

# Early spurt lifts Little Irish girls over Lasers

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

The Aquinas Institute girls' basketball squad may be unpredictable, but it's definitely improving.

With an assortment of players making their way into the lineup, no two Little Irish games are ever quite the same. And in two meetings against neighboring Private-Parochial League rival Nazareth Academy, every quarter has been an adventure for AQ.

Back on Jan. 10, Aquinas compiled a 30-point third quarter en route to a 61-35 win. The Little Irish were headed for a similar rout when they raced to a 16-2 lead after one period in their rematch with Nazareth last Wednesday, Feb. 1, at AQ.

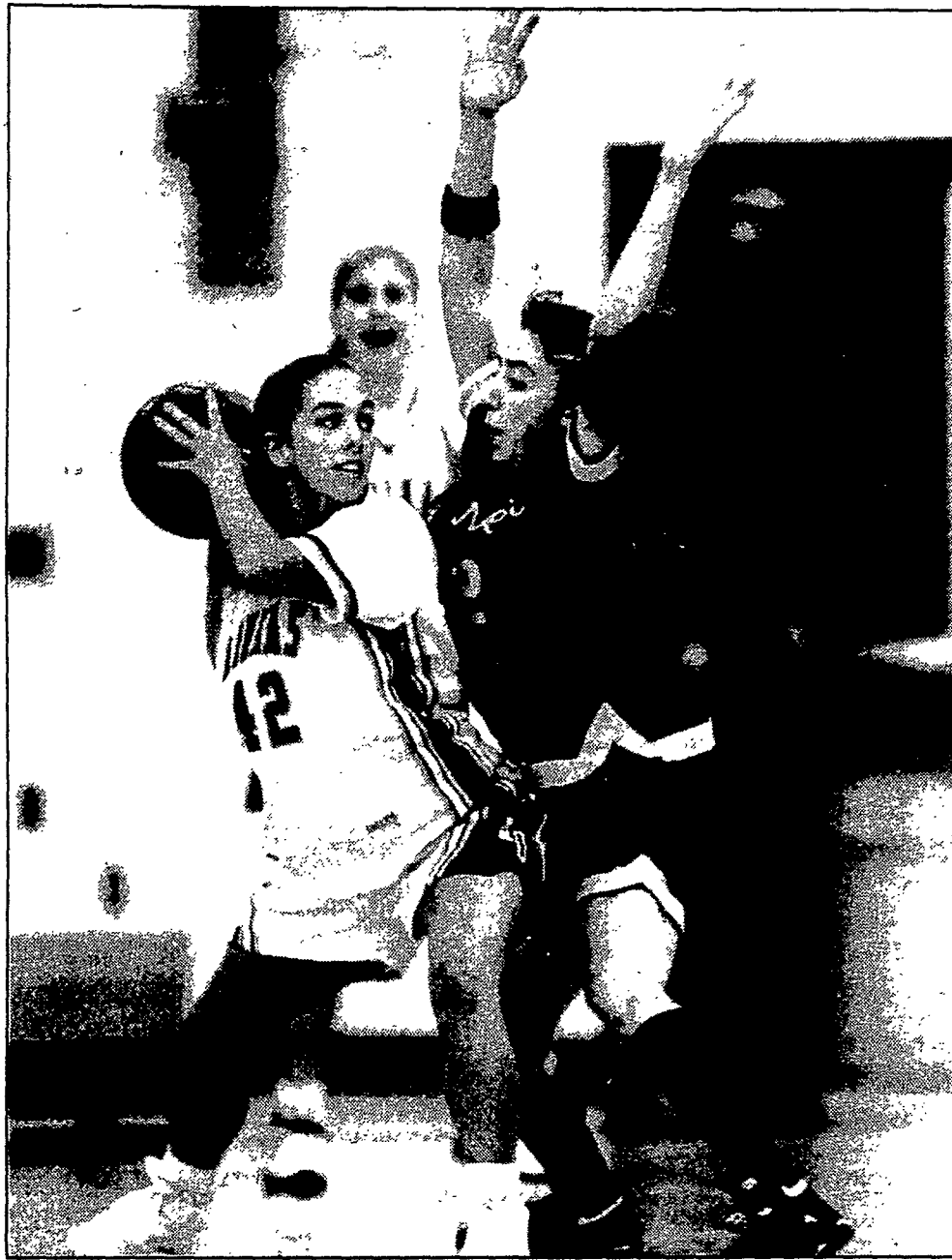
However, Coach Tom Moffat pulled his starting five and the score quickly became 16-14. The starters returned and staked Aquinas to a 27-16 halftime lead, but the Lasers played AQ on even terms after that point before the Irish emerged with a 51-41 win.

"I want to give my bench some significant playing time when the game means something," Moffat said of his early substitutions, explaining that he'd like his reserves to be ready if needed for the upcoming Section 5 playoffs.

Aquinas followed up the Nazareth victory with season-high offensive production in a 63-41 win at Harley Allendale-Columbia on Feb. 3. That triumph was the Little Irish's third straight and lifted their season record to 8-8.

"From the first day of practice to now, they've improved by leaps and bounds," Moffat commented.

Fran Iacovangelo had her biggest game of the year against Nazareth, compiling 15 points, nine rebounds, six steals and three blocked shots. Laura Bilak led the Irish against H-A-C with a season-



Aquinas Institute's Liz Johnston looks for an open teammate as she's guarded by Nazareth Academy's Stacy Keech. The host Little Irish gained a 51-41 win over the Lasers Feb. 1.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer



Aquinas' Fran Iacovangelo (52) wrestles for control of the ball with Nazareth's Deidre Britton. Iacovangelo collected 15 points, nine rebounds, six steals and three blocked shots during the Feb. 1 Private-Parochial League matchup.

with a 59-56 win over host Edison Tech on Feb. 3. Chris Fox (22 points), Rob Norris (17) and Ben Wandtke (17) accounted for all but three of the Knights' points.

In the Southern Tier, Elmira Notre Dame's boys (7-2, 12-5) maintained a first-place tie in the Sullivan Trail Conference with a 63-48 decision at Corning East on Feb. 3. Joel Stephens and Mike Valeant topped the Crusaders with 25 and 17 points, respectively.

Bishop Kearney's boys (16-1), who play an independent schedule, scored a 62-57 win over Monroe County Division I-leading Greece Olympia in the Kearney Classic held Feb. 5 at the Rochester Community War Memorial. Patrick Goode led the Kings with 19 points. Five days earlier, BK was a 61-55 winner over visiting East as Vernon Banks collected 25 points and 14 boards.

Elmira Notre Dame's girls (7-10) won twice at home last week: 55-40 over Elmira Southside on Jan. 31 and 36-34 over Corning East on Feb. 3. Tania Meck led ND with 15 points against Southside and Emily Violette scored a team-high nine points against Corning East.

The Geneva DeSales boys (4-13) broke an eight-game losing streak with a 56-48 home win over H-A-C on Feb. 1. Robert Peters (20 points), Jayson Lamson (17) and Mike Sweeney (16) keyed the Saints' victory.

BK's girls cruised to a 61-38 win over visiting Franklin on Jan. 30 behind Sandy Moll's 14-point night. Moll was also the Kings' high scorer with 12 points in a 56-54 overtime loss to Webster during the Kearney Classic on Feb. 5.

## Knights pin down another City-Catholic League title

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

On what often seems like a daily basis, the front page carries news of a company attempting to remain competitive despite a reduced work force.

In the case of McQuaid Jesuit's wrestling team, the same would also hold true if you turned to the sports page.

Yet the Knights have fared better in this realm than many corporations. Despite forfeiting at least three weight classes in many of its meets, McQuaid is once again champion of the City-Catholic League.

The Knights, who clinched their fifth consecutive league crown with a 42-27 victory at Edison Tech last Tuesday, Jan. 31, finished with a 4-0 record in City-Catholic meets.

John Morris (126 pounds), Brian Beecher (132), Adam Lehmann (167) and Brandon Rood (215) all recorded pins for McQ against Edison.

Actually, the Knights' most pivotal league confrontation, according to Coach Lou Teike, came on Jan. 5 when they won 39-32 at home over East.

Teike was concerned about that meet's outcome not because he thought the Orientals had superior talent, but "only because I know for the most part East carries a full lineup," he said. The Knights wound up forfeiting four matches that day but still triumphed.

Individually, the Knights are looking impressive as the Section 5 tournament — scheduled for Feb. 11-12 at Fairport

High School — approaches. Six McQuaid wrestlers had already cracked the 20-win barrier through the end of last week. Their projected weight class for sectionals, and individual records, are:

Victor Damian (105), 25-7; Morris (112), 20-7; Lehmann (167), 29-8; Rood (177), 29-8; Eric Mack-Davis (215), 28-8; and Jason DiCesare (250), 20-5.

McQuaid's dominance in the upper-weight divisions has led Lehmann, Rood, Mack-Davis and DiCesare to make T-shirts dubbing them "The Four Horsemen."

A good indicator of the Knights' tournament scoring ability came Jan. 27-28 at Watkins Glen, where they placed sixth in a 21-team invitational.

"That's the best I've ever finished there. The kids I do have are doing a tremendous job," Teike remarked.

### More sports highlights

Aquinas Institute's Shola Owodunni won the girls' 40-meter dash in a Rochester Winter League indoor track meet held Feb. 4 at New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls.

The McQuaid boys' swim squad picked up two victories last week, winning 47-46 at East on Jan. 31 and 56-32 at Edison on Feb. 2.

In hockey, Aquinas cruised to a 7-0 triumph over Hilton on Feb. 2 at Lakeshore Rinks. Shane Kavanagh keyed the rout with three goals and an assist.

Elmira Notre Dame wrestlers Kevin Wilson (145 pounds) and Ben Saks (177) each won by pin in a 58-15 home loss to Hornell on Feb. 2.

high 14 points.

### More hoops highlights

Nazareth (5-12) was a 49-35 winner at H-A-C on Feb. 2 behind a 15-point effort from Traci Sergeant. She and Deidre Britton tied for team-high scoring honors against Aquinas with 12 points each.

Our Lady of Mercy's girls (5-0, 14-1) cemented their hold on first place in the Private-Parochial League with a 65-42 win at Bishop Kearney (42, 124) on Feb. 2. Kelly O'Neil had 27 points and 14 rebounds while Gina Montesano added 25 points for the Monarchs.

The McQuaid Jesuit boys (8-2, 11-7) stayed atop the City-Catholic League

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