

# Spring Sports

## Mercy's success highlights winter season's heroics

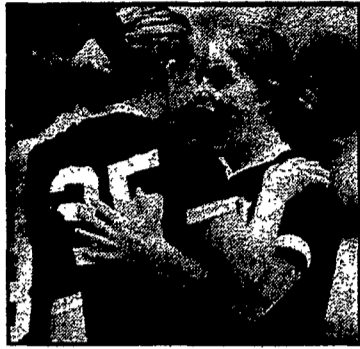
By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

"Hey, it's almost sectional time. Let's mark Feb. 29 on our calendars; I'd like to catch the Class A girls' basketball final that night."

"Good idea. Who do you think Mercy will play this year?"

Don't be surprised if conversations of this nature have actually taken place. Lately, Our Lady of Mercy's presence in the title game has become almost a formality.

This past winter, Coach Kathy Boughton's troops made their fifth consecutive appearance in the Class A final. The No. 3-seeded Monarchs overwhelmed top-seeded Brock-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
Our Lady of Mercy's Joanne Hanna (left) embraces Kaitie Schiller after their 80-63 Class A win over Brockport in the Feb. 29 title game. Leah Oliveiri appears on the cover with the Section 5 Class A championship trophy.

port, 80-63, for their third sectional trophy in five years.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
From left, McQuaid's Matt Thomas, Tyler Neer, Shaun Huff and Kevin Haefner react to the Knights' 53-49 loss to East High's Orientals in the Section 5 Class A finals March 2 at the Rochester Community War Memorial.

They also cruised in their semifinal matchup against second-seeded Penfield, 62-38. Mercy went on to fall to Amherst Sweet Home in state quarterfinal play, and posted a final record of 20-4. Boughton netted sectional Class A Coach of the Year honors.

The Monarchs were one of many successful teams representing diocesan high schools this past winter. Here's a recap of other highlights from the 1995-96 season:

### Girls Basketball

Nazareth Academy enjoyed its finest year ever, finishing at 17-4 — six games better than the Lasers' previous single-season high for wins. Coach Chris Belmont's team earned a No. 2 seed in the Section 5 Class CCC playoffs before falling to Wellsville in quarterfinal play. Senior center Deidre Britton also made Nazareth history by becoming the first Laser to play in the annual Ronald McDonald House All-Star Game.

Bishop Kearney, another Section 5 Class CCC squad, reached the Final Four before losing to Marcus Whitman in

the semifinals. BK had made the semis with a 63-45 victory over North Rose-Wolcott in quarterfinal play. The Kings' final record was 15-7.

**Other teams' records:**  
Aquinas — 10-12  
DeSales — 11-11  
Notre Dame — 8-13

### Wrestling

McQuaid Jesuit's Jason DiCesare was practically unbeatable in the 250-pound weight class this winter. He won the Section 5 Super Sectional championship by pinning East High's Scharansky Carr in the title match, raising his season record to 32-1.

### Boys Basketball

McQuaid Jesuit reached the Section 5 Class A final before falling to City-Catholic League rival East, 53-49. The defending champion Knights had gained a second straight title-game appearance with a 49-37 semifinal decision over Fairport. McQuaid's final record was 15-9.

Elmira Notre Dame made a strong run in the Section 4 Class C-2 tournament after a

sub-par regular season. The Crusaders surged into the semifinal round before their Cinderella hopes were dashed in an overtime loss to Spencer-Van Etten. ND's final record was 7-14.

**Other teams' records:**  
Aquinas — 4-17  
Bishop Kearney — 9-13  
DeSales — 2-19

### Hockey

Aquinas Institute came on strong in the Section 5 Class B playoffs, upsetting top-seeded Geneseo, 2-1 in overtime, in semifinal play. The Little Irish fell to Batavia Notre Dame in the title game, and finished with a 9-11-5 record.

Geneva/DeSales enjoyed tremendous success in only its second year of existence. The team, which combines players from both DeSales and Geneva high schools, posted a final record of 16-7. Two DeSales students competed on this year's squad: Shaun Madigan and Chad Colacino.

**Other teams' records:**  
Bishop Kearney — 10-9  
McQuaid — 14-8-2

### Cheerleading

Section 5 titles were won by three different diocesan schools: Aquinas Institute in Class BB; Bishop Kearney in Class B; and Geneva DeSales in Class D.

### Indoor Track

Aquinas Institute's Shola Owodunni placed in two events at the state championships. She finished eighth in the girls' 55-meter dash, and 12th in the girls' 55 hurdles.

### Bowling

Our Lady of Mercy earned a second-place finish in the Section 5 girls' championships. Meanwhile, Aquinas Institute won the City-Catholic League championship and ended up third in the sectional boys' tournament.

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