

# Knights gearing up for sectional showdown

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

These are tough times for traditional powerhouses in at least two professional sports. Of the eight teams left in the NHL playoffs, the Boston Bruins were the last squad to win the Stanley Cup — in 1971. Meanwhile, the Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers didn't even qualify for the NBA post-season.

Well, at least there's one competition where "perennial" is still in the dictionary. Once more, the Section 5 Class A boys' track meet is featuring two very well-known names among the contenders.

"It's a dual meet between (McQuaid) and Fairport, for all intents and purposes," predicted McQuaid Coach Dave Warth.

The Knights, who are undefeated in the City-Catholic League, will not clash with Fairport until the Section 5 championships on Saturday, May 28, at Pittsford Mendon High School. These same two clubs went down to the wire during the indoor track sectionals, with McQuaid edging Fairport back on Feb. 19.

At the upcoming sectional meet, the Knights will be attempting to recapture an outdoor crown they last won in 1992. They finished third last year.

"We're hopeful. I'd say Fairport is the favorite. If our guys keep improving, though, we could surprise," Warth commented.

Leading the Knights is an outstanding 3,200-meter relay making its high-school swan song. This senior quartet includes Dan Lesser, Adam Reitz, Shawn Watts and Jim Barnum.

Lesser and Reitz also compete individually in the 1,600- and 3,200-meter runs along with sophomore Jeff Clark. Watts runs the 800, where he is defending sectional champion. Lesser is the reigning champ in the 3,200.

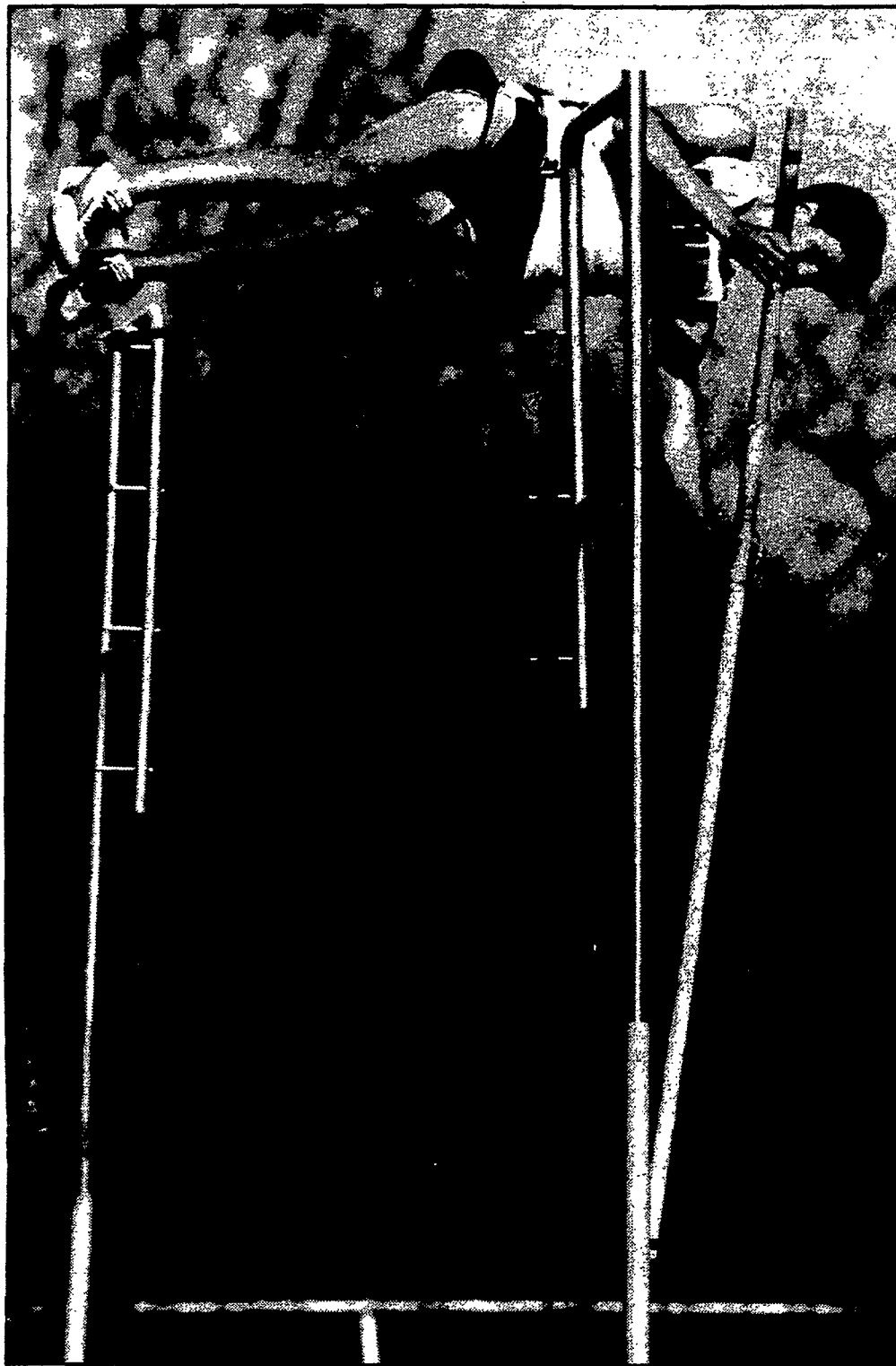
Sprint events feature juniors Tim Tyre and Alan LaChapelle. Senior Adam Missell and junior Tunji Akpo-Sani are the top Knights in the shot put and discus, and senior Brian Kubiak shines in the high jump while junior Greg Schlachter excels in the pole vault.

Here's a look at the top athletes on the Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney, Elmira Notre Dame and Geneva DeSales squads:

## Hayes leads AQ

Aquinas senior Joe Hayes is one of Section 5's premier performers in the shot put and discus. He placed third in both events at the His and Her Invitational held this past Saturday, May 7, at Canandaigua.

AQ Coach John Richard noted that Hayes has been slowed by back prob-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

McQuaid Jesuit junior Greg Schlachter successfully vaults over the 11-foot mark to win the pole-vault event during a City-Catholic League meet at McQuaid last Wednesday, May 4.

lems, but is beginning to come on strong.

"At this time he's right on track to peak at sectionals," said Richard.

Other leading Little Irish athletes are sophomore Chris Schwab in the pole vault; sophomore Tony Long (long jump, 110 high hurdles); junior Pat Reifsteck (800); freshman Dave Sillick (400); junior Jason Weidert (800); freshman John Miller (high jump); senior Kevin Donlon (pentathlon); senior Shane Eisenman (1,600); junior Jason Hasert

(3,200); junior Jeff Gontarek (400 intermediate hurdles); and freshman Tony Kasandrinos (100).

## Familiar faces at BK

Established stars from other sports are making valuable contributions on the Bishop Kearney track.

These athletes include basketball's

Richard Cannon, Patrick Goode and Kevin Goode; and football's Sherrard Sloan. Cannon, a senior, competes in the high and triple jumps. Patrick Goode, a junior, performs the 100 and 200; and his brother Kevin, a sophomore, specializes in the long jump. Sloan, a senior, runs the 100 and 200.

Additional key BK performers are sophomore Chris Gilbert (100, 200); senior German exchange student Tobias Zahlman (800); freshman Donnell Thomas (1,600, 3,200); freshman Carl Menz (1,600, 3,200); and sophomore Tony Colon (110 hurdles).

Coach Chris Jones is looking for a good showing from his Kings in the Class B sectionals.

"We expect to do pretty well. We should finish in the top three or four," said Jones.

## Improvement is ND's goal

With only eight athletes on his roster, Elmira Notre Dame Coach Ed Shelling is forced to be conservative with his goals.

"They've been improving every week, and that's the main thing I'm concentrating on," Shelling remarked.

Best bets for post-season success are senior Scott Cyr and freshman Pat O'Kane, both of whom excel in the triple jump. Cyr also runs the 400, and O'Kane runs the 100 and 200.

Other Crusaders include senior Eric Shelling (400 hurdles, long jump); sophomore Chad Rimbey (100, 200); sophomore Brett Bauer (400, shot put); freshman Ben Saks (1,600, discus); freshman Dave Ladley (1,600, 3,200); and freshman Chuck Becker (800, 1,600).

## Saints also eye future

Geneva DeSales sports an eight-man roster as well. Despite the manpower shortage, Coach Bob Wood is pleased with his Saints' ability to improve.

"The challenges are there, all right," said Wood. "But they've all lowered their personal bests."

Carl Sorman, a senior exchange student from Sweden, showed the most dramatic progress over the weekend. He ran a 5:01 in the 1,600 at the His and Her Invitational, lowering his previous best time by 20 seconds. Sorman also runs the 800.

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## Mercy, McQ stay perfect against league competition

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Although they've had their hands full against non-league opponents, the McQuaid Jesuit baseball team and Our Lady of Mercy softball squad remained perfect in league games through the end of last week.

McQuaid upped its record to 4-0 in the City-Catholic League by winning 5-4 over host Marshall on May 2 and 8-1 at Edison Tech on May 4. Pat Derleth pitched a complete game and hit a home run against Marshall, and Phil Nawrocki threw a three-hitter with 11 strikeouts against Edison. However, a 6-2 home loss to Spencerport on May 7 dropped the Knights' overall record to 5-5.

Mercy, 4-0 in the Private-Parochial League, split four non-league contests last week. The Monarchs (8-4 overall) won 9-5 over host Wilson on May 4 and

26-2 over host Marshall the following day before losing two games — 7-6 in nine innings to Churchville-Chili and 9-5 to league rival Aquinas Institute — in the Churchville-Chili Tournament held May 7.

## More sports highlights

The Bishop Kearney girls' softball team captured all three of its games last week to raise its record to 7-5. The Kings won 10-7 over host Nazareth Academy on May 3, 7-4 over visiting East Rochester on May 5 and 15-5 over Harley Allendale-Columbia on May 7 at McAvoy Park.

Geneva DeSales gained back-to-back softball wins: 12-3 over host Honeoye on May 3 and 19-9 over visiting Dundee on May 5. The Saints compiled a six-run third inning in the Honeoye game, and scored five runs in the third and six in

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