

# Diocesan softball rosters boast young talent

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Are these the stars of the future, or could the future be now?

Rosters of 1994 diocesan girls' softball squads are loaded with young athletes. Our Lady of Mercy leads the pack with seven players who are in their sophomore years or younger, followed by Elmira Notre Dame with six, Geneva DeSales, five; Bishop Kearney, four; and Nazareth Academy, three. The only exception is Aquinas Institute, which features an all-junior and senior lineup.

These teams have only played a limited number of scheduled contests due to the unpredictable early-April weather, but each club had managed to work in at least one game through the end of last week.

Nazareth is coming off a terrific 1993 season in which the Lasers posted a 20-5 record, tied Aquinas for the Private-Parochial League championship and won the league tournament. The Lasers are off to another hot start, opening their 1994 campaign with a double-header sweep in New York City this past Saturday, April 17. Nazareth defeated Martin Luther by scores of 13-2 and 18-12.

Aquinas, which finished 15-7 a year ago, has struggled to an 0-2 start. The Little Irish lost 9-8 in nine innings at Penfield on April 14, and were defeated 16-6 by host Greece Athena on April 15.

Mercy, which went 14-9 in 1993, has dropped its first two contests as well. The Monarchs fell 8-5 at Eastridge on April 14 and 11-7 at Penfield the following day.

Kearney, which finished 13-11 last year, scored an 11-3 win over host East Rochester in its opening game on April 14.

Geneva DeSales, coming off a 10-8 season, was downed 13-12 by host Romulus in its 1994 opener on April 14.

Elmira Notre Dame, the only diocesan club not to hit the .500 level last year, has started 0-2 after losing 8-3 at Elmira Southside on April 11 and 6-1 to visiting Elmira Free Academy on April 15.

Here's a look at the 1994 rosters on each team:

## Lasers flawless in field

In its sweep of Martin Luther, Nazareth committed no errors in the first game and just two in the nightcap. Equally as impressive was the Lasers' comeback in the second game, in which they erased a 10-0 deficit.

Sophomore Jennifer Massare handles pitching duties, with junior Sarah Deppen at catcher. The starting infield features senior Margaret Grabowski at first base, eighth-grader Katie Barnum at second, junior Traci Sergeant at shortstop



Lauren McFalls/Photo Intern

Our Lady of Mercy's Sharon Delia looks on as her pitch is bunted by a Penfield player during a April 15 game at Penfield High School. The Chiefs defeated the Monarchs, 11-7.



Our Lady of Mercy's Tricia Russell charges for home plate during the April 15 game against Penfield.

and junior Michele Yax at third base.

Starting outfielders are senior Erin Dady in left field, sophomore Jessica Benthin in center and senior Elizabeth Bess in right. Rounding out the roster are junior outfielders Larissa Huge, Cathy Spahn and Tenley Ostrowski.

Along with his club's outstanding de-

fense, Coach Dave Pisano is pleased with the Lasers' offensive skills.

"I'm sure we'll finish better than .500," Pisano predicted. "We're faster than last year, and we've got some kids who can hit the ball."

## AQ aims for turnaround

Aquinas Coach Dave Herbst isn't overly concerned about his team's 0-2 start, pointing out that the Little Irish began in similar fashion each of the past two years — but wound up advancing to the Section 5 Class BB finals and semifinals, respectively.

"We're not panicking," said Herbst. "We've got a lot of good girls pretty much of equal ability."

Juniors Amy Bierley and Michelle DeMunck, a transfer from Greece Olympia, share mound duties. Senior Shandralynn Joiner catches, with junior Sarah Brennan serving as her backup.

Infielders are junior Liz Johnston and DeMunck at first base, seniors Stacey Lauricella and Stephanie Renica at second, junior Katie Sadler at shortstop and junior Jenny Werner at third base.

Outfielders are senior Cori Chase in left, junior Janine Bianchi and Bierley in center, and senior Colleen Quinn in right. Another outfielder, junior Yvonne

LaForce, fills out the roster.

## Monarchs hope to mature

Several new names dot the Our Lady of Mercy roster, but Coach Mike Baxter doesn't necessarily believe that translates into a down year.

"I think this is one of the better teams I've had, but also one of the youngest," Baxter remarked. "So we might be a little slow getting started."

Junior Sharon Delia and sophomore Meredith Cirilla handle pitching chores, and eighth-grader Ashleigh Cirilla is the catcher. Infielders include sophomore Kathleen Purcell at first base with sophomore Leah Oliveri backing her up, seniors Michelle McLaren and Danyl Gaiter at second, sophomore Katie Fitzgerald at short and senior Maggie Steinbrenner at third.

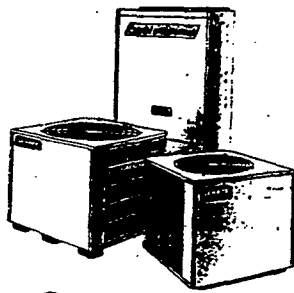
In the outfield, senior center field Tricia Russell is off to a blazing start, going 6-for-8 at the plate in Mercy's first two games. Other outfielders are sophomore Joanne Hanna and senior Jen Agustin in right, and sophomore Katie Kurycki in left.

## BK crushes ER in opener

Coach Paul Forte thinks that Bishop  
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