# ND, Mercy, AQ advance in girls' soccer playoffs

By Mike Latona Staff writer

A winning tradition need not be built up over several decades in order to be ef-

Case in point: the Elmira Notre Dame girls' soccer team.

After the Crusaders captured theirfirst-ever sectional championship in 1993, ND is only one game away from making it two straight titles. Top-seeded ND advanced to the Section 4 Class C finals with a 2-0 home victory over No. 4 Trumansburg last Saturday, Oct.

Next up is second-seeded Union Springs in the title contest. That game is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 4, beginning at 7 p.m. at Odessa-Montour High School in Schuyler County.

In Coach Steve Weber's eyes, last season's sectional triumph will have a positive psychological effect on the 1994 Crusaders.

'Everyone was reminded last year about how they'd never won (a sectional) before, after having been to the finals three times. Now they don't have to contend with that," said Weber.

Notre Dame, ranked fifth in the latest state Class C poll, raised its record to 19-0-1 with the semifinal win over Trumansburg. The Crusaders preceded that triumph with a 3-0 decision over No. 8 Bainbridge-Guilford in a quarterfinal game played Oct. 26 at Vestal.

Another team in top shape at tournament time is Our Lady of Mercy, which shot into the Section 5 Class A semis with a 5-1 quarterfinal win over fourth-seeded Penfield on Oct. 28 at Penfield. Fifth-seeded Mercy (13-3-1), the defending Class A champ, was scheduled to face top-seeded Greece Athena in a Nov. 1 semifinal clash. The winner will meet either No. 2 Webster or thirdseeded Gates-Chili in the Nov. 5 finals.

Of the eight diocesan boys' and girls' soccer teams which qualified for postseason, the only other to advance beyond quarterfinal play was the Aquinas Institute girls' squad. AQ (11-6), seeded No. 5 in Section 5 Class BB, rolled to



Wendy Longlade/Photo intern

(Above photo) Our Lady of Mercy goalie Kelly O'Neill (center) Oct. 28 receives and returns congratulatory hugs from teammates after a 5-1 win over Penfield. (Photo at left) Mercy's Julie Antignano advances the ball as the Chiefs' Jennifer Hellawell pursues. Mercy's win advanced the Monarchs to the Section 5 Class A semifinals.

25. The Crusaders (4-10-1) were the No. 10 seed.

### Sectional highlights

# Notre Dame Trumansburg

Notre Dame's girls were locked in a 0-0 halftime tie with fourth-seeded Trumansburg until Shelly Fagan scored on a header 7:00 into the second half. With 2:00 remaining, Lindsay West, who had assisted on Fagan's score, knocked in a rebound to clinch the win.

Goaltender Michelle May made eight saves as the Crusaders picked up their fifth consecutive shutout victory. The 2-0 finish was the same score by which ND had downed the Blue Raiders in last year's sectional finals.

In the quarterfinal triumph over Bainbridge-Guilford, ND goal-scorers were Fagan, Jen Spaziani and Asha Persaud.

## Our Lady of Mercy Penfield

Mercy senior striker Gina Montesano entered the Penfield game with just 10 goals in 1994 after collecting 41 last year.

"It's been hard for her, going through the (college) recruiting process for basketball. She's been getting 30 phone calls per night, so she's had a lot on her mind," explained Coach Kathy Boughton. "She's just starting to get re-laxed."

Penfield might have other definitions for Montesano's manner of "relaxing." After Abby Wambach gave Mercy a 1-0 lead just 13 seconds into the game, Montesano registered all the Monarchs' remaining goals. She scored twice before halftime to put Mercy up 3-0, and added two more goals in the second half - including one which came only 12 seconds after the Chiefs' Bre Smith had gotten

Continued on page 19



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

a 5-0 home win over No. 4 Wilson Mag-

net on Oct. 28. The Little Irish were

scheduled to play top-seeded Pittsford

Sutherland in a Nov. 1 semifinal game,

with the winner meeting No. 2 Pittsford

Mendon or sixth-seeded Greece Arca-

in other sectional girls' soccer action,

Bishop Kearney, which won last year's Section 5 Class CC title, saw its hopes

for back-to-back championships thwart-

ed. BK (9-8-2), competing in Class CCC this year as the No. 5 seed, was stopped

by host and No. 4 seed Mynderse Acad-

emy, 1-0, in an Oct. 28 quarterfinal

Nazareth Academy (12-6-1), which

had earned the top seed in Section 5 Class CC, was the victim of an upset loss

when host and No. 8 seed Letchworth

prevailed, 2-0, over the Lasers in quar-

In boys' soccer playoff action, Mc-

Quaid Jesuit was edged by host Brockport, 2-1 in sudden-death overtime, in a

Section 5 Class A quarterfinal battle on

Oct. 27. The Knights (12-5-1) had reached the Class A finals in 1993 and were this year's City-Catholic League

Bishop Kearney's boys also met with

defeat in the quarterfinals when the

Kings were stopped by host and No. 2

seed North Rose-Wolcott, 3-1, in Section

5 Class CC play on Oct. 27. Kearney (7-

Section 4 Class C pre-quarterfinals with

a 2-0 loss at No. 7 Whitney Point on Oct.

Elmira Notre Dame's boys exited the

11-1) was seeded seventh.

terfinal play on Oct. 29.

dia in the title contest on Nov. 5.

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