

Monarchs will rely on depth at track sectionals

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

True, you may not see many of its individual performers leading the pack.

But that's not as grave a problem for Our Lady of Mercy as it would be for most girls' track programs.

With the Monarchs' sterling reputation for outstanding depth, Coach Tim Jones believes his team will once again be a force at the upcoming Section 5 championships on Memorial Day weekend.

"I think we have a very good shot at scoring in most events," said Jones.

Mercy has posted a 6-0 record in 1994 Private-Parochial League competition to clinch its ninth consecutive league championship under Jones. The Monarchs, however, are still saving their best for last.

"This year we did things with a little different twist — to keep things easier early in the season so that we'll peak for sectionals," Jones said.

Leading Monarch performers are junior Yothana Dickerson in the 100-meter dash and high jump; sophomore Erica Hames (high jump); senior Melanie Heeder (200, triple jump); sophomore Danyell Gardner (200); junior Christine DeMott (400); senior Christina Wierenga (800); junior Danni LaMagna (800, 1,500); junior Kathryn Belgiorio (3,000); freshman Cheryl Matochik (long jump, 400 intermediate hurdles); junior Jen Heieck (long jump, 100 high hurdles); senior Mary Spellman (triple jump); junior Heather Kaza (shot put); junior Jen Neill (discus); eighth-grader Teresa Jones (400 hurdles); freshman Sara Figueiredo (shot put); and freshman Theresa Schwalb (discus).

Here's a profile of top girls' track athletes at other diocesan programs:

Nazareth making noise

With a 5-1 record in dual meets, Nazareth Academy has already clinched its best record in school history.

And with a roster featuring mostly seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade athletes, the best still may be yet to come.

"We've either broken or re-set 10 school records this year," said Coach Joe Merenda. "In a couple of years we're going to go up against the bigger schools and hold our own."

Merenda's top two athletes from his fall cross-country team, senior Carolyn



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Bishop Kearney's Kate Judson gets off a strong throw during a dual track meet against Aquinas Institute at Our Lady of Mercy High School on May 11. Judson won the shot put event with a toss of 22 feet, 9.5 inches.

Courtright and sophomore Karen Scozzafava, are excelling in distance events. Courtright runs the 800 and 1,500, while Scozzafava competes in the 1,500 and 3,000.

Other notable Lasers are seventh-grader Christina Brown (sprints and 100 hurdles); eighth-grader Holli Camelio (triple jump, 200); eighth-grader Cyan Powell (high jump); freshman Damara Brown (100, 100 hurdles, long and triple jumps); freshman Rajeene Rainey (shot put, discus); freshman Vanessa Perez (shot put, discus); eighth-grader Wakisha Bailey (400, 400 hurdles); and eighth-grader Tanya Latone (800).

Distance duo leads AQ

Not unlike Nazareth, the Aquinas Institute squad is led by two standout distance runners: freshman Tacy Amering in the 1,500 and junior Fran Mance in the 3,000.

"They have the most potential to do well in sectionals," commented AQ Coach John Richard.

Several sophomores bolster the Little Irish, including Shola Owodunni (100, 200); Karen Guerand (400); Jill Evenski (800); Johanna Goosey (100, 200); Juliette Pellegrino (shot put, discus); Kelly Dehlinger (400 hurdles); and Sue Potter (hurdles and jumps). Another AQ athlete is freshman Karlee Schramm, who has been sidelined with an injury.

Numbers way up at BK

Coach Jen Bashaw, a science teacher at Bishop Kearney, has used much of her free time combing the hallways to come up with prospective team members. The result: a 25-girl squad, more than double the size of last year.

"They know that if they get cut from their first-choice sport, they're always welcome in track. I don't make any cuts," said Bashaw, a former track star at Penfield High School.

Leading the Kings are sophomore Amorette Shaw (hurdles, 400, high jump); senior Brenda Gustyn (800, 1,500, 3,000); sophomore Chandra Rivers (100, 200); eighth-grader Oby Amadi (400, triple jump, long jump); sophomore Mary Finucane (high jump, long jump, hurdles); sophomore Kristi Lynch (triple jump, sprints); and sophomore Luciana Ferruzza (400, 800, 400 hurdles).

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Baseball, softball races heat up as league leaders fall

By Mike Latona
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It's probably safe to say that overconfidence will no longer be an issue with the Aquinas Institute baseball team.

The Little Irish were flying high following an 8-6 victory in eight innings over host McQuaid Jesuit last Thursday, May 12. AQ, however, was brought right back down to earth after an 18-11 upset defeat at the hands of host Wilson Magnet the next day.

Luckily for Aquinas, McQuaid was also an upset victim on Friday the 13th in another eight-inning affair, a 10-9 loss to visiting East. It marked the Knights' second consecutive City-Catholic League defeat after they won their first five league games.

Based on last week's results, Aquinas remained in first place with a 6-2 record despite its loss to Wilson.

"We've played some very good baseball, but we still have some trouble at times defensively and we've struggled at the bat," remarked AQ Coach Rich Pillitter, whose Little Irish were 10-9 overall

entering this week's action.

Aquinas earned its crucial win over McQuaid with some late-inning heroics. The Irish sent the game into extra innings by holding McQuaid scoreless in the seventh despite a leadoff triple by the Knights' Rob Rice. AQ got the deciding runs on RBI singles from David Khuns and Brian Campe in the top of the eighth.

More sports highlights

The Private-Parochial League softball race has been equally hectic. Our Lady of Mercy remained on top with a 5-1 record (9-5 overall) despite a 1-0 defeat at Aquinas on May 10. The Monarchs came back to defeat visiting Nazareth Academy, 18-5, one day later.

Aquinas held down second place in the league at 4-2. Michelle DeMunck pitched a four-hit shutout in the win over Mercy, but AQ was dealt a 10-4 loss by host Bishop Kearney on May 12 as the Kings' Crystal Bishop threw a seven-hitter.

Nazareth picked up one softball win last week, a 15-7 decision over visiting

Marshall on May 10 behind Traci Sergeant's four-RBI performance.

The Geneva DeSales softball squad outscored visiting Bloomfield, 17-15, on May 10. The Saints erupted for nine runs in the third inning and six more in the fourth.

Baseball highlights included a two-triumph week for Elmira Notre Dame, which won 11-2 over host Elmira Free Academy on May 9 and 11-5 over visiting Corning West on May 11.

Great pitching performances keyed two home wins for the BK baseball team. Jason Dale threw a one-hitter in an 11-0 rout of Franklin on May 12, and Colin Ribble tossed a five-hitter in a 4-1 decision over Eastridge on May 14.

McQuaid received back-to-back homers from John Rizzo and Matt Podmenik, along with a 4-for-4 performance by Chris Pilato, in an 11-7 baseball win over host Franklin on May 11.

In boys' tennis, Aquinas' Josh Gleason completed a strong Section 5 Class A tournament performance by becoming eligible for state-qualifying competition May 24-25. Gleason won the sec-

tion Class A consolation finals on May 14 at Pittsford Sutherland with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Brockport's Doug Schaefer.

In golf, McQuaid piled up several victories last week: 12-0 over Aquinas on May 9 at Oak Hill Country Club; 26-10 over Marshall, 21-14 over East and 26-10 over Wilson on May 12 at Genesee Valley Golf Club; and 10 1/2 to 1 1/2 over Fairport on May 13 at Penfield Country Club.

McQuaid's lacrosse team earned a 10-4 home win over Aquinas on May 12 behind four goals from Jeff Shepard and three from Chris Schiller. One day earlier, Aquinas rolled to a 13-7 home win over Bloomfield as Joe Zabawa scored four goals and Kevin Callahan and John Auberger added three each.

In boys' track, McQuaid stayed undefeated in the City-Catholic League (6-0) by winning 95-35 over host Edison on May 9 and 76-60 over visiting Marshall on May 11. The Knights' Shawn Watts went on to place first in the 800 meters at the Hartford, Conn. Invitational on May 14.