

Mercy sails into volleyball semifinals

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Slump? What slump?

Based on Our Lady of Mercy's performance in the Section 5 volleyball quarterfinals, the Monarchs' mid-season struggles appear to be ancient history.

Mercy, seeded second in Class BB, recorded a 15-9, 15-4, 15-7 sweep of No. 7 Edison Tech last Friday, Oct. 28, in a Section 5 quarterfinal volleyball match at Edison.

The win put the Monarchs into semifinal play against sixth-seeded Canandaigua, which scored a 15-6, 15-5, 15-10 win over third-seeded Aquinas Institute on Oct. 29 at AQ. The Little Irish ended their season with a 12-6 mark, the best finish in team history.

Mercy was scheduled to face Canandaigua on Nov. 1 in hopes of reaching the Class BB championship match for the second straight year. The Mercy-Canandaigua winner will play on Friday, Nov. 4, against either top-seeded and defending champion Victor or No. 5 Newark.

The Monarchs' rout of Edison marked their sixth straight win in what

has turned out to be a season full of streaks. Mercy began 1994 by winning eight of nine matches, then dropped five of its next six before its recent success. The Monarchs' overall record was 15-6 heading into the Canandaigua match.

"I scheduled some tough matches in the middle of the season and I knew we were going to take some losses, but we took more than I thought we were going to," remarked Mercy Coach Nancy Wunder. "But now the girls are playing with more confidence."

In other sectional volleyball results last week, Nazareth Academy was eliminated from the Section 5 Class CC playoffs in the pre-quarterfinal round. The Lasers (7-14), seeded No. 10, fell to host Perry on Oct. 28 by scores of 15-1, 15-2 and 15-8.

Meanwhile, the impressive McQuaid Jesuit boys begin sectional play this week. The Knights' lofty 18-3 record has earned them the No. 4 seed, as well as a first-round bye in Section 5 Class A. They're scheduled to host fifth-seeded Canandaigua on Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m., with the winner playing either No. 1 Gates-Chili, No. 8 Rush-Henrietta or No. 9 East in a semifinal

match on Nov. 5.

More sports highlights

McQuaid and Mercy geared up for this weekend's Section 5 cross-country championships by notching high team finishes at the Loyal Greenman Run, held Oct. 29 in Binghamton. McQuaid took fifth place in the boys' race as Mike Perrotta led the Knights with a 15th-place individual finish. Mercy placed fourth in the girls' competition behind Nora Doebrich's team-best 22nd place. Sectional races will take place Nov. 5 at Stuart Park in Newark.

Earlier last week, Aquinas' Jason Hasert took top honors in a City-Catholic League boys' race held Oct. 25 at Cobbs Hill Park. His winning time was 18 minutes, 4 seconds.

In the Finger Lakes, Geneva De-Sales' Stephanie Nearpass registered a third-place finish in a Wayne-Finger Lakes League meet on Oct. 25 at Seneca Lake State Park.

The Mercy girls' swim team finished its regular season on a strong note by winning 56-42 at Gates-Chili on Oct. 27. The Monarchs' third straight victory enabled them to complete their dual-meet schedule with a 5-5 record.

SPORTSHORTS

Ex-Cowboy will lecture at Geneva DeSales HS

GENEVA — Former Dallas Cowboys football player Harry Flaherty will appear at the DeSales High School gymnasium, 90 Pulteney St., on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Flaherty's 1:30 p.m. presentation will center around drug and alcohol abuse. He will speak to the DeSales student body as well students in grades 6-8 from St. Francis DeSales and St. Stephen's schools.

Flaherty was an All-American linebacker at Holy Cross College in 1982 and 1983. He played for the Tampa Bay Bandits and Baltimore Stars of the now-defunct United States Football League before completing his career with the Cowboys.

Flaherty's presentation is open to the public. For details, call Robert DiFulio at 315/739-5111.

Winter camp available at AQ's Napier Center

ROCHESTER — A three-day basketball camp will be held over Christmas break at Aquinas Institute's Napier Center, 1127 Dewey Ave.

The camp, open to boys and girls in grades 4-8, will focus on offensive fundamental skills. It is scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 28-Dec. 30, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. each day. Cost is \$30.

To obtain a registration form or for further information, call Michael Dianetti, camp director and Aquinas' head "boys" basketball coach, at 716/458-5900.

Soccer

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her squad's only goal.

The one-sided victory stunned Boughton as well as Penfield. "That's a good team. To come out of this 5-1 was a total shock," she commented. "I was expecting 2-1 or 3-2, or even a shootout."

Aquinas Institute	5
Wilson Magnet	0

The Aquinas girls were relentless in their quarterfinal game against Wilson Magnet, scoring all five goals before halftime. AQ scorers included Katya Metidieri, Katie Gonzales, Tricia DiQuattro, Laura Bilak and Kelly Loomis.

"We played well. We're playing our best soccer of the year right now," said Coach Gary Page.

The win moved AQ within one game of its second final in three years. The Irish were Class A runners-up in 1992.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

McQuaid Jesuit's Ryan Mooney (center) is tripped up by Brockport goalkeeper Scott Schleede as Mooney and Brockport's Sean Lair attempt to gain possession of the ball. The Knights lost to the host Blue Devils, 2-1, in Section 5 Class A quarterfinal play Oct. 27.

Crusaders finish with 8-1 mark

It was frustrating enough to be edged in last year's Section 4 Class C playoffs.

It's even more exasperating to go 8-1 during this fall's regular season and not even qualify for post-season play.

Despite an impressive 25-0 victory over host Whitney Point on Oct. 29, Elmira Notre Dame's 1994 season has ended.

The Crusaders earned the Southern Tier League co-championship with Tioga — each had a 4-1 league mark — but the Tigers moved on to the playoffs based on a head-to-head tiebreaker (Tioga handed Notre Dame its only loss, 52-14, back on Oct. 8). So when the Tigers scored a 28-14 win over Newark Valley last weekend, they secured a playoff berth even though their overall mark is only 5-3-1.

ND was bidding to return to sectional competition where the Crusaders had put up a valiant effort last year against Walton, the state's top-ranked team, before falling 19-14.

Despite the disappointment of not reaching the post-season, Coach Mike D'Aloisio was pleased with his Crusaders' resiliency after the Tioga defeat.

They closed out the year with three straight wins by a combined score of 95-29.

"The important thing is that we bounced back. I think the kids proved that (Tioga) loss was a fluke," D'Aloisio remarked.

"Everything happens for a reason," he added. "Maybe this will make the basketball players and wrestlers from this team want to work harder to bring home a championship this winter."

Senior tailback Joel Stephens closed out his spectacular high-school career in style last Saturday, factoring in all four of ND's touchdowns against Whitney Point. He made a rare throw to Mike Berrettini on a successful 72-yard halfback-option play in the second quarter, and added TD runs of three, one and 46 yards in the third quarter.

Stephens' 210 yards on 23 carries gave him 1,954 yards for the season. At 4,715 career yards, he is No. 2 on the all-time state career rushing list. Stephens had broken the Section 4 career record in his previous game, a 30-21 win over Moravia on Oct. 21.

— Mike Latona

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