

# SPORTS FEATURE

## Wins come in bunches for Notre Dame hoops

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

If Elmira Notre Dame's basketball teams can round into late-season form as nicely as they've performed at various times during the 1994-95 season, the Crusaders could go deep into the Section 4 playoffs.

At the season's halfway point, the Southern Tier school has already experienced some significantly successful runs. The boys recently compiled an eight-game winning streak and entered this week with an 8-3 record; meanwhile, the Crusader girls won four out of five games after losing their first six of the season.

The ND boys have already exceeded their victory total of seven from a year ago. Highlighting the surge was their own holiday tournament title, which they captured with a 60-59 win Mansfield in the Dec. 27 finals on Joel Stephens' basket with seven seconds to go.

ND's run was finally snapped last week when the Crusaders lost 77-65 at Marathon on Jan. 4 and 63-50 at Elmira Free Academy on Jan. 6.

"We seemed to be out of sync after the New Year's break," Coach Mike D'Aloisio said of the two losses. "Hopefully we can get back to basics and start executing like we did in 1994."

The Notre Dame girls, meanwhile, are finally turning the corner after finishing 4-16 in 1993-94 and not winning a single game in 1992-93. ND equaled its victory total of those entire two seasons in just 16 days with its 4-for-5 run, chalking up triumphs over Hornell, Southside, Corning East and Southside again.

"The overall aggressiveness of the team is improved, where before they were timid," ND Coach John Burge commented. "They're on their way now."

In their first game of 1995, the ND girls were dealt a 53-43 defeat by visiting EFA on Jan. 6. That loss dropped the Crusaders' record to 4-8.

### More hoops highlights

Our Lady of Mercy's girls (7-1) went 3-for-3 last week, winning 60-27 at Aquinas Institute on Jan. 3; 53-50 over host and previously unbeaten Fairport on Jan. 6; and 74-38 at home over Buffalo Sacred Heart on Jan. 7. Gina Montesano topped the Monarchs in all three games, scoring 22, 21 and 31 points, respectively.

Bishop Kearney's boys improved their record to 10-0 with a 62-60 win at East on Jan. 3 and a 72-60 decision at Franklin on Jan. 6. Patrick Goode made the key play against East, popping a three-point basket for the deciding points with 55 seconds remaining as BK rallied from an eight-point deficit in the final three minutes.

The Kearney girls (7-1) won 70-38 at Harley Allendale-Columbia on Jan. 6 behind 20 points from Shannon Rene. BK's perfect record was finally tarnished on Jan. 8 with a 60-54 home loss to Irondequoit despite 22 points from Sandy Moll.

In the City-Catholic League, McQuaid Jesuit's boys (7-3) netted a 78-65 home win over Edison on Jan. 6. Chris Fox led the way with 24 points to quell the Inventors, who had entered the game with a 7-1 record.

Nazareth Academy's girls (2-7) rolled to a 51-36 home win over Greece Arcadia on Jan. 4 as Traci Sergeant turned in a 21-point performance.

The Aquinas girls (3-5) got 10 points from Laura Bilak en route to a 47-43 home win over East on Jan. 6.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Aquinas Institute's Shane Kavanagh (right) and McQuaid Jesuit High School's Tali Burton battle for possession of the puck during a Jan. 7 league game at Lakeshore Rinks between the two rival teams. The Knights nipped the Little Irish, 2-1.

## Hot goalie leads Knights past AQ

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

There's not much higher praise from coach to player than in Al Vyverberg's assessment of Jake Eisenhauer.

"Our record is 7-4, and it wouldn't be without him," the McQuaid Jesuit hockey coach remarked about his senior goaltender.

Most certainly the Knights wouldn't have achieved their seventh win if it weren't for Eisenhauer's heroics during McQuaid's battle against arch-rival Aquinas Institute last Saturday, Jan. 7.

AQ's Mike Corey knows all too well how much Eisenhauer factored in the game's outcome. With just 12 seconds remaining, Corey had the puck all alone less than five feet from Eisenhauer. Yet the McQuaid goalie flashed his glove out to his left and snagged Corey's shot, preserving the Knights' 2-1 victory at Lakeshore Rinks.

That stop was the biggest of the 36 recorded by Eisenhauer in a game which also featured a great effort by AQ netminder Jared Zambito (26 saves).

In fact, this battle had everything but scoring: While Eisenhauer and Zambito were finding ways to stop the puck, their hard-hitting teammates were frequently finding their ways to the penalty box. The squads combined for 17 infractions over the first two periods before only picking up one penalty each in the final 15 minutes.

"It was very emotional, which is surprising because

we usually don't show that much emotion as a team. But for our freshman it was their first time playing Aquinas," Vyverberg said. "So we had to settle them down between the second and third periods."

McQuaid's Shawn Fowler got the game's deciding goal with 4:06 to go when he slipped the puck past Zambito from close range.

The Knights' other goal was on a tip-in by Mack Hodges with 1:04 left in the first period, while Aquinas' only score also came on a tip-in when Mike Pelletier knotted the contest at 1-1 with 5:55 remaining in the second period.

AQ, the four-time defending Monroe County Division I champion, saw its record drop to 3-7-1 with Saturday's loss.

### More sports highlights

In boys' bowling, McQuaid's Kevin Dey had a huge week. His 247 game led the Knights to a 3-0 win over Wilson Magnet on Jan. 3, and Dey was even more dominant when he rolled a 256 in a 3-0 sweep of Marshall on Jan. 5. Both matches were held at North Park Lanes in Rochester.

Aquinas also recorded a pair of 3-0 wins at North Park, defeating East on Jan. 3 and Wilson on Jan. 5.

In boys' swimming, Aquinas cruised to a 78-64 victory at Churchville-Chili on Jan. 3 as Todd Brown and Steve Martini won two events each.

In wrestling, McQuaid record a 39-24 win over East Rochester to claim third place in the Victor Dual Meet tournament held Jan. 7.

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