

AQ track gives double trouble to opponents

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Coach Ray Manuszak had better take some spacious vehicles to Hobart College on Feb. 18.

Not only will there be many fine track athletes to transport, but Manuszak should also set aside extra room on the return trip for a potential pile of team and individual Section 5 awards.

After third-place finishes for the Aquinas Institute boys and girls in the 1994 sectional Class B indoor meet, this year's talent indicates that similar — or even greater — success could be only a month away.

The Little Irish girls, Manuszak remarked, "are doing very, very well" and are "one of the top contenders" for the Class B crown. Meanwhile, the Aquinas boys are faring "an awful lot better than expected," he said.

Leading the AQ girls' squad is junior Shola Owodunni, who won the 55-meter sprint in a Rochester Winter League meet held at Hobart last Saturday, Jan. 14. Owodunni doubles as anchor on a strong 800-meter relay which also includes freshman Sue Reifsteck and juniors Jill Evenski and Karen Guerand.

Other key performers are junior Sue Potter in the high jump and hurdles; senior Crissi SanFilippo, triple and long jumps; and the 3,200 relay consisting of senior Fran Mance, sophomore Tacy Amering, freshman Bridget Zakielarz and senior Emily Lindsley.

The AQ boys enjoy the experience of seniors Jason Hasert, Pat Reifsteck and Jason Weidert in middle-distance and distance events. Another senior, Brian Harris, recorded the team's best finish at Hobart on Saturday by placing second in the 600 run.

Other key contributors are senior Jeff Gontarek, shot put; juniors Kevin Cleary and Tony Long, jumps; freshman Kevin Edd, distance running; and freshman Mark Bielaska, all running events.

At **McQuaid Jesuit**, the boys' team is looking for non-traditional ways to earn its second consecutive Section 5 Class A championship.

Normally renowned for its distance running, some of McQ's biggest point production in 1995 is coming in sprints and field events.

"Those athletes are making contributions that I haven't seen since I've been



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Aquinas Institute's Fran Mance (left) and Tacy Amering run side-by-side in the 3,000-meter run. The girls were competing in a Rochester Winter League meet at Hobart College on Saturday, Jan. 14.

coaching, and they realize we're going to need it," said Coach Dave Warth.

Seniors Greg Schlachter, a pole-vaulter, and Tundji Akpo-Sani, in the shot put, are among the section's best in their events. Talented sprinters are seniors Tim Tyre, Alan LaChapelle and Harmel Childs; junior Brian Joseph; and sophomore Craig Fiduccia. Juniors Andy Robertson and Kieran Chaudhry are strong in the high jump, and junior Jeff Clark excels in distance races.

Bishop Kearney is enjoying a big resurgence in its indoor track program. With 25 boys and 20 girls, participation has doubled from only a year ago.

Coach Jennifer Bashaw, whose Kings will compete in the Section 5 Class B meet next month, attributes the growth to a new-found respect for the sport.

"Now we've got kids who are saying, 'Wow, this isn't as easy as it looks,'" said Bashaw.

Sprinting is the BK girls' strong suit, with juniors Chandra Rivers and Crystal Bishop, sophomore Jenny Simons and senior Erin Pinkney leading the way in those events. Juniors Amorette Shaw and Danyel Gardner are among Kearney's best in middle-distance races.

Solid distance running buoys the BK boys, who feature junior Jaeson Rene and sophomores Andrian Pawluk and Mario Ferruzza in those events. Sophomore Kenny York is a middle-distance runner, and junior Tony Colon is the Kings' best in sprints and hurdles.

In the Southern Tier, **Elmira Notre Dame's** 20-girl assemblage should remain solid this year and beyond, predicted Coach Ed Shelling.

"It's a fairly young team, so in the future I'm looking for good things from them," said Shelling.

Juniors Jenny Spaziani, Jeanette Klee and Kristi Colavita are prominent short-distance performers, both individually and in the 800 and 1,600 relays. Other relay candidates are sophomore Lindsay West and freshman Jen Marosek (800), and sophomores Jen Cyr and Carrie O'Donnell (1,600).

On the boys' squad, a top event is the 800 relay which includes junior B.J. Bauer, senior J.J. Brady, and juniors Chad Rimbey and Pete Kamas. All four athletes also run in short-distance events.

The Crusader boys and girls will both take part in the Section 4 championships on Feb. 25 at Cortland State.

Point production pays off big for Lasers

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The statistics don't lie. In fact, they've told some pretty pleasant truths lately for the Nazareth Academy girls' basketball team.

In its first eight games of the 1994-95 season, the Laser offense averaged 38 points en route to a 1-7 start. Over its

next four games, however, Nazareth erupted for 52.5 points per game while capturing three of those contests.

Last week, Nazareth (4-8) began with a 61-35 loss to Aquinas Institute on Jan. 10. But the Lasers came back with a vengeance, winning 60-56 in overtime over Franklin on Jan. 12 and 64-50 over Harley Allendale-Columbia on Jan. 14. All three games were held at Nazareth.

Increased hustle has been a key factor, according to Coach Chris Belmont. "They're giving it all they've got," said Belmont. "They certainly have the intensity."

Stacy Keech came up big in the Franklin game, scoring five points in overtime and finishing with 12 for the game. Traci Sergeant (13) and Deidre Britton (12) also hit double figures that night.

That same trio provided good point production against H.A.C., with Sergeant hitting for 17 and Keech and Britton collecting 14 each.

More sports highlights

The Aquinas girls (4-7) erupted for 30 third-quarter points in their victory over Nazareth. Jenny Werner was the game's

high scorer with 18 points.

The Geneva DeSales girls (6-5) climbed above the .500 level with a 2-for-2 week, winning 39-29 over visiting Romulus on Jan. 11 and 43-37 at Naples on Jan. 13. Stephanie Nearpass led the Saints in scoring in both games with 13 and 20 points, respectively. She also grabbed 12 rebounds in each contest.

Our Lady of Mercy (9-1) captured the Utica Notre Dame Tournament title by winning 61-49 over Utica Proctor on Jan. 14 and 66-36 over Utica Notre Dame on Jan. 15. Gina Montesano totaled 38 points for the two games and Monarch teammate Abby Wambach added 33.

Bishop Kearney's girls (9-1) won 49-42 at Pittsford Sutherland on Jan. 10 and 54-40 over visiting Aquinas on Jan. 14. Sandy Moll led the Kings with 13 points against Sutherland, and Shannon Rene was the high scorer against AQ with 18.

In boys' basketball, Elmira Notre Dame (10-3) won two crucial road games: 57-55 over Horseheads on Jan. 11 and 67-61 in overtime over Corning West two nights later. Joel Stephens

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