

High schools claim championships

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Sports success is running rampant this fall at diocesan Catholic high schools, with an especially strong showing by teams from Aquinas Institute.

The Little Irish girls' soccer team has won a remarkable seventh-consecutive Section 5 championship, thanks to AQ's 2-0 win over Victor in the Class BB final on Nov. 4. Aquinas, the two-time defending state champion, was scheduled to play a state qualifier game Nov. 6 against Livonia, the Section 5 Class B champ.

Also basking in title success is the Elmira Notre Dame girls' soccer team, which posted a 3-1 win over Seton Catholic in the Section 4 Class C final on Nov. 2. The next stop for the Crusaders is a Nov. 9 state quarter-final game against Watertown IHC.

AQ football, also a defending state champ, is one win away from a Section 5 title. The Little Irish thumped Marshall, 42-8, in the Class A semifinal and will now face Victor in the title game. It will take place Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at St. John Fisher College.

The Aquinas boys' soccer team was poised to earn a sectional title as well. AQ advanced to the Class BB title game against Pittsford Mendon, but that contest was postponed twice and was last scheduled for Nov. 5.

AQ 2, VICTOR 0

The fourth-seeded Little Irish girls got all the scoring they needed when Jacquie Lacek scored with 13 minutes remaining in the first half. Lacek then added an insurance goal before halftime, and goaltender Allison Sharpe came up with the shutout.

Despite entering sectional play with a 7-5-5 record, AQ advanced to the final by scoring consecutive sudden-death overtime wins, first over No. 5 Pittsford Mendon and then over top-seeded Pittsford Sutherland. With the win over No. 3 Victor, the Little Irish (10-5-5) are now angling for their third-consecutive state crown as well as their sixth-straight trip to the state finals:

NOTRE DAME 3, SETON 1

Elmira Notre Dame's girls took control with two first-half goals against Seton Catholic, the top seed and defending state Class C champ. Natalie Frost got the first score, and Marissa Ruda made it 2-0 at halftime.

After Seton Catholic sliced the lead in half, Frost sealed the victory with a goal in the closing minutes as ND hiked its record to 19-2. Frost also assisted on Ruda's goal, giving her a hand in all three scores.

On their path to the title game, the second-seeded Crusaders thumped



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Rachelle Cariello (center) celebrates with Julie Principe (left), Deanna Garofalo (right) and other Aquinas soccer team members after defeating Victor 2-0 in the Section 5 Class BB final at Spencerport High School Nov. 4.

No. 3 Southern Cayuga 8-1 on Oct. 30 as Christine Farmer erupted for five goals and an assist.

AQ 42, MARSHALL 8

Aquinas (8-1), the top seed in Class A, scored 22 second-quarter points against the fourth-seeded Jurists to go up 28-0 at halftime. Running back Calvin Hall was the catalyst, scoring four first-half touchdowns — three on runs and the other on a 25-yard reception. Backfield mate Arel Gordon added 87 yards on 13 carries, including a 21-yard TD run; and fullback Sar Rosso had a six-yard scoring run.

AQ's upcoming title game against second-seeded Victor is a rematch of last year's Class A final, won by the Little Irish, 49-32.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

AQ boys' soccer, seeded No. 2 in Section 5 Class BB, earned it way into the final against No. 1 Pittsford Mendon with a 1-0 victory over third-seeded Wayne on Oct. 29. The victory hiked Aquinas' record to 14-2-3. Chris Nacca's second-half goal, along with goalie Jack Burgasser's shutout effort, led the Irish. Their title game with Mendon was delayed by poor weather on Nov. 2 and a field-scheduling conflict on Nov. 4.

Aquinas runner Dave Hryvniak qualified for the state cross-country



Carmen Hamza, co-captain of the Nazareth Academy volleyball team, cheers as the Lasers make a comeback in the Section 5 Class CC final against Waterloo Nov. 2 at Geneseo High School. Nazareth eventually was defeated in four games.

championships by finishing second in the Section 5 Class B race held Nov. 2. Hryvniak posted a time of 16 minutes, 51.3 seconds, leading AQ to second place in team scoring. Hryvniak moves on to the state meet on Nov. 9 on Long Island.

Our Lady of Mercy girls' soccer compiled a 17-3-2 record this season and reached the Section 5 Class A final. The third-seeded Monarchs were stopped by No. 5 Churchville-Chili, 1-0, in the title game held Nov.

4. Mercy had reached the final by stopping No. 2 Greece Athena, 2-0, on Oct. 29, as Maggie Hanna and Aimee Lambert scored first-half goals.

Nazareth Academy girls' volleyball posted a final record of 13-4. This included a trip to the Section 5 Class CC final, where the Lasers, seeded No. 1, fell 25-17, 16-25, 25-21, 25-23 to No. 2 Waterloo on Nov. 2. Nazareth had advanced to the title match with a 25-9, 25-14, 25-15 semifinal win over No. 5 Mynderse on Oct. 30.

Elmira Notre Dame football earned a final record of 7-2. The Crusaders were stopped in the Section 4 Class B semifinal by Norwich, 22-12, on Nov. 1. ND played well in the first half, taking a 12-7 lead, but went scoreless from there on out.

Bishop Kearney boys' soccer gained the top seed in Section 4 Class CC, yet the Kings were upset by No. 4 Byron-Bergen, 3-2, on Oct. 30 in semifinal play. The Kings ended their season with a record of 11-5-1.

McQuaid Jesuit boys' soccer also had a strong season, going 13-4-3. The sixth-seeded Knights were stopped in the Section 5 Class A quarterfinal round by No. 3 Fairport, 3-1, on Oct. 25.

Kearney cheerleading won its eighth straight Section 5 title, earning the Class C crown on Oct. 24.