

## SECTIONALS

Mercy reaches finals;  
boys' squads in semisBy Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Did anyone familiar with Our Lady of Mercy basketball really feel the Monarchs were in deep trouble when they were faced with a 12-point second-quarter deficit?

The Monarchs, down 22-10 in their Section 5 semifinal game against Fairport, ran off nine straight points to make it 22-19 at halftime. After a closely contested third quarter, Mercy again unleashed its vaunted explosiveness in a 22-10 fourth-period surge which gave the Monarchs a 57-44 win.

The victory over third-seeded Fairport, played Monday, Feb. 27 at Edison Tech, was the Monarchs' 17th straight and raised their season record to 20-1.

More importantly, the win gave second-seeded Mercy a trip to the Class A title game against No. 1 Greece Athena, the same team which met Mercy in the 1993 and 1994 finals. This rubber match (the Monarchs won in 1993 and Athena is defending champion) will be held at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 2, at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

In boys' basketball action, Bishop Kearney, (18-3), McQuaid Jesuit (14-8) and Elmira Notre Dame (16-7) all vaulted into sectional semifinal play with convincing victories.

Kearney, the No. 1 seed and defending Class B champion, romped to a 67-38 decision over No. 8 Wayne on Feb. 25 at Webster. BK was scheduled to play No. 4 Dansville in semifinal action on Feb. 28, with the winner facing either No. 2 Honeoye Falls-Lima or No. 6 Geneva for the title on March 3 at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

McQuaid, seeded No. 5 in Section 5 Class A, won 108-61 at home over No. 12 Spencerport on Feb. 22 and went on to a 77-50 quarterfinal victory over No. 4 Greece Athena on Feb. 25 at the War Memorial. McQ was scheduled to take on top-seeded Greece Olympia in a March 1 semifinal contest, with the winner playing either No. 2 Rush-Henrietta or No. 3 Brockport in the March 4 finals at the War Memorial.

In the Southern Tier, Notre Dame surged into the Section 4 Class D Final Four. The Crusaders, seeded third, won 72-46 over No. 14 Downsview on Feb.

22 at Union-Endicott, and then triumphed 66-57 over No. 6 Margaretville on Feb. 25 at Harpursville. ND was scheduled to play No. 2 Milford in a March 1 semifinal game, with the winner playing either No. 1 Deposit or No. 4 Lansing in the March 4 finals at the Binghamton Arena.

Three other Catholic high-school teams in the diocese were eliminated in quarterfinal play.

BK's girls (15-6), the No. 3 seed in Section 5 Class CCC, were upended by No. 6 Wellsville, 64-39, on Feb. 24 at Warsaw.

Geneva DeSales' girls (10-12), the seventh seed in Section 5 Class DD, earned a 53-33 home win over No. 10 Alfred-Almond on Feb. 22. The Saints were then stopped by host and No. 2 seed Elba, 68-20, on Feb. 25.

Aquinas Institute's girls (11-11), seeded No. 7 in Section 5 Class BB, beat No. 10 Batavia, 62-33, in a Feb. 22 game at AQ. The Irish went on to lose to host and No. 2 seed Edison, 78-40, on Feb. 25.

Rounding out last week's playoffs, four teams endured first-round defeats.

Nazareth Academy's girls (6-15), the ninth seed in Section 5 Class CC, suffered a 46-36 loss to host and No. 8 seed Sodus on Feb. 22.

Elmira Notre Dame's girls (7-14), the No. 11 seed in Section 5 Class D, were defeated 39-31 by host and sixth-seeded Lansing on Feb. 21.

The Geneva DeSales boys (4-17), seeded 11th in Section 5 Class DD, were stopped 57-42 by host and No. 6 seed Andover on Feb. 21.

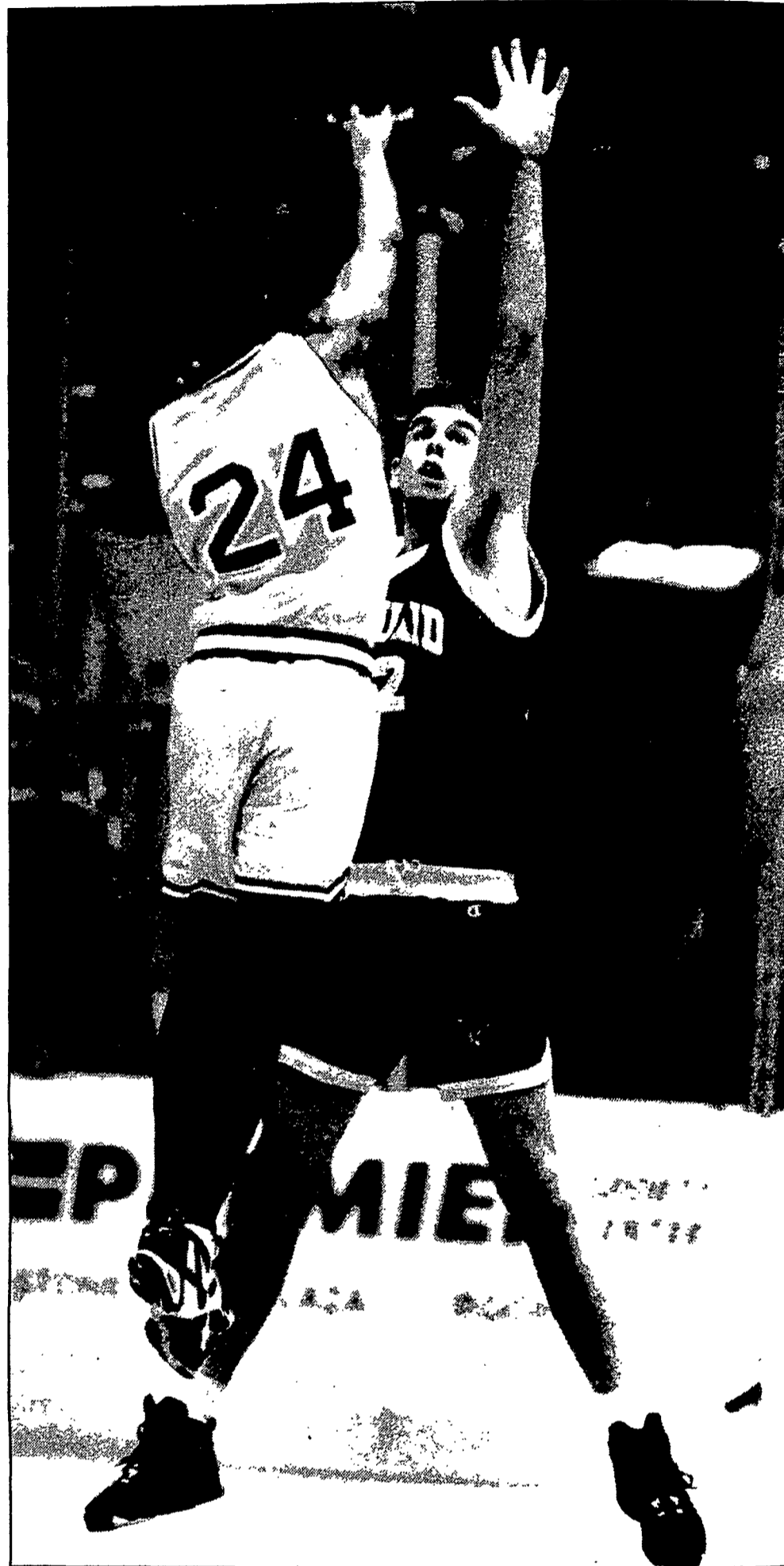
AQ's boys (2-19), seeded No. 12 in Section 5 Class BB, lost 90-56 to host and No. 5 seed Franklin on Feb. 21.

## Sectional highlights

Mercy's big guns, Gina Montesano and Kelly O'Neill, were in high gear against Fairport with 29 and 18 points, respectively.

Also playing an integral role for the Monarchs was junior forward Leah Oliveiri, who collected a team-high 10 rebounds. Many of her boards came in heavy traffic while Mercy was fighting back from its early deficit to the Red Raiders.

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McQuaid Jesuit's Chris Fox attempts to block a pass from Greece Athena's Edmund Nelson during a Section 5 Class A quarterfinal game on Feb. 25 at the Rochester Community War Memorial. The Knights advanced to the semis with a 77-50 win over the Trojans.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Brown buoys Irish at sectionals

They may not have fielded a very deep squad, but the Aquinas Institute swimmers got high marks for productivity in the Section 5 Class B championships.

AQ, led by two strong performances from distance specialist Todd Brown, placed eighth among 13 schools. The Class B finals were held Saturday, Feb. 25, at the University of Rochester.

"We only brought seven kids, but all seven scored points," Coach Todd Yunker pointed out.

Brown, a sophomore, earned second place in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes, 11.00 seconds. He edged Wilson's Matt Baxter, who finished third in 5:12.25. Canandaigua's Jeff Andersen won the race in 5:07.59.

In addition to his second-place showing, Brown took fourth in the 200 free with a time of 1:54.56. Oth-

er top-six finishes by the Little Irish included Jeff Conte, fifth in the 200 individual medley, 2:10.88; the 200 free relay comprising Steve Martini, Joe Kessler, Conte and Brown, 1:38.01; and the 400 free relay of Conte, Wade Brown, Todd Brown and Martini, 3:31.81.

The 400 free relay, along with Todd Brown in the 500 free, will return to the water this coming Saturday, March 4, in the sectional state-qualifier meet at the University of Rochester.

The only other Catholic high school in the diocese with a boys' swimming program, McQuaid Jesuit, did not compete in last week's Class A sectionals. According to Coach Marijo Phillips, the two McQuaid swimmers who had qualified for sectional competition — Chris Downs and John Halligan — were out of town visiting colleges.

— Mike Latona

## Diocesan hockey teams checked

Entering last week's Section 5 playoff games, the Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney and McQuaid Jesuit hockey teams were all basking in the satisfaction of eliminating a higher-seeded club.

Neither of the teams could manage to turn the trick twice, however, ending each of their seasons one stop short of the sectional finals.

Aquinas, the No. 5 seed in Section 5 Class B, made the best run at an upset. The Little Irish were edged by top-seeded Batavia, 3-2, in a semifinal contest held Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Genesee Valley.

AQ's Lou Ferrari tied the game at 1-1 early in the second period while the Little Irish were on a two-man advantage, but Batavia made it 3-1 by period's end. Shane Kavanagh's early third-period goal left the Irish one goal short.

Aquinas finished the 1994-95 season with a 6-15-2 record. In its opening sec-

## SCORES

Class B	
Aquinas (5)	2
Batavia (1)	3
BK (6)	1
Irondequoit (7)	6
Class A	
McQuaid (7)	1
Brockport (3)	4

tional game, AQ had won 5-1 over fourth-seeded Geneva/DeSales.

Batavia, meanwhile, went on to defeat No. 7 Irondequoit, 9-4, in the Class B finals on Feb. 25. Irondequoit had made the finals with a 6-1 win over No. 6 Kearney on Feb. 22 at Genesee Valley.

The only goal for BK (6-17-1) against Irondequoit was produced by Rich Dobosz. Kearney's berth in the semis had been made possible by an 8-2 rout of No. 3 Batavia Notre Dame.

In Class A, McQuaid's season ended with a 4-1 semifinal loss to Brockport on Feb. 22 at Lakeshore Rinks.

Pat Holden registered the lone goal for McQ (13-12), which was seeded seventh and coming off a 3-2 double-overtime win over second-seeded Webster.

No. 3 Brockport was halted in the Class A finals by top-seeded Pittsford, 7-3, on Feb. 25.