

ND, AQ runners command first-week action

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Here are the early leaders in the "Can You Top This" derby: Joel Stephens in the Southern Tier and Jim Miner in Rochester's City-Catholic League.

And it may be a long time before any running backs are able to knock Stephens and Miner from their perches, even though the 1994 season is only a week old.

Stephens, an Elmira Notre Dame senior, broke a school record with 260 rushing yards in the Crusaders' 24-13 win over host Corning East on Saturday, Sept. 3. He carried 29 times.

Also that day, Miner rumbled for 256 yards on 35 carries in leading Aquinas Institute to a 21-14 road win over Franklin.

Other Sept. 3 games saw three diocesan teams go down to defeat: Bishop Kearney hung tough with Finger Lakes West power Clyde-Savannah before succumbing 12-6 at Clyde; McQuaid Jesuit was dealt a 39-0 blanking by host East in City-Catholic play; and Geneva DeSales was downed 40-12 on the road by Finger Lakes West foe Romulus.

ND 24, Corning East 13

Stephens rallied Elmira Notre Dame from an early 6-0 deficit with touchdown runs of 12 and 42 yards to give the Crusaders a 12-6 halftime lead. Corning East went back ahead 13-12 in the third quarter, but Chris Madigan scored from 18 yards out and Ian Lampman reached the end zone on a 14-yard carry to give Notre Dame the victory.

"Stephens was tough. He just did a great job," said ND Coach Mike D'Aloisio. "And the line did an excellent job of opening holes."

The Crusaders play their home opener this coming Friday, Sept. 9, when they face Seton Catholic in a 7:30 p.m. game.

Aquinas 21, Franklin 14

Miner not only racked up huge yardage in the season opener, but also scored three consecutive touchdowns — on runs of five, five and 12 yards — to turn a 6-0 deficit after one quarter into a 21-6 Little Irish lead by the third period. Miner also made a two-point conversion run following his second TD.

"It's never going to be a secret. He's

going to get the football," said AQ Coach Joe Munno, who also praised the effort of AQ's offensive line.

Next up for the Little Irish is a showdown with arch-rival McQuaid this Sunday, Sept. 11, at Aquinas (2 p.m. start).

Munno noted that AQ's win and McQuaid's loss to East the first week should have no bearing on the upcoming clash. "It'll be a war," he predicted.

Clyde-Savannah 12, BK 6

Kearney cut into Clyde-Savannah's 12-0 lead in the fourth quarter when Kevin Goode ran for a two-yard touchdown. The Kings had a chance to tie or go ahead when they regained possession near midfield with 1:40 to go, but they could only advance as far as the Golden Eagles' 40-yard line.

Despite the defeat, Coach Nick Teta lauded his club's effort against the defending state Class D champions.

"It was a good game; real hard-hitting. We moved the ball pretty good, but we fumbled quite a bit," said Teta. "I wasn't happy with losing, but I was satisfied with the performance."

The Kings play their opening home game on Sept. 9, when they take on Canandaigua at 7:30 p.m.

East 39, McQuaid 0

The Knights only trailed the Orientals 8-0 at halftime, but two East touchdowns within 27 seconds early in the third period set the tone for the lopsided finish.

"They're a real good team. They destroyed us, like a knife in hot butter," McQuaid Coach Tom Sprague commented about East's potent running attack.

Sprague indicated that Aquinas might be the best possible opponent for his club at this point. "I'm glad we're playing them because it gives us something to focus on after getting beat that badly," he said.

Romulus 40, DeSales 12

The Saints held a 12-6 lead late into the second quarter, but the Warriors scored twice in less than two minutes for a 19-12 halftime edge.

DeSales Coach Mark Mccheyne noted that his club was nearly equal to Romulus except for two Warrior touchdown plays of more than 70 yards.

"If you took those away, we played them pretty even. So there's a lot to be positive about," said Mccheyne.

The Saints will travel again this weekend, facing Lyons on Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

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Staff writer

ROCHESTER — As the 1994-95 high-school sports season begins at Aquinas Institute and Nazareth Academy, new faces will be found in the athletic directors' offices as well as on the playing fields.

Michael Dianetti, head boys' basketball coach for Aquinas since 1986-87, has replaced Patrick Connelly as AQ's athletic director. Dianetti, who has also taught business at the high school since 1985-86, will remain as the Little Irish basketball coach but will not continue his teaching duties. Connelly, meanwhile, has become a full-time theology instructor at Aquinas.

Dianetti, 33, is a former star basket-

ball player for Greece Arcadia High School and later Nazareth College, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. His best coaching season to date was in 1988-89, when Aquinas reached the Section 5 Class BB finals.

As the new Aquinas athletic director, Dianetti will oversee a program with one of the proudest histories among Rochester high schools. AQ further enhanced its reputation with the opening earlier this year of the Wegman-Napier Center, which features a gymnasium, other athletic facilities, offices, science classrooms and laboratories. The 33,000-square-foot complex, which is attached to Aquinas' original structure, cost \$3.5 million to construct.

"This is kind of a new beginning. It's exciting in that respect," said Dianetti. "With the new place, it's going to open up a lot of avenues."

Nazareth Academy's new athletic director is 49-year-old Thomas Davies. He replaces David Pisano, who resigned this past June.

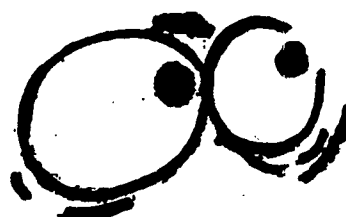
Davies served from 1969-93 as a recreation specialist for Eastman Kodak Company. During that time he organized and administered a variety of recreation programs for Kodak employees, family members and retirees. He also supervised Kodak's community youth sports program for six years.

Davies, a Spencerport native, is a graduate of Kent State University. He is scheduled to receive his master's degree in December of 1994 from the State University of New York College at Brockport.

At Nazareth, an all-girls' high school, Davies is anxious to continue improving a program which enjoyed one of its most successful years ever in 1993-94.

Davies said he plans to make upgrades of athletic facilities and equipment, and possibly offer a wider variety of sports.

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