

Elmira ND captures softball title

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Of the many Catholic high-school teams in the diocese that had excellent spring seasons — including five clubs that earned No. 1 sectional seeds — only one squad endured through the playoffs long enough to emerge as a sectional champion.

It was business as usual for Elmira Notre Dame softball, which won its sixth consecutive Section 4 title. The Crusaders prevailed over Edison in a thriller, 2-1 in eight innings, to capture the Class C crown on May 29. Danielle Wilson delivered the game-winning hit, scoring Jillian Kreitzer with the deciding run in the first extra inning. ND had trailed 1-0 before tying the score in the sixth inning when Lindsay Knapp singled, went to second base on a bunt and scored on a passed ball.

Notre Dame went on to lose by the same 2-1 score — also in eight innings — to Sandy Creek of Section 3 in state Class C quarterfinal play June 2. The team's only run came in the fourth inning, when Andrea Devon's triple scored Knapp. The defeat gave the Cru-

Sports

saders a final record of 23-4 for the 2004 season.

Other teams that attained No. 1 seeds in their respective sectionals were:

- Geneva DeSales baseball, the top seed in Section 5 Class D, which reached the championship game and finished with an 18-5 record.

- McQuaid Jesuit boys' tennis, the No. 1 seed in Section 4 Class A, which also made the finals and closed out its year at 17-4.

- McQuaid baseball, the No. 1 seed in Section 5 Class AA, which reached the semifinal round and ended up at 21-5.

- Bishop Kearney baseball, the top seed in Section 5 Class B, which made the semis and had a final record of 16-4.

Stellar sports achievements were also turned in by:

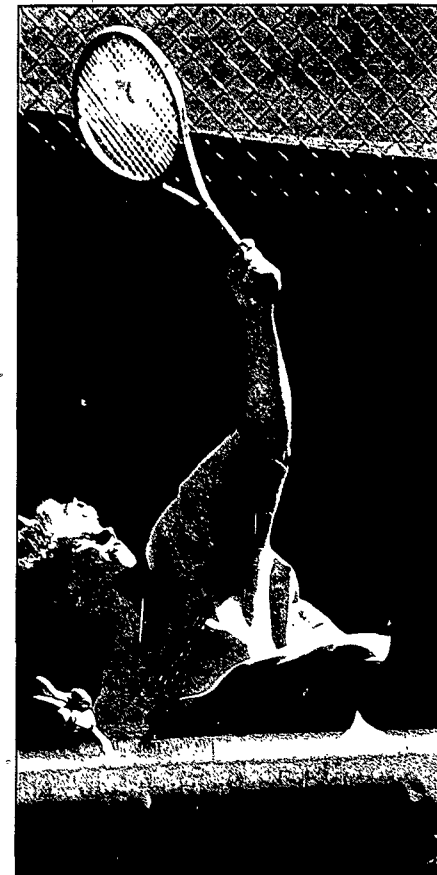
- Our Lady of Mercy softball, which excelled as the No. 3 seed in the Section 5 Class A playoffs, reaching the title game and post-

ing a final record of 19-7.

- Elmira Notre Dame lacrosse, which advanced to the Section 4 Class C final and ended up with a 9-8 record.

- Several individuals who won Section 5 track championships: Aquinas' Ryan Brennan, four events in Class BB; teammate Noel Bateman, two events; McQuaid's Dave DiVirgilio, Nick Arazoza and Mike Wodarski, one event each in Class A; and Our Lady of Mercy's Amanda Janicki, Erika Eberhart and 1,600-meter relay of Janicki, Dahlia Townsend, Shannon Caulfield and Clare Wellott, one event each in Class A. Bateman went on to place fifth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the Division I state meet, posting a time of 9 minutes, 49.67 seconds.

- McQuaid's J.P. Kircher, who tied for eighth place at the state golf championships June 6-7 by shooting rounds of 73 and 76 at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Ithaca. Also reaching state-tournament play were Aquinas' Nick Sortino for the boys, and AQ's Melissa Agostinelli and Our Lady of Mercy's Julie Labonowski for the girls.



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Chris Seeger, a junior at Rochester's McQuaid Jesuit High School, serves during his June 4 sectional final first singles match at Brighton High School. Seeger defeated Brighton's Alex Jorne 6-2, 6-1.

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