

SPORTS FEATURE



File photo

In early March, Bishop Kearney basketball team members celebrated the final seconds of the Kings' 68-63 Section 5 state-qualifier win over Pittsford Sutherland at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

1994-95 in review

BK's basketball run highlighted big year

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

It began with two stirring wins over McQuaid Jesuit. Then, a second consecutive Section 5 crown. Then, the game of the year — a monumental victory over Pittsford Sutherland in state-qualifier play.

And even in defeat, the Bishop Kearney boys' basketball team provided yet another memorable, exciting performance. Not until the Kings were defeated by Poughkeepsie — an overtime decision this past March — did the Kings' magical 1994-95 season end with 22 wins against just four losses.

BK's season was just one of several noteworthy achievements by Catholic high-school athletic teams in the diocese in 1994-95. Here's a look back at some of the other highlights:

FALL

Elmira Notre Dame football star Joel Stephens set a new Section 4 career rushing record. His 4,715 yards also make him No. 2 on the all-time state list. Meanwhile, his Crusader football team earned an 8-1 record.

Notre Dame girls' soccer went undefeated in Sullivan Trail Conference play and reached the Section 4 Class C finals, posting a final record of 19-1-1.

Our Lady of Mercy girls' volleyball made the Section 5 Class BB finals and finished 16-7.

In girls' cross-country, Nazareth Academy's Karen Scozzafava and Our Lady of Mercy's Nora Doebrich earned spots in the state meet. Scozzafava went on to finish eighth in Class C.

In girls' tennis, Mercy's Sue Ciccone reached the Section 5 Class B finals.

WINTER

Kearney wasn't the only squad to win a Section 5 boys' basketball title. At McQuaid, the Knights bounced back from their two regular-season losses to BK to capture the school's fifth Class A crown in nine years. McQ also won the City-Catholic League, finishing with a 16-9 record.

Our Lady of Mercy's girls (20-2) and Notre Dame's boys (17-8) reached their respective sectional finals.

In wrestling, McQuaid's Eric Mack-Davis earned a Section 5 Class A title at 215 pounds.

Individual Section 5 indoor-track titles came from McQuaid's Greg Schlachter, Tim Tyre and 1,600-meter relay; and the Aquinas Institute girls' Shola Owodunni and 800 relay. Schlachter ended up placing third in the pole vault at the state championships.

In girls' bowling, Mercy posted a 64-2 Private-Parochial League record and went on to win its second consecutive Section 5 title.

And in cheerleading, Kearney won the Section 5 Class B championship.

SPRING

Geneva DeSales softball finished with a 15-5 record. The Saints' 15th victory was their sweetest as they defeated Elba for the Geneva Catholic school's first-ever Section 5 Class D softball crown.

Notre Dame baseball (15-10) also won a sectional, earning honors in Section 4 Class D. In addition, the Crusaders' Joel Stephens recently signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles organization after being drafted in the ninth round.

McQuaid lacrosse enjoyed its best season ever, defeating several Monroe County League schools and finishing 11-7. And at DeSales, a first-year girls' lacrosse squad took the field.

The list of Section 5 track champions is a long one: Mercy's 3,200 relay (which also took first at the Section 5 Meet of Champions); Nazareth's Scozzafava; Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass (in two events); AQ's Owodunni; the BK boys' 400 relay; and BK's Patrick and Kevin Goode.

McQuaid's Chad Riley won the Section 5 Class A boys' tennis title and went undefeated against Rochester-area opponents this season.

McQuaid's golf squad did not lose a single team match. In addition, the Knights' Kevin Haefner finished as co-medalist in the Section 5 tournament while teammate Randy Teegardin placed fourth at the state championships.

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