

# Football teams are agile, able as season begins

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

This summer's hit movie "Speed" kept viewers on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

Look for another version of "Speed" to have a similar effect on high-school football fans over the next few months.

Backfield talent abounds among this year's crop of Catholic high-school grid programs in the diocese:

- Elmira Notre Dame's Joel Stephens already owns several school rushing records, and he hasn't even played his first game as a senior.

- McQuaid Jesuit has gone from a bruising, defensive force in 1993 to a fleet-footed unit. "It's as fast a team as I've ever had," said 13th-year Coach Tom Sprague.

- Bishop Kearney's backfield of quarterback Vernon Banks, along with speedsters Patrick and Kevin Goode, have already displayed title talent in other sports such as basketball and track.

- Aquinas Institute tailback Jim Miner, who gained 1,027 yards last season, has been dubbed by fourth-year Coach Joe Munno as "the best of the best" among City-Catholic League runners.

- According to fifth-year Geneva DeSales Coach Mark Mccheyne, quarterback Jayson Lamson "may be the best in Finger Lakes West this year."

As these squads prepare for their season-opening games this coming weekend, here's a look at the key players for each school:

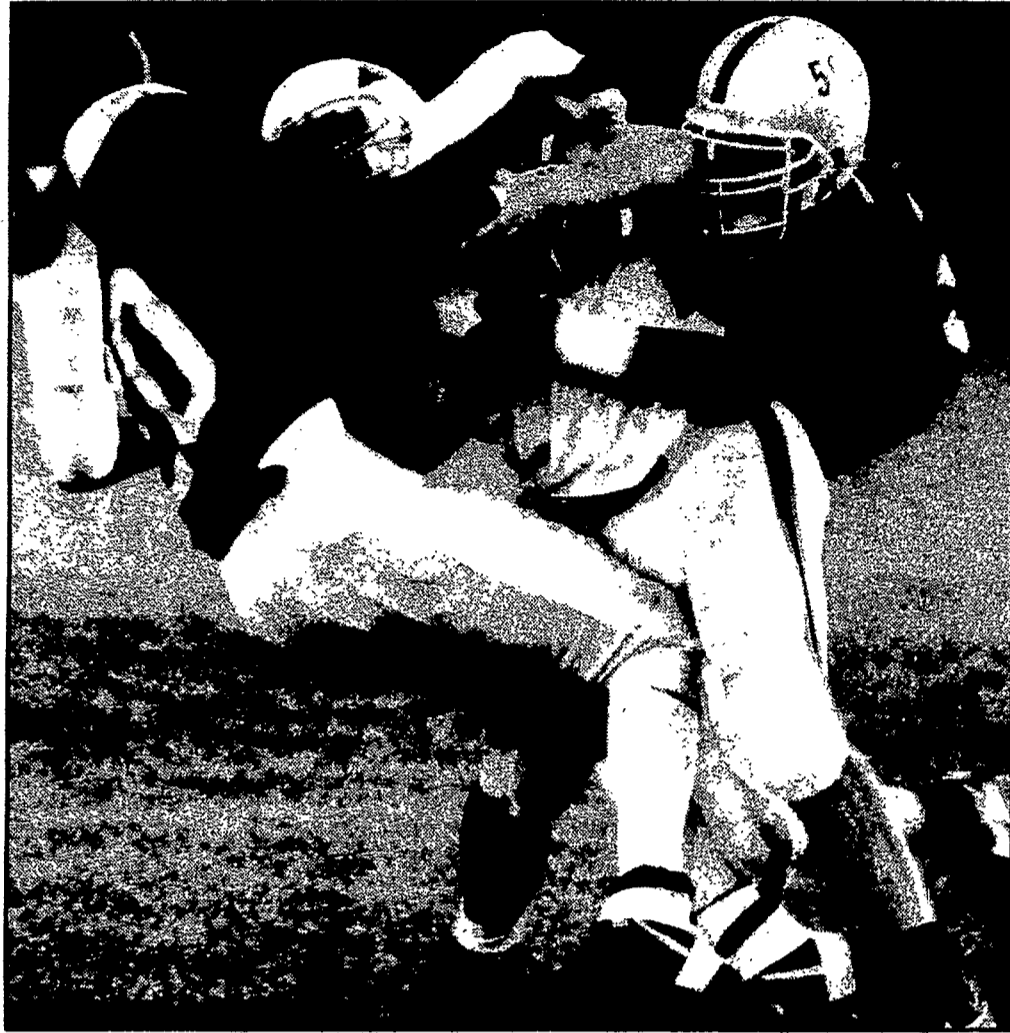
## ND eyes playoff return

Stephens, a senior running back, enters 1994 as Elmira Notre Dame's all-time leader in rushing yards (2,751), touchdowns (32) and total points (194).

Yet 14th-year Coach Mike D'Aloisio views Stephens' attitude as his most valuable asset.

"The records are good, but it's the leadership he's shown through the years at Notre Dame that impresses me," D'Aloisio remarked.

Other offensive stalwarts are junior quarterback Chris Madigan; junior and sophomore running backs Ian Lampman and Ben Saks; senior receivers Matt Cornacchio, Mike Berrettini, Dan Van Dine and Peter Duchy; sophomore re-



File photo  
Bishop Kearney's Patrick Goode (left), a returning player this fall, gets some help tackling a Waterloo player from Tom Valvassori (right) during a game last season.

ceiver Chris Sheehan; senior linemen Shawn Golden, Howard Hodder, Brian McCort, Kevin Wheeler, Tim O'Herron and Eric Byland; and junior and sophomore linemen Ari Salsburg and Brad Polk.

ND defenders are Stephens, Madigan, Cornacchio, Van Dine, Duchy and Sheehan in the secondary; Berrettini, Golden and sophomore Pat O'Kane at ends; Lampman, Saks, Hodder, Polk and junior Adam Atwell at linebackers; and McCort, O'Herron and Salsburg at tackles.

The Crusaders open their schedule this Saturday, Sept. 3, with a 7:30 p.m. road game against Corning East. ND had a superb 1993 season, finishing with a 7-2 record, the Southern Tier League

championship and a Section 4 Class C semifinal appearance.

## Knights poised to charge

Sprague is counting on extensive point production from seniors Mike Kehoe and Jay Magee at quarterback; Chris Schiller at fullback; Tim Tyre at tailback; Sean Finucane at wide receiver and Ben Wandtke at tight end.

Completing the offense are senior center Pat Snajder; senior tackles Joe DiPasquale and Tundji Akpo-Sani; junior guards Brendan Farrell and Brandon Rood; senior split ends Zach Nowak and T.J. Cashette, sophomore tailback Kevin Sheppard and sophomore quarterback Brian Berko-Boateng.

Defensive stalwarts include Schiller, Tyre, Kehoe, Finucane and Magee in the secondary; Wandtke and senior Justin Muchard at ends; Snajder, DiPasquale and Akpo-Sani at tackles; Farrell and Rood at guards; and sophomore Matt Porter and junior Jason Leckinger at linebackers.

The Knights' season begins Sept. 3 with a 1 p.m. road game against City-

Catholic League rival East High. McQ tied for the 1993 league title and made the Section 5 Class A semifinals while posting an overall record of 6-3.

## Athletes abound at BK

Bishop Kearney's bountiful supply of speedsters will feature senior quarterback Banks along with halfbacks Patrick Goode, a senior; and his brother Kevin, a junior. Other backfield talent comes from seniors Brendan Murray, Chris Gilbert and Chris Muscato; juniors Gil Ferrer, Tony Colon and Aaron Brockler; and sophomore Dan Tytler.

Additional offensive players are senior end Chris Stinson; senior tackle Joe Wesley; junior tackle Greg Masters; senior guards Chris Ashton and Andre Valente; junior guard Jeff Dooley; sophomore guard Kevin Knorr; and junior center Dan Della Vella.

On defense, the Kings are led by Patrick Goode, Banks, Tytler, Colon and Muscato in the secondary; Wesley, Masters, Della Vella, Valente, Dooley and Knorr on the interior line; Murray, Ashton, Kevin Goode, Gilbert and Brockler at linebackers; and Ferrer and Stinson at ends.

The Kings, who compete in the Finger Lakes East league, are attempting to improve upon their 4-5 record of last year. Their first game is Sept. 3 at Clyde-Savannah (7:30 p.m. start).

"We've got some good skill kids. The question mark is, will the line give the blocking those kids need," said Coach Nick Teta, in his ninth season at BK.

## Aquinas is well-equipped

With 46 players on its varsity squad, Aquinas Institute can afford to maintain a limited amount of two-way starters.

Miner, a senior, is joined on offense by senior and junior quarterbacks George Rose and Kyle Magee; senior running back Vinny Valerie; junior running backs Brian Campe, Nick Manella, Larry Burrell and Toione Martinez; senior flankers Brian Harris and Pat Reifsteck; junior flankers Chris Schwab and Kim Murray; senior tight ends Chris Baldwin and Todd Race; and senior linemen Peter Menz, T.J. Grab, Israel Sak and Mike Benedict.

Defensive leaders are Manella, Burrell and junior Bill Hunter in the secondary; Valerie, Miner and junior David Morgante at linebackers; junior Jay Wegman at end; junior Rashon Bradley at nose guard; and Menz and Benedict at tackles.

AQ's first game is Sept. 3 in a 2 p.m. City-Catholic contest at Franklin. The Little Irish posted a 4-5 record in 1993, with four of their five defeats coming by a touchdown or less.

## DeSales no longer down

Memories are quickly fading from Geneva DeSales' 20-game losing streak, snapped last October with a win over Spencer-Van Etten. The Saints also downed Lyons in their final game to finish with a 2-6 record.

Lamson, a senior, leads a backfield which also includes senior Ben Kiley and juniors Bob Peters and Steve Davoli. Other top offensive players are senior ends Kyle Perillo and Jay Telarico; senior tackle George Kelly; junior tackle Matt Woodhams; senior guard Scott Kent; junior guard Ron Patrick; and junior center Matt Keller.

Lamson, Peters, Kiley and Telarico will all see extensive duty in the secondary. Davoli and Patrick are at linebacker; Woodhams and Keller are at defensive ends; and Perillo, Kelly, Kent and senior Mike Hickey play on the interior line.

The Saints begin their Finger Lakes West schedule on Sept. 3 with a 1 p.m. game at Romulus.

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