

Little Irish comeback overwhelms McQuaid

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Their uniforms were bright green — and it wasn't long before their faces were bright red.

Less than 10 minutes into Aquinas Institute's home football opener, the Little Irish found themselves trailing 14-0 to City-Catholic League rival McQuaid Jesuit.

But AQ's relentless running attack closed the gap to 21-14 by halftime, and the Irish outscored the Knights 19-0 in the second half to take a 33-21 victory this past Sunday, Sept. 11.

"These kids have got character. That's the biggest thing I can say," said Aquinas Coach Joe Munno.

AQ improved its record to 2-0 with the win, while McQuaid tumbled to 0-2. Aquinas' next game is Saturday, Sept. 17 at Edison Tech in a 1 p.m. start; McQuaid plays its home opener on Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. against Franklin.

In this past Sunday's clash, McQuaid opened the scoring when Tim Tyre made a six-yard touchdown run with 7:48 remaining in the first quarter. The Knights' second drive also resulted in a touchdown, this one by Brian Berko-Boateng on a seven-yard carry with 2:45 left in the period.

Aquinas cut its deficit to 14-7 on a six-yard scoring run by Jim Miner with 7:02 left in the second quarter. McQuaid bounced back quickly when Ben Wandtke took a short pass from Mike Kehoe and broke several tackles for a 45-yard TD pass play and 21-7 edge with 3:59 to go.

But it was all AQ after that. Nick Manella scored on a 12-yard carry with 1:18 remaining in the first half to make it 21-14, and Miner brought the Irish to within a point, 21-20, with his 59-yard TD burst just 1:17 into the second half.

The Irish got their first lead, 27-21, when Miner scored from 14 yards out with 3:41 left in the third quarter. Jay Wegman polished off the scoring on a four-yard reception from Kyle Magee with 7:35 to go in the game.

Miner finished with 270 yards on 34 carries, giving him 526 already this season. He had 256 in a 21-14 season-opening triumph over Franklin.

Not only was this a rare Sunday game, but the Irish also shed their normal white-and-red uniform colors for some green.

"The (Aquinas) teams of old wore green," said Munno, who explained that the 1994 Irish will only don these uniforms for special games.

With AQ's solid start in 1994, it's quite possible that this eye-catching attire will re-emerge about two months from now — during the sectional playoffs.

More highlights

Also enjoying a great running game for the second straight week was Elmira Notre Dame's Joel Stephens, who piled up five touchdowns as well as 256 yards on 25 carries in ND's 41-24 home win over Seton Catholic on Sept. 9. One weekend earlier, Stephens had gained a school-record 260 yards in a 24-13 win over Corning East.

Girls' soccer

Continued from page 10

freshmen and sophomores right now," said DiGiacomo.

Leading Lasers are senior forward Traci Sergeant; freshman forward Amy Gontarek; senior midfielder Michelle Yax; junior midfielder Melissa Brinkman; sophomore midfielders Katie Poinan and Megan Brooks; junior de-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Aquinas Institute's Jim Miner breaks away from a slew of McQuaid tacklers during AQ's home-opener game Sept. 11. Miner gained 270 yards on 34 carries, leading the Little Irish to a 33-21 victory over the Knights.

"I don't ever remember anyone in this area having back-to-back games like this," said ND Coach Mike D'Aloisio, whose Crusaders will attempt to go 3-0 when they travel to Newark Valley on Sept. 17 (1:30 p.m. start).

Bishop Kearney scored on four explosive touchdown plays in a narrow 28-24 home loss to mighty Canandaigua on Sept. 10. Pat Goode made scoring runs of 63 and 41 yards and also hooked

up with Vernon Banks on a 49-yard pass play, while Banks scored on a 43-yard run. BK (0-2) tries again for its first win on Sept. 17 at Victor (1:30 p.m. start).

Geneva DeSales quarterback Jayson Lamson went 6-for-13 for 72 yards, including a 27-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Perillo in the second quarter, but the Saints (0-2) suffered a 49-7 loss to host Lyons on Sept. 9. DeSales is at Watkins Glen on Sept. 16 (7:30 p.m. start).

fender Lisa Johnson; sophomore defenders Robin DeMark and Cindy Johnson; freshman defender Megan Kelly; and goalie Kerri Volkmoth, an eighth-grader.

DeSales' numbers strong

With 23 players on the varsity roster, depth should not be a problem area at Geneva DeSales this year.

Top Saints are junior forward Melissa Liberatore; sophomore forwards Heather Pike and Kelly Pike; senior mid-

fielders Renee Wiesner, Emily Phillips and Shannon Cook; junior midfielder Bridget Buckley; senior defenders Colleen Hilliard and Andrea Casanata; junior defender Dina Smaldone; sophomore defenders Sue Nearpass and Nicole Palmer; and sophomore goalie Theresa Patrick.

The Saints are guided by first-year head coach Randy Hagadorn. Serving as his assistant is Carin Cunningham, a former DeSales player who graduated in 1988.

start).

In boys' volleyball, McQuaid has already experienced a season's worth of suspense — and come out on top every time. The Knights won three home matches in as many days, defeating Pittsford in a four-game set on Sept. 7 and outlasting Gates-Chili and Penfield in the maximum five games on the ensuing two days — with both fifth games being decided by a 16-14 count. Topping this memorable week off was the Knights' first-place finish in the Fairport-Gates Tournament held Sept. 10. McQ won the 10-team event by knocking off Penfield, 15-5 and 15-12, in the championship match.

The McQuaid cross-country squad opened its season by placing fourth in the East Syracuse-Minoa Invitational held Sept. 10. Jeff Clark was the Knights' leading individual finisher, placing fifth.

In girls' volleyball action, Nazareth Academy rolled to a 15-12, 15-6, 15-3 victory over C.G. Finney in its opening match on Sept. 9.