

Knights pile up points to win holiday tourney

McQ improves its mark to 6-3

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

This might have been the nicest Christmas present Joe Marchese ever received.

Offense.

After scoring between 50 and 61 points in each of its first six games, the McQuaid Jesuit basketball team recently averaged 76 points in putting together a three-game winning streak to raise its record to 6-3.

The Knights hosted and won their own Christmas tournament, defeating Half Hollow Hills East by a 76-49 count on Dec. 29 and winning 81-70 over Fredonia in the Dec. 30 championship game. Prior to the tournament, McQ also scored a 71-50 home victory over Aquinas Institute on Dec. 23.

"We're starting to put things together a little bit," said Marchese, the Knights' head coach. "We've got a nice inside-outside combination, if we're just patient enough to take what teams are giving us."

Ben Wandtke and Rob Norris were the high scorers against Fredonia with 24 and 22 points, respectively. Greg Roehrig's 15 points and John Pineau's 13 led McQuaid against Half Hollow Hills East, a Long Island school. Four Knights — Wandtke (18), Roehrig (15), Norris (12) and Nate Sheppard (10) — hit double-figures against Aquinas.

More basketball results

Aquinas (2-6) was involved in two narrow decisions at the Canandaigua Tournament. The Little Irish lost 62-61 in overtime to Honeoye Falls-Lima on Dec. 28, but came back for a 46-45 victory over Penfield in the Dec. 29 consolation game. Shawn Finein topped AQ in both games with consecutive 18-point efforts.

Bishop Kearney (6-3) reached the finals of the Hilton Tournament, winning 64-29 over Spencerport on Dec. 29 before losing 62-61 to Hilton on Dec. 30. Adam Randall paced the Kings both nights with 15 points against Spencer-

port and 14 against Hilton.

In the Southern Tier, Elmira Notre Dame (2-6) gained a 62-50 home victory over Thomas Edison on Dec. 23 as Joel Stephens poured in 27 points. The Crusaders went on to lose both games in the Elmira Christmas Tournament at Southside High School, falling 80-35 to Southside on Dec. 28 and 62-51 to Elmira Free Academy on Dec. 29.

Jayson Lamson's 18 points led all scorers for Geneva DeSales (2-6) in the Saints' 60-49 loss to host Naples on Dec. 22.

In girls' basketball, Bishop Kearney improved its season-opening win streak to six games with a 36-25 decision over Fairport on Dec. 28 in the Edison Tournament's first round. However, BK's string was broken by Edison Tech the following night in a 47-27 defeat. Kate Jensen led the Kings against Fairport with 18 points, and she was also the top BK scorer against Edison with eight.

Our Lady of Mercy (3-2) routed Ithaca, 55-28, on Dec. 27 in the first round of the Holiday Festival Tournament at New York Chiropractic College. One night later, the Monarchs suffered a 64-55 loss to Waterloo in the title clash. Mercy's Gina Montesano had two huge games, scoring 26 points against Ithaca and 23 against Waterloo.

Aquinas (3-6) dropped both its games in the Palmyra-Macedon Tournament, losing 64-28 to Greece Athena on Dec. 28 and 35-33 to Franklin on Dec. 30. Lynda Limma led AQ with eight points against Athena, and Jenny Werner had 14 against Franklin.

Nazareth Academy (3-4) picked up a 50-41 victory over Marshall on Dec. 23 as Margaret Grabowski compiled 26 points and 11 rebounds.

DeSales (6-2) got 16 points each from Lindsay Higgins and Stephanie Nearpass in its Dec. 22 home game against Bloomfield, but the Saints still went down to a 63-44 loss.

Notre Dame (2-8) broke a seven-game losing streak by defeating Southside, 51-40, in the Elmira Christmas Tournament's consolation round on Dec. 29. Jen Weineman had 14 points and Christie Garwood added 13 in that game. That win was preceded by a 47-37 loss to Elmira Free Academy on Dec. 28.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

McQuaid Jesuit's Tim Schwalm pressures Kenyon Link of Half Hollow Hills East during the Knights' opening game of their Christmas basketball tournament Dec. 29. McQuaid went on to defeat the Thunderbirds, 76-49.

AQ scores big win, but still looks for more consistency

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Will the real Aquinas Institute hockey team please stand up?

Easier said than done, since many team members have barely been able to stand over the past few weeks.

"I haven't played with a full team yet," said Coach Dave Montgomery.

Injuries, illnesses and ineligibility have led to various player shortages for Aquinas, the two-time defending Section 5 Class A champion. As a result, inconsistent play has been the story of AQ's season.

On the extremely positive end, the Little Irish pulled off a significant feat when they edged Massena, last year's state champ, by a 7-6 count on Dec. 22 in the Massena Tournament's opening round. Aquinas staged a miracle finish, scoring four goals in the game's final five minutes to erase a 6-3 deficit. Joe Zabawa netted the game-winner with 53 seconds left, his third goal of the day.

But the Little Irish were blown out in the Dec. 23 tournament finals, 10-2 by Buffalo St. Francis, a team which Montgomery rates "the best in the state, no doubt about it." That defeat dropped AQ's record to 5-4.

Montgomery said that a foot injury suffered by senior forward Joe Gionta on Dec. 4 against McQuaid Jesuit has

been particularly devastating.

"We're not the same team as we were with him. Our lines are all mixed," observed Montgomery, who added that Gionta will remain out of action indefinitely.

Yet the AQ coach was encouraged by his club's terrific comeback against Massena. "We got what we wanted. We went up there wanting to win one game," he said.


Other sports highlights

McQuaid's hockey squad (1-7-1) got goals from five different players to pick up its first win of the season, 5-3 over Fulton, in the Syracuse Tournament's opening round on Dec. 27. The Knights were then stopped by Oswego, 5-1, in the Dec. 28 title game.

In wrestling, Elmira Notre Dame's Dan Wilson won the 189-pound weight class in the Williamson (Pa.) Tournament on Dec. 30. The Crusaders also gained runner-up finishes from Paul Tutte (119 pounds), Adam Atwell (140), Kevin Wilson (145) and Eric Byland (heavyweight).

McQuaid wrestler John Zicari took second place in the 138-pound division at the Teike-Bernabi Tournament held Dec. 30 at Spencerport High School.

In indoor track, McQuaid's Tim Tyre (200-meter run) and Shawn Watts (1,500) were event winners during a Rochester Winter League meet held Dec. 30 at the University of Rochester.




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