

McQuaid Runners Capture New Hartford Invitational

McQuaid Jesuit's cross-country Knights began their nine-week journey towards a state championship last Saturday near Utica with an impressive victory in the New Hartford Invitational.

The Knights took on a field of 10 Section 3 schools and put their five scorers across the line inside of 10 seconds to post a low score of 29 points, well ahead of runner-up Auburn's 102. It was the fourth time in five years that McQuaid has won at New Hartford.

Seniors Chris Lyboldt, Steve Rapp, and Rob Smillie paced the tight Black and Gold group, finishing third, fourth, and fifth. Junior Scott Paterson was four seconds back, in seventh place, and senior Dave Warth another two seconds back, in 10th. Also placing well were senior Alex Ferris in 14th and junior George Schell in 23rd.

McQuaid coach Bob Bradley, beginning his 23rd year with the Knights, was understandably pleased with his team's showing.

"Our seniors have been pointing towards this season ever since they went unbeaten as freshmen. They think they can go all the way, and so do I. We know that our toughest competition will probably come right in our own backyard, from Brighton, but that'll just make it all the more interesting.

Win or lose, I think it's going to be a special season."

The Knights made it a special one before they went into action, by dedicating the whole season to the memory of Roy Smith, a member of last year's squad, who died in a car accident seven weeks after graduation. "Roy epitomized the determination and

hard work that go into being a good distance runner," said Bradley. "He was what this sport is all about."

McQuaid's varsity-2 squad also debuted on Saturday and had a second-place finish in the Letchworth Park Invitational. Senior Tim Donahue took seventh in a field of 42 runners to lead his team to a 69-point score,

behind Canandaigua's winning 56. Sophomore Matt Smith was 11th; junior Mark Wiltberger, 15th; and seniors Mark Hickey and Tom Shields, 17th and 19th.

Five sophomores made their first competition at the 5k distance a winning one at Letchworth by sweeping the

JV race. Conor Cusack took individual honors, followed by Dave Schickler (2), Marc Lavallee (3), John Wilkin (4), and Jeff Stone (5).

This Saturday, the Knights will split their forces between the East Aurora and Newark Invitationals, and Coach Gary Jones' large junior high team will be in action for the first time.

McQuaid Runners Place Second at Brown Invitational

McQuaid Jesuit High's first cross-country venture into New England proved to be a modest success last Saturday as the Knights came away with a second-place finish in the championship division of the Brown University Invitational in Pawtucket, R.I.

The Knights totalled 71 points against Bishop Hendricken's 58, putting them well ahead of Massachusetts Powers Cambridge and Catholic Memorial and also St. Anthony's of Long Island, the ninth-ranked team in New York.

Rob Smillie led the way with a seventh-place finish in a fast 15:44 for the 5K course at Slater Park. "I think the course was a bit short," said coach Bob Bradley. "Our first five men all broke the school 5K record, which is remarkable even for a flat course like that. Next year we'll bring our measuring wheel and let Rob know if he has the record."

Behind Smillie came junior Scott Paterson in ninth, running 15:50 for his best race this season. Dave Warth was 13th in 15:57, Chris Lyboldt 16th in 16:02, and Brian Mack 26th in 16:12.

"We wanted to get into a good field of strange teams, because that's what they'll have to face in two weeks at the Easterns," said Bradley. "So we went

despite the fact that we had to leave our number three and number six runners home. It turned out to be a real good trip."

Seniors Steve Rapp and Alex Ferris, both of whom were down with colds, are expected to be ready this week when the Knights travel to the Fayetteville-Manlius Invitational, the only long-standing upstate Invitational they've never won.

Last Saturday the rest of McQuaid's squad competed at the annual Baldwinsville Invitational with results ranging from respectable to spectacular. Junior Mark Wiltberger was the first finisher for the Knights Varsity-2 team, placing 50th in a large field as his team took 18th of 28 schools. Sophomore Peter Huggins was first home in the JV race, where McQuaid placed 11th.

McQuaid's freshman squad continued to roll, sweeping the first five places of a large junior high field to record a 15-point shutout of 10 schools. Tim Hess claimed individual honors, followed by Chris Cusack, Mike Schmalzriedt, John Schell, and Marc Dovi. It marked the third straight invitational victory for the unbeaten Knights of coach Gary Jones.