

# Irish, Knights look to young talent

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

There's more than one western New York team mounting a "Drive for Five" this winter.

Similar to the Buffalo Bills and their four consecutive American Football Conference titles, the Aquinas Institute hockey squad is taking aim at a fifth consecutive Monroe County Division I league championship.

And, also not unlike the Bills, the challenge for AQ to repeat seems to grow stiffer with each passing year. This season, the Little Irish will be attempting to blend 11 freshmen into their game plan.

"We've won the league four years in a row, but I told the kids that's not one of our goals this year," remarked Coach Dave Montgomery. "This year it's kind of unrealistic to set a goal when you have so many inexperienced players."

The Little Irish are coming off a 1993-94 campaign in which they tied for the league title with Pittsford and finished 13-9 after being eliminated by the Panthers in the Section 5 Class A semifinals. AQ, which had won the previous two Class A titles, has switched to Class B for the upcoming year's playoffs but will remain in Division I for league play.

Aquinas' foundation will consist of junior forward Shane Kavanagh; senior forward Jeff Camelio; junior defenseman Mike Saporito; senior defenseman Anthony Joy; and junior goaltender Jared Zambito. This nucleus must compensate for the loss of sophomore stars Brian Gionta and Sean Corcoran, who have elected to play for the Rochester Junior Amerks this season.

Montgomery rates forwards Kevin Dudley and Lou Ferrari as tops among the big frosh contingent.

By year's end, the coach added, the Irish have the potential to follow the winning tradition of recent AQ clubs.

"It really looks like we have a lot of good attitudes. Hopefully we'll peak at the right time," said Montgomery.

Aquinas opens the season Thursday, Dec. 1, with an 8 p.m. game against Gates-Chili at Lakeshore Rinks.

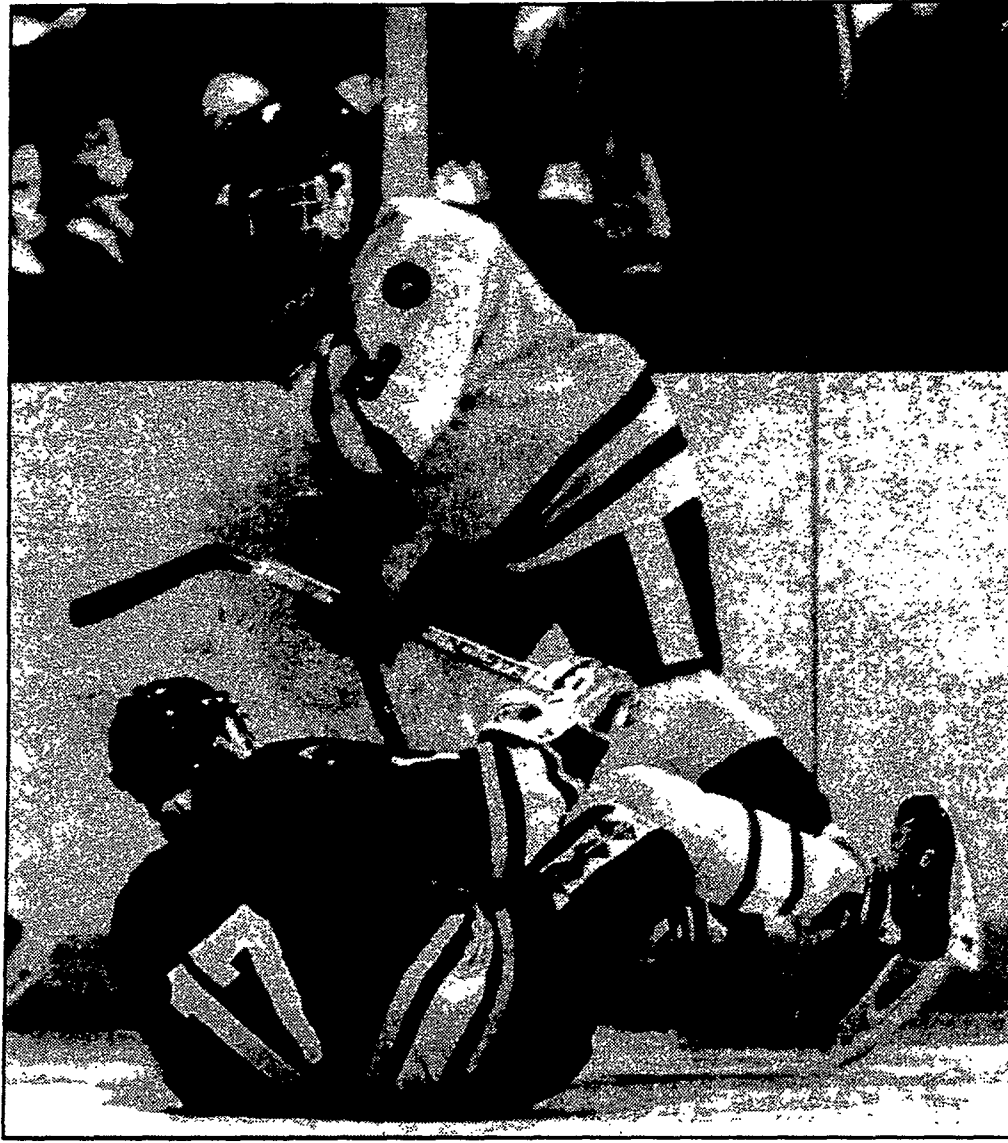
At **McQuaid Jesuit**, the Knights also are working with an unusually large crop of youngsters. Coach Al Vyverberg noted that 17 frosh tried out for this year's team, with 10 making the final cut.

"We've got quite a few of the better kids in the area — if I can keep them," quipped Vyverberg, who, like AQ, has had to make adjustments after his leading players opted to play hockey at a different level before their high-school careers had ended.

Currently, three ex-Knights — Marty Reasoner, Sean Ritchlin and Larry Pierce — are attending prep school. Reasoner has already secured a full scholarship at Boston College beginning in 1995-96, and Ritchlin has agreed to a full ride to the University of Michigan.

Of the current Knights, senior goaltender Jake Eisenhauer will play a key role in 1994-95. "He's probably our best player going in, and I haven't been able to say that before about a goalie," Vyverberg commented.

Other top McQuaid players are senior forward Pat Holden; senior defense-



File photo  
**Aquinas Institute's Mike Saporito (top) gets tangled up with McQuaid Jesuit's Brian Felber during a game between the two rivals last season. Both the Little Irish and Knights will feature several new faces this season due to the teams' large number of freshman.**

man/forward **Nake Lukaszonas**; junior forwards **Kyle Hanford**, **Andy Hyatt** and **Joe D'Alessandro**; and sophomore defenseman **Mack Hodges**.

The Knights, who finished 6-14-1 last winter, begin their season Nov. 30 with a 6 p.m. start against Batavia at Geneva Valley Ice Arena.

**Bishop Kearney** is also attempting to improve on a sub-500 finish last year, and its coach believes the Kings are up to the task.

"I don't think we're going to be a stepping stone for anybody," stated Coach Rob Liberatore, whose Kings finished 3-19 last season.

"This should be one of the strongest teams we've had in the last two or three years," Liberatore added. "We're a year older and hopefully a year wiser."

Leading Kings are sophomore forwards **Charlie Nersinger** and **Jon Providence**; junior forwards **Rich Dobosz** and **David Principe**; senior defenseman **David O'Neil**; senior goalie **Chris Ashton**; and junior defenseman **Chris Howe**.

The Kings' opener is Saturday, Nov. 26, when they host the four-game Kearney Invitational Classic at the Rochester Community War Memorial. BK faces Hilton in the final contest at 7 p.m.

Meanwhile, **Geneva DeSales** will mark its hockey debut when **Shaun Madigan**, a junior forward, takes the ice on Nov. 26.

Madigan is the lone DeSales player on a 20-man combined varsity team with Geneva High School. The squad's open-

ing game will take place Saturday at home against Canisius at 5 p.m.

According to Coach **Jim Dooley**, all home games will be played at the Geneva Recreation complex on Exchange Street. The team is a member of the Monroe County League but will not be affiliated with any division this season.

"We're going to have our hands full being a first-year team, but we're going to have some fun," said Dooley, a longtime youth-hockey coach in the Geneva area.

## McQ takes third at Jesuit meet; Clark places fourth individually

The McQuaid Jesuit cross-country squad concluded its 1994 season with a third-place finish in the Jesuit Championships, held Saturday, Nov. 19, at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City.

McQuaid was defending champion in the 11-team race featuring schools from all over the northeastern United States. The Knights' top finisher was **Jeff Clark**, who took fourth place among 75 runners with a time of 13 minutes, 48 seconds on the 2.5-mile course.

"He had what I'd call a nice comeback race," observed Coach **Bob Bradley**, who noted that Clark had

Rochester boxing club will host tournament at North Street center

ROCHESTER — The 15th annual Silver Gloves Boxing Tournament will take place Dec. 3-4 at the North Street Recreation Center, 700 North St.

Bouts are set to begin at 1 p.m. Dec. 3 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 4. Clubs from Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Albany and New York City will compete in the tournament. Rochester's St. Martin Boxing Club will serve as host.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under age 12. For details, contact **Don Suda** at 716/274-8332 or 244-2812.

## Pawlak's scoring to help Nazareth College hoops

PITTSFORD — Two graduates of Catholics high schools in the diocese are members of the 1994-95 Nazareth College men's basketball team.

**Kevin Pawlak**, a graduate of Bishop Kearney High School, is a senior forward for the Golden Flyers. He is the team's highest-scoring veteran after averaging 15.2 points per game last season. Pawlak also contributed 5.1 rebounds per game.

**Chris Pegan**, from McQuaid Jesuit High School, is a freshman forward. He and junior center **Bob Coleman** are the team's tallest players, each standing 6 feet, 7 inches.

The Golden Flyers will be in action on Friday, Dec. 2, when they face Clarkson College at 8:30 p.m. in the Rochester Classic's opening round at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

Also that evening, St. John Fisher College will oppose Hamilton College in a first-round contest at 6:30 p.m. The consolation and championship games will be held on Dec. 3 at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., respectively.

This will mark the 32nd and final year of the Rochester Classic.

— Mike Latona

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