McQuaid captures cross country crown

Special to the D&C

MALONE — McQuaid captured the boys' Class A title yesterday in the New York State high school cross country championships at snow-covered Malone Golf Course.

McQuaid's state title was its first in 20 years under veteran Coach Bob Bradley. McQuaid totaled 96 points, to 97 for Hauppauge of Section 11, Clarkstown South of Section 9, Kingston of Section 1 and Syracuse Corcoran of Section 3. It was the closest five-school finish in state meet history.

Grant Whitney of Penfield, apparently finishing second to Steve Loretz of Corcoran in the boys' A race, was disqualified along with Loretz when both runners went off the course with one-half mile left.

Whitney and Loretz were about 75 yards in front of the nearest runners when they took the wrong route. They cut back to the correct course and crossed the finish line with Loretz leading.

Measurements by meet officials showed that the two runners ran a course 15 meters shorter than the 5,000-meter distance run by the rest of the runners.

Joe Hopkins of Walt Whitman, Section 11, was the winner in 18 minutes. Bob Reid of Uniondale, Section 8, was second followed by Jim Foley of Spencerport in third.

The next best finisher for Section 5 was Steve Branch of Irondequoit, who was eighth. Tom Warth led McQuaid finishers by coming in 17th. Teammate Mike Das was 34th.

Brockport, Section 5's representative in Class B team scoring, finished 10th out of 11 schools. Brockport amassed 211 points. East Aurora was first with 83 points and Franklin Academy of Malone was second with 89.

Section 5's top finisher in the boys' Class B race was Gary Redding of Dansville, who was 18th. Brockport's top finisher was Tim LeTouzel, who was 21st. Dave Bruinix of Victor was 36th and Ulrick Frandsen of Pittsford Suther-

land was 41st. Mike Collins of Rye was the winner in 17:54, the fastest time of the meet.

Irondequoit finished fifth in the girls' A race team scoring with 118 points. Mepham of Section 8 was first with 67. The best Section 5 finish was 10th by Julie Cancilla of Irondequoit.

Anita Kelly of Rush-Henrietta Sperry, third in last year's state meet and second as a sophomore, finished a disappointing 15th. Beth Burchill of Churchville-Chili was Section 5's third best finisher, crossing the finish line 22d.

Chris Curtin of Mepham, Section 8, was first in 20:25 and Ann Marie Begley of Valley Stream, Section 8, was second.

Lisa Hernandez of Newark finished second in the girls' Class B race. She finished the 5,000meter course in 21 minutes, 25 seconds, the fastest time for any girl from Section 5. The winner was Kathy Graim of Williamsville North, Section 6 in 21:18.

The meet was held despite below-freezing temperatures and steady snowfall.

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McQuaid Runners Earn Five All-star Honors 12/10/81

Five of McQuaid Jesuit High's cross-country men were named last week to the City-Catholic All-Star team, three of them for the third

straight season.

Seniors Mike Das, Tom Warth, and Paul Cloos and juniors Rennie Brimstein and Jean Pierre Lavallee were the five Knights honored, and Warth was singled out as the league's Runner of the Year, a distinction which last year went to Das. The McQuaid twosome have made the All-Stars in all three of their varsity years. For teammate Cloos it was the first such honor, while Brimstein was a third-time winner and Lavallee a repeater from last year.

Warth's outstanding credential was his 15:52.4 course record for the hilly 3.0-mile layout at Cobbs Hill, where all the league meets are run. The lanky Brighton resident had an outstanding year for the Knights, also claiming two firsts in invitational meets and leading his team to victory in the Section 5

championships.

Warth was also McQuaid's first finisher in the state meet at Malone, where the Knights were declared winners of the A race. Two days later they chose to relinquish that honor to a Corcoran High squad of Syracuse that had been denied the championship due to a disqualification of their lead runner.

In explaining the unusual move, which has attracted widespread attention, McQuaid coach Bob Bradley had this to say: "The only statement the team and I wanted to make by sending the championship plaque to

Corcoran was that we felt they deserved it for the great race they ran in such miserable conditions. As far as we're concerned, they beat us by 20 points and we finished second. We didn't consider ourselves the state champions, so we didn't want to keep the plaque.

"Obviously we wouldn't have felt that way if we thought the disqualification was justified. Technically it was, because the Corcoran man ran of course, but his error had no effect on the out come of the race and it would have been equally supportable to let the actual results stand. The meet director favored that course of action, but he was overruled. I realize that our move could be interpreted as a slap at the officials, but it was intended simply as a positive gesture to the Corcoran runners. They beat us fair and square.

We've received tons of praise for our sportsmanship, but I don't really think what we did was so unusual among runners. There's a lot of mutual respect because of the nature of the competition,, and if a runner beats you, it's very natural to acknowledge it. I recall just last Spring the Aquinas two-mile relay team passed their sectional patches on to the Kearney team whom they felt had been unjustly disqualified. That's the way runners are. And it's one reason why it's such a great sport to coach."

Next Tuesday all the Knight runners and their parents will celebrate the season at the annual awards dinners at the Green Lantern Inn in Fairport.

A gesture of sportsmanship

An unusual gesture of sportsmanship between rival high schools was recognized last night as the Syracuse Board of Education formally commended the cross-country team of McQuaid Jesuit High School of Rochester.

McQuaid and Syracuse's Corcoran High School battled for intersectional cross-country honors in Malone in November. McQuaid was declared the winner of the Class A event after a Corcoran runner was disqualified for getting lost on the course during a snow-storm.

The McQuaid team, recognizing that Corcoran would have won the event were it not for the disqualification, sent the winner's trophy to Corcoran.

The parents of the Corcoran runners, in turn, sent a sportsmanship trophy to McQuaid.

In a formal resolution, the board last night recognized "the example of true sportsmanship exhibited" by the McQuaid team.

Superintendent Lionel R. Meno said, "I'm impressed that McQuaid has a balance in its sports program — that they understand what sports is all about."

Members of the Corcoran team were on hand at last night's meeting to receive the board's formal congratulations on their fine season.