

Soccer teams go on to state semis

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Both the Aquinas Institute boys and Elmira Notre Dame girls are a mere two wins away from bringing home state soccer titles.

With a 5-0 win over Grand Island Nov. 8, Aquinas advanced to the state Class B Final Four. The Little Irish will face Jericho of Section 8 Saturday, Nov. 15, at 10 a.m. at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta. That game's winner will play for the state title the following day, also at the Soccer Hall of Fame (game time was not known at press time), against either Westhill of Section 3 or Hendrick Hudson of Section 1.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame won 2-1 over Watertown's Immaculate Heart Central Nov. 8. The Crusaders face Kendall of Section 5 Friday, Nov. 14, in a 5 p.m. game at Brighton High School, with the winner facing either Mattituck of Section 11 or Tamarac of Section 2 in the state final the next day at 5 p.m. at Webster Thomas High School.

In other playoff action last week, McQuaid Jesuit boys' volleyball saw its postseason title hopes end with a 25-15, 25-21, 25-22 loss to Churchville-Chili in the Section 5 Class A final played Nov. 5.

AQ 5, GRAND ISLAND 0

The lopsided win over the Vikings, a Section 6 representative, enabled

AQ to remain undefeated with a 20-0-2 record this season. Keith Manscuk led the way with three goals and an assist, and Chris Nacca and Chris Roland had AQ's other goals. Goalie Jack Burgasser, who has allowed just one goal all year, picked up the shutout.

Aquinas had advanced to the quarterfinal game by stopping Mynderse, 4-0, in a state tournament qualifier Nov. 5. Manscuk had three goals in that contest as well — all in the second half — after teammate Latim Bitek's score enabled AQ to break a 0-0 halftime tie.

The Little Irish have outscored their opponents 95-3 this year and appear a solid candidate to win the state title they last captured in 2000. Earlier this fall Aquinas earned its fourth straight Section 5 title, taking the Class BB crown.

NOTRE DAME 2, WATERTOWN IHC 1

The Crusaders' Kathleen Buckley got the game-winner early in the second half, breaking a 1-1 tie. Stephanie Huffner had given Notre Dame a 1-0 first-half lead before the Cavaliers' Kaitlin Robbins knotted the score. ND goalie Luisa Lucero, who finished with eight saves for the game, led a strong defensive stand.

Notre Dame upped its record to 18-3 and also reversed the outcome of last year's state quarterfinal, a 2-



Leila Navidi/Catholic Courier

McQuaid's Dennis Sullivan (left) tries to block a spike from Churchville-Chili's Eric Palumbo during the Class A Section 5 boys' volleyball final Nov. 5 at Webster-Shroeder High School. Churchville-Chili won the title 25-15, 25-21, 25-22.

1 win by Watertown IHC, which went on to win the state Class C title.

Should the Crusaders emerge victorious this Friday and Saturday, they will earn the first girls' soccer state championship in school history. ND has won the last two Section 4 Class C titles.

C-C 25-25-25, McQUAID 15-21-22

The Knights made a strong effort but fell short against unbeaten Churchville, which won its second straight Class A title. Daren Dugan and Matt Schwalm led McQuaid against the Saints with 11 and 10 kills, respectively.

McQuaid finishes its season with a 20-3 record. The Knights had

reached the title match by defeating Rush-Henrietta and Brockport in their previous two rounds.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Noel Bateman, a standout runner from Aquinas, placed fifth in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association state Class B cross-country meet Nov. 8. Bateman posted a time of 17 minutes, 2.9 seconds on the Marcus Whitman High School course in Rushville.

Bateman had qualified for the state race by placing third in the Section 5 Class B meet one week earlier. That helped AQ to a second-place showing in team scoring, while McQuaid — which competed in Class A — took third place at sectionals.

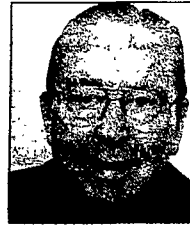
Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; known for retreats

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Father Bartholomew "Bart" Joseph O'Brien, widely known in the Diocese of Rochester for the retreats and missions he gave, died on Nov. 7, 2003. He was 89.

A native of Waverly, Father O'Brien grew up attending St. James Church. He attended Waverly High School, as well as St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, and was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney on May 18, 1940, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father O'Brien served as assistant pastor at Rochester's Holy Rosary Parish from 1940-41 and Rochester's St. Patrick's Parish from 1941-51. From 1951-62, he served as assistant pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Elmira, and became the parish's pastor in 1962.



In 1965, he was named pastor of St. Mary Our Mother Parish in Horseheads, a position he held until his retirement in 1984.

In addition to his pastorates, Father O'Brien was appointed in 1961 as diocesan director of the Sacerdotal Union of Daily Adoration, which promoted eucharistic adoration by priests, and its lay branch, the Eucharistic Legion. Bishop Kearney also named Father O'Brien episcopal vicar to the Southern Tier in 1967.

Father O'Brien authored numerous articles and books on the spiritual life, including the 1954 book *The Heroic Aloysius* and the 1955 book *Spurs to Meditation*.

At the time of his death, Father



O'Brien was residing at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Pittsford.

Father John A. Firpo, pastor of St. Helen's Parish in Gates, served as assistant pastor at St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads from 1977-81, and said he has fond memories of the late priest.

"When I was in his presence, or when others were in his presence, you just had a sense that this man was authentic," Father Firpo said. "I had a sense that when he would talk about God or talk about Christ, he was talking about one of his friends."

Father Firpo added that Father O'Brien was known to regularly

minister to his parishioners through letters and phone calls.

"He was very good about affirming people and just building up a person's spirit," Father Firpo said.

Father O'Brien was predeceased by four brothers and sisters, and is survived by his sisters-in-law, Tess O'Brien of Waverly and Mary J. O'Brien of Elmira, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Father Joseph A. Hart, diocesan vicar general, was to celebrate a funeral Mass on Nov. 13 at St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads. Father Firpo was to serve as homilist. Internment will be in St. Mary Our Mother Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be sent to St. Mary Our Mother Cemetery c/o of St. Mary Our Mother Church, 816 Broad St., Horseheads, NY 14845.

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