

McQuaid Captures Jesuit Championship

McQuaid's finest cross-country season ended on a winning note Nov. 17, and, appropriately, the victory came at New York City's Van Cortland Park where the Knights captured the Jesuit Schools Championship.

It was at the same site and over the same 2½-mile course a month earlier that they hit the low point of their season with a poor 11th-place showing in the Eastern States Championships.

"We thought it might work out for the best," recalled coach Bob Bradley, "and that's just what happened. It shook us up and helped us get sharp again." His Knights bounced back to win their next four races, capture their first state championship, and regain the spot they'd enjoyed as New York's top-ranked team.

The Jesuit meet win was McQuaid's eighth in the 22 years it's made the trek

downstate and the first since 1979. The Knights ran away from their seven Jesuit opponents by posting their best five-man average for the Van Cortland course since 1974, when they broke 13:20 for the only time. This year it was 13:22.6 and plenty good enough for a 22-81 winning margin over Georgetown Prep.

McQuaid also had its first individual champ at the Jesuits in a dozen years as senior Rob Smillie raced to a 12:59 victory by 35 yards over junior teammate Scott Paterson. Smillie's performance was second in McQuaid annals only to the 12:52 recorded by John Farrell in '74.

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Behind their two leaders, the Knights had a solid group of Chris Lyboldt (5), Dave Warth (6), George Schell (8), and Brian Mack (9). Senior Steve Rapp, a key man in the sectional and state wins, had an off day, finishing 20 seconds behind Mack in 13th place.

No sooner had their last victory gone

into the books than the honors began to come. The City-Catholic All-Star team showed five McQuaid names, led by senior Alex Ferris. Juniors Schell and Mack were next, followed by junior Mark Wiltberger and sophomore Matt Smith.

The Section 5 All-Star team, chosen from among all the teams in the section, contained three Knights, based on their races in the sectionals and states. Smillie, Lyboldt, and Paterson all made the select group and will receive awards from the Greater Rochester Track Club honoring that achievement.

McQuaid's undefeated freshman squad also had an impressive finale in New York, posting a 19-point score to repeat as Jesuit champs. Tim Hess and Chris Cusack took a 1-2 for Coach Gary Jones's second unbeaten group in four years. Marc Dovi, Mike Kraus, and John Schell completed the scoring group, and Mike Hanna, Shannon Costello, and Chris Adin all finished well up in the 40-runner field.