



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Our Lady of Mercy's Kathleen Purcell slides safely into second base as Bishop Kearney's Jody Durick applies the tag. The Monarchs defeated the Kings, 11-8, in the Section 5 softball playoff game held June 1.

Softball teams exit playoffs quickly

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The Section 5 softball tournament is a two-week affair — but that time was cut in half for this year's representatives from diocesan schools.

Our Lady of Mercy, Geneva DeSales, Aquinas Institute and Nazareth Academy all exited from the sectional playoffs in quarterfinal play. Bishop Kearney, meanwhile, was knocked out in first-round action by Mercy.

Mercy, seeded No. 10 in Class BB, was an 11-8 winner over No. 7 Kearney last Wednesday, June 1. The Monarchs were then eliminated by No. 2 Victor, 8-1, on June 4. Both games were played at McAvoy Park in Irondequoit. Mercy finished the season with a 14-8 record, and BK ended at 15-9.

DeSales (9-9), seeded No. 8 in Class D, recorded a 31-6 rout over No. 9 Whitesville on May 31 at Hornell. The Saints then made a strong upset run at host and top-seeded Prattsburg before falling, 7-5, on June 3.

Aquinas (12-12), seeded No. 11 in Class BB, rallied for a 9-7 win in nine innings over No. 6 Wilson Magnet on

June 1. The Little Irish then fell 6-0 to third-seeded Hilton on June 4. Both contests were at McAvoy.

Nazareth (10-14), seeded No. 3 in Class CC, gained a first-round bye but was upset, 13-12 in nine innings, by No. 6 Cuba-Rushford on June 3 in a game played at Letchworth.

Sectional highlights

Mercy's sectional win over Kearney enabled the Monarchs to go 3-1 in their 1994 meetings with BK.

A six-run second inning, led by a three-run homer from Kathleen Purcell, made the difference as Mercy moved out to a 9-3 lead. Maggie Steinbrenner bolstered the Monarch attack by collecting three hits, and Ryan Barry led Kearney with a three-hit performance.

The high-scoring game was typical of previous Mercy-Kearney clashes this season. Mercy won by scores of 17-0 and 16-1, and BK was an 18-16 winner.

However, Mercy Coach Mike Baxter felt the sectional contest featured better execution by the Private-Parochial League rivals.

"Both sides played a very good game, unlike the previous three," said Baxter.

Against Victor, the Monarchs put the ball into play frequently but were held to three hits on the day.

"We were making contact, but hitting right at people," Baxter lamented.

DeSales' blowout of Whitesville featured a 20-hit attack, including five hits by Emily Krakowiak and five runs batted in by Sarah Cataline.

The Saints went on to outthit Prattsburg, 12-4, but the No. 1-seeded Vikings scored all seven of their runs in the second inning and withstood a late DeSales rally.

"We certainly played well enough to win," said Coach Vic Harris.

Aquinas sent the Wilson game into extra innings by scoring twice with two outs in the seventh to tie the score at 7-7. The Little Irish added two runs in the ninth for the win.

"It was the kind of game where you hated to see someone lose," remarked Coach Dave Herbst.

The Little Irish then held Hilton to a 0-0 tie through five innings before the Cadets got all six of their runs — none of them earned — in the sixth stanza.

Knights head for states in three events

BK's Cannon also qualifies

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

This past weekend, McQuaid Jesuit's track team saved its best for last.

Now, with its final meet of the season approaching, the Knights would dearly love to exhibit that tendency once more.

McQ's 3,200-meter relay team, along with individual performers Dan Lesser and Greg Schlachter, have qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships. The state meet is scheduled for this Friday and Saturday, June 10-11, at the University of Buffalo.

Also representing the Rochester diocese in state competition will be Bishop Kearney's Richard Cannon. These ath-

letes became eligible by turning in strong performances at the Section 5 Meet of Champions state-qualifying meet, held June 4 at Hornell High School.

Lesser is slated for double duty at states. The senior placed second in the 3,200 run at the Meet of Champions with a time of 9 minutes, 26.3 seconds; and he later ran the third leg of McQ's first-place 3,200 relay.

Other relay members were Jeff Clark, Adam Reitz and Jim Barnum. They combined for a time of 8:03.2.

Coach Dave Warth noted that the relay triumph served as a big morale booster after the 800, in which Shawn Watts — who had run the state's fastest time in that event earlier this year — re-injured a hamstring during the race and placed a disappointing fifth.

"It was a big, big disappointment not getting Shawn in (to states) in the half-mile. But what was really nice was that

(the relay) just went out and ran a great race," Warth said.

Another Knight advancing to states is Schlachter, who finished third in the pole vault by clearing the bar at 13 feet flat.

First-place finishers at the Meet of Champions automatically qualified for states, while second- and third-place finishers became eligible if they met predetermined standards.

BK's Cannon, a senior, guaranteed his entry into states with a winning leap in the high jump. He proved himself as Section 5's best by going 6 feet, 5 inches.

In the girls' Meet of Champions, also held June 4 at Hornell, Nazareth's Karen Scozzafava placed fourth in the 3,000 run and qualified as part of the inter-sectional distance medley relay. She, however, has chosen not to compete in Buffalo this weekend for personal reasons.

AQ honors athletes, Hall of Fame entrants

ROCHESTER — Several awards were recently presented at the annual Aquinas Institute Sports Celebrity Dinner.

Seniors Matthew Delly and Joseph Hayes were selected as co-Male Athletes of the Year, and senior Kathleen Clendenning was named Female Athlete of the Year. These awards are based on athletic and academic achievement.

Delly has been a baseball, basketball and football star for the Little Irish. Hayes is one of Section 5's premier track-and-field athletes, excelling in the shot put and discus events. Clendenning, meanwhile, has participated in soccer and track for Aquinas.

In addition, four new inductees entered the Aquinas Hall of Fame. They are: Joseph J. Connelly (1932), a three-sport AQ athlete who died in 1978; Father John C. Spratt, CSB, who taught and coached at Aquinas from 1948-74 and died in 1981; William P. Reynolds (1943), a multi-sport Aquinas star; and Kathleen L. Lynd, a former Aquinas Board of Trustees president and the first-ever female Hall of Fame member.

DeSales adds lacrosse to '95 spring schedule

GENEVA — Following a 50-year hiatus, DeSales High School is adding lacrosse to its slate of spring sports.

This program, for both boys and girls, is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1995. According to Athletic Director Steve Muzzi, a boys' team will be instituted at the junior-varsity level in the Finger Lakes West League. The Saints will then move up to varsity competition after a season or two.

The girls, meanwhile, will go immediately to the varsity level in 1995 and play an independent schedule.

Muzzi noted that this is the first time DeSales has offered lacrosse since the 1940s.

MDA walk scheduled for Cobbs Hill Park

ROCHESTER — The first-ever "Great Walk" to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association is scheduled for Sunday, June 12.

The walk will begin and end at Cobbs Hill Park, with registration at 9 a.m. and the walk beginning at 10. A picnic at Cobbs Hill will follow.

Proceeds from this event will benefit various MDA programs in the Rochester area. For information, call 716/424-6560.

Basketball camp set for St. John Fisher College

PITTSFORD — St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., is currently accepting registrations for its summer basketball camp.

Open to boys and girls ages 8-18, the camp will be directed by Bob Ward, who serves as both head basketball coach and athletic director at Fisher. Two sessions will be offered: June 27-July 1 and July 6-8; and July 11-15 and July 18-20. Cost is \$160 for each two-week session. Family discounts are available.

For details, call 716/385-8309.