Mercy runners aim for 'Victor-y'

Sectional win is Monarchs' goal

By Mike Latona Staff writer

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Etched deeply into the mental calendars of Our Lady of Mercy's cross-country team is Nov. 5.

That's when Mercy will get one more crack at Victor, which has held the upper hand over the Monarchs in recent Section 5 championship meets.

And even though Mercy has not yet defeated the Blue Devils in head-to-head competition this season, there have been several hints that the Monarchs' streak of frustration might end at sectional time.

For example, in the Irondequoit-Penfield Invitational held Oct. 7 at Penfield's Harris-Whalen Park, Mercy ran a below-average race in Coach Tim Jones' estimation. Yet the Monarchs still placed third in the girls' division with 84 points; not far off from Victor's firstplace score of 70.

In addition, Jones noted, Mercy posted better times than Victor at both the Spencerport and McQuaid Invitationals - but the teams were entered in separate divisions and therefore were not competing against each other.

"There are girls who have heard 'Victor' all these years and are tired of getting beaten," said Jones. "So they worked hard over the summer."

Mercy's leading performer has been senior Kathryn Belgiorno, who finished seventh at the Irondequoit-Penfield meet with a time of 21 minutes, 20 seconds.

Other top Mercy finishers on Oct. 7 included sophomore Nora Doebrich in 11th place; senior Becky Beecher, 18th; junior Becky Hodkinson, 19th; sophomore Brianne Johnson, 29th; freshman Teresa Jones (the coach's daughter), 30th; and junior Patty Thompson, 34th.

While Mercy has high hopes in team competition, Nazareth Academy junior Karen Scozzafava appears poised for a big individual post-season finish.

Scozzafava blitzed the opposition at the Irondequoit-Penfield race, placing first in 20:03 - a full 29 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Tammy Bush of Spencerport.

Scozzafava and fellow junior Shari Karlnoski lead a Laser squad short on experience but strong in numbers. Coach Chris Belmont's unit also includes sophomore Elizabeth Vande Velde as well as 10 freshmen, an eighthgrader and two seventh-graders.

At Geneva DeSales, Stephanie Nearpass is looking to make her third straight trip to the state Class C championships. The senior placed 17th at states as a sophomore, and 31st last year.

Although Coach Bob Wood noted that Nearpass has not hit her peak thus far in 1994, he is confident of her ability to step it up a couple of notches.

"She's a very competitive individual," Wood remarked.

Nearpass has been joined this season by two sophomore Saint runners, Kelly DiNieri and Meghan Archunde.

Aguinas Institute swept the top three spots in a dual meet against Edison Tech on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Cobbs Hill Park. Senior Fran Mance took first place, followed by sophomore Tacy Amering in second and freshman Bridget Zakielarz in third.

Coach Matt Isaac noted that Zakielarz's improvement has been enhanced by her desire to equal the times of Mance and Amering.

"I think it helps Bridget. She's usually a little behind them, but it keeps her going," Isaac remarked.

Also contributing for the Little Irish is another freshman, Erin Dennis.



Mercy's Kathryn Belgiorno Oct. 1 glides along the Genesee Valley Park course during the McQuaid Invitational. Belgiorno was Mercy's top finisher as she led the Monarchs to a third-place finish in the girls' Class A race.

Rivalry

Continued from page 12

over Mynderse Academy on Oct. 6 after playing Bloomfield to a 0-0 tie on Oct. 4. Another deadlock came from Aguinas, which battled powerful Pittsford Mendon to a 1-1 stalemate on Oct. 3. Meanwhile, Elmira Notre Dame was a 5-4 winner over Athens on Oct. 3 behind Chris Steed's two goals.

In boys' volleyball, McQuaid improved its record to 13-1 with four-game wins over Marshall and Rush-Henrietta (Oct. 4 and 8) and a sweep of East (Oct. 6).

Girls' volleyball wins were recorded

by Nazareth, which defeated Wilson in four games on Oct. 3 before surviving a five-game match with East on Oct. 8; and Kearney, which won in five games over Franklin on Oct. 5.

In boys' cross-country, McQuaid settled for second place at the Southern Tier Classic held Oct. 8 at St. Bonaventure University. The Knights' Jeff Clark also finished second individually.

Girls' tennis triumphs came from Kearney, which won 3-2 over Nazareth on Oct. 3; Aquinas, which defeated BK, 4-1, on Oct. 7; and Mercy, which handled Canandaigua, 4-1, on Oct. 7.

Mercy's swimmers also won last week, defeating Wilson 89-79 on Oct. 4.

Notre Dame suffers first loss of season

The football team's record is an admirable 5-1, but you won't find anybody gloating around Elmira Notre Dame this week.

The Crusaders saw their bid for an undefeated season come crashing to a halt last Saturday, Oct. 8. ND was whipped by host Tioga, 52-14, in a Southern Tier League football matchup.

"It was just one of those days when the kids weren't into it. We got embarrassed - I don't ever want to have to go through that again," said Mike D'Aloisio, who endured the worst loss in his 14 seasons as ND's head coach.

Notre Dame took an early 6-0 edge over Tioga on a 23-yard touchdown pass play from Chris Madigan to Peter Duchy. But Tioga went up 16-6 by halftime and ran off four consecutive TDs - on three pass plays and a returned fumble off a kickoff – to begin the second half. The Crusaders' final points came early in the fourth quarter when Joel Stephens reached the end zone from three yards out and added a two-point conversion.

Notre Dame will attempt to get back on track when it hosts Troy in a homecoming contest this Friday evening, Oct. 14.

All four remaining Catholic high school teams in the diocese succumbed last weekend as well. On Oct. 8, McQuaid Jesuit (2-4) lost 16-6 at undefeated Edison Tech; Bishop Kearney (1-5) was downed 13-10 by visiting East Rochester; and Geneva DeSales (1-5) dropped a 20-6 decision to host Dundee. The previous evening, Aquinas Institute (2-4) suffered a 35-6 setback at the hands of host Webster.

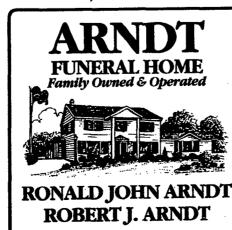
McQuaid held Edison to a scoreless halftime tie, but the Inventors scored two second-half touchdowns while the Knights' only score came on a one-yard run by Mike Kehoe in the final period.

Kearney enjoyed its only lead over East Rochester, 8-7, when Patrick Goode broke free for a 62yard TD run in the third quarter.

DeSales averted a shutout against Dundee when Mike DeVaney who went 6-for-9 for 51 yards on the game – threw 10 yards to Ben Kiley for a fourth-quarter touch-

Aquinas, which trailed 28-0 at the half to Webster, picked up its only touchdown of the night on a two-yard run by Nick Manella in the third period.

- Mike Latona



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