

# Kearney wins in boys' basketball

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

There were no buzzer-beaters involving Bishop Kearney in this year's Section 5 boys' basketball tournament.

The Kings were just too good. Continuing its season-long success, BK rolled to the sectional Class B championship with a 65-55 win over Wellsville in the final played March 7 at Rochester's Blue Cross Arena. Kearney improved its record to 21-2 and advanced to a state Class B quarterfinal game, set for Friday, March 12, at 6 p.m. at Buffalo State University. The Kings will face either Seneca or Buffalo Traditional of Section 6.

Also reaching a sectional final was Geneva DeSales in Section 5 Class D. The Saints (16-5) were stopped in the title game by Whitesville, 57-51, March 6 at Blue Cross Arena.

Two other Catholic high schools in the diocese reached sectional Final Four play but lost in the semifinals. McQuaid Jesuit (17-5) fell 75-72 to Webster Thomas in a Section 5 Class AA game played March 3 at Fairport High School; and Elmira Notre Dame (19-5) was defeated 50-45 by Newfield in Section 4 Class C action March 2 at Binghamton's Broome County Arena.

## KEARNEY 65, WELLSVILLE 55

Jamar Gray, a senior guard/forward, was unstoppable in the title game, leading top-seeded BK with 26 points and 10 rebounds to earn tournament Most Valuable Player honors. A.J. White, a senior forward, was also a force for the Kings, totaling 20 points.

That duo's offensive prowess helped Kearney to take a 31-17 half-

time lead over third-seeded Wellsville. The Lions closed to within four points in the fourth quarter, 50-46, but Kearney held a 15-9 scoring edge the rest of the way.

BK had advanced to the final with an 82-52 semifinal victory over fourth-seeded Sodus March 2 at Blue Cross Arena. Topping the Kings that night were Gray with 25 points and White with 21.

This marked the fourth sectional title in six years for the Kings and coach Ed Nietopski, who earlier this season set the all-time Section 5 record for coaching wins. The Wellsville victory was Nietopski's 545th.

BK averaged 71.5 points in its four sectional games while holding opponents to a 44.3 average.

## WHITESVILLE 57, DESALES 51

Second-seeded DeSales held a 27-24 halftime lead over the top-seeded Blue Jays, but the Saints were outscored 22-6 in a decisive third quarter and could not quite close the gap. DeSales' Matt Higgins, a junior forward, led all scorers with 25 points but was the only Saint to reach double digits.

The Saints had advanced to the championship game by blasting No. 3 seed Northstar Christian Academy, 77-46, March 3 at Victor High School behind another 25-point night from Higgins as well as a 13-point effort by A.J. Trahms. DeSales enjoyed a huge first half, scoring 47 points to take a 21-point lead.

## MORE RESULTS

McQuaid was the defending sectional Class AA and state Class A champion. But third-seeded Webster Thomas prevailed in this year's



Mike Crup/Catholic Courier

DeSales guard Matt Higgins (right) lunges for a loose ball at the feet of Whitesville forward Drew Heisey during the Section 5 Class D boys' basketball final March 6 at Rochester's Blue Cross Arena. DeSales was defeated 57-51.



sectional semifinal, withstanding a huge second-half rally that saw the Knights erase a 14-point deficit to go ahead early in the fourth quarter. Second-seeded McQuaid was led by Jack Leasure's 28-point effort. Webster Thomas went on to lose to Greece Arcadia, 77-64, in the

Class AA final March 6.

Elmira Notre Dame was the No. 1 seed in Section 4 Class C, but couldn't overcome fifth-seeded Newfield in a semifinal game that was tight throughout. Rory O'Connor was the Crusaders' top scorer with 13 points, while the Trojans' Josh Delfino led all scorers with 20 points. Newfield went on to defeat Lansing, 54-51, in the sectional title game March 6.

## McQuaid falls in state hockey

McQuaid Jesuit High School saw an abrupt end to its stellar 2003-04 hockey season, suffering an upset loss in state quarterfinal play.

The Knights fell 3-2 to Plattsburgh Seton Catholic on March 6 at Brighton's ESL Sports Centre. McQuaid's final record was 21-2-1.

Seton Catholic's Matt LeClair broke a 2-2 tie by scoring the deciding goal with only 6.8 seconds left in the game. The see-saw battle saw McQuaid erase a 1-0 deficit to

go ahead 2-1 behind third-period goals from Nick Arazoza and Brandon Nunn, but Seton Catholic got the final two scores.

McQuaid was ranked No. 1 in the state heading into the quarterfinal game. One weekend earlier, the Knights had captured their first Section 5 Class A title since 1997 with a 5-0 victory over Penfield in the championship contest Feb. 28.

— Mike Latona

The William H. Shannon Chair in Catholic Studies at Nazareth College presents

The Spirituality  
of **STARBUCKS**  
and the **SWOOSH!**

Integrating **WHO WE ARE** With **WHAT WE BUY**

A LECTURE BY

**DR. THOMAS BEAUDOIN**

Author of *Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X*, and *Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are With What We Buy*.

Thursday, March 25, 2004  
7:30 p.m.

Forum, Otto A. Shults  
Community Center

Nazareth College  
4245 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14618

Free and open to the public.  
A reception will follow in the  
adjoining Reading Lounge.

For additional  
information,  
call 585-389-2728.

