

DIOCESAN NEWS

Unbeaten teams cop sectional championships

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

For McQuaid Jesuit baseball and Elmira Notre Dame softball, their 2001 seasons cannot be assessed in terms of high and low points.

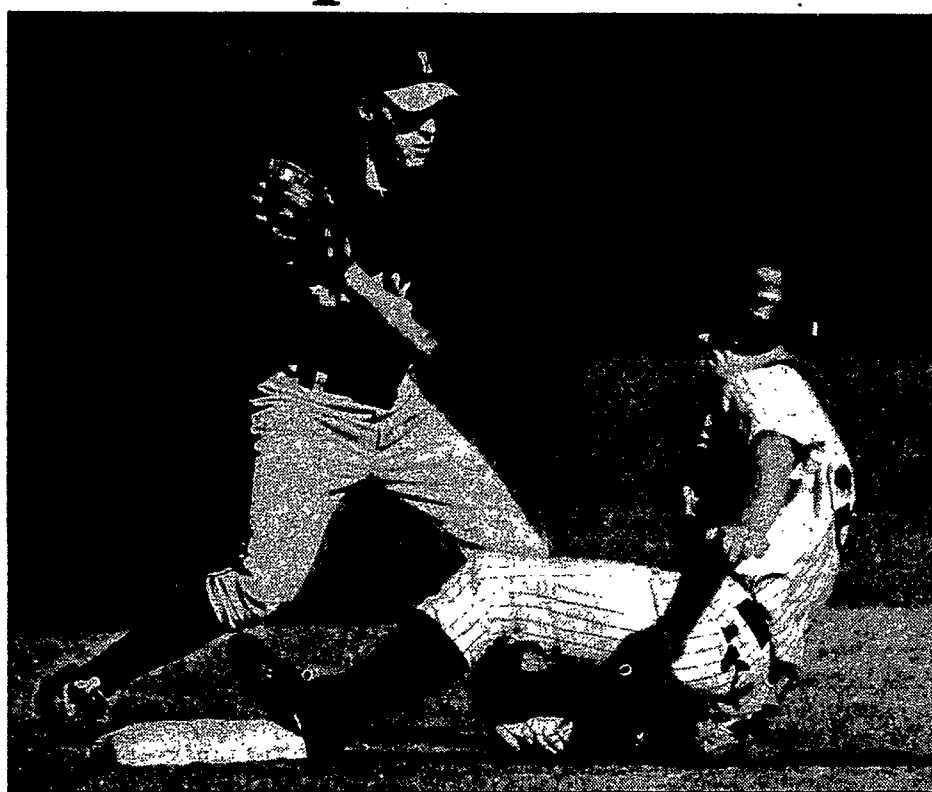
They started high, and have simply stayed that way.

Both teams punctuated their incredible seasons with sectional crowns last week. McQuaid baseball (a related story is on Page 6) scored a 3-1 win over Irondequoit in the Section 5 Class A final May 31. The Knights went on to beat Greece Athena, 4-3, June 2 in state-qualifier play before blasting North Tonawanda, 10-4, June 4 in the state quarterfinals. The three victories hiked McQuaid's record to 27-0.

Notre Dame softball remained undefeated as well, winning 4-2 over Harpursville in the Section 4 Class C title game played June 2. The Crusaders' record improved to 26-0.

McQuaid and Elmira Notre Dame are each ranked No. 1 in the state. McQuaid is due to face Columbia of Section 2 in a state Class A semifinal game June 9, and Notre Dame was scheduled to play Canastota in Class C quarterfinal play June 5.

McQuaid's sectional win over second-seeded Irondequoit broke a frustrating string: The top-seeded Knights had reached three of the previous four finals, losing each time. Mike Lewis pitched a five-hitter with 11 strikeouts, and also drove in a run. Two days later, the Knights remained unbeaten by scoring two runs in the sixth inning against Greece Athena to overcome a 3-2 hole. They went on to score eight unanswered runs against North



Andrea Dixon/Staff Photographer

Bryan Morrell of McQuaid Jesuit High School slides safely into second base despite an attempt by Irondequoit's Tom Zaccardo to tag him out during the fourth inning of the Section 5 Class A baseball final at Frontier Field, Rochester, May 31.

Tonawanda to erase a 4-2 deficit.

Notre Dame rolled to its third straight sectional crown by stopping No. 3 Harpursville. Megan Evans paced top-seeded ND with a third-inning homer, giving her 23 for her career. The No. 1-seeded Crusaders had advanced to the finals with a 19-2 rout of No. 13 Moravia on May 31. ND reached the state finals last year.

In other post-season highlights involving Catholic high schools in the diocese:

Geneva DeSales baseball and softball each reached the Section 5 Class D finals. The baseball team (14-5), seeded No. 2, won 9-5 over No. 3 Whitesville in a May 29 semifinal but fell 6-5 to No. 1 Friendship in the June 1 final. The softball team

(11-8), seeded third, won 7-6 over No. 2 Belfast May 30 before losing 7-3 to No. 5 Whitesville in the June 1 title contest.

Our Lady of Mercy girls' lacrosse advanced to the Section 5 Class B final with a 10-9 semifinal win over Mynderse May 24. The top-seeded Monarchs (17-3) lost 20-12 to No. 3 Penn Yan in the May 30 championship contest.

McQuaid boys' lacrosse (13-5) reached the Section 5 Class A semifinals before falling to second-seeded Webster, 9-8, May 30. The Knights were seeded third.

Several members of Aquinas Institute boys' track will compete in the state meet this weekend in Long Island. Arel Gordon (100 and 200 meters), Phil Zakielarz (shot put) and the 3,200 relay of David Hryniak, Joe Wetzel, Chris Schwartz and Mike Mellas all placed first in the Section 5 Class B state qualifier June 2.

Mellas dominated the May 26 Section 5 Class BB championships, winning the 100 and 400 hurdles, 800 run and triple jump as AQ took second in team scoring. Also that day, Gordon won the 100 and 200 while McQuaid's Pat Freytag won the Class A 400 and 800 meters.

Bishop Kearney baseball (7-12) reached the Section 5 Class CC semifinals, but its dark-horse title bid ended with a 5-2 loss to No. 2 Wellsville May 29. The Kings were seeded 11th.

McQuaid boys' tennis, seeded fifth in Section 5 Class A, reached the semifinals with a 4-3 win over Gates-Chili May 30. The win enabled the Knights to remain unbeaten with a 17-0 record. Also on May 30, Kearney tennis (13-5) was eliminated by fifth-seeded Mynderse, 4-1, in the Class C quarterfinals. BK was seeded fourth.

Fisher ministry director leaves legacy of work for life ethic

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father Paul English, CSB, director of campus ministry at St. John Fisher College since 1992, is leaving his position June 30, and will become an assistant priest at St. Anne's Parish in Houston, Texas, in August.

The Basilian priest, who speaks Spanish fluently as well as English, will be ministering, in part, to the parish's Latino community. The priest said his first preference would have been to be assigned to a parish in the Diocese of Rochester, but his congregation's superiors decided a Spanish-speaking priest like himself was more needed in Texas.

Ordained in 1985, the Syracuse native has served Hispanic Catholics in Detroit and taught Spanish at an Indiana high school. He also lived in Mexico City while in priestly formation, and during his time in Rochester, has served Hispanics part-time at the parishes of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Corpus Christi, as well as at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport.

Prior to serving at Fisher, he was a campus minister at Nazareth College from 1989-92. A 1978 Fisher graduate, he served as the college's assistant dean of students and director of residence life from 1987-89.

Father English will be replaced by a fellow Basilian, Father Joseph Lanzalaco, cur-

rently parochial vicar at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Irondequoit. Although the order has been associated with the college since its founding, faced with diminishing membership, the Basilians no longer place new teachers at Fisher. But they have committed to support its campus ministry, Father English said.

In addition to his ministry at Fisher, Father English was known in the community for his consistent life ethic work through such groups as Pax Christi Rochester and Project Rachel, a diocesan-sponsored post-abortion healing ministry, which he served as a counselor. He also taught a course on peace studies at Fisher. Active in efforts against the death penalty, war and poverty as well, he was recognized by the Dio-

cese of Rochester for his work with a Vita Award. The award recognizes those who promote the consistent life ethic which opposes abortion, war, poverty, euthanasia and the death penalty.

Father English is probably best known outside of church circles for being a member of the "Finger-imaging Four" who were arrested at the offices of Monroe County Department of Social Services in March 1996. The four protesters, all Catholics, had asked to be electronically fingerprinted, were refused by department employees, and then arrested for criminal trespass because they would not leave. Finger-imaging had been instituted the year before to stop welfare fraud, but the protesters decried finger-imaging as dehumanizing to the poor. They were later given conditional discharges.

Father English said his arrest made him a bit of a celebrity figure for awhile on campus and that he was deluged by callers both supportive and critical of his actions. To this day, he calls finger-imaging "low-intensity warfare against the poor," likening it to the Nazi practice of forcing Jews to wear a star of David. He does not agree that finger-imaging welfare recipients is the same as asking corporate or government employees to be fingerprinted.

"I saw it as real way of singling out the poor, especially poor black women."

As campus ministry director, Father English said he was privileged to play a day-to-day role in the lives of hundreds of students. His duties ranged from celebrating the sacraments with students to consoling them in times of grief when he had to bring them news of a death in the family. He added that most college students are experiencing adult freedom for the first time in their lives, and that he was there to help them make good use of it.

"Guidance only comes to them if they seek it, so they may find themselves with ethical and moral dilemmas, or without a strong interior sense of what is the good thing to do," he said. "I feel so fortunate that they feel free to come to me."

Video's creators want to stir poverty discussions

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

BRIGHTON — A new video and study guide have been released in an attempt to ignite discussions among religious believers about poverty in Monroe County.

Titled "Faces of Poverty," the video and study guide were created by the Poverty Task Force of the Interfaith Alliance of Rochester, the local chapter of a statewide and national coalition. Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and secular groups and individuals supported the project.

Catholic supporters included the Diocese of Rochester, Catholic Charities, Catholic Family Center and a handful of other Catholic groups, parishes and religious orders.

More than 60 people attended the video's premiere at 12 Corners Presbyterian Church on May 30. The video shows Rochester-area people — who are identified — talking about their struggles with poverty. Those troubles include a lack of access to public transportation to get to work, and an inability to escape low-wage jobs long enough to train for higher-paying ones.

Sections address leaving welfare but being stuck in poverty; housing; child care and transportation; and education and health care. The guide suggests that churches and organizations form discussion groups of five to eight members who would devote 40-minute sessions to each topic. The guide calls on team members to come up with creative responses to poverty, and includes a list of Web sites devoted to poverty issues.

The Rev. Peter Peters, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fairport, chaired the Poverty Task Force, and introduced the video at its premiere. He noted that the video is coming out in the same year Congress must consider reauthorizing welfare reform measures implemented in 1996.

Following the premiere, one man was roundly applauded when he said everyone in the room should give their income tax rebate checks to groups fighting poverty or addressing the issue like Interfaith Alliance. Another man, who said he had grown up poor, pointed out that poor people need to consider the decisions they make that may keep them in poverty, for example, buying overly expensive TVs or

other items.

Serving as statistician on the video was Dr. Harry Murray, professor of sociology at Nazareth College in Rochester, and a longtime peace and anti-poverty activist in the Catholic Worker movement. He said the video's creators were concerned, in part, that the focus of discussions about poverty in recent years has shifted away from issues of income and inequality to the topic of welfare dependency.

"I think there's always been, in America particularly, a tendency to equate poverty with moral deficiency," he said. "I think the whole idea of welfare dependency builds on that ideal."

Murray agreed that poor people can make moral decisions that create poverty. But he added that the lack of good-paying jobs and various services like day care for workers' children are real issues for people trapped in impoverished communities. He also said that all groups in society exhibit immoral behavior, not just the poor.

Copies of the video/guide at \$10 apiece may be obtained by sending a check payable to the Interfaith Alliance at P.O. Box 146, Fairport, NY 14450.