

McQuaid runners win at Clarence

McQuaid Jesuit's Varsity-1 cross-country men had their sharpest performance of the season last Saturday at the Clarence Fall Classic, where they posted a convincing victory over seven schools.

For possibly the first time in Coach Bob Bradley's 30 years, his Knights posted a score in the 20s — 27 to be exact — in a major invitational. "We've been in the 30s before, but I can't recall our guys ever packing the front of a race against good competi-

tion the way they did today."

It was two sophomores, Adam Reitz and Dan Lesser, leading the pack in third and fourth. Reitz's 16:23 is the fastest McQuaid time in the four years the Knights have run the scenic 5K Akron Falls course. Then came three juniors — Tim Kelley (5), Eric Garsin (6), and Matt Bunce (9) — wiping out the advantage Greece Athena had taken with its outstanding duo of Dan Cook (1) and Greg Shuster (2).

"We were looking to break Athena

just ahead of its third man, and our front five did that just about perfectly. Matt Bunce had an outstanding move from behind three Athena men at the mile mark to a 100-yard margin over them at the finish," said Bradley.

McQuaid's other three teams performed well. Top showing was the junior high squad's near-victory over Penfield in a large race. Paced by Sean Finucane in third, the young Knights grouped well with Jeff Clark (7), Pat

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Bernal (10), and Rob Pacer (12). Mark Ballard moved up well to finish the group in 31st place, making the final score Penfield 62, McQuaid 63. Another strong Section 5 unit, Victor, was third with 86.

Sophomore Shawn Watts (30) and junior Rob Bradley (32) led the Knights' Varsity-2 squad to an eighth place finish in the 15-team Varsity Class B race won by Grand Island. Behind them came senior Steve Parrish (44), Tom Brewer (46), Dave Rimlinger (48), and Bobby Taylor (49).

McQuaid's JV squad placed fifth in

its race, led by sophomore Ian Sohn in 10th. The group was completed by Tim Reilly (22), Chris Curtin (28), Peter Lakatos (34), and Brian Kublak (48).

Last Tuesday, Parrish continued his comeback from an early-season injury by winning the City-Catholic meet against Franklin-Marshall at Genesee Valley Park. Completing the scoring sweep were Dave Rimlinger, Corsall, Lakatos, and Curtin.

This weekend the Knights will send a two-van contingent to Binghamton for their annual sectional warm-up in the Greenman Invitational at a hilly Ely Park course. Defending champion Ithaca will be the challenge at varsity and JV levels, and the junior high squad will contend against strong teams from Binghamton and Vestal.

MCQUAID'S TIGHT PACK
WINS 3RD INVITATIONAL

McQuaid Jesuit's cross-country Knights posted their third invitational victory of the season on Saturday at Baldwinsville where they bested a field of 21 schools in the 41st annual meet.

The McQuaid group, which has been a major factor in the Knights' success this year, held together well despite some misadventures over the winding 3-mile trail course. From lead man Adam Reitz in 8th place back to fifth man Dan Lesser in 30th, there was only a 27-second spread. Tim Kelley (11) was right behind Reitz, Eric Garsin was the middle man in 17th, and Matt Bunce came through with a strong fourth-man race in 27th.

That grouping was good enough for 93 points to beat strong challenges by Liverpool (113) and Ithaca (118), with strong teams like Oswego, Cicero-North Syracuse, and St. Joseph's of Buffalo another 50 points back.

"It was a large field, and there was plenty of quality up front," said coach Bob Bradley after the meet. "I knew we'd have to work to keep the group tight, and Matt Bunce's race was just what we needed." Bunce improved his last year's time by 58 seconds to offset a fall that had Lesser running farther back than usual.

The B'ville win was McQuaid's first there since 1985, the last time that the Knights won the Section Five title.

Earlier in the meet a fast-improving junior high team came up with its best race so far to take fifth place among 21 schools. Sean Finucane worked his way nicely through the pack and wound up placing 6th out of 165 runners. Then came Pat Bernal in 25th, Rob Pacer in 33rd, Jeff Clark in 39th, and Jeff Kuhn in 47th. The 1.8 mile course was the longest the young Knights have tackled this season, and Bradley was especially encouraged that their scoring group was able to finish in the top 50 of the field.

McQuaid's second junior high team also performed well at Friday's Dansville-Wayland Invitational at Stony Brook Park, led by Mike Perrotta in 10th and Dan Deckman in 11th. Jason Laiosa (18), David Laux (19), and Andy Campbell (21) completed their 32-second scoring group.

The Knights Varsity-2 squad was able to put only sophomore Shawn Watts in the top part of its race at Stony Brook in a crowded 18-team field. Watts finished strong over the scenic 2.9-mile layout to take 7th. The McQuaid pack was too far back to place the Knights better than 4th in the field. Juniors Tom Brewer (23), Bobby Taylor (29), and David Corsall (33) and soph Ian Sohn (39) completed the scoring.

The Varsity-2 squad swept Aquinas earlier in the week, winning a 15-40 City-Catholic meet at Genesee Valley Park. Junior Jesse Yeager led the way, nipping classmate Rob Bradley in the final forty yards over the well-worn Invitational layout. Corsall, Watts, and Taylor completed the sweep.

McQuaid's jr. high team had a much tougher time with Aquinas, using its group to take a tight 27-31 win. Finucane (2), Bernal (4), Clark (6), Pacer (7), and Mark Ballard (8) did the scoring, with Anthony Riley and Jeff Kuhn helping out by adding points to the Little Irish's fourth and fifth finishers.

Ithaca nips

McQuaid

in final mile

Before the season began, Ithaca High's cross-country team was widely expected to be the state's public school power. McQuaid's Knights, who had earlier beaten the Section 4 leader twice, found out why, last Saturday, when the Chiefs took them, 44-63, on the scenic hills of the IBM Golf course in Union-Endicott's Stock-Conwicke Invitational.

"Coaches have been wondering when Ithaca was going to pop a good one, and today was the day," said Knights' Coach Bob Bradley, after watching his squad be overtaken in the last mile of the race.

Despite the loss, Bradley found a lot of encouragement in his team's performance. The Knights ran Ithaca's front power even, as sophomore Adam Reitz scored his first invitational victory and junior Tim Kelley placed fourth in the 115-man field.

Ithaca took second, third, fourth, and seventh before sophomore Dan Lesser came in ninth for McQuaid, leaving the two teams separated by only two points. That's where the Chiefs established their edge, taking 14th and 18th while the Knights had juniors Matt Bunce and Eric Garsin in 17th and 32nd.

"Eric wasn't feeling well and it really got to him after two miles," said Bradley. "Normally, he'll be right up there with Dan, and we'll have our tight group."

The Knights will have another crack at Ithaca in the Greenman Invitational on Oct. 26.

McQuaid varsity-2 team notched two victories two weeks ago, beating Bishop Kearney, 16-46, at Cobbs Hill on Tuesday and edging Ithaca, 48-54, for first place among nine junior varsity teams at the U-E meet.

Juniors Rob Bradley (2), Tom Brewer (6), Bobby Taylor (9), and Dave Corsall (10) provided the front strength against Ithaca, and sophomore Tim Reilly hung on to finish 21st and clinch the win. Against Kearney, the scorers were Brewer, Ian Sohn, Corsall, and Taylor in the top four and Peter Lakatos in sixth.

The Knights' J.V. and junior high teams also had winning outings on Saturday, Oct. 12, in a rainy inaugural for the Seneca Invitational at Rochester's Seneca Park. Senior Steve Parrish and junior Dave Rimlinger, both returning from injuries, placed second and fourth, while sophomores Chris Curtin (6), Jim Barnum (8), and Brian Kubiak (11) completed the group for a 14-point edge over Greece Arcadia.

Freshman Sean Finucane, after three second-place finishes, notched his first junior high victory despite two off-course turns. Behind him came Pat Bernal (4), eighth-grader Jeff Clark (6), Anthony Riley (8), and Steve McDermott (10), for a winning 29-point score.

McQuaid runners win Section 5 title

Fifth and sixth men on cross-country teams are valued by their teammates and coaches but rarely get more than a passing mention in the story of any race. That was hardly the case, though, for McQuaid Jesuit juniors Matt Bunce and Jesse Yeager last Saturday at Newark when they provided the key performances in the Knights' Section 5 championship.

The top three team scores told just how close the Class A battle was: McQuaid 47; Greece Athena 53, Fairport 60. Bunce and Yeager had a lot to do with the Knights achieving their winning score.

Bunce, usually the clincher at the end of McQuaid's tight 5-man group, picked the perfect time for his best race of the year, taking 83 seconds off his previous year's time at Newark and moving all the way up to seventh place in the race as McQuaid's third man.

His presence in the top 10 gave the Knights an unexpected bonus up front, but it was Yeager who saved them from disaster further back in the race. McQuaid became vulnerable with a mile to go when its usual fourth man, junior

Eric Garsin, ran into oxygen debt on the course's killer hill and finally dropped out with more than 1,000 yards left in the race.

Yeager, running about 30th at the time, found himself in a clutch situation for the first time this year, and the chunky junior responded with a strong run down the final ridge line that got him into the low 20s. He passed another two men with his closing sprint and wound up 21st, good enough to give his team a 6-point edge over Athena.

Almost overshadowed by those twin heroics was the outstanding work up front by sophomores Adam Reitz (4), Dan Lesser (6), and junior Tim Kelley (9), all three finishing in the top 10 of a large field for the fourth straight weekend. Reitz overhauled Pittsford's Ben Ashfield in the final half mile and ran 16:48, breaking the school record of 16:54 set by Chris Cusack four years ago. Lesser's 17:08 and Kelley's 17:21, along with Bunce's 17:17, put all four well up on McQuaid's all-time list for the tough Newark course.

Knights' coach Bob Bradley, after watching Yeager's stretch run pull out the victory, was quietly elated at his young team's accomplishment. "They were able to handle the pressure of being the favorites, which none of them have ever experienced before at the Sectionals. They were smart and gutsy when they had to be, and I'm really proud of them."

Favored though they were, the Knights had to survive the best team groupings of the season by a veteran Athena squad and a young Fairport team. Three men from those teams — Dan Cook, Greg Shuster, and Teague Ruder — along with Pittsford's fifth-place Ashfield and individual champion Matt Wilkens, will join forces with McQuaid to give Section 5 a very strong Class A contingent for this Saturday's 10 a.m. state championship race at Elma Meadows Golf Course, south of Buffalo.

McQuaid will enter the race as co-favorite with last year's runner-up, Ithaca, of Section 4, Section 3 champion Liverpool, and Section 11's defending state champion Longwood.

McQuaid Jesuit's varsity runners packed their five scorers into the top ten to post an impressive season-ending victory in the 47th annual Jesuit championships at New York City's Van Cortland Park last Saturday.

Sophomores Adam Reitz and Dan Lesser led the Knights for the fifth straight meet by placing second and third in the 57-runner field.

Reitz made a strong bid to become the meet's first soph champion since McQuaid's Eric Kendrick accomplished that feat in 1963. Reitz took the lead with a mile to go but was overhauled in the final 50 yards by Gavin McCarty of Loyola Baltimore. His time of 13:26 for the hilly 2.5 miles was McQuaid's fastest by a soph in the 29 years the Knights have been competing in the Jesuit meet. Kendrick won in '63 with a 13:54.

Lesser posted a 13:45 for third, and juniors Tim Kelley (5th, 13:50), Eric Garsin (7th, 14:08), and Matt Bunce (9th, 14:12) completed the scoring. McQuaid had good back-up from junior Jesse Yeager (13th, 14:22) and senior Steve Parrish (18th, 14:39). The team total of 26 gave the Knights a substantial margin over Loyola (53) and St. Joseph's, Philadelphia (60) in the 8-school field.

"It's always nice to wrap up the season by winning the Jesuits," said coach Bob Bradley. "Our guys find Van Cortland a real change of pace with all those trails and hills. It's a fun course when it's not too crowded."

It was the twelfth time, most of any Jesuit school, that McQuaid has taken home the winner's trophy. This year's victory had special meaning, for the team dedicated its race as a memorial to former Knight runner Captain Thomas Driscoll, USMC, Class of '83, who died in Spain on a training mission the previous Monday.

McQuaid's junior high runners had their best scoring group of the season as they finished third to Loyola and St. Joseph's in the freshman race. Sean Finucane (5) clocked 9:32 for the mostly flat 1.65-mile course, and fifth man Pat Bernal (24) finished in 9:55. In between came Rob Pacer (12th, 9:41), Jeff Clark (15th, 9:42), and Mark Ballard (16th, 9:43).

The junior varsity race was non-scoring, but juniors Rob Bradley and Dave Corsall ran well up in the 50-runner field, placing second and fourth.

The Knights' Jesuit meet performances capped a season that also saw them take five invitational titles and their eighth Section V championship and finish third in the state Class A competition. Of the 37-runner squad, only Parrish graduates, leaving coaches Bradley, Glavin, and Warth with a happy manpower problem for 1992.

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