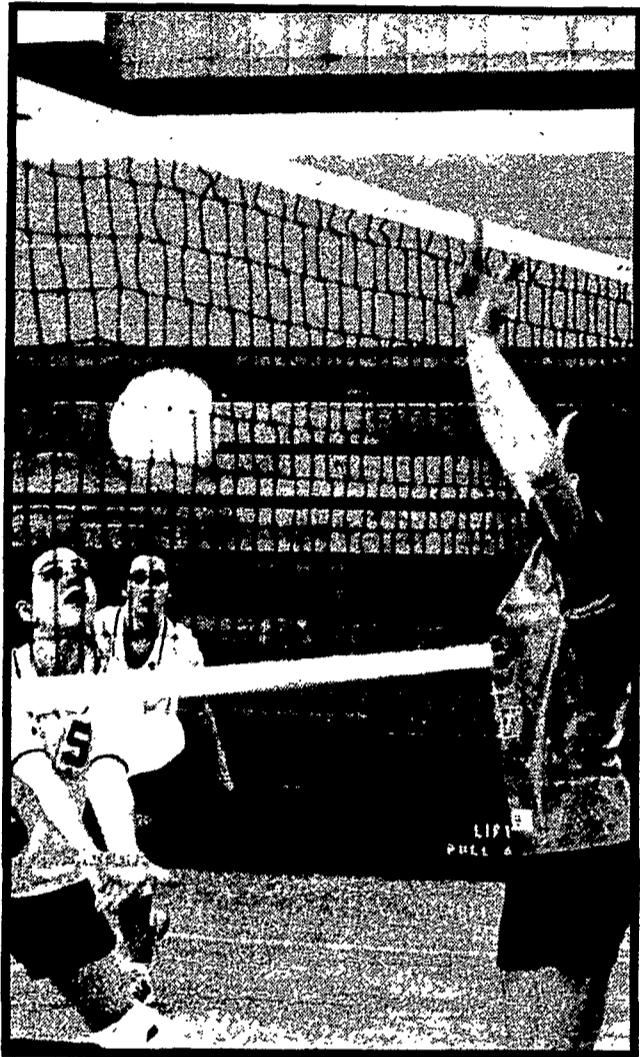


# Winter Sports

November 21, 1996

Catholic Courier  
Special Feature



Christine O'Connor of Nazareth Academy (left) returns the ball to awaiting Bishop Kearney team members during an Oct. 22 volleyball match. Tim Campe of Aquinas breaks for a touchdown in the Irish's match-up with Eastridge Oct. 19.

## Three teams win fall titles

The Elmira Notre Dame football team was the model of perfection through mid-November, winning its first 10 games of the 1996 season and capturing the Section 4 Class C championship in the process.

Notre Dame won the sectional crown with a 34-14 romp over Walton as Tug Ollock and Dan Bennett each scored two touchdowns. That win gave the Crusaders a 371-47 scoring edge over their 1996 opponents.

ND went on to drop a 21-14 decision to Cazenovia in state quarterfinal play on Nov. 16. The Crusaders were ranked fifth in the state Class C poll heading into that contest.

Aquinas Institute girls' soccer was another diocesan team that reached the state quarterfinals. The Little Irish scored a 2-0 upset over top-seeded Pittsford Mendon in the Section 5 Class BB semifinals. AQ then knocked off Victor, 1-0, for its first sectional title as goalie Shana Berardi recorded the shutout. The Irish went on to down Livonia in a sudden-death shootout in the Class B state qualifier before falling to Lewiston-Porter in quarterfinal action. Their final record was 15-7-2, and they earned a 14th-place ranking in the state polls.

Our Lady of Mercy girls' volleyball also won a sectional title. The Monarchs made good on their No. 1



Shana Berardi, Aquinas girls soccer goalie, rejects the ball during a sudden-death shootout with Livonia on Nov. 5. AQ, the Section 5 Class BB champions, won the state qualifier in a shootout.

seeded in the Section 5 Class BB playoffs by rallying to knock off Victor, 14-16, 15-1, 15-6, 15-8, in the title match. Monique Ritter was named tournament Most Valuable Player. Mercy then suffered a three-game loss to Livonia in state qualifier play and finished with an 18-5 record.

Other noteworthy athletic feats were recorded by the following teams in the fall of 1996:

- Aquinas Institute football, which reached the Section 5 Class A semifinals and posted a 6-3 record.

- McQuaid Jesuit football, which finished with a 7-2-1 record after defeating Irondequoit, 13-10, in the Section 5 Class A consolation championship.

- Elmira Notre Dame girls' soccer, which soared through the regular season undefeated. The Crusaders sported a perfect 17-0 record heading into their Section 4 Class C semifinal matchup against Unitego, but were defeated 1-0. Notre Dame finished at 10-0 in Sullivan Trail Conference play and achieved a No. 12 state ranking. The Crusaders outscored their 1996 opponents 55-6.

- Bishop Kearney girls' soccer, which advanced to the Section 5 Class B semifinals by scoring a 3-0 win over Private-Parochial League foe Nazareth Academy in quarterfinal play. BK's final record

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Matt Witmer (left) from McQuaid Jesuit leads Aquinas Institute's Brian Zimmer (center) and Brian Oster (right) during the City-Catholic Invitational Cross-Country meet Oct. 29.