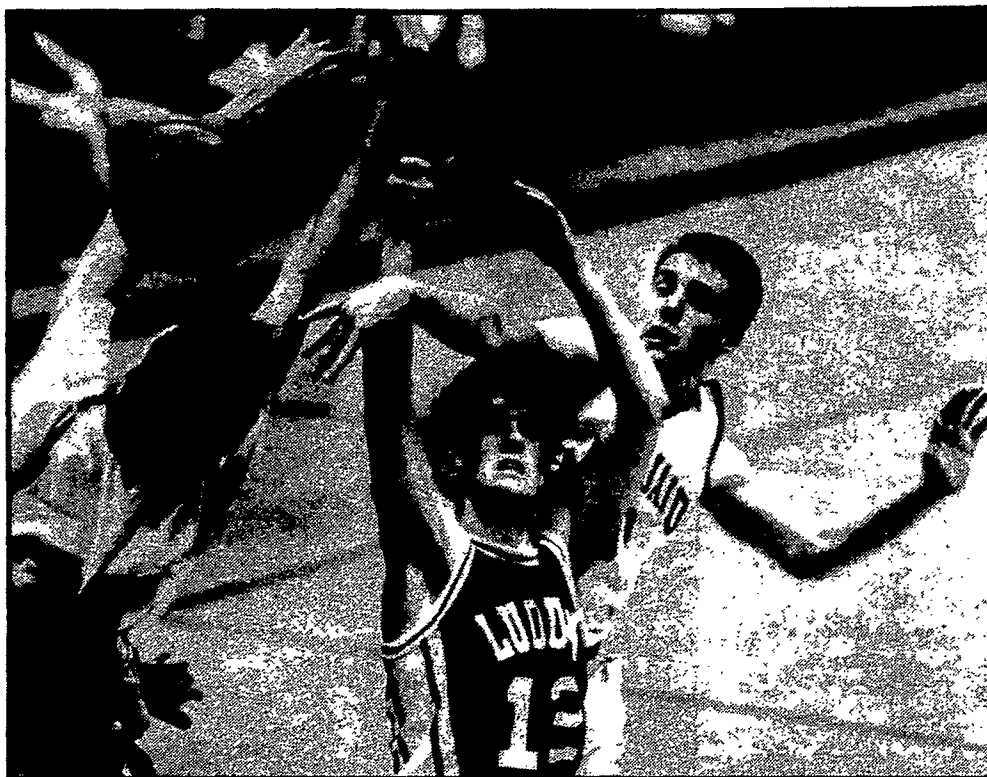
Here's a look at the key players on all five diocesan squads:

Will Knights reign again?

McQuaid junior Ben Wandtke has quickly filled the shoes of his brother, Jay, who's now in his freshman year on a full scholarship at St. Michael's College in Vermont. Ben, a junior center, amassed 22 points and 21 rebounds in the Nov. 27 victory over Bishop Ludden.

Other McQ starters include senior forwards Matt Podmenik and Greg Roehrig, senior guard Mark Crowe and junior guard Rob Norris.

Leading players off the bench include junior guard Tim Schwalm, sophomore guard Dante Hooker, senior center Chris Pegan and junior forward Nate Sheppard. Rounding out



Aggressive play by McQuaid Jesuit's Mark Crowe (right) and Chris Pegan causes Bishop Ludden's Steve Infanti (12) to lose the ball. The Knights won their season-opening game, 61-58, on Nov. 27.

the team are freshman center Chris Fox, junior forward Joe Winters, junior guard Sean Finegan, and senior forwards P.J. Ostrowski and John Pineau.

The Knights posted a final 1992-93 record of 18-6. They won their fourth sectional title in seven years under Marchese before being nipped 46-45 by Niagara Falls LaSalle in the state Class A quarterfinals.

New look for BK

With the graduation of Joe Raniewicz and Jason Randall, Bishop Kearney has lost most of its offense from last year's 15-7 club. Yet Coach Ed Nietopski likes his team's chances for success in 1993-94.

"We're going to have a little trouble scoring, but we'll make up for it by playing good defense and pressing a little bit," said Nietopski.

Those words certainly held true in the Nov. 27 victory over Marshall: the Kings forced several Jurist turnovers to take an 11-0 lead after one quarter.

BK's starting five includes senior center Rich Cannon, junior forward Vernon Banks, senior forward Jay Derleth, senior guard Matt Curran and junior guard Patrick Goode. This quintet accounted for all of the Kings' 45 points against Marshall.

Other team members are junior centers Mark Jensen and Jeff Smith,



Ben Wandtke collected 22 points and 21 rebounds against Ludden.

junior forwards Adam Randall and Bob Merritt, senior forward Sherrard Sloan, sophomore guard Kevin Goode, and junior guards Sean Nicholas, Jason Dady and Chris Muscato.

Saints hope to improve

Perhaps a 1-1 start doesn't warrant a wild celebration, but it's a nice sign for Geneva DeSales after the Saints' 4-17 campaign in 1992-93.

"We'd like to strive to have a winning season," said Coach Tony Alvaro. "But right now we're inexperienced, so we have to build ourselves into a contender."

Senior center John Kiley was his team's leading scorer in both games last weekend, netting 19 points against H-A-C and 13 against East Rochester.

Other primary DeSales players are junior forwards Bob Rose and Kyle Perillo, junior guards Jayson Lamson and Mike Sweeney, sophomore guard Mike Windle and sophomore guard/forward Bob Peters.

Completing the squad are senior guard David Cox, junior center/forward Dan Anderson, and junior guard/forward Jason Telarico.

Windle was the clutch man in the win over H-A-C. He scored the game's final four points, on a basket and two free throws in the last 15 seconds, to rally the Saints from a 45-44 deficit.

ND faces tough schedule

Nobody will accuse Elmira Notre Dame of taking the easy way out. The Crusaders, who finished at 10-10 last season, compete in the rugged Sullivan Trail Conference and will also face such non-league powers as Marathon and Groton.

"I'm hoping that, down the road, it'll pay off for these kids," said Coach Mike D'Aloisio.

Junior forwards Joel Stephens and Mike Berrettini, along with junior guard Mike Lynch, are the only confirmed ND starters at this point.

Remaining Crusaders are senior guard Eric Shelling, senior forward/guard Tom McNamara, sophomore center/forward Jon Harley, junior center/forwards Damian Cleveland and Shawn Golden, junior guards Rick Maxa and Matt Cornacchio, sophomore guards Chris Madigan and Mike Valeant, and junior forward Jim Whitaker.

"We'll hopefully wear people down, but we're probably the smallest team in the STC and the least experienced," said D'Aloisio.

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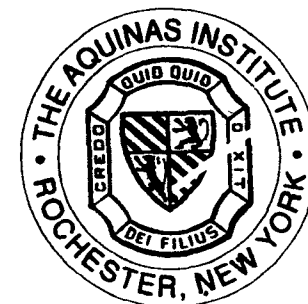
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