

Veteran duo puts Mercy in hunt

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Some girls' basketball teams would be pleased with the point production that comes from Our Lady of Mercy's top two players.

With senior guard Gina Montesano and senior forward Kelly O'Neill leading the way, the Monarchs are taking aim at a fourth consecutive trip to the Section 5 Class A title game.

Montesano, who averaged 21 points per game in 1993-94, and O'Neill, who collected 18 PPG, are attempting to give Mercy its third Class A crown in four years. The Monarchs, who finished with a 20-3 record last season, were thwarted by Greece Athena in last March's sectional final.

"I think that we have the talent to be there again, especially when you have two players like Gina and Kelly — a strong point guard and somebody underneath who's strong," Mercy Coach Kathy Boughton said.

Junior forward Leah Oliveiri has locked up another starting spot. The remaining two positions will go to either senior Danni LaMagna, junior Katie Fitzgerald, sophomore Sarah Zona or freshman Abby Wambach.

Remaining Monarchs are sophomore guard Julie Antignano; senior guard Tracey Green; and junior forwards Joanne Hanna and Jennie Carreo.

Mercy will open its season on Dec. 20 with a road game against Harley Allendale-Columbia.

Also coming off a superb 1993-94 showing is Bishop Kearney, which finished 17-4. The Kings host Brighton in their opener on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Finishing above .500 again will be a challenge for this young squad, which features no seniors, seven sophomores, three freshman and two juniors.

Yet despite the Kings' youth, Coach Paul Forte feels his squad is ready to compete.

"Our team motto is 'up the tempo.' We have to generate a lot out of pure hustle and speed," Forte said.

Starters include sophomore center/forward Ryan Barry; sophomore forwards Shannon Hogan and Kelly Merck; sophomore guard Sandy Moll; and freshman guard Shannon Rene.

Remaining BK players are freshman forward Jenny Dufek; sophomore forward/center twin sisters Erica and Sheri Wilson; freshman guard Kate McIntyre; sophomore guard Amy Chiavetta; junior guard/forward Teresa Principe; and junior forward Luciana Ferruzza.

Geneva DeSales has jumped out to a quick start, compiling a three-game winning streak and a 3-1 record through last week. The Saints played well in their own weekend tournament, winning 45-26 against Lima Christian on Dec. 1 and 41-33 over Romulus in the Dec. 3 final.

The starting five consists of senior forward Stephanie Nearpass; senior guard Stefanie Smaldone; sophomore forward Sue Nearpass; and sophomore guards Heather Pike and Allison Hilberer.

Additional Saints are junior forwards Dina Smaldone, Stephanie Kelly and Kelly Scherer; junior guard Colleen Tracey; and sophomore guard Kelly Dinieri.

Hilberer (14 points) was the Saints' top scorer in the victory over Lima Christian. Stephanie Nearpass and Dinieri tied for high-scoring honors against Romulus with nine points each.

Coach Steve Muzzi said that the Saints' defensive play will be the key to their success this season.

"We like to press. Our defense gets our offense going," said Muzzi, whose club finished 11-11 in 1993-94.

Aquinas Institute has a new head



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Geneva DeSales Stefanie Nearpass (center) struggles for the ball with Romulus's Amy Miller (left) and Bianca Dahl during the Nov. 3 tournament championship game. The Saints beat the Warriors 41-33 to clinch their own tournament.

coach as well as several first-year players. Tom Moffett will carry three freshmen on the varsity roster — center Meg Reynders, guard Erin Kelly and forward Jeannine Nasella — and he expects all of them to make immediate contributions.

"They can step in and play," said Moffett, who served as girls' head coach at Ripley Central School in Ripley, N.Y., from 1983-91, and Fairview High School in Fairview, Pa., from 1991-93. "I didn't bring them up just to sit on the bench."

Yet AQ's hot hand has recently belonged to a senior: guard/forward Jenny Werner. She scored 27 points during a 65-61 loss to Honeoye in the Honeoye Tournament's consolation game on Dec. 3.

Reynders, the younger sister of Rutgers University guard Amy Reynders, will play center along with senior Michelle DeMunck, who's currently sidelined by illness. Other starters are senior forward Fran Iacovangelo; senior guard Katya Metidieri; and Kelly.

Filling out the roster are Nasella; senior guard Liz Johnston; junior guards Michelle Guyette and Cristy Chase; junior guard/forward Giannine Lioi; and junior forward Laura Bilak.

In AQ's other season-opening games last week, the Little Irish won 38-28 over visiting Wilson Magnet on Nov. 28 and lost 44-38 to South Seneca in the Honeoye Tournament's first round on Dec. 3. The Little Irish girls finished with a 7-14 record last year.

Nazareth Academy has gone 1-for-3 to begin the 1994-95 campaign. The Lasers' victory came on Nov. 26, a 48-38 decision over Franklin in the Franklin Tournament's consolation round.

Traci Sergeant, a senior guard, keyed that win by scoring 22 points and tying a school record with six three-point bas-

kets. Other starters, all juniors, are center Deidre Britton; forward Jessica Benthin; and juniors Jen Massare and Stacy Keech.

Remaining Lasers include junior forwards Amy Bohan and Betsy Rivera; senior guard Larissa Huge; senior forward Michele Yax; junior guard Sarah Morrell; and sophomore guard Katie Poinan.

Although Nazareth Coach Chris Belmont has four returning starters (Keech is the only newcomer), he stressed that the team must work hard to improve on the 8-13 record it compiled last season.

"We're more experienced, but we still certainly have things to learn," Belmont said.

At Elmira Notre Dame, the Crusaders have struggled to an 0-4 start after going 4-16 in 1993-94.

Yet Notre Dame's record, according to Coach John Burge, is not due to lack of ability.

"They've played super defense, but the offense brings us down," said Burge, whose team has averaged 29.8 points. "We shoot real good in practice. The future looks bright; I just wish it could be here now."

Junior guard Emily Violette, averaging nine points per game, has been ND's top scorer. Other starters are senior forward Christie Garwood; senior guard Georgia Grieco; junior forward Michelle May; and sophomore guard Tania Meck.

Completing the roster are freshman forward/guard Pam Harley; freshman forward/center Liz Buckley; junior guard Theresa Hayner; junior forward Katy Audinwood; senior forward Alanah Keddell; and sophomore forward Iride Pichoki.

BK breaks out of gate quickly

Not missing a beat from its 1993-94 late-season success, Bishop Kearney began a new boys' basketball year with two decisive victories last week.

Playing in the Waterloo Invitational, the Kings rolled to a 59-44 win over Mynderse Academy on Dec. 1 and added a 73-46 rout of Waterloo on Dec. 3. Vernon Banks keyed the Mynderse triumph with 18 points and 15 rebounds; and Adam Randall and Patrick Goode led the way against Waterloo with 19 and 17 points, respectively.

BK is the defending Section 5 Class B champion.

More sports highlights

Elmira Notre Dame (1-1) was a 74-58 winner over Liberty, Pa., in the Towanda (Pa.) Tournament's consolation round on Dec. 3. Jon Harley and Mike Valeant tied for team-high scoring honors with 12 points each.


In hockey, Aquinas Institute (1-1) cruised to a 10-0 win over Bishop Kearney (1-2) on Dec. 3 at Lakeshore Rinks behind Mike Corey's three-goal, one-assist effort.

Also last Saturday, McQuaid Jesuit (1-1) eased past Hilton, 6-1, at Genesee Valley Ice Arena on the strength of Nate Lukaszonas' hat trick.

Private-Parochial stars named in girls' soccer

Girls' soccer players from Our Lady of Mercy, Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney and Nazareth Academy were recently selected as 1994 Private-Parochial League All-Stars.

Mercy goaltender Kelly O'Neill was named the league's Most Valuable Player. Other first-team selections included Mercy's Gina Montesano, Julie Antignano, Danni LaMagna and Abby Wambach; Aquinas' Kelly Kocis, Lisa Bellavia, Katya Meditieri and Tricia DiQuattro; Kearney's Sandy Moll, Janet Lansing and Teresa Keogh; and Nazareth's Traci Sergeant and Kerri Volkmuth.




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