

# Aquinas teams score post-season victories

Mike Latona/ Catholic Courier

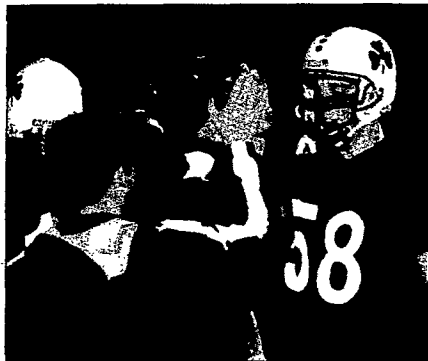
Fall is usually the prime season for television networks to trot out new shows. But the Aquinas Institute football squad, as well as the girls' and boys' soccer teams, have been playing lots of reruns from 2001 — and drawing high viewer ratings from Little Irish fans.

The AQ football team successfully defended its Section 5 title, downing Victor 28-15 in the Class A final Nov. 9 at St. John Fisher College. That win put the Little Irish into the state Class A playoffs, where they are defending champions. AQ, with a record of 9-1 and a No. 1 ranking in the state, will face Buffalo Sweet Home of Section 6 (10-0) in a 4 p.m. start on Saturday, Nov. 16, at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Buffalo. The winner will advance to semifinal play the following weekend.

Aquinas girls' soccer is two victories away from earning its third consecutive state Class B title, after a 2-0 victory over Williamsville East of Section 6 in a Nov. 8 quarterfinal game at Albion High School. That followed a 2-0 blanking of Livonia two days earlier in a Section 5 state qualifier at Bishop Kearney High School. AQ, with a record of 12-5-5, advances to semifinal play Friday, Nov. 15, against Lynbrook of Section 8 (17-0). The game begins at 5 p.m. at Honeoye Falls-Lima High School, with the winner playing for the state title at HF-L at 2 p.m. the following day against either Tappan Zee of Section 1 or Chittenango of Section 3.

Aquinas boys' soccer fell in the state quarterfinals, but not before earning its third consecutive Section 5 Class BB crown. The Little Irish won 2-0 over previously unbeaten Pittsford Mendon in the title game Nov. 5 at Spencerport High School, then scored a 3-0 victory over Livonia in the state qualifier Nov. 7 at East Rochester High School. The Irish were stopped by Iroquois of Section 6, 1-0, in a quarterfinal game Nov. 9 at Lewiston-Porter High School near Niagara Falls. Aquinas finishes the season with a 16-3-3 record.

Also exiting in the state quarterfinals were the Elmira Notre Dame girls (19-3), the Section 4 Class C representatives. The Crusaders fell 2-1 to Watertown Immaculate Heart Central of Section 3 in a game played Nov. 9 at Liverpool High School near Syracuse.



Little Irish 11th grader Matt Stolte receives a high five at the Section 5 Class A final at St. John Fisher College Nov. 9.

## AQ 28, VICTOR 15

The top-seeded Little Irish (9-1) were severely tested by the second-seeded Blue Devils (8-2) in a rematch of last year's sectional finalists. AQ trailed 15-14 in the fourth quarter before Arel Gordon made the game's pivotal play. He caught a short pass from quarterback Mark Zappia on fourth down, then fumbled but recovered the loose ball and ran 23 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with just under five minutes to go.

Gordon added the clinching score, making a 46-yard TD run with less than a minute remaining to finish with 111 yards rushing on 23 carries. Aquinas also received first-half scores from Calvin Hall, on a five-yard run, and Ian Goodberlet, on a three-yard carry.

## AQ 2, WILLIAMSVILLE E. 0

The girls' state quarterfinal win saw Aquinas hold a 15-1 edge in shots. Julie Principe scored a first-half goal, and Kelsey Turley added a second-half score to tame the Flames, who came in with a 20-1-1 record.

In the win over Livonia (15-4-1), Aquinas received first-half goals from Jacquie Lacek and Lauren Popovich while outshooting the Bulldogs 11-2. AQ was this year's Section 5 Class BB champion, and Livonia was the Class B champ.

Should the Little Irish reach the state final, it will mark their sixth consecutive appearance in the title match. They also have won seven consecutive sectional crowns.

## IROQUOIS 1, AQ 0

The Irish boys led 10-6 in shots, but Reid Stanton of the Chiefs (16-5-2) got the only goal less than four



James Stein

Aquinas' Ian Goodberlet kicks off during the Section 5 Class A final. AQ defeated the Victor Blue Devils 28-15.

minutes into the state quarterfinal game.

Aquinas had gained entry into state play with its win over top-seeded Pittsford Mendon (16-1-4), marking the second straight year the Irish stopped the Vikings in the title game. Jayme Nowicki scored the deciding goal in the first half, and Rafael Venturini added a penalty kick in the second half. Goalie Jack Burgasser came through with eight saves to net the shutout for the second-seeded Little Irish.

AQ then knocked off Livonia in the state qualifier game as Keith Manscuk got all three AQ goals against the Bulldogs (15-4-1). He scored twice in the first half and once after halftime.

## WATERTOWN IHC 2, ND 1

Elmira Notre Dame went up 1-0 in its state quarterfinal game when Kayleigh Martin scored in the first half on an assist from Natalie Frost.

But the Crusaders were held scoreless from that point on, and the Cavaliers (21-2) got second-half scores from Mattea Alteri and Marissa Vespa.

ND was without Christine Farmer, who had 30 goals and 26 assists this season but suffered a bro-

ken jaw while serving as goalie in the Section 4 Class C final on Nov. 2. The Crusaders beat Binghamton Seton Catholic in that game.

## MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Aquinas' Dave Hryvniak earned an 18th-place finish in the state Class B cross-country championship race Nov. 9. Hryvniak recorded a time of 17 minutes, 15 seconds at Sunken Meadow State Park on Long Island.

Our Lady of Mercy placed third in team scoring at the Section 5 Class B girls' swimming meet Nov. 9 at Webster Schroeder High School. The following Monarchs had top-three finishes: the 200-yard medley relay of Tina McIntyre, Annie Nemeth, Christina Sherman and Jackie Holliday, first place with a time of 1:54.28; Nemeth, a first-place tie in the 100 breaststroke (1:10.26) and second in the 200 individual medley (2:16.42); McIntyre, second in the 100 freestyle (:55.14) and 100 backstroke (1:00.66) and third in the 500 free (5:33.65); the 400 free relay of Holliday, Nemeth, Courtney Huether and McIntyre, second (3:53.08); Sherman, third in the 100 butterfly (1:05.65); and Huether, third in the 200 free (2:05.07).