

Peak Performers ↑



● School of the Holy Childhood's **Sylvia Korn** was recently selected as Coach of the Year by Monroe County Special Olympics. Here Korn is shown receiving her plaque from MCSO executive director Dave Mantell. The ceremony took place at MCSO's eighth annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, held in September at Rochester's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

EDITORS' NOTE: "Peak Performers" appears periodically on the sports page. Its purpose is to highlight diocesan Catholics of all ages who have achieved notable athletic feats. This includes those Catholics who attend public schools. Readers are invited to submit items to Mike Latona at the Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624. Please specify your school, if applicable, and home parish. Photographs are welcome. Use of submissions and photos is subject to editors' discretion.

Soccer

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on Oct. 17; 1-0 over Hornell on Oct. 20; and 5-0 over Newark Valley on Oct. 22.

Kearney's girls won 4-0 over Waterloo on Oct. 17 and 2-0 over Nazareth on Oct. 19. Nazareth also picked up two shutout victories: 1-0 over East on Oct. 17 and 2-0 over Wilson on Oct. 21.

McQuaid's boys prevailed 3-1 over Aquinas on Oct. 19 and 2-0 over Wilson on Oct. 21. Sean Crowley scored a goal in each game.

The Kearney boys won 4-0 over Harley Allendale-Columbia on Oct. 18, and added a 1-0 decision over Newark on Oct. 20 when Marc Ritter scored the game's only goal.

Notre Dame's boys closed out their regular season with a 2-2 tie against Southside on Oct. 18 as Chris Jordan and Nathan Adamus collected goals.

Although they did not qualify for sectionals, the Aquinas boys and Geneva DeSales girls achieved victories in their final week of play. AQ (3-12-2) won 3-1 over Marshall-Franklin on Oct. 17 behind goals from Jason Weidert, Shane Kavanagh and Andy Weidert; and DeSales (3-12) prevailed 3-2 over Romulus on Oct. 21 as Renee Wiesner scored the game-winner after earlier goals by the Saints' Jody Hill and Heather Pike.

Mercy freshman falls in taught final

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

HENRIETTA — Based on past experience, Sue Ciccone knew there was no need to panic after losing her opening set.

Ciccone, an Our Lady of Mercy freshman, was pitted against Pittsford Sutherland junior Leila Monajati, who is also a good friend of Ciccone's and a fellow member at Tennis Club of Rochester.

"We always go back and forth," Ciccone said of their matches.

Yet Ciccone and Monajati met for much more than a friendly scrimmage last Thursday evening, Oct. 20, at Holiday Health Club. They were playing for the Section 5 championship, and Monajati had taken an early upper hand with a 6-2 first-set victory.

However, the players' evenly matched abilities were reflected in the second set when Ciccone rallied to win by the same 6-2 score. The players then battled closely through most of the third and final set before Monajati emerged with a 6-4 win in a match that lasted more than two and a half hours.

Despite the defeat, it was an admirable comeback for Ciccone, who dropped five of her first six games en route to the first-set loss.

Monajati, who had begun the match by cracking several blistering winners, appeared to tire slightly in the second set. Facing Ciccone's steady baseline game, Monajati's aggressive tactics only led to numerous unforced errors as Ciccone won that set's final four games.

After Ciccone took a 2-0 third-set lead, Monajati caught her second wind and the two players exchanged a number of lengthy rallies. Monajati, the tournament's No. 2 seed, won three straight games to go ahead 3-2 before the top-seeded Ciccone took her final lead at 4-3. Monajati then captured the final three games to claim the set and match.

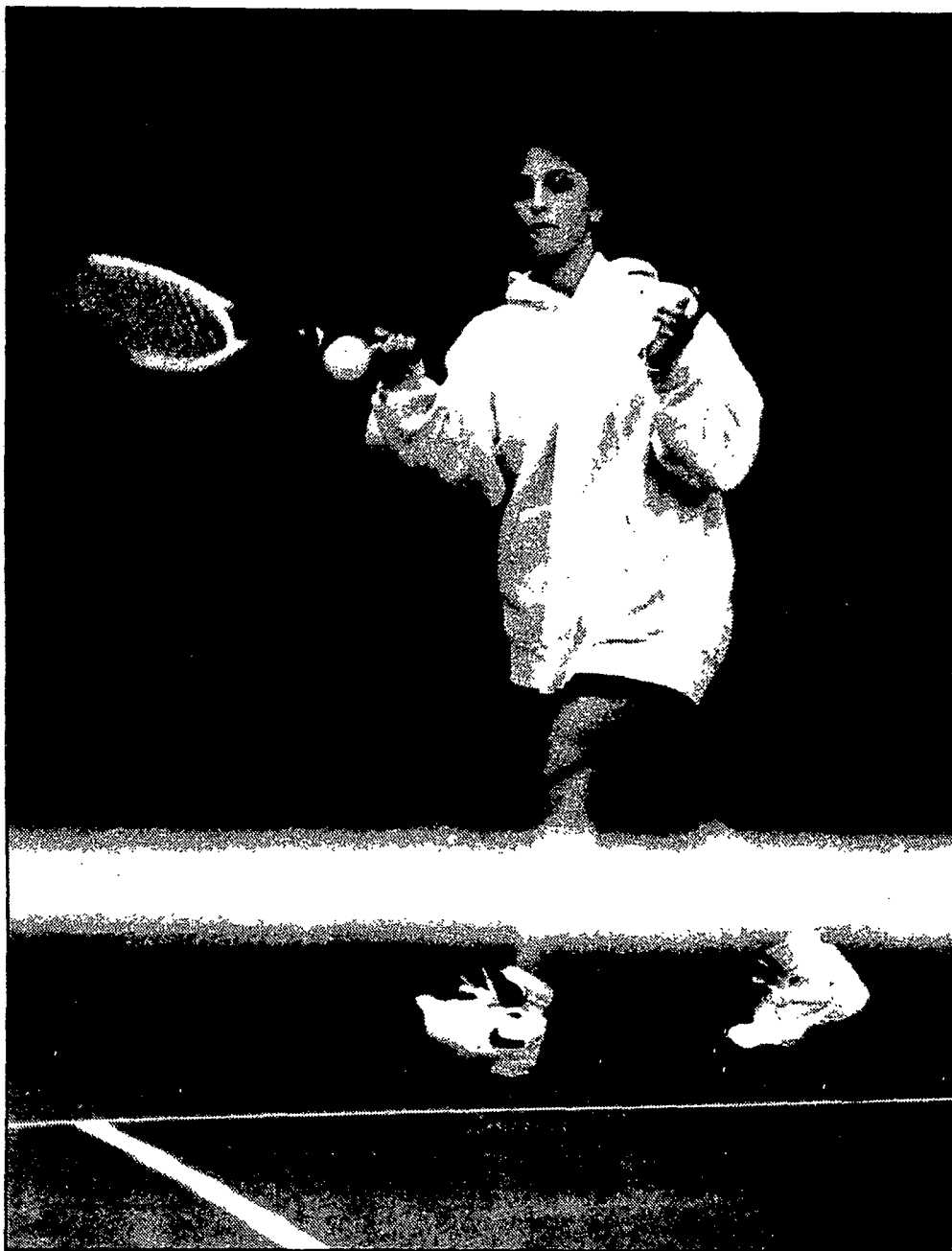
"You just had to hand it to Leila," remarked Mercy Coach Barb Hanna, who believed that Ciccone played superior tennis in the third set even though she could not withstand Monajati's impressive resurgence.

Ciccone said she was pleased with her level of performance after her slow start.

"I felt the best I've felt in awhile," she said. "I just didn't want to go out in two sets. In the first set I wasn't hitting quite as hard; I was a little tight."

One day after the sectional final, Ciccone nearly pulled off a big upset when she returned to Holiday Health Club for another intense battle — this time against Brighton's Anna Khvalina, who had not lost a set all year. Ciccone was eliminated in the Section 5 state-qualifier quarterfinal match, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

In Section 5 team competition held earlier last week, the Monarchs won 4-1 over Geneva in Class B quarterfinal play on Oct. 17 before falling 3-2 to Batavia in the Oct. 18 semifinals.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Our Lady of Mercy's Sue Ciccone swung her racket often during a two-and-a-half-hour Section 5 championship tennis match against Pittsford Sutherland's Leila Monajati. Ciccone rallied from a slow start before losing to Monajati, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. The Class B final took place Thursday, Oct. 20.

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