Pennsylvania senior outruns them all

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Section 5 runner in the 15th annual McQuaid Invitational, which attracted more than 120 teams and 2,300 runners. He was sixth in the Class AAA race with a time of 15:18, well behind the meet record time of Randy Haas (14:52.1) of Blue Mountain, Pa. . . East Rochester's Scott Bagley (15:29.0) won the Class A race while Olympia's Rick Dean (15:28.8) won the Class AA division 2

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Record pace best among 2,300 in McQuaid meet

By GREG BOECK

D&C Sportswriter

They came from all over Section 5, and beyond, for this 15th McQuaid Invitational. In all, 120 schools from three states and Ontario, Canada sent 2,300 runners to compete in 16 races. Before the long day at Genesee Valley Park had ended, 857 T-shirts and medals and ribbons and trophies and plaques had been awarded.

. But there emerged only one runner who could call himself the fastest. An 18-year-old senior who drove 5½ hours to run less than 15 minutes won the prize everybody covered.

Niagara Falls had to wait yesterday, because Randy Haas wanted to make sure he had won what he had come for — the Steve Prefontaine Memorial Award as the fastest runner in a cross country carnival that they'll be talking about for a long time at Blue Mountain High School in Pennsylvania.

Haas, who drove here Friday night in the school van with his coach and six other teammates, became the meet's first, and only, runner to shatter 15 minutes in winning the varsity Class AA three-mile race. His record time of 14:52.1, almost 12 seconds better than the 15:03.3 mark Tom Hollis of Sperry set last year, was posted at 12:45 p.m., but it wasn't until after the Class AAA run had been completed some three hours later that he was assured the big prize.

Two other records were set. Section 5 teams from Dansville, Waterloo, York and Pittsford Sutherland were winners and so were Section 5 runners Rick Dean of Greece Olympia, Darby Webster of Corning East, Scott Bagley of East Rochester and Kari Clement of Spencerport. But the runner with the best time, the big plaque and the broadest smile was Haas.

"I came here thinking of breaking the record and

winning the plaque," he said. "I thought I had a shot."

After Haas won, the Blue Mountain team was finished for the day. Their coach had planned a trip to Niagara Falls before they headed home. But now they all wanted to stay to the meet's end.

Waiting for the Class AAA race, and then following its progress, may have been more torturing for Haas than running his own race.

"Coming from Pennsylvania, there's no meet like this one," he would say later. "This is something. It's almost bigger than our states."

He was right there at the finish line, looking over the shoulders of one of the timekeepers, as the Class AAA winner, Brian McIreney of Elmira Free Academy, ran the final 200 yards. He got McIreney's time — 15:09.8 — and then joined in a mini celebration with his coach and teammates. "This," he said, "is the highlight of my running career."

The other record-setters were Connie Rieglemann of Cicero High in the Class AA girls (12:30.7 for the 2.2 miles), and Pat Corcoran of Corcoran High in junior high Division 3 (7:41.6 for the 1.48 miles).

The fastest Section 5 runner was Peter Glavin of McQuaid in Class AAA (15:18.8), but he was sixth in the glamor event that Corcoran High won. But Section 5 wasn't shut out. Dansville (varsity Class B Division 1), Waterloo (junior high Division 1), York (varsity Class A) and Pittsford Sutherland (varsity Class AA Division 2) were team winners.

Individually, Bagley of ER won varsity Class A (15:29.0), Dean of Olympia won varsity Class AA Division 2 (15:28.8), Webster of Corning East won varsity Class B Division 2 (16:26.1) and Clement of Spencerport was girls junior high champion (9:22.7).

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