

SPORTS
FEATURE

Hockey teams skate convincingly into semifinals

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

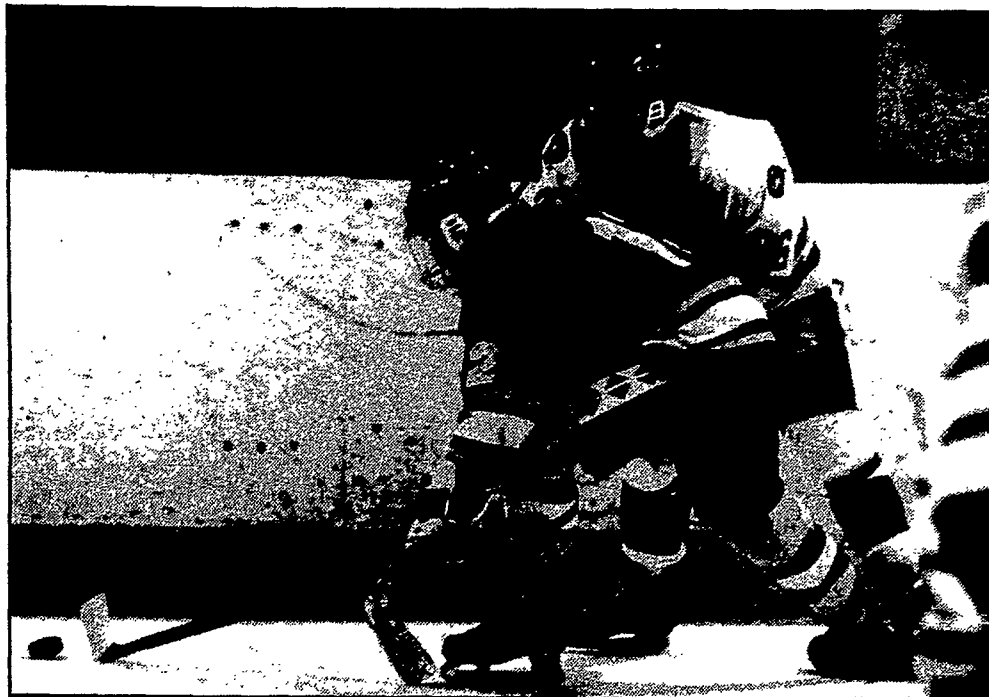
It's been one upsetting moment after another for the 1994-95 McQuaid Jesuit, Bishop Kearney and Aquinas Institute hockey teams.

Yet after the latest batch of upsets, all three squads—who frequently struggled during regular-season play—were walking away with smiles.

Not to mention berths in the Section 5 semifinals. McQuaid, BK and AQ all scored sectional quarterfinal wins over higher-seeded opponents on Saturday, Feb. 18:

- McQuaid, seeded No. 7 in Class A, won 3-2 in overtime over No. 2 Webster at Thomas Creek Ice Arena. The victory boosted the Knights into a semifinal matchup against No. 3 Brockport on Feb. 22, with the winner facing either Pittsford or Greece for the championship on Feb. 25 at Rochester Institute of Technology. McQuaid, which improved its record to 13-11, had previously scored a 15-1 rout of No. 10 Penfield in pre-quarterfinal play on Feb. 15 at Genesee Valley Ice Arena.

- Kearney, seeded No. 6 in Class B, blitzed No. 3 Batavia Notre Dame by an 8-2 count in a game played at Batavia. The Kings (6-16-1) moved on to a Feb. 22 semifinal game against No. 7 Irondequoit, with the winner playing either Batavia or Aquinas in the Feb. 25 finals



File photo
McQuaid and Aquinas, shown above during a Monroe County game earlier this season, advanced to the Section 5 semifinals along with Bishop Kearney.

at RIT.

- Aquinas, the No. 5 seed in Class B, scored a 5-1 decision over host and fourth-seeded Geneva/DeSales. The Irish (6-14-2) were set to face top-seeded Batavia in a Feb. 21 semifinal game.

McQ 3, Webster 2

The Knights' Andy Hyatt ended this

marathon when he scored with less than three minutes left in the second sudden-death overtime. Kyle Hanford and Pat Holden assisted on the winning goal.

Earlier McQ scores had come from Nick Berno and Shawn Fowler. Knight goalie Jake Eisenhauer made 32 saves.

Coach Al Vyverberg noted that the Knights were tournament-ready due to the rugged Monroe County Division I competition they faced during the regular season—whereas Webster, which came in with an 18-3-1 record, played in Division II.

"I didn't think it was an upset at all. These teams were as even as they could be," Vyverberg remarked.

McQuaid places second at track championships

First-place finishes by Greg Schlachter, Tim Tyre and the 1,600-meter relay helped McQuaid Jesuit to a second-place showing in the Section 5 Class A indoor track championships. The meet was held Saturday, Feb. 18, at Hobart College in Geneva.

Schlachter jumped 13 feet, 6 inches to claim top honors in the pole vault. His next-closest competitor, Churchville-Chili's Adam Steinwachs, took second at 13-0.

Tyre won the 300-meter run with a time of 36.2 seconds, nosing out Brockport's Mike Winslow (:36.3).

Tyre also contributed to the victorious 1,600 relay, joining Harmel Charles, Alan LaChapelle and Brian Joseph for a winning time of 3:37.8. Fairport was second in 3:43.8.

Also placing high for the Knights was Andy Robertson, who took second in the high jump.

McQuaid, the defending Class A

champion, finished with 72 points. Fairport won the meet with 122.

In the Class B boys' division, Aquinas Institute took sixth place as a team with second-place performances from Jeff Gontarek in the shot put, Kevin Cleary in the high jump and Tony Long in the triple jump.

The AQ girls claimed third place in their Class B competition, thanks to first-place finishes from Shola Owodunni and the 800 relay.

Owodunni won the 55 dash in :07.3 to defeat Batavia's Megan McDonald by less than one-tenth of a second. She also ran on the 800 relay with Sue Reifsteck, Jenica Moore and Kelly Bill. Their time was 1:59.2, while second-place Brighton went 2:01.0.

Bishop Kearney, which took eighth place in girls' Class B, was buoyed by second-place finishes from Danyel Gardner (600 run) and the 800 relay.

— Mike Latona

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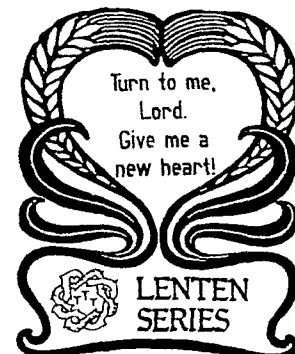
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