

DIOCESAN NEWS

McQuaid, Kearney, Nazareth fall short of state titles

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

After otherwise tremendous post-season runs, three teams from the Rochester Diocese were stopped March 15-17 in their bids for state high-school basketball titles.

McQuaid Jesuit's boys lost in the Class A final. And the Bishop Kearney boys and Nazareth Academy girls fell in Class B semifinal play.

McQuaid fell to Syracuse Henninger of Section 3, 71-56, in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association title contest on March 17 at the Glens Falls Civic Center. McQuaid had advanced to the final with a 66-51 win one day earlier over Walt Whitman of Section 11. The Knights' final record for 2001-02 was 24-3.

Kearney saw its season come to a close with a 77-54 loss to Amityville of Section 11 in Class B semifinal play on March 16 at the Glens Falls Civic Center. The Kings finished with a record of 17-9.

And Nazareth, making its first appearance ever in a state Final Four, was stopped by Our Lady of Lourdes from Section 1, 73-42, in a semifinal contest March 15 at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. The Lasers posted a 21-4 record this season.

Henninger 71, McQuaid 56

The Knights were victimized by cold shooting in the state championship game, going 25-for-61 from the field and 2-for-17 from three-point range. Meanwhile, Henninger's Chris Turner was anything but cold. He poured in 38 points, setting a Class A single-game record, and added 19 rebounds.



James Stein/Photo Intern

Nick Struble (left) consoles Jack Leasure after the McQuaid boys' March 17 loss to Syracuse Henninger in the Class A state finals in Glens Falls.

McQuaid trailed 34-30 at halftime and 53-43 after three quarters, then rallied to within 55-54 before the Black Knights scored 16 of the game's last 18 points.

McQ's Marty O'Sullivan had a solid game, going 12-for-22 from the floor and finishing with 26 points. He and teammate Ryan Pettinella, who scored 10 points against Henninger, earned spots on the all-tournament team.

The Knights had gained a shot at the state title with a 15-point win over Walt Whitman in the semifinal. McQ's Tyler Relp led all scorers with 22 points, while O'Sullivan had 20 points and Pettinella

contributed 13 points, 12 rebounds and six blocks.

The Knights trailed Whitman 14-13 after one quarter, but outscored the Wildcats 30-18 over the next two periods to take an 11-point edge.

McQuaid was this year's Section 5 Class A champ, stopping Canandaigua in the final. The Knights then defeated Gates-Chili and Section 6's Buffalo Bennett to reach the state semifinals.

Amityville 77, Kearney 54

Kearney started out 0-for-11 from the floor against the Warriors and never re-

covered, trailing 16-4 after the first quarter. Amityville was led by 6-foot-10-inch Jason Fraser, who piled up 29 points and 18 rebounds.

Mike Williams had a fine day for the Kings, finishing with 25 points and three three-point baskets. Williams and Jamar Gray, who added 14, accounted for nearly three-quarters of BK's points. Williams was named to the all-tournament team.

Amityville went on to knock off Peekskill of Section 1, 67-57, on March 17 to claim the Class B championship.

The Kings had qualified for the state Final Four by winning the Section 5 Class B title over Hornell, then defeating Pittsford Sutherland and Section 6's Williamsville East in state tournament action.

Lourdes 73, Nazareth 42

Too many missed shots and turnovers led to deficits of 12-4 after one quarter and 27-11 at the half against the Warriors, a national power from Poughkeepsie. Though Nazareth picked up its point production after halftime, scoring 18 third-quarter points, Lourdes was even hotter, totaling 28 points to go up 55-29.

Meghan Dahlman scored 18 points to lead the Lasers and earn all-tournament honors. Nicole Lockhart added 11.

Lourdes went on to defeat Comsewogue of Section 11, 67-55, in the title game held March 16. It was the Warriors' fourth consecutive state championship.

Despite the loss, the tournament marked a milestone for this year's Lasers, who went further than any other team in school history. They beat Livonia for the Section 5 Class B title and then stopped Newark and Section 6's Fredonia in state play.

Jesuit school awards scholarships to inner-city students

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Rochester's McQuaid Jesuit High School has awarded five full scholarships to inner-city Catholic school students through its new Xavier Scholars Program.

The students selected will enter McQuaid's middle-school program next fall.

The students selected to start seventh grade at the all-boys Brighton school, and the schools they attend, are sixth-graders Kiet Au of Holy Family; James Hutter of Corpus Christi; Andrew Miller of Holy Family; Justin Sullivan of Holy Rosary; and Rafael Walker of St. Monica's. The sixth-graders were selected from schools that receive aid through the Wegmans Inner City Voucher program. The program is funded by Robert and Peggy Wegman of Wegmans Food Markets.

"The Xavier program is a wonderful undertaking by McQuaid Jesuit," Peggy Wegman said in a press statement. "It takes our WIN school program to the next level and ensures that students from these schools can continue their education in the

Catholic tradition and standards that are essential for their development as men of tomorrow."

The Xavier program targets students who otherwise may not have been able to attend McQuaid, and will include financial assistance for such items as school dress, books and school activities as well as tuition. The scholarship students will also be provided an alumnus mentor, who, among other duties, will monitor their social and academic adjustment; serve as a liaison to their families; arrange for any needed tutoring; and provide a homework hall for the boys.

"The Xavier Scholars Program stems from the Jesuit premise that a Jesuit education is about providing opportunity for learning, for religious growth, for leadership and for service," said a press statement from McQuaid's principal, Father Philip G. Judge. "A major concern in providing opportunity is making it available for those who cannot afford it, and to those for whom this type of college (preparatory) education presents major challenges. This program will provide some basics for suc-

cess."

The scholarships are being funded through the Gleason Foundation and the New York Province of the Society of Jesus, as well as other sources. Each of the six WIN schools nominated two boys for the five scholarships. The students had to take entrance exams and be interviewed by McQuaid faculty members. Among criteria for selecting the five recipients were having "the most determination to succeed" and demonstrated leadership qualities, as well as success in academic study and extracurricular activities, school officials said.

James Hutter's mother, Diana, attends St. Ambrose Church and said she had been lighting candles and praying ardently for her son. Disabled by an accident five years ago, Hutter said she would not have been able to send her son to McQuaid without the scholarship.

"I think it will really get him focused into a college and into a life," she said.

James, 11, proudly noted that he excels in reading, spelling and math, and generally gets B pluses and As in his classes. He also likes to write poetry, and recited a po-

em about his overweight cat, "Rudy the Ritty Rat," during an interview.

"(McQuaid) gets young boys at an early age, and they teach them and give them an education that they can actually use in the real world," James said.

Sister Eileen Daly, SSJ, principal of Corpus Christi, said almost 90 percent of her students come from families that live below the poverty level, so scholarships are often the only way they can afford private secondary education. She added that she liked the fact the Xavier program will offer the boys the services of alumni mentors.

"I think that's a really positive thing because you don't want to drop kids into a thing and kind of let them swim," she said.

As for James, the bespectacled boy said he is ready for McQuaid, and added that he is fearless when it comes to writing.

"When you give me a topic, I can do anything with it," he said.

Alleged abuse

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age victims from coming forward out of fear that the situation would be made public.

"We would miss an opportunity to help these people," Tedesco said.

If New York does pass such a law, however, "we will be in full compliance," he said.

Tedesco pointed out that the diocese has taken measures over the years to address issues of sexual abuse. In 1993, the diocese formed its first formal policy for responding to allegations of priests involved in sexual misconduct. In 1996, the policy was expanded to include all diocesan employees, who are required to take a workshop on sexual misconduct and the misuse of ministerial power and authority. The workshop makes diocesan employees aware of and able to identify sexual abuse.

"We've been very proactive in dealing with this issue," Tedesco said.



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