

AQ returns to final in state football playoffs

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Aquinas Institute's potent offense has claimed another victim, and the Little Irish's latest conquest has earned them a return engagement in the state football final.

The Irish trounced Elmira Free Academy, 42-14, in a state Class A semifinal matchup Nov. 23 at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome. Aquinas will go for its second-consecutive state title when it faces Nyack in the title contest Sunday, Dec. 1. That game, also, will be played at the Carrier Dome, with a scheduled starting time of 6 p.m. In the other semifinal played Nov. 23, Nyack stopped Amsterdam, 34-10.

The rout over Elmira Free Academy saw Aquinas boost its record to 11-1, while EFA finished at 9-3. AQ was in control from the beginning, scoring the game's first five touchdowns.

Quarterback Mark Zappia connected with Ian Goodberlet on a 32-yard touchdown pass play midway through the first quarter to give the Little Irish a 7-0 lead. Less than four minutes later, Sar Rosso made a 26-yard TD run as the Irish went up 14-0. The score ballooned to 35-0 by halftime, thanks to three second-quarter touchdowns: on a 1-yard run by Calvin Hall; a 30-yard pass play from Zappia to Goodberlet; and a 24-yard interception return by Donny Moss.

There was nothing lacking in Aquinas' defensive effort, either. It

wasn't until the fourth quarter, with the game already well in hand, that the Blue Devils got on the board. AQ finished its scoring with a flair, as Ryan Brennan made a 98-yard kick-off return for a touchdown with just less than five minutes left in the game.

Goodberlet finished with five receptions for 107 yards and converted all six of his extra-point kicking attempts. Zappia went 10-for-15 for 204 yards and two touchdowns. Running back Arel Gordon was the top AQ rusher, with nine carries for 56 yards.

The upcoming state final will bring together the last two Class A champions. Nyack, representing Section 2, won the 2000 title and has an 11-0 record. But the Indians' undefeated mark shouldn't faze the Little Irish of Section 5: Aquinas blitzed Buffalo Sweet Home, 56-27, in a Nov. 16 state quarterfinal even though Sweet Home carried a 10-0 record into that game.

Another plus for Aquinas, the top-ranked Class A team in the state, is its recent success on the Carrier Dome's artificial surface. In addition to the Nov. 23 win over EFA, the Irish won last year's state championship over Horace Greeley, 22-15, in the Dome.

AQ has averaged 40 points per game in its five post-season victories. Along with their state-tournament wins, the Little Irish defeated Wilson, Marshall and Victor en route to the Section 5 Class A title.

Recognizing

- Ryan Dougherty of Penfield, sophomore at the School of Architecture at Syracuse University, performs in ECHO, the music-ministry group at the university's John G. Alibrandi Catholic Center.
- Jesuit Father William Louis Wizeman, a native of Palmyra, has been appointed assistant professor of theology at Fordham University. Father Wizeman, the son of Joseph and Nancy Wizeman, grew up in St. Anne's Parish in Palmyra. He was ordained in 1998.
- St. Joseph School in Auburn has received a \$500 grant from the Exxon/Mobil Educational Alliance program to support the school's technology program.
- Chris Fanning, a junior and member of the STARFLYER Club at DeSales High School in Geneva, was selected by the American Red Cross in the Finger Lakes to attend the "Lights, Camera...Prevention" conference Nov. 1-3 in New Jersey. He received a scholarship from the AIDS Institute to attend the conference, sponsored by NiteStar, a nationally recognized program that integrates drama and health education.
- Mary Anne and Dick Palermo of Livonia received the Father William Trott Memorial Community Services award from Catholic Charities of Livingston County. The award was presented during CCLC's seventh anniversary dinner Oct. 23 at St. Mary's Parish Center in Geneseo. Mary Anne Palermo is vice chair of the CCLC board.



Vigil held for peace

A Thanksgiving vigil for peace and a service of repentance and reflection took place outside the Federal Building in downtown Rochester Nov. 24. Sponsored by the Rochester Alliance for Christian Alternatives, the vigil included Scripture readings, prayers for peace and healing, and reflections from representatives of local Christian communities. Above, Nadia (left) and Katia Iannacome hold candles during the vigil. Also participating was Father Joseph Marcoux, at right, parochial vicar at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral.



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Priest, Fisher student win award

Msgr. William H. Shannon, a priest of the diocese of Rochester, and Juan Reyes, a senior at St. John Fisher College in Pittsford, received Jennifer Patterson Koon Peacemaking Awards during a ceremony at Fisher Nov. 21.

Msgr. Shannon, professor emeritus at Nazareth College in Pittsford, is an author, peace activist, lecturer and founding president of the International Merton Society. He recently co-authored *The Thomas Merton Encyclopedia*.

Reyes, 20, is a computer-science major from San Francisco de Macoris in the Dominican Republic. He has tutored students at Rochester's Jefferson Middle School and is known for looking out for his fellow students and listening to others when they have problems.

Nine religious and civil leaders and four students were nominated for the award. Colman McCarthy, a

former columnist and reporter for the *Washington Post* and director of the Center for Teaching Peace, was the ceremony's keynote speaker.

The Jennifer Patterson Koon Peacemaking Foundation was created in 1998 by state Assemblyman David Koon and his wife, Suzanne, in memory of their daughter, Jennifer, who was a student at Fisher when she was murdered in 1993. The foundation supports peace and peacemaking as distinctive and active processes.

Each award nominee is a person who moves within his or her sphere of influence to promote peace, aids others in becoming more peaceful people, encourages dialogue among those holding opposing views, strives for peace through mediation and has both a visible respect for everyone and a love of "the other" throughout a conflict situation.