

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Allison Park, PA  
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### Aquinas Foil Open Strong



Aquinas Academy Boys and Girls Varsity Foil took to the strip for their first matchup this past Friday night at Fox Chapel High School. The Boys Varsity opened with a strong showing against Winchester Thruston with an 8-1 victory. Team Captain Sam Everson led an experienced squad who along with Senior Lettermen Will Hoerster, Steven Giacobbe and Sophomore Ben Everson comprised the starting four. They were dominant. During their individual bouts, out of a total of 47 touches scored “The Four” allowed their opponents only 12 touches and scoring 75% of the time. Other team members making their debut for Aquinas Fencing included Sophomores Evan Gounaris and Tony Shen and Freshmen Sam McGowan. The second Boys matchup of the night was against an aggressive Mt. Lebanon Squad with both depth and experience. Although Will Hoerster held steady with a 5-1 victory over his opponent during the first round the Boys dropped two bouts giving Mt. Lebanon an early lead. Adjusting their team tactics, Aquinas closed out Mt. Lebanon in the second round with Sam Everson concluding the match in the final round in a “Sudden Death” overtime bout to bring home a 5-2 victory.

The Aquinas Girls Fencing team faced a highly experienced and well coached North Allegheny team in their first match falling short 3-6. The Aquinas girls competed with a short roster of only 2 fencers. The Lady Crusaders were led by Girls Team Captain and letterman, Grace Burchill, with Freshman standout Nadine Hokaj making her debut. Fencing short against a full squad of North Allegheny Girls with a deep bench, Aquinas was required to automatically forfeit 3 bouts

in a 9-bout matchup. Nevertheless the team delivered some strong individual performances. Grace Burchill vanquished a far more experienced fencer in the second round and Nadine Hokaj in her first competitive match prevailed in two of her three bouts out touching her opponents with a wide margin. It was obvious that a third Aquinas Girl would have made a difference in the outcome.

In the next match Mt. Lebanon reported to the strip also fencing short with only two fencers. This set the stage for an even match and even ended in a 2-2 tie with both Burchill and Hokaj sharing the victories. In the first round of the match Mt. Lebanon took a two bout lead but in the subsequent rounds Grace Burchill blanked her opponent 5-0 while Nadine Hokaj finished with a 5-4 victory over Mt. Lebanon's lead fencer leaving the match in a tie.

This coming Friday both foil teams will trade touches with Peters Township and a highly competitive Shadyside Academy. Match time is 6:30 PM at Peters Township.

**Contact Information:**

John L. Carroll  
Head Fencing Coach  
Aquinas Academy Fencing