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# Elmira Notre Dame falls in Section 4 final

## Playoff losses also end year for Mercy, AQ

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

All season long, opponents had left the soccer field marveling at Elmira Notre Dame girls' superior skills.

Yet it was the Crusaders who were bewildered in their matchup last Friday night, Nov. 4. ND was blanked by Union Springs, 2-0, in the Section 4 Class C championship contest held at Odessa-Montour High School.

The defeat prevented Notre Dame from taking its second consecutive championship. It was also the first loss all year for the Crusaders, who finished their season with a 19-1-1 record.

Following the game, ND Coach Steve Weber remarked that the Lady Wolves' athleticism won out over his club's tactical prowess.

"They're not the most skilled team we've played - I thought we were the better passing team - but they're definitely the quickest and strongest. Whenever we had the ball, they had two or three defenders on us," Weber said. "I give them credit; they played a heck of a game."

Notre Dame, the top seed in Class C, had two excellent early chances to score on second-seeded Union Springs. Asha Persaud split two defenders before her shot was stopped by Lady Wolves goaltender Corinne Bowman 5:40 into the game; and it was Persaud who was again denied by a sprawling Bowman with 19:00 elapsed.

Union Springs' Kim Brightman scored the game's first goal with 16:48 left before halftime. Her perfectly placed blast from 20 yards out snuck just under the crossbar and over the outstretched arms of ND goalie Michelle May.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Elmira Notre Dame's Lindsay West controls the ball as she is pursued by Elisha Perkins of Union Springs. The Crusaders Nov. 4 lost the Section 4 Class C title game to the Lady Wolves, 2-0, at Odessa-Montour High School.

Brightman later got through the Crusader defense again, broke in on May and scored from short range with only 1:19 to go before halftime.

Weber acknowledged that last Friday's defeat was particularly tough for Notre Dame's seniors, who had hoped to repeat their sectional crown and advance to the state tournament.

"Some teams would be happy just to get this far, but we're disappointed right now," Weber said.

"But it was a great season. That's not a bad run, going 20 games without a loss," he added.

Meanwhile, Our Lady of Mercy and Aquinas Institute saw their hopes for Section 5 championships foiled in semifinal play last Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Mercy, the defending Class A champion, was overwhelmed by Greece Athena, 6-1, in a game held at Bishop Kearney High School. The Monarchs, seeded No. 5, finished their season with a 13-4-1 record.

Top-seeded Athena took a 2-0 first-half lead before Mercy's Julie Antignano scored with just 10 seconds remaining before halftime. But the Trojans put the game out of reach with four second-half goals in a 20-minute stretch.

Athena went on to fall to second-seeded Webster, 1-0, in the Nov. 4 title game. The Trojans were also defeated in the 1993 Class A final - by Mercy - 3-1.

Aquinas made a stirring comeback against Pittsford Sutherland last Tuesday before a late goal gave the top-seeded Knights a 4-3 win in a tight Class BB semifinal at Wayne Central High School. The Little Irish, seeded fifth, finished the year with an 11-7 mark.

AQ got a first-half goal from Katya Metidieri, but still faced a 3-1 deficit at intermission. The Little Irish rallied to tie the game at 3-3 on goals by Molly Khuns and Tricia DiQuattro before the Knights' Mags Hayden netted the game-winner with 3:30 remaining.

Four days later, Sutherland emerged as the Class BB champion by scoring a 1-0 win over No. 2 Pittsford Mendon in the title contest.

## Victor halts Mercy's upset bid in girls' volleyball title match

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

It took only one game for Victor to realize that this volleyball match would not be influenced by recent history.

Our Lady of Mercy came into the Section 5 Class BB championship showdown having lost to the Blue Devils in an Oct. 7 regular-season match. Another blow loomed over the Monarchs was Victor's three-game sweep of the regular-season final.

However, it was Mercy which stuck it to Victor in the early going by winning the first set of the final opening game 15-12. The two teams battled on a tight even terms throughout the evening before top-seeded Victor rallied with a 10-15, 15-4, 18-16, 15-3 comeback without lets.

Victor's comeback gave second-seeded Mercy its seventh loss of the season against 16 wins.

Despite the year-ending defeat, Coach Nancy Wunder was ecstatic about her club's effort.

"It was a phenomenal match. It was a heartbreaker, yet I was somewhat consoled because we played so great," said Wunder.

In the pivotal third game, Mercy rallied to tie the score, 13-13, on three

consecutive serving points by Emily Bintz. The clubs traded points until Victor pulled out the victory, and the Blue Devils then clinched the title with their fourth-game triumph.

Mercy was represented by Bintz and Teresa Hartman on the all-tournament team. The Monarchs, who entered regionals as the 1994 Private-Parochial League champions, had reached the finals with a 15-6, 12-15, 15-9, 15-8 semifinal triumph over sixth-seeded Canandaigua on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Palmyra-Macedon.

In boys' volleyball playoff action, McQuaid Jesuit was eliminated by Canandaigua in a thrilling five-game Section 5 Class A quarterfinal match. The Braves rallied for a 6-15, 15-10, 5-15, 15-6, 15-12 victory on Thursday, Nov. 5, at McQuaid.

McQuaid owned a 10-6 edge in the fifth and deciding game before the Braves strung together five straight points for an 11-10 lead. The Knights tied the game at 11-11, but were outscored by Canandaigua 4-1 the rest of the way.

McQuaid was the tournament's No. 4 seed, and Canandaigua was seeded fifth. The Knights ended their splendid season with an 18-4 record as well as the City-Catholic League title.

## Two runners secure berths for state cross-country meet

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

NEWARK - It was a disappointing day for the team aspect, yet a good outing for two diocesan high-school individuals.

Nazareth Academy's Karen Scozzafava and Our Lady of Mercy's Nora Doebrich qualified for this weekend's state cross-country competition based on their strong performances at the Section 5 championships. The sectional meet took place Saturday, Nov. 5, at Stuart Park.

Scozzafava placed second in the girls' race which combined classes C and CC. The Nazareth junior recorded a time of 20 minutes, 41 seconds over the 3.1-mile course, while Williamson's Heather Haupt placed first in 20:27 and Bloomfield's Megan Lochte finished third in 20:45.

Also gaining entrance into the state meet was Doebrich, a Mercy sophomore, who finished sixth in the girls' Class B-BB race with a time of 21:37.

The state meet will take place in Albany this coming Saturday, Nov. 12. First-place squads automatically qualified for states, and the top five individuals from non-winning teams in each classification

also became eligible.

In team competition, McQuaid was looking to add to its string of Class A championships it achieved from 1991-93. However, the Knights had to settle for a fifth-place finish last Saturday with 100 points, while Penfield became the new champion with 43.

McQ's top runner, Jeff Clark, was hampered by a sinus infection but still managed a ninth-place finish. Teammate Mike Perrotta also reached the top 15 by placing 14th.

"We just didn't get out. Our kids were into a chasing game almost from the start," lamented Coach Bob Bradley, whose Knights were attempting to tie the record of four straight Section 5 titles set by Greece Arcadia in the mid-1970s.

Although the Knights won't participate in states this weekend, they'll be back in action for the Jesuit Championships - where they're defending champions - on Nov. 19 in New York City.

In other Section 5 highlights, Mercy used Doebrich's sixth-place finish to place third in girls' Class BB team scoring with 78 points. Meanwhile, Aquinas Institute's Jason Hasert finished 19th in the boys' B-BB race to lead the Little Irish to an eighth-place showing in Class BB.