

Diocesan girls' squads ride crest of title wave

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Catholic high school teams in the diocese have heavy representation in the Who's Who of 1994 Girls' Soccer:

- Our Lady of Mercy, defending Section 5 Class A champion.
- Bishop Kearney, defending Section 5 Class CC champion.
- Elmira Notre Dame, defending Section 4 Class D champ.

And fans of these teams could see more of the same by the time November rolls around. Through the end of last week, these three clubs had combined for an 8-1-2 record thus far in '94.

Our Lady of Mercy is coming off a victory in the Harley Allendale-Columbia Tournament. The Monarchs won 5-0 over H-A-C on Sept. 7 and 1-0 over Honeoye Falls-Lima in the Sept. 10 title game. Mercy has started 1994 with a 3-1 record after going 17-5 and reaching the state Class A semifinals a year ago.

Kearney began the new year by winning its own tournament, defeating East 6-0 on Sept. 8 and playing to a 1-1 tie against Wayne on Sept. 10 (the championship was decided on penalty kicks but the game counted officially as a tie.) BK finished 12-9-1 last year, winning the school's first-ever sectional girls' soccer crown.

Notre Dame has blazed to a 4-0-1 start, winning two tournament championships along the way: their own Lady Cup Tour-

namment and the Cohocton Tournament. The Crusaders had a final 1993 record of 18-3 during a season which included a 14-game winning streak.

Aquinas Institute has started out with a 1-1 mark in 1994 after edging Newark by a 1-0 count in the Newark Tournament's consolation round on Sept. 10. The Little Irish finished 11-5-2 last year.

Nazareth Academy also evened its record at 1-1 by beating Harley Allendale-Columbia 3-0 in the H-A-C Tournament's consolation game on Sept. 10. The Lasers finished 5-8-1 in 1993.

Geneva DeSales' only 1994 game through last week was a 2-1 loss to Whitesville on Sept. 8. The Saints finished 1-15-1 last year, but their 2-1 win over Honeoye snapped a 73-game winless streak for the program.

Here's a look at some of the leading players for each squad:

Senior stars lead Mercy

Striker Gina Montesano and goalie Kelly O'Neill, both seniors, may be the best players at their positions in all of Section 5. Yet Mercy has also proven itself as more than a two-person team: When Montesano missed two games because of blisters, the Monarchs totaled eight goals in wins over Pittsford Mendon and H-A-C.

"That's something we're going to need, because people are really keying on Gina now," observed Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Bishop Kearney defender Kelly Merkel (facing camera) squares off against Wayne's Cheryl Herzog during the championship game of the Kearney Tournament Sept. 10. The Kings claimed the tournament title by defeating the Eagles in a penalty-kick shootout.

Other Monarch standouts are senior forward Tracey Green; sophomore forward Cheryl Matochik; seniors midfielders Danni LaMagna and Chris DeMott; sophomore defenders Julie Antignano and Sarah Zona; junior defender Katie Fitzgerald; and freshman midfielder Abby Wambach, who scored all three goals in the Monarchs' 3-0 victory over Mendon on Sept. 3.

BK young, experienced

Don't be fooled by the slew of non-seniors on Bishop Kearney's roster. Most of them gained valuable experience during the Kings' strong playoff run last year, and Coach Paul Forte anticipates that his team is only going to get better.

"Depth and versatility are the strong points. I've got kids I can play at three different positions and feel confident," he said.

Top BK players are sophomore goalie Ryan Barry; senior defenders Teresa Keogh and Erin Pinkney; junior defenders Chelsie Pero and Luchiana Ferruzza; sophomore defenders Kelly Merkel and Nicole Lajuet; senior midfielders Jessica Thomas, Courtney Shores and Jenny Nicolay; junior forwards Mary Finucane and Janet Lansing; and sophomore for-

ward Sandy Moll.

Wins keep coming at ND

With seven returning starters at Elmira Notre Dame, the club hasn't missed a beat since its championship run of a year ago.

However, Coach Steve Weber cautioned that the Crusaders must remain injury-free to repeat as sectional champs.

"We have a shot again, I think. But we don't seem to be as deep, so that's one thing we have to be concerned with is staying healthy," Weber said.

Leading Crusaders are senior forward Shelly Fagan; sophomore forward Lindsay West; freshman forward Asha Persaud; senior midfielder Megan Smith; junior midfielder Jenny Spaziani; sophomore midfielder Monica Bennett; senior defenders Georgia Grieco and Jenny Hill; junior defenders Lexi Stevens and Emily Violette; and junior goalie Michelle May.

Aquinas still developing

Aquinas Coach Gary Page feels that his young club could emerge as a strong threat by playoff time.

"We're going to be a good team. We're young and we've got to start scoring some more goals, but before the year is over we'll be able to contend," Page said.

Current AQ starters include senior forwards Tricia DiQuattro and Katya Metidieri; freshman forward Katie Gonzales; senior midfielder Lisa Bellavia; junior midfielder Molly Khuns; sophomore midfielder Jessie Parmalee; senior defender Emily Lindsley; junior defender Kelly Kocis; freshman defender Jenica Moore-Sabree; and freshman goalie Tara Berardi.

Youth is key at Nazareth

He's hopeful about the 1994 season, but Nazareth Coach Richard DiGiacomo may be even more excited about his young team's long-range future.

"The kids who are really going to be the outstanding core of the team are the

Continued on page 11

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