



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Elmira Notre Dame High School's Stephanie Huffner hugs goalkeeper Luisa Lucero after the team's Nov. 1 win over Unatego for the girl's Class C Section 4 championship, held at Oneonta's National Soccer Hall of Fame.

Soccer teams win sectional crowns

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

The Aquinas Institute boys and Elmira Notre Dame girls made successful defenses of sectional soccer titles last weekend.

Aquinas kept its season-long unbeaten streak intact, rolling to a 5-0 win over Pittsford Sutherland in the Section 5 Class BB final Oct. 31. AQ, with a record of 18-0-2, won its fourth consecutive sectional crown. The championship win enabled the Little Irish to advance to a state Class B qualifier game against Mynderse Academy that was set for Nov. 5.

Notre Dame, with a 2-0 victory over Unatego Nov. 1, claimed its sec-

ond straight Section 4 Class C title. The Crusaders (17-3) will play a state quarterfinal game Saturday, Nov. 8, against Watertown's Immaculate Heart Central.

Three other teams from Catholic high schools in the diocese recently reached sectional finals as well:

McQuaid Jesuit boys' volleyball (20-2) downed Brockport, 25-23, 25-23, 25-23, Nov. 1 to advance to the Section 5 Class A final against Churchville-Chili. That match was to be played Nov. 5.

Aquinas girls' soccer (13-5-3) was defeated 1-0 by Pittsford Mendon in the Section 5 Class A final Nov. 1, while Nazareth Academy girls' volleyball (10-8) fell to Waterloo, 25-18, 25-12, 25-18, in the Section 5 Class CC title match Nov. 1.

AQ 5, SUTHERLAND 0

The Class BB title game was a close one at halftime, with AQ's Keith Manscuk scoring the only first-half goal. But the Little Irish pulled away from the Knights as Chris Roland, Steve Fantuzzo, Jayme Nowicki and Manscuk all logged second-half scores.

Aquinas had qualified for the final by blanking another-Pittsford school, Mendon, by a 2-0 count Oct. 28. Anthony Dambra and Nowicki were the goal-scorers that night, and goalie Jack Burgasser made a key save on a penalty kick late in the game en route to the shutout.

By returning to the state playoffs, the Irish hoped to surpass last year's finish, when they were stopped in the state quarterfinal round.



Elmira Notre Dame's Mollie Hurley (No. 22) struggles to maintain control of the ball under pressure from Unatego's Miranda Ruff.

ND 2, UNATEGO 0

Notre Dame's Jessica Grannis scored a first-half goal, and Christine Farmer added an insurance goal after halftime as the Crusaders held a 9-3 in shots on goal for the game. Goalie Luisa Lucero picked up the shutout.

ND had reached the title game by winning 4-2 over Binghamton Seton Catholic Oct. 28. Farmer led the way in that semifinal victory with two goals, with Stephanie Huffner and Natalie Frost each chipping in with a score.

The Crusaders' next opponent, Immaculate Heart Central, is the same team that halted them in last year's state quarterfinal round.

MCQ 25-25-25, BROCKPORT 23-23-23

The Knights survived three narrow games in their semifinal volleyball match as Daren Dugan and Matt Schwalm had 12 and 11 kills, respectively, and Steve Bintz totaled 31 assists.

McQuaid had gotten to the Class A Final Four with a 25-18, 25-21, 25-20 quarterfinal win over Rush-Henri-

etta Oct. 29 as Schwalm led the way with 11 kills.

MENDON 1, AQ 0

Caity Richardson's first-half goal made the difference as the Vikings ended an astounding streak by the Little Irish, who had captured the past three state Class B crowns while winning 26 straight post-season games coming into the Mendon contest. In addition, Aquinas had won seven straight sectional titles.

The Little Irish had reached this year's sectional final with a 1-0 upset of top-seeded and previously undefeated Honeoye Falls-Lima Oct. 29. Linsay Kulas scored the game's only goal.

WATERLOO 25-25-25, NAZARETH 18-12-18

Waterloo proved why it was the Class CC tournament's No. 1 seed, recording a sweep of the Lasers.

Nazareth had advanced to the final by outlasting Attica, 25-22, 21-25, 25-22, 25-19, in semifinal play Oct. 29. Sam Gaetano and Rachel Boice led the Lasers in that match with 15 and 13 kills, respectively.

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