

McQuaid wins hockey title

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

McQuaid Jesuit's hockey team justified its No. 1 state ranking last weekend, winning a Section 5 championship, while Aquinas Institute missed out on a sectional title of its own.

McQuaid scored a 5-0 win over Penfield in the Section 5 Class A final played Feb. 28. The Knights, with a season record of 21-1-1, advance to the state quarterfinal round and will face Seton Catholic of Section 7 at 3 p.m. March 6 at ESL Sports Centre in Brighton.

Aquinas saw a two-goal lead slip away and lost to Batavia, 4-3 in overtime, in the Class B final Feb. 28. The Little Irish end their year with a 16-6 record.

Also advancing deep into sectionals were numerous basketball teams from Catholic high schools in the diocese. A remarkable eight out of 11 reached semifinal play, with all those games set to be played earlier this week. The squads are the Bishop Kearney, Elmira Notre Dame, McQuaid Jesuit and Geneva DeSales boys, as well as the DeSales, Nazareth Academy, Our Lady of Mercy and Aquinas Institute girls.

In addition, teams and individuals in skiing and indoor track have enjoyed recent success at sectional and state meets.

MCQUAID 5, PENFIELD 0

Knight goalie Bill Sauer stopped all 22 Patriot shots for the shutout, and Jared Crittenden scored two goals while Mike Cieslak, Chris Cieslak and Chris Regan added single goals as second-seeded McQuaid won its first sectional title in seven years.

McQuaid had advanced to the final against eighth-seeded Penfield by defeating No. 11 Greece Arvadia/Olympia, 5-1, Feb. 25. Ryan Flanigan and Brian Keane had two goals each, and the other goal came from Brandon Nunn.

The Knights allowed only two goals in their three sectional games, also winning 3-1 in an overtime shootout over No. 7 Pittsford in Feb. 21 quarterfinal play.

BATAVIA 4, AQUINAS 3

The second-seeded Little Irish held a 3-1 third-period lead over the top-seeded Ice Devils, but could not hold on as Batavia forced overtime and then got the game-winner from Mark Callan. AQ was led by Mike Cerasoli's two goals in the title game, with Chris Laock getting the other score.

AQ had reached the final by rout-



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

McQuaid defenseman Mason Baziw (left) is pursued by Penfield forward Mike Arvan as he pushes the puck past the blue line during the Section 5 Class A championship game Feb. 28 at Brighton's ESL Sports Centre. McQuaid, the top-ranked team in New York state, shut out the Patriots 5-0.

ing No. 3 Batavia Notre Dame, 8-1, in a Feb. 24 semifinal as Vinnie Nucifera led the Irish with three goals.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Bishop Kearney (19-2), seeded No. 1 in Section 5 Class B, eased to an 82-56 quarterfinal win over School of the Arts Feb. 28. The Kings were led by 27 points from Jamar Gray and 21 from Caleb McClary.

Elmira Notre Dame, seeded No. 1 in Section 4 Class C, won 53-32 over No. 8 Moravia Feb. 27 in quarterfinal play. Rory O'Connor scored 17 points and Pat Buckley and Kellen Dougherty had 13 each for the Crusaders (19-4).

McQuaid Jesuit, the No. 2 seed in Section 5 Class AA, rolled to an 89-53 quarterfinal win over seventh-seeded Wilson Magnet in a Feb. 28 quarterfinal game. Jack Leasure had 33 points to lead the Knights (17-4), who are the defending sectional Class AA as well as state Class A champions.

Geneva DeSales, the No. 2 seed in Section 5 Class D, scored a 67-47 quarterfinal victory over No. 7 Houghton Feb. 28. A.J. Trahms and Matt Higgins scored 21 and 18 points, respectively, for the Saints (15-4).

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

DeSales, the No. 2 seed in Section 5 Class D, eased to a 51-29 quarterfinal win over No. 7 Webster Christian Feb. 27. Katie Youngjohann's 16 points topped the Saints (13-6).

Nazareth, seeded No. 3 in Section 5 Class B, was a 58-38 quarterfinal winner over No. 11 Marcus Whitman Feb. 27 as Nicole Lockhart and Sierra Speed totaled 19 and 15 points, respectively. The Lasers (17-4) are defending sectional Class B champs.

Mercy, the third seed in Section 5 Class AA, rolled to a 70-39 quarterfinal triumph over No. 6 Wilson Magnet Feb. 27. Joanna Dobeck and Betsy Jacobsen each scored 18 points for the Monarchs (15-6).

Aquinas, seeded No. 4 in Section 5 Class A, downed No. 5 Pittsford Sutherland, 51-33, in Feb. 27 quarterfinal play. Ali Sharpe had 26 points and 21 rebounds for the Little Irish (17-5).

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Chris Burgart of the Section 5 champion McQuaid boys' ski team finished second in the giant-slam competition at the state championships Feb. 24. Burgart also placed first in the Section 5 meet Feb. 10, leading the Knights to the Class A crown.

Mercy's Nicole Clark placed second in the slalom race at the state girls' finals Feb. 23. She also finished second in that event at the Section 5 Class A title meet Feb. 11.

Aquinas won the Section 5 Class C boys' indoor track title Feb. 13, with Ryan Brennan (40-meter hurdles, 45 dash and 300 dash); Tim Calton (600 run) and Noel Bateman (3,200 run) all taking individual titles. At the state-qualifier meet held Feb. 28, Brennan placed second in both the 55 and 300 dashes to advance to the state meet, set for March 6 at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

McQuaid placed second in the Section 5 Class B boys' indoor track title meet Feb. 14. David DiVirgilio won the pole vault for the Knights at sectionals, then placed second at the state qualifier to advance to states.

Mercy finished third in the Section 5 Class C girls' track sectionals Feb. 13 as the Monarchs' Dahlia Townsend placed first in the 45 dash and second in the 600 run.

LAW COULD IMPROVE FARM-WORKER RIGHTS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The lives of immigrant farm workers, who make up more than half of the 1.8 million U.S. agricultural workers, could be improved under a proposed law that could legalize their status, speakers said Feb. 23 during the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

The bill is supported by a bipartisan coalition in both houses of Congress but could be scuttled by its congressional opponents, according to J. Kevin Appleby, director of migration policy for the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services.

Under the bill — known as the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2003 (S. 1645/H.R. 3142) — any undocumented agricultural worker who can show evidence of having worked at least 100 days in 2002 and 2003 will gain temporary legal status. For permanent residency, workers must work 360 days in agriculture over the next six years.

Also, growers would have fewer hurdles in bringing in immigrants to do agricultural work. Farm workers would be able to come and go between the United States and their home country, and also would have access to the federal courts to sue if they believe their rights in the workplace have been violated.

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., in conjunction with the Diocese of Rochester's Public Policy Committee, declared promotion of this bill its top 2004 public-policy priority.

The bill was promoted in parishes during "Public Policy Weekend," a new annual diocesan initiative that took place Feb. 7-8. That weekend, all diocesan parishes were asked to take part in a petition-signing campaign to support the bill. Almost 7,000 parishioners from throughout the diocese signed the petitions, according to diocesan social-ministry advocates. According to Marvin Mich, director of social policy and research at Catholic Family Center in Rochester, copies of the petitions were taken to members of Congress last week by diocesan representatives attending the social-ministry gathering.

Contains reporting by Rob Cullivan in Rochester.