

DeSales gains inspiration from OT victory

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Less meant more for Geneva DeSales last week: the smaller the point differential, the greater the game's impact.

Had the Saints lost their overtime boys' basketball game against South Seneca, the effect may have been especially frustrating for a team that's hungry for victories after finishing with a 4-16 record last season.

Yet DeSales may look back at this contest as a major turning point after its clutch play led to a 54-52 home win over the Falcons last Friday, Dec. 9.

The triumph gave DeSales a 2-3 record and helped the Saints to end the week on a positive note after they lost 69-52 at Honeoye on Dec. 7.

"I think it was very important. It brings us up a level from where we were in the past," said Coach Tony Alvaro.

DeSales trailed South Seneca 31-26 at halftime before a 15-8 third-quarter edge enabled Alvaro's squad to take a two-point lead into the final period. Jayson Lamson forced overtime when he popped a three-point basket with 10 seconds left in regulation to tie the score at 50-50.

Mike DeVaney performed the overtime heroics. He not only hit a baseline jumper with 20 seconds to go for the game's final points, but he also made a crucial steal with :08 remaining which enabled the Saints to run the clock out.

Lamson and Robert Peters led DeSales with 17 and 14 points, respectively. Lamson was also the team's high scorer in the Honeoye loss with a 20-point effort.

More hoops highlights

The Aquinas Institute boys (1-3) gained their first victory of the season in convincing style, rolling to a 58-32 home win over Tonawanda on Dec. 10. AQ's balanced offense featured 12 points from Brian Campe and 10 each from Ja-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Aquinas Institute's Jason McConnell takes a jump shot over Jeff Kleuk of Tonawanda during a non-league game Dec. 10. The host Little Irish won their first game of the season by beating Tonawanda decisively, 58-32.

son McConnell and John Miller.

Bishop Kearney (4-0) remained unbeaten with two home wins: 49-32 over Aquinas on Dec. 6 and 68-54 over Geneva on Dec. 8. Vernon Banks led the Kings against AQ with 19 points, and Kevin Goode fueled the Geneva triumph with 22.

Elmira Notre Dame improved its record to 2-1 with a 68-54 road victory over Groton on Dec. 6. Joel Stephens led the Crusaders with 19 points, and Brad Polk contributed 18 points and 10 rebounds while Mike Lynch and Chris Sheehan added seven assists each.

McQuaid Jesuit (1-1) scored a 68-53 home win over Marshall in the Knights' Dec. 6 season-opener behind double-figure performances from Rob Norris (17 points), Joe Winters (13) and Ben Wandtke (12). Three days later, McQ lost 67-58 to visiting Buffalo St. Joseph's despite a 16-point effort from Chris Fox.

In girls' basketball, Kearney (1-0) captured its season debut with a 58-31 rout of visiting Brighton on Dec. 10. Shannon Hogan was BK's top scorer with 16 points.

Nazareth Academy (1-4) suffered two close losses: 62-54 to visiting Wilson Magnet on Dec. 8 and 51-48 to York in the Finger Lakes Community College Tournament's consolation round on Dec. 10. Amy Bohan scored a team-high 16 points against Wilson, and Traci Sergeant led the Lasers with 21 points against York.

Jenny Werner had a team-high 14 points for Aquinas (1-3) in a 49-38 home loss to Webster on Dec. 6.

Allison Hilberer led Geneva DeSales (3-2) with 16 points in an 83-40 home loss to Bloomfield on Dec. 8.

Also last week, Elmira Notre Dame (0-6) lost 50-31 at Horseheads on Dec. 6 and 48-39 at Northeast Bradford on Dec. 8. Michelle May scored 10 points against Horseheads and Emily Violette collected 13 in the Northeast Bradford defeat.

ND wrestlers hope to overcome early-season difficulties

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

In a program of this caliber, success is normally a given rather than a goal.

However, the challenge to win will be a lot stiffer this year for Elmira Notre Dame's wrestlers.

ND is coming off last winter's third-place finish in the Section 4 Class D championships after winning the sectional crown the previous two years. Unfortunately, Coach Steve Weber noted that the 1994-95 Crusaders' progress has been slowed by a recent tragedy which struck the entire Notre Dame community.

Sophomore Dale McKay, who would have wrestled in the 177-pound weight

class, was killed in an automobile accident on Nov. 27. His death caused the cancellation of ND's entire scrimmage schedule, as well as its opening match against Groton.

When the Crusaders did return to the mat, they finished an uncharacteristic 10th out of 10 teams in the Susquehanna Valley Tournament Dec. 9-10. Still, Weber feels that ND will be competitive once it can get mentally and emotionally back on track.

"We've got the potential to be a good team," he remarked. "If we can finish above .500 it would be a real accomplishment, although it's not the same kind of goal we've had in the past. Individually, we should do real well."

The Crusaders' lineup features fresh-

man Mark Speciale and sophomore Pedro Rodriguez at 112 pounds; sophomore Chris Jordan, 119; senior Paul Tuite, 126; senior Jeremy Sherman, 132; senior Colby Audinwood, 138; junior Adam Atwell, 145; senior Kevin Wilson, 155; sophomore Pat O'Kane, 167; sophomore Ben Saks and junior Matt Tomkins, 177; senior Eric Byland, 215; and sophomore Neil Sullivan and junior Ari Salsburg, 250.

O'Kane was Notre Dame's leading performer at Susquehanna Valley, winning his division.

In Monroe County, McQuaid Jesuit's fortunes should continue to improve as the season progresses, according to Coach Lou Teike.

"Our hopes are to win the City-

Catholic League title. And if some kids become (academically) eligible and we stay healthy, we also hope to place high at sectionals," said Teike.

The Knights' roster includes junior Victor Damian at 112 pounds; senior John Morris and sophomore Zeb Grassel, 119; junior Brian Beecher, 126; junior Joe McDougall, 132; sophomore Steve Butcher, 138; junior Mark VonHolden, 145; sophomores Charles Schott and Mark Sawcuk, 155; senior Adam Lehmann and freshman Ben Conway, 167; junior Brandon Rood, 177; senior Erik Mack-Davis, 215; and junior Jason DiCesare, 250.

Lehmann and DiCesare won individual titles at the Attica Tournament on

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