



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

(04.21.05)

Senior serves in St. Patrick's Day Queen's Court

The luck – and charm – of the Irish were with Regina Dominican senior Brigid Ronan in a very special way this year. At her first attempt, Brigid was chosen as a member of the Queen's Court for Chicago's 50th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Parade. This honor gave her the unique opportunity of appearing in Chicago's downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12 and the North Side Parade on March 13.

At 17, Brigid was the youngest member of the Court to serve with the Queen, Bridget McLaughlin, 27. Also serving on the Court were Kelly Green, Marie Heffernan and Ann Marie Murphy, all in their early- to mid-20s.

Brigid said she had always wanted to compete to be in the Queen's Court, but this is the first year that she met the age requirement of 17 to 28. During the try-outs held downtown in late February, about 100 contestants were judged on Irish looks and on personality. "They look for somebody who is personable with the crowds," Brigid explained.

She has had numerous opportunities to demonstrate her outgoing personality among crowds. In the weeks between try-outs and the Parade, the Queen and her Court attended several events to meet dignitaries such as Mayor Richard Daley and Senator Richard Durbin. Brigid recalled touring the mayor's office and seeing his Chicago memorabilia.

"The week (of the parades) was really exiting," Brigid said. The Queen and her Court stayed at the Hilton that weekend because of the many downtown events. Brigid had the opportunity to meet many people and to come to know the Queen and the other members of the Court. One of the highlights of the week for Brigid was attending a dinner with the Irish Fellowship Club, followed by a party at Navy Pier with the Young Irish Fellowship Club. She also recalled taking part in a special Mass celebrated by Cardinal Francis George; riding in a Mustang in the downtown parade; and walking with the Queen and other members of the Court during the South Side Parade.

Brigid will reign as a member of the Court for the remainder of the year. Although most of the official events ended with the parade, she will also be invited to a special White Sox game in September and to a dinner dance in December. Depending on where she attends college next year, she would like to try out again, and ultimately hopes to be named Queen.

Asked what advice she would give other girls considering trying out for the St. Patrick's Day Court, Brigid said, "Definitely go for it. It's a really fun experience" and gives participants the opportunity to meet many people.

In her years at Regina Dominican, Brigid has excelled academically and in extra-curricular involvement. A member of the National Honor Society, she has earned Highest Honors for maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 4.5 or above. In addition, Brigid was named a Commended Student in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Student Council representative, she chairs the Council's Spirit Committee. She has also been active in the Environmental Club, the Latin Club, the Poms Squad and the swim team.