

SPORTS  
FEATURE

## Fisher basketball squads eye NCAA berths

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — Both the women's and men's basketball teams at St. John Fisher College are hoping for extended stays at next month's NCAA Division III national playoffs.

No opponent has managed to solve the Fisher women, who ran their season record to 21-0 by capturing the Chase Invitational Tournament held this past weekend. The Cardinals defeated host University of Rochester, 78-62, in the title game on Feb. 12. One night earlier, they knocked off Roberts Wesleyan College, 62-49, in first-round action at Nazareth College. Fisher, under 20th-year Coach Phil Kahler, was ranked No. 2 in last week's NCAA Division III national coaches' poll.

Meanwhile, the Fisher men raised their record to 18-3 by winning 96-61 at home over Utica College on Feb. 12. Seventh-year Coach Bob Ward's Cardinals were ranked No. 3 last week among East Region Division III schools.

Over at Nazareth College, the Golden Flyer women improved their mark to 14-6 by scoring a 81-68 victory over Roberts Wesleyan in the Chase Invitational consolation round on Feb. 12 at U of R. The suffered a 67-63 first-round home loss to University of Rochester one night earlier. Nazareth's head coach is Mike Decillis, now in his 10th season.

The Nazareth men are experiencing a down year. A 74-56 loss at Hilbert College on Feb. 12 dropped the Golden Flyers' record to 4-17; however, they did pick up

one win last week by earning a 78-71 home triumph over SUNY College at Oswego on Feb. 8. Nazareth is coached by Mike Daley, in his eighth season.

Here's a brief overview of the key performers on each team:

**Fisher women**

Balanced scoring from three players has led Fisher throughout its undefeated streak.

Senior guard Becky Armstrong leads the team in scoring with an average of 14.3 points per game. One of Armstrong's finest performances to date occurred in the Chase Invitational finals against U of R, when she erupted for 30 points.

Other leaders in the Cardinals' balanced offensive attack are senior forward Jennifer Ruff (12.9 PPG) and senior guard Rochelle Meinking (11.5 PPG).

Fisher's roster includes one member who played at a diocesan high school. She is freshman forward Amy Martin, an Our Lady of Mercy High graduate.

**Fisher men**

Senior forward Chris Sullivan experienced some anxious moments last week. A broken thumb threatened to keep him sidelined for the season, but Sullivan was cleared to play last Thursday. He is the team's leading scorer with 23 points per game.

Sophomore forward-center Adam Moore (22.8 PPG) has been drawing closer to Sullivan in scoring average. Moore was clicking on all cylinders as he scored 36 points to lead Fisher back from an 11-point deficit in a 78-74 win over host SUNY College at Brockport

on Feb. 8.

**Nazareth women**

The Golden Flyers' top scorer is senior forward Nikki Penoyer, who is averaging 17.4 points per game. Penoyer led Nazareth with 26 points in the Golden Flyers' win over Roberts Wesleyan on Feb. 12.

Point guard Kathy Lynch (8.3 PPG), an Elmira Notre Dame High School graduate, also played a vital role in the Roberts Wesleyan victory. She hit all eight of her free throws in the final two minutes as Nazareth held off a second-half rally by the Raiders.

**Nazareth men**

Junior forward Kevin Pawlak, a Bishop Kearney High School graduate, was tied with senior forward John O'Day for the team scoring lead through the end of last week. Both were averaging 15.2 points per game.

Also averaging in double figures for the Golden Flyers were sophomore center Michael Sullivan, at 14.2 PPG; and senior forward Bill Slape, at 12.6 PPG.

Lauren McFalls/Photo intern  
St. John Fisher College's Chris Sullivan is guarded by Andre Testamark of Utica during the host Cardinals' 96-61 win Feb. 12.



## Mercy, McQuaid, Aquinas squads lock up league titles

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Everyone has heard plenty enough about ice this winter, but it's become a fairly pleasant word for athletes at Our Lady of Mercy, McQuaid Jesuit and Aquinas Institute.

Mainly because the Mercy hoop team and McQuaid wrestlers put league titles "on ice" last week. In addition, the AQ hockey squad tied for a league championship.

Mercy wrapped up the Private-Parochial League with a 75-28 home win over Aquinas Institute last Tuesday, Feb. 8. The Monarchs have now won or shared 10 straight league crowns.

Mercy then extended its winning streak to 13 games — and overall record to 16-2 — by completing the week with two road wins: 65-36 over Nazareth Academy (6-12) on Feb. 10, and 74-36

over North Tonawanda on Feb. 12.

The McQuaid wrestlers clinched the City-Catholic League title with a 54-13 win over host Franklin on Feb. 9. Steve Butcher (132 pounds), John Zicari (138) and Mike Hayes (145) all recorded pins for the Knights.

Aquinas did not play any league contests last week, but earned a share of the Monroe County Division I hockey title thanks to a big assist from Irondequoit. The Indians upset Pittsford 7-6 on Feb. 10, meaning the Panthers and Aquinas ended the regular season tied for the league title. Both AQ and Pittsford had 11-2 league records.

**Other highlights**

The McQuaid indoor track team won the Southern Tier Classic on Feb. 12 in Cortland. Event champions for the Knights included Tim Tyre in the 300-meter run, Shawn Watts in the 1,000

and Dan Lesser in the 1,600.

Elmira Notre Dame's wrestlers concluded their regular season with a 10-2 record after winning 28-26 over visiting Spencer-Van Etten on Feb. 7 and 51-18 over host Elmira Free Academy on Feb. 10.

Picking up boys' basketball victories were Bishop Kearney (10-6), which gained a 62-50 triumph over host Lewiston-Porter on Feb. 12 behind Vernon Banks' 21-point, 10-rebound performance; Aquinas Institute (6-12), which received 21 points from Shawn Finein in a 67-62 home win over Wilson Magnet on Feb. 7; and Elmira Notre Dame (7-10), which outlasted host Corning West, 38-36, on Feb. 11 behind nine points each from Mike Berrettini and Joel Stephens.

Bishop Kearney's girls (15-4) recorded two basketball wins last week: 52-29 over visiting Nazareth on Feb. 8 and 41-13 over Lancaster on Feb. 11 in the Brock-

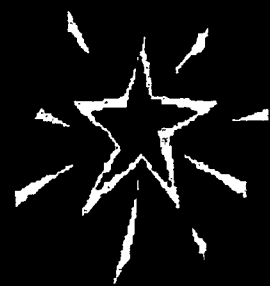
port Tournament's opening round. BK lost 30-22 to Fairport in the Feb. 12 tournament finals.

The McQuaid hockey team (5-12-1) routed Irondequoit, 6-1, on Feb. 12 at Genesee Valley Ice Arena. Brian Felber led the Knights with two goals and two assists, and Mike Providence contributed two goals.

Bishop Kearney goalie Chris Ashton turned in an amazing performance on Feb. 9 against host Brockport. Ashton made 57 saves, but his effort wasn't quite enough as the Kings lost 3-2.

In boys' swimming, McQuaid battled host Wilson to a 43-43 tie on Feb. 10. However, the Knights (6-1-1 in league meets) had needed a victory in that meet to tie the Wildcats for the City-Catholic League championship.

Also on Feb. 10, the Aquinas swimmers were 52-29 victors over East while the McQuaid bowlers won 2-1 over AQ.



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