

Dundee star takes her talents on the road

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

DUNDEE — The Dundee Globetrotter?

Whether it's Syracuse, Wisconsin, Vermont, Europe or her home town, Kate Cronin is always itching for a good game of basketball.

Yet she's also aware that basketball is only going to carry her so far in life. And that's why her travelogue currently includes at least one extra stop.

The 19-year-old Cronin, a 1993 graduate of Dundee High School, had a strong freshman year as a full-scholarship player at Division I Marquette University in Milwaukee. As the Warriors' "sixth man," the six-foot-tall guard contributed approximately five points per game.

Despite her promising year on the court, Cronin experienced a roadblock surrounding her curriculum.

"In high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do (for a major), so I went to a liberal-arts Catholic college," said Cronin, a parishioner at St. Andrew's Church in Dundee.

As her freshman year at Marquette progressed, Cronin realized that she'd like to major in environmental science or nutrition — but Marquette did not offer sufficient programs in either area.

Therefore, Cronin is transferring this fall from Marquette to the University of Vermont, which had originally been her second choice of colleges. She will continue to receive a full Division I basketball scholarship for the final three years of her playing career; however, she cannot play during the upcoming season due to an NCAA regulation which requires transferring athletes to redshirt for one year.

Other than the academic dilemma, Cronin said she greatly enjoyed her Marquette experience.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Kate Cronin, a parishioner at St. Andrew's Church in Dundee, recently led the Western Region women's basketball team to an Empire State Games bronze medal. Cronin will attend the University of Vermont this fall.

"It's going to be hard (leaving)," she said. "I made some really good friends. But I'm going to try to move on and enjoy myself. In the long run it will be for the best."

If her basketball achievements continue to progress while at Vermont, Cronin envisions "possibly a year or two in Europe" after college to play professionally. But she also acknowledged that it's extremely unlikely for a woman to make a living through basketball, so academics remain her top priority at this point.

While in between colleges, Cronin has kept her basketball skills polished by starring for the Western Region women's open squad at the Empire State Games in Syracuse earlier this month.

Cronin's considerable talent shined frequently during ESG competition. She was Western's high scorer with 20 points in a 77-50 first-round win over Hudson Valley on Aug. 4, and she tied for team-high scoring honors with 16 points in a

75-69 victory over New York City in the bronze-medal contest on Aug. 7. Her contributions helped Western capture three of its four games during the week to secure the bronze.

Playing well in Syracuse was a big priority for Cronin, who wanted to put on a good show for the hometown folks.

"I saw a lot of people I knew from when I was younger, so there's a lot of pride in it," said Cronin, who also played on the ESG Western scholastic gold medal-winning team in 1991.

Cronin has a strong following in southern Yates County, where she was the leading scorer her final three years at Dundee High. In addition, she led the Scotsmen to the 1991 Section 5 title.

Cronin noted that she gained additional motivation for this year's Empire State Games since she can't compete for Vermont until the 1995-96 season.

"I felt like I worked hard. I kind of look at it as a last chance to play in real games until next year," she said.

Peak Performers

EDITORS' NOTE: "Peak Performers" is a new feature which will appear periodically on the sports page. Its purpose is to highlight Catholics of all ages from all parts of the diocese who have achieved notable athletic feats. This includes Catholics who attend, or are graduates of, public schools. Readers are invited to submit such items to Mike Latona at the Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624. Please specify your school, if applicable, and home parish. Photographs are welcome. Use of submissions and photos is subject to editors' discretion.

• Kevin Haefner, who is beginning his sophomore year at McQuaid Jesuit High School, recently captured the New York State Golf Association championship in the age 13-14 boys' division.



The state competition took place Aug. 1-4 at Oswego Country Club. Haefner, 14, qualified for match play with a five-over-par 76 and then won three head-to-head matches to earn the state title.

Haefner is a parishioner at Henrietta's Good Shepherd Church.

• Carolyn Courtright, a recent Nazareth Academy graduate, will continue her athletic career at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

Courtright plans to run both cross-country and track at Brockport State during the 1994-95 school year. While at Nazareth she set two individual school records, and placed second in the 1,500-meter run and fourth in the 800 meters at the Section 5 track championships this past spring. She was also named the high school's Athlete of the Year.



Openings still available for upcoming benefit golf tournaments

Benefit golf-tournament organizers have notified the *Catholic Courier* of the following events, which are listed chronologically:

• The Visiting Nurse Foundation Tournament will take place this Saturday, Aug. 20, at Shadow Pines Golf Club in Penfield. Proceeds will benefit the Visiting Nurse Service of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc. For details, call 716/787-2233, ext. 8400.

• The Heritage Christian Home Foundation Classic is scheduled for this Tuesday, Aug. 23, at Shadow Pines. Proceeds will help Heritage Christian Home, Inc., which provides assistance for people with developmental disabilities as well as their families. Call 716/381-6550 for registration information.

• The United Cerebral Palsy Tournament is set for Monday, Aug. 29, at Midvale Country Club in Perinton. Don Alhart of WOKR-TV Channel 13 in Rochester and Terry Diehl, a former

PGA touring professional, will serve as honorary guests. For information, call 716/248-3151.

• The St. Joseph's Villa Tournament will take place Monday, Sept. 19, at Ridgmont Country Club in Greece. Golfer registrations as well as sponsorships are still available. Donated raffle and auction items are also requested. The Villa, located at 3300 Dewey Ave. in Greece, is a private, non-profit agency

which provides mental-health support and services for youths and their families. For tournament details, call 716/865-1550, ext. 284.

• The Gift of Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Shadow Pines. Proceeds will benefit Life's Refuge, a Geneseo-based organization offering alternatives for women with unexpected pregnancies and their children. For information, call 716/243-4660 or

1-800/643-8397.

• The Ross Catalano Jr. Memorial Challenge will take place on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Victor Hills Country Club in Victor. Proceeds will help the National Association of People With Disabilities. Ross Catalano Jr., for whom the tournament is named, died this past June at age 26 due to complications from muscular dystrophy. For tournament details, call 716/325-2540.

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