

## Mack-Davis gains sectional wrestling crown

These were, quite literally, heavy-weight performances for both McQuaid Jesuit and Elmira Notre Dame in sectional wrestling competition held last weekend.

McQuaid's Eric Mack-Davis, competing in the 215-pound division, won the Section 5 Class A championship on Saturday, Feb. 18, at Fairport High School. Mack-Davis triumphed in dramatic fashion, scoring a 3-2 upset over Penfield's Mike Leiss in the title match. The McQuaid senior had entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed, while Leiss had been seeded No. 1.

One other McQuaid wrestler reached the sectional finals. Adam Lehmann finished as runner-up in the 167-pound division, defeating Canandaigua's Andy Humphrey in the semifinals before falling to Spencerport's Jeremy Chiarelli in the title match.

Adding to the Knights' strong showing in the sectional upper-weight classes was Brandon Rood, who picked up a fourth-place finish in the 177-pound division.

By placing in the top four, Mack-Davis, Lehmann and Rood all became eligible for the Super Sectional state-qualifier meet scheduled for Feb. 24-25 at Fairport.

In team scoring at the sectional meet, the Knights totaled 70.5 points to place ninth among 19 squads.

Meanwhile, Elmira Notre Dame finished sixth among 12 schools in the Section 4 Class D champi-



McQuaid Jesuit's Brian Beecher endures a painful encounter with Matt McClain of Rush-Henrietta during a Section 5 Class A tournament match on Feb. 17 at Fairport High School.

Wendy Longlade/Photo intern

onships held Feb. 18 at Marathon High School.

The Crusaders' best individual showings also came in the upper weights. Ben Saks placed second at 167 pounds; and teammate Neil Sullivan did likewise at 250.

Notre Dame also got third-place finishes from Kevin Wilson at 145 pounds and Pat O'Kane at 155. They will join Saks and Sullivan in the state-qualifying meet at the Binghamton Arena Feb. 24-25.

— Mike Latona

## Hoops squads hit playoffs on high note

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

If Catholic high-school basketball teams in the diocese can be as successful during their "second seasons" as they were over the course of their regular seasons, several trophy cases will be in serious need of rearrangement.

Leading a long list of outstanding squads into the post-season are the **Bishop Kearney** boys, who gained the school's first-ever No. 1-seed by claiming the top spot in Section 5 Class B.

The Kings, defending Class B champs, entered sectionals with a 17-3 record and have already set a school record for wins in a season. They earned a first-round bye and were scheduled to face either eighth-seeded Wayne or No. 9 Penn Yan in the Feb. 25 quarterfinals.

"On behalf of some real exciting kids and a wonderful school, I thank you," said Coach Ed Nietopski as he accepted a plaque honoring the Kings as the top seed during the Section 5 seeding luncheon held Friday, Feb. 17, at the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn in Rochester.

McQuaid Jesuit, meanwhile, may be one of the most dangerous 12-8 teams in recent memory. The Knights, seeded No. 5 in Section 5 Class A, were scheduled to face No. 12 Spencerport on Feb. 22. The winner will play No. 4 Greece Athena on Feb. 25.

McQuaid tuned up for the playoffs by blowing out Franklin, 95-73, on Feb. 14 at McQ. That victory secured the City-Catholic League title for the Knights, and it came against a Quaker team which had been on a torrid pace in recent weeks.

Sophomore center Chris Fox, who compiled 25 points and 16 rebounds, pointed out that the Knights' eight defeats are a little deceiving.

"We played the toughest schedule in this area," Fox commented.

In the Southern Tier, **Elmira Notre**

Dame's boys earned the No. 3 seed in Section 4 Class D. The Crusaders (14-7) were scheduled to play No. 14 Downsville on Feb. 22, with the winner advancing to quarterfinal play on Feb. 25.

ND finished in a three-way tie for first place in the Sullivan Trail Conference after winning 77-53 at home over Corning West on Feb. 14. However, the Crusaders were defeated by Elmira Free Academy, 74-70 in overtime, in a league playoff contest held Feb. 16 at Horseheads.

Despite that narrow defeat, Coach Mike D'Aloisio believes his club is ready to do damage against its sectional foes. "We've been hitting on all cylinders the last six games," he said.

Rounding out the Catholic high-school boys' basketball sectional pairings were **Geneva DeSales** (4-16), the No. 11 seed in Section 5 Class DD; and **Aquinas Institute** (2-18), the No. 12 seed in Section 5 Class BB. DeSales was scheduled to play No. 6 Andover on Feb. 21, with the winner facing No. 3 Scio on Feb. 24; and Aquinas was set to oppose No. 5 Franklin on Feb. 21, with the winner taking on No. 4 Irondequoit or No. 13 Brighton on Feb. 24.

In girls' basketball, **Our Lady of Mercy** staged a brilliant 18-1 record during

the regular season and is seeded No. 2 in Section 5 Class A. The Private-Parochial League champion Monarchs have gained a first-round bye and will face either No. 7 Penfield or No. 10 Spencerport in Feb. 24 quarterfinal action.

Bishop Kearney's girls (15-5) pulled down the No. 3 seed and an opening-round bye in Section 5 Class CCC. The Kings will play either No. 6 Wellsville or No. 11 North Rose-Wolcott on Feb. 24.

The Aquinas girls (10-10) gained the No. 7 seed in Section 5 Class BB. They were set to play No. 10 Batavia on Feb. 22, with the winner taking on No. 2 Edison Tech on Feb. 25.

The DeSales girls (9-11) gained the No. 7 seed in Section 5 Class DD. DeSales was scheduled to play No. 10 Alfred-Almond on Feb. 22, with the victor facing No. 2 Elba on Feb. 25.

Nazareth Academy (6-14) picked up the No. 9 seed in Section 5 Class CC. The Lasers were set to play No. 8 Sodus on Feb. 22, with the winner playing No. 1 East Rochester on Feb. 25.

Elmira Notre Dame's girls (7-13) qualified as the 11th seed in Section 4 Class D. ND was set to play No. 6 Lansing on Feb. 21, with the winner playing in the quarterfinals Feb. 23.

## Martini leads Irish swimmers at league meet

Aquinas Institute's Steve Martini earned two first-place finishes in the City-Catholic League championship meet held Feb. 15 at East High School.

Martini won the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.93 seconds. He also anchored the 400 freestyle relay which claimed top honors with a 3:38.14 clocking. Jeff Conte, Wade Brown and Todd Brown were the other winning relay members.

In addition, Aquinas set a school record at the meet when it finished second in

the 200 free relay. That quartet included Martini, Joe Kessler, Conte and Todd Brown.

Aquinas featured six other second places at the league meet. The Little Irish will be back in action this coming weekend at the Section 5 Class B meet, with the finals scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 25 at the University of Rochester.

McQuaid Jesuit is entered in the Class A sectionals. Those finals are set for Feb. 24 at the U of R.

## Kearney cheerleaders capture Section 5 title

Bishop Kearney's varsity cheerleading team captured the Section 5 Class B championship on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the State University of New York College at Genesee.

Although BK entered the cheer-off seeded third among 13 teams, the squad performed well enough on its two cheers that day to secure the top spot.

Seventy percent of Kearney's overall score was determined at the cheer-off. The remaining 30 percent was compiled throughout the regular season by Section 5 officials and opposing coaches who judged BK on sportsmanship, safety, sideline drills and technical skills.

This was the fourth sectional title in school history under Coach Mary Ann Walker. Current team members include Mary Albert, Kelly Beebe, Amanda Bham, Julie Chatfield, Kristy Hebert, Carrie Joyce, Andrea Eusardi, Megan McLean, Stephanie Noto, Pamela Obando, Marisa Pace, Christy Polito, Renee Schaefer, Stephanie Shaw, Kelly Volkmuth, Maleka Walters, Megan Yanus and Mollie Zwahlen.

## McQ ski-team member qualifies for state meet

McQuaid Jesuit's Jay Magee has qualified as a member of the Section 5 state team which will be in action this weekend.

Magee has earned the right to be part of the 10-member sectional squad which travels to Lake Placid's Whiteface Mountain on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25-26.

Last week, in the Section 5 Class A championship meet held Feb. 15 at Swain Ski Center, Magee's Knights took sixth place in team scoring among 11 schools.