



Mercy swimmers shine at sectionals

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer.

Jennifer Moffett competes in the butterfly leg of the 200-yard medley relay during the Section 5 Class B championship finals on Nov. 11. The Monarchs placed fourth in that relay as well as in overall team scoring.

Youthful squad finishes fourth

ROCHESTER — This team's recent past has made its coach very excited about the future.

Young talent rose to the occasion in helping Our Lady of Mercy take a solid fourth place at the Section 5 Class B girls' swim championships. The finals were held Friday, Nov. 11, at the University of Rochester.

"Everybody that scored points in sectionals is returning next year, so we're hoping to move up a spot (in team scoring) and also win more (dual) meets," remarked Mercy Coach Todd Yunker.

The Monarchs came on strong late in the regular season, winning their final three meets to complete their dual schedule with a 5-5 record.

In many instances, Yunker noted, Mercy continued its surge at the sectional meet with several best times.

"We finished strong, very strong," Yunker commented.

Leading the way was the 200-yard



Michelle Moosbrugger, a member of Mercy's 200-yard freestyle relay, exults following the Monarchs' second-place finish in the event.

freestyle relay consisting of Michelle Moosbrugger, Laura Belgiorno, Christina Brassler and Cassie Ingersoll. Their school-record time of 1 minutes, 47.89 seconds was good for second place.

Another school record came from Christina Brassler, who went 1:06.91 in the 100 backstroke to finish sixth.

Several other Monarchs reached the championship finals by placing among the top eight during preliminary competition. Those swimmers, along with their final placements, included: Moosbrugger, fourth in the 100 breaststroke and fifth in the 100 freestyle; the 200 medley relay of Brassler, Moosbrugger, Jennifer Moffett and Ingersoll, which placed fourth; Kim Cupini, who finished fifth in the 500 freestyle and seventh in the 200 free; and Ingersoll, sixth in the 200 individual medley and seventh in the 100 breaststroke.

Two other top-eight finishes were achieved by Mercy divers, whose sectional competition was held Nov. 8 at Edison Tech. The Monarchs' Gina DeBergalis finished fifth, and teammate Katie Ernst was eighth.

— Mike Latona

Laser runner hits top 10 at state meet

ALBANY — Getting left in the dust at the starting line was not how Karen Scozzafava wanted her day to begin.

The important thing, though, is that the Nazareth Academy junior wasted no time in shaking that dust off.

The payoff: a top-10 finish at the state girls' cross-country championships.

Scozzafava placed eighth among 120 runners in the Class C division of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association meet, held Saturday, Nov. 12, at the State University of New York College at Albany. Scozzafava's 19

minutes, 13 seconds was her best time all year on a 3.1-mile course.

The Lasers' top runner noted that she was surprised about reaching the top 10 last Saturday because "last year I came in 22nd, so I was just hoping for top 20."

Based on how her race started, many spectators may also have been startled with Scozzafava's achievement.

"I got off to a bad start; I was in the back of the pack," she said. "But I made up a lot on the hills."

"I felt real good," she added. "I peaked at the right time of the year."

Scozzafava was coming off a second-place showing at the Section 5 Class C-CC championships Nov. 5. In that meet, she recorded a time of 20:41 at the Stuart Park course in Newark.

The only other state qualifier from a Catholic high school in the diocese was Our Lady of Mercy's Nora Doebrich, who competed in Class B. She posted a 75th-place finish among 140 entrants in Albany after placing sixth in the Section 5 Class B-BB competition Nov. 5.

— Mike Latona

Basketball stars secure full college scholarships

Each basketball star already knows the exhilaration of hoisting a title trophy before thousands of spectators.

Now, Gina Montesano and Rob Norris are hoping that their high-school success will carry over to their new Division I college programs.

Both Montesano and Norris recently signed national letters-of-intent and will receive full scholarships next fall.

Montesano, a senior guard at Our Lady of Mercy High School, announced Monday, Nov. 14 that she will attend the University of Pittsburgh.

One of the most talented and successful girls' basketball players in Sec-

tion 5, Montesano has already led Mercy to Class A sectional championships in 1992 and 1993 and a runner-up finish last winter. The fourth-year varsity star is coming off a 1993-94 season in which she averaged 20 points, six assists and five steals per game.

Of the 30 Division I colleges which aggressively pursued her, Montesano said she picked Pittsburgh because she has a good chance to start at point guard next season for the Big East Conference school.

In addition, she said, the Panther team "is very family-oriented and really close — just like here at Mercy."

Norris, a senior guard at McQuaid Jesuit High School, declared Nov. 9 that he is headed for Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Also in his fourth year as a varsity player, Norris is coming off a solid 1993-94 season during which he averaged 16 points per game. A year earlier, Norris played for a McQuaid squad that captured the Section 5 Class A crown.

Prior to signing with Fairleigh Dickinson, Norris was offered full rides to West Point, the University of Vermont and the University of Buffalo.

— Mike Latona

Hockey, hoops events scheduled by Kearney

ROCHESTER — Bishop Kearney High School will host two tournaments at the Community War Memorial during the winter season.

On Saturday, Nov. 26, the Kearney Invitational Hockey Classic will feature the following games: Genesee vs. Spencerport at 1 p.m.; Brockport vs. Irondequoit, 3 p.m.; Gates-Chili vs. Webster, 5 p.m.; and Hilton vs. Kearney, 7 p.m. There will also be squads from Rochester Youth Hockey competing at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, five contests are slated for the Kearney Invitational Basketball Classic. Matchups will feature: Greece Arcadia vs. Greece Athena boys at noon; Pittsford Sutherland vs. Buffalo St. Joseph boys, 2 p.m.; Brockport vs. Waterloo boys, 3:30 p.m.; Webster vs. BK girls, 5:30 p.m.; and Greece Olympia vs. BK boys, 7:30 p.m.

For ticket information, call Brother Paul Hannon at 716/542-4000.

BK cheerleaders win at sectional competition

GENESEEO — The Bishop Kearney varsity cheerleaders successfully defended their Section 5 fall championship with a first-place performance on Monday, Oct. 24, at the State University of New York College at Genesee.

BK not only won the Division III category, but it also registered the highest score among all 44 schools entered in the tournament.

Team members featured seniors Kristy Hebert, Megan McLean, Pamela Obando, Renee Schaefer and Stephanie Shaw; juniors Mary Albert, Jamie Alexander, Kelly Beebe, Amanda Bham, Carrie Joyce, Stephanie Noto, Marisa Pace, Kelly Volkman and Melanie Ward; sophomores Elic Charfield and Chrissy Polito; and Coach Mary Ann Walker.

Ice hockey in Rochester slated to open season

ROCHESTER — The Rochester Jr. Bruins will open their 1994-95 season on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Community War Memorial.

The Bruins will play their home games at the Community War Memorial, 1000 Community War Memorial Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14610. Tickets are available at the door and by calling 716/586-7400.

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