

# McQuaid runners have mixed season start

Experience is coming in easy doses and hard ones, too, for McQuaid cross-country men this season. The Knights have alternated winning outings at the Spencerport and Harley-Allendale invitationals and in their City-Catholic League opener with rougher going in meets at Liverpool, Auburn, Baldwinsville, and Penfield.

The latter two came last weekend, when McQuaid's varsity-2 squad placed sixth of 12 schools at the Irondequoit-Penfield Invitational and its varsity-1 team took eighth of 17 teams at the 40th annual Baldwinsville meet.

"When we run our best, we're contenders," said Coach Bob Bradley, "but we're not experienced enough yet to be consistent."

Saturday's muddy race at Baldwinsville was a good example. Only senior Mark Spagnola was able to handle the fast early pace of the power-packed field, and he finished strong to place seventh among 150 runners.

McQuaid's other scorers grouped well for the first half-mile of the race, but the heavy going in the woods took its toll. Freshman Adam Reitz hung on well to take 26th, followed by sophomore Tim Kelley (38th), senior John Whittaker (42nd), and sophomore Matt Bunce (67th). Ithaca's 89 points topped Henninger's 106 and Greece Athena's 118. McQuaid, which had nipped Athena by a point at Spencerport, totaled 180.

A day earlier at Harris-Whalen Park, the Knights also had a tight-scoring rousp early in the race, only to spread out over the tough 5K course. Freshman Dan Lesser had a strong 14th place showing and senior Chris Nikodem placed 20th. Behind them

came senior Dan Gebhardt (29th), sophomore Dave Rimlinger (36th), and senior Paul Hammond (47th).

The Knights junior varsity squad fared better, placing second behind Greece Arcadia. Sophomore David Corsall ran with the leaders all the way, finally finishing third, and classmate Jesse Yeager had his best race so far to take eighth. Sophomores Brian Holmes (13th), Bill Lavin (24th), and Tom Brewer (25th) completed the total of 73, just two points ahead of Olympia's 75.

In junior high action, eighth-grader Nathan Schroeder led the gold shirts home in 11th place, followed by freshman Chris Curtin (19th), Jim Barnum (20th), Tim Reilly (33rd), and

eighth-grader Pat Bernal (35th). The Knights' 118 total placed them fourth.

Tuesday's league opener against Wilson gave McQuaid's younger runners a chance to shine, and Reitz scored his first varsity victory in a comfortable 18:40 over the new 5K layout at Cobbs Hill. Lesser, Bunce, junior Steve Parrish, and Nikodem completed the sweep.

In the JV race, Brewer had his first win, as did Schroeder in the modified race.

This week, the Knights will be busy hosting their own invitational at Genesee Valley Park 9:45 a.m. Saturday after a league outing against Aquinas on Tuesday.

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## Adam Reitz paces McQuaid runners

McQuaid runner Adam Reitz became the first freshman in the school's 18-year cross-country sectional history to win an individual patch last Saturday as he finished eighth to lead his team to third place in the Class A race at Newark.

It was Reitz's first crack at the tough 3.02-mile course, and he handled the challenge like a veteran. The race went out at an unusually slow pace, with the lead runners seeming to be wary of the unseasonable heat that had caused problems in earlier races.

Reitz was able to run close to the lead group, and when the field began to open up going into the second mile, he responded by staying close to McQuaid's leader, senior Mark Spagnola, who was running in the top 10.

In the final mile, Reitz moved past Spagnola and began to cut down Pittsford's Ben Ashfield, who was holding

the fifth and last individual qualifying spot for the state meet. His effort fell short by four seconds, and a fast-closing Spagnola was another second back in ninth place.

McQuaid coach Bob Bradley faulted himself for not letting his freshman know earlier that he was one spot away from a state meet berth. "Adam was thinking in terms of top 10 for the patch, and I don't think he realized what the situation was in the last half-mile; Mark did, being a senior, and when Adam passed him, I wasn't close enough to let him know he had a shot. Next year, we'll both know better."

Early in the race, senior John Whittaker and sophomore Tim Kelley also were in the thick of the crowded front group, but both ran out of gas as the Newark course took its toll. Whittaker wound up in 28th place, a considerable

improvement over last year's 64th. Kelley hung on for 23rd, just in back of McQuaid's other outstanding freshman, Dan Lesser, whose sectional debut placed him 22nd. The Knights' other first-time sectional men, sophomore Matt Bunce and junior Steve Parrish, placed 34th and 55th.

Team-wise, McQuaid scored 90 points to champion Fairport's 55 and Pittsford's 70. Running without its top man, Dan Cook, Greece Athena was fourth with 105 points.

"Our guys knew that five top races would have them up with the leaders. They didn't pull it off, but I liked the way they got in there and tried," said Bradley.

With no one in the state meet, the Knights will take a week off from competition before heading down to New York City for their traditional season's finale at the Jesuit Championships Nov. 17.