

## Defense doesn't rest for BK teams

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Quick, how many great basketball players can you name who are better known for their defense than their offense?

Unless you're a real student of the game, that question may take almost as long to answer as it's taking for the Buffalo Bills to win a Super Bowl.

Yet defense is a very popular subject at Bishop Kearney lately. Both the boys' and girls' varsity squads were in a state of denial — as in denial of points — while rolling to victories last Friday, Jan. 28.

The BK boys were at their stingy best in bumping off McQuaid, 53-42. It was an improbable win for BK: the Kings had lost three of their previous four



Aquinas' Michelle DeMunck (left) and Jen Werner both vie for a rebound.

games, while the Knights were fresh off big City-Catholic League wins over Franklin and Marshall the previous week. Last Friday was also McQuaid's first defeat all season on its home floor, as well as its first loss to Kearney on any court in several years.

"It was a great defensive effort. It was a good indication of what we can do if we can get ourselves together," said Kearney Coach Ed Nietopski, whose Kings raised their record to 8-5. McQuaid fell to 10-6.

McQuaid scored just 13 first-half points, including four in the second quarter, as BK jumped out to a nine-point halftime lead.

Rich Cannon had 14 rebounds to go along with his team-high 16 points. The senior center also frustrated Jay Wandtke, one of McQuaid's leading scorers, by holding him to two points.

Adam Randall was another key Kearney performer, collecting 16 boards and eight points. Rob Norris finished as McQuaid's top scorer with 16 points.

While the Kearney boys' defense was exceptional on Friday, their female counterparts were simply continuing a season-long trend in that department.

BK's girls (13-2) won their fifth consecutive game by stuffing Rush-Henrietta, 39-26, at Kearney. During their five-game streak the Kings have not permitted an opponent more than 28 points, and they're only allowing a paltry 27.3 points per game for the entire season.

"We won't score 80 points in a game, but we won't allow 50, either," Coach Paul Forte commented. "Defense has always been my first priority. I know that this may have hurt some of my players' statistics, but hopefully the colleges (recruiters) will recognize what we're trying to do."

Kate Jensen and Sheila O'Hanlon paced the Kearney offense with eight points each.

### More hoops highlights

Our Lady of Mercy (11-2), led by the reliable scoring of Gina Montesano and Kelly O'Neill, rarr its victory streak to eight games with a 75-59 triumph at Buffalo Sacred Heart on Jan. 29.

Montesano scored 27 points for the Monarchs, lifting her season average to

21.8 points per game. O'Neill added 19 points to improve her average to 15.6.

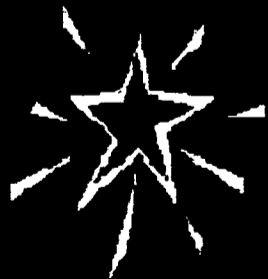
Nazareth Academy (6-7) eased to a 65-31 road win over C.G. Finney on Jan. 28. Margaret Grabowski (15 points), Deidre Britton (12) and Traci Sergeant (11) were all double-figure scorers for the Lasers.

In the Finger Lakes, the Geneva De-Sales girls (9-5) broke away from a 19-19 halftime deadlock to achieve a 46-37 home win over Dundee on Jan. 29. Stephanie Nearpass and Lindsay Higgins topped the Saints with 12 and 11 points, respectively.



Lauren McFalls/Photo intern

Aquinas Institute's Fran Iacovangelo (left) looks for an open teammate as she gets pressured by Ronda Reed of Franklin during a Jan. 27 game at AQ. The Quakers defeated the Little Irish 45-32.



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