

Mercy girls gunning for third straight sectional

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Don't read too much into that 17-point loss suffered by Our Lady of Mercy in its 1993-94 girls' basketball opener.

Several Monarchs had barely ended a lengthy soccer season when they endured a 71-54 loss to Finger Lakes power Waterloo last Thursday, Dec. 2, in the first round of the Seneca County Youth Bureau Tip-Off Tournament at Mynderse Academy. But Mercy came back with a 53-40 consolation-round win over Mynderse two nights later.

And you can probably expect a lot more wins from the Monarchs before the season is over. They're taking aim at a third consecutive Section 5 Class A championship on the strength of veterans Gina Montesano and Kelly O'Neill, who led Mercy to a 19-3 record last year.

Looking especially strong in the early going is Nazareth Academy, which romped to a 68-9 win over visiting C.G. Finney in its season opener on Dec. 2 at Nazareth. The Lasers are coming off an 8-13 finish in 1992-93.

Geneva DeSales has posted a 2-1 start after scoring a 42-25 victory over host Harley Allendale-Columbia on Dec. 2. The Saints finished at 10-13 last year.

Aquinas Institute, which went 7-14 last season, has dropped its first two games of 1993-94. The Little Irish, playing in the Honeoye Tournament, lost 69-40 to Honeoye on Dec. 3 and 64-46 to Newark on Dec. 4.

Elmira Notre Dame has already surpassed its 0-17 finish of last season by starting out at 1-4. In action last weekend, the Crusaders lost 63-26 to Greene and 47-43 to Chenango Valley at the Chenango Valley Tournament on Dec. 3-4.

Bishop Kearney has four starters back from a club that posted a 16-5 mark last year. The Kings' season begins on Dec. 10 with a road game against Rush-Henrietta.

Sizing up the six diocesan high-school girls' basketball teams:

Mercy aims for No. 3

Currently, Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton's main goal is finding someone to adequately complement the scoring punch of Montesano, a junior point guard, and O'Neill, a junior forward.

"We're real quick; our drawback is



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Geneva DeSales freshman Heather Pike (left) pressures Nicki Weber of Harley Allendale-Columbia as she looks for an open teammate during a Dec. 2 contest. The Saints eased past the host Braves, 42-25.

that we don't know who's going to put the ball in the net," said Boughton. "We'd like to have at least three people (averaging) in double figures."

Other current starters are senior guard Tricia Russell, sophomore guard Katie Fitzgerald and junior forward Teresa Hartman. Senior guard Kerri Boroski will also see considerable playing time when she returns from an ankle injury that has her sidelined until Christmas.

Remaining Monarchs are senior guard Cassie Shea, senior forward-guard Michelle McLaren, freshman forward Sarah Zona, and junior guards Brandi Rondo, Tracey Green and Danni LaMagna.

Height helps Nazareth

The rout of C.G. Finney — which was playing its first-ever varsity game — hasn't left first-year Nazareth Coach Chris Belmont with a false sense of security.

"We're real young, and 14 of our 20 games are against teams in higher (sectional) classifications," he said. "So we're looking forward to a very competitive year."

Two 6-foot-1-inch sophomores, Deidre Britton and Amy Bohan, anchor Nazareth's front line. Other starters are junior guards Traci Sergeant and Larissa Hugel, and senior guard-forward Margaret Grabowski.

Rounding out the Lasers' roster are senior guard-forward Elizabeth Bess, junior forward Michele Yax, and sophomore guards Lisabeth Johnson and Jessica Benthin.

Veterans boost DeSales

DeSales has four returning players who logged extensive court time a year ago: senior guard Emily Parshall, senior guard-forward Lindsay Higgins, junior forward Stephanie Nearpass and sophomore guard Emily Krakowiak.

Joining the starting lineup is freshman guard Heather Pike. Other Saints include junior forward Rose Guerrieri, and junior guards Stefanie Smaldone and Emily Phillips.

Coach Steve Muzzi says he's "optimistic" about his club's chances for success this season.

"We're playing well as a team defensively," said Muzzi.

This week, the Saints host the DeSales Tipoff Tournament. They face Lima Christian on Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m., with H-A-C playing Romulus at 6. The

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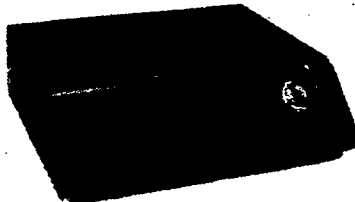
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Private-Parochial soccer all-stars chosen

Fourteen girls' soccer players from Our Lady of Mercy, Bishop Kearney, Aquinas Institute and Nazareth Academy have been named to the 1993 Private-Parochial League all-star first team.

Mercy junior striker Gina Montesano, who led the Monarchs to the Section 5 Class A championship with a school-record 41 goals, was selected the league's Most Valuable Player. Joining her on the first team were Kelly O'Neill, Jenny Smith, Melanie

Heeder and Abby Wambach.

Kearney, which captured the Section 5 Class CC crown, placed three players on the Private-Parochial first team: Mary Finucane, Sandi Shoniker and Chelsie Pero.

Aquinas featured four first-team all-stars in April Baker, Lynsey Hopkins, Katie Clendenning and Tricia DiQuattro.

Nazareth was represented by Robin DeMark and Katie Poinan.

DeSales girls' soccer team earns sportsmanship award

GENEVA — The girls' soccer team from DeSales High School has been awarded the Central Western Board of Officials 1993 Sportsmanship Award.

DeSales was not only named the Finger Lakes League recipient of this award, but the Saints' score of 9.75 was also the best overall total of the six

leagues participating for this honor.

Other league winners, and their scores, were: Fairport (Monroe County), 9.12; Pavilion (Genesee Region), 9.55; Dansville (Livingston County), 9.28; Lyons (Wayne County), 9.34; and Northstar Christian Academy (Private/City-Catholic), 9.51.