

Late free throws lift Kearney to one-point wins

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Ed Nietopski has been coaching high-school basketball for nearly 40 years, but he can't recall a turn of events quite like last week's.

His Bishop Kearney boys recorded not one, but a pair of one-point victories on their home court. The Kings rallied for a 33-32 win over rival Aquinas Institute on Dec. 7, and added a 51-50 decision over Wilson on Dec. 10.

"I've had a few (one-point wins), but not back-to-back," remarked Nietopski, whose Kings improved their winning streak to four and their season record to 4-1.

Victory appeared unlikely for BK against Aquinas (1-3). The Kings were trailing 32-30 with :03 to go, and AQ had possession.

But Patrick Goode stole an inbounds pass and set up to take a shot from three-point territory. He was fouled on the play with :02 to go, and was awarded three free throws.

The junior guard sank all three foul shots to give Kearney the improbable win. "We hung right in there. It's a compliment to the boys for not giving up," said Nietopski.

Late free throws also played an important part in BK's win over Wilson three nights later. Senior guard Matt Curran converted both ends of a one-and-one to give his team a 51-47 lead with :21 left, and that four-point cushion proved crucial as Wilson's Leroy Barnes hit a late three-point basket to leave the Wildcats one point short.

Other sports highlights

The Geneva DeSales girls (4-1) have also put together a four-game winning streak. They won the DeSales Tipoff Tournament, prevailing 66-38 over Lima Christian on Dec. 9 and 31-30 over Romulus on Dec. 11. The Saints rallied from a 25-20 deficit after three quarters against Romulus behind Stephanie Nearpass' 15-point performance. Nearpass also scored 21 points against Lima Christian, and teammate Lindsay Higgins had 25 in that game while Emily Parshall added 18.

Kearney's girls (1-0) opened their season by trouncing host Rush-Henrietta, 45-25, on Dec. 10. Kate Jensen combined 14 points and 13 rebounds that night, and Jennifer Zambito added 10 points.

The Aquinas Institute girls (2-2) gained two victories last week, winning 60-41 at Marshall on Dec. 7 and 72-39 at home over Nazareth Academy (1-2) on Dec. 11. Giannine Lioi led AQ against Marshall with 16 points, and Jenny Werner turned in a 22-point performance against Nazareth.

Elmira Notre Dame's boys (1-3) picked up their first victory by outscoring Towanda, 77-64, in the Towanda Tournament's consolation round on Dec. 11. Joel Stephens poured in 27 points to lead the Crusaders, and Damian Cleveland had 14 points while Matt Cornacchio scored 13.

In hockey, Aquinas Institute (4-2) picked up its fourth straight win by defeating Irondequoit, 7-4, on Dec. 11 at Lakeshore Rinks. Brian Gionta had two goals and two assists in that game, and he also picked up a goal and an assist in AQ's 4-2 win over Brockport on Dec. 8 at the State University of New York College



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

(Above) Aquinas Institute's Shawn Finein (left) collides with Jason Derleth of Bishop Kearney. (Bottom) Pat O'Toole (left) and Tad Valentino (right) of Aquinas pressure Bishop Kearney's Richard Cannon as he attempts to pass the ball. The host Kings nipped the Little Irish, 33-32, on Dec. 7.



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The McQuaid Jesuit boys' swim team emerged victorious from its first two meets of 1993-94, winning 49-37 over host Brighton on Dec. 7 and 48-29 over host Harley Allendale-Columbia on Dec. 9. The Knights' Doug Kazley won two events at each meet.

In indoor track, McQuaid's Shawn Watts-(600-meter run) and Brian Kubiak (high jump), along with Aquinas' Joe Hayes (shot put), were event winners at a Rochester Winter League meet held Dec. 11 at the University of Rochester.