

# McQuaid runners top Ithaca

The long uphill at Binghamton's Ely Park golf course proved to be the decisive part of the race Saturday as McQuaid Jesuit's cross-country Knights came from behind to defeat Ithaca and 15 other teams in the annual Greenman Invitational.

The Knights trailed not only state-ranked (fourth) Ithaca but also ranked teams from Corning and St. Joseph's, Buffalo, as the tough Ely course wound its way downhill to the mile-and-a-quarter mark. It was there that sophomore Adam Reitz began his move to

the front that saw him run away from the top of the unhill and overhaul Binghamton's Chris McLain and Paul Lancaster of St. Joe's to take individual honors.

Junior Tim Kelley used the hill to move into the top 10 and eventually placed ninth. Sophomore Dan Lesser and junior Eric Garsin were the key men, though, coming from back in the 30s to finish fifth and 12th. Junior Matt Bunce clinched the victory by hanging in there through a sub-par day and finishing 32nd. Junior Jesse Yeager

was a close backup in 37th.

Reitz's winning time of 15:50 puts him in the company of just a handful of McQuaid runners in 13 years who have broken 16 minutes for the demanding 2.87 miles at Ely.

McQuaid's winning score was 59, ahead of the 81 for St. Joseph's, 93 for Corning, and 104 for Ithaca. "Usually it's Ithaca who shows best on the hills, and they had four guys out there early. But they surprised me by falling back on the uphill. I thought our runners did a super job to pull it out like that," said McQuaid coach Bob Bradley.

McQuaid's varsity-2 squad anticipated another tight battle against Ithaca's second unit in the JV race but came away with a convincing 31-56 victory. The scorers were sophomore Shawn Watts in second, senior Steve Parrish in third, and juniors Rob Bradley, Tom Brewer, and Bobby Taylor in fifth, seventh, and 14th. Ian Sohn's 20th paced the Knights' JV team to eighth in the same race.

The Knights' junior high squad made its first overnight trip of the season and ran well to place third in their race of 11 schools. Sean Finucane came on strong in the late stages to place eighth, Rob Pacer took 16th, Pat Bernal 21st, Mark Ballard 26th, and Jeff Clark 31st. Their total of 102 points trailed Binghamton's 59 and Vestal's 80.

In City-Catholic action last week, McQuaid's varsity-2 team met unbeaten East and posted a 22-38 win to extend a league victory skein that goes all the way back to October of 1971. Their winning combination of 1-3-5-6-7 came from Yeager, Watts, Parrish, Bradley, and Brewer.

This week the Knights will go after their eighth Section 5 title, but their first since 1985 when they take on county powers Greece Athena, Pittsford, and defending champion Fairport in a 3:30 p.m. race at Newark's Ultra-Tech Park.

"As tough as the two-hill courses are that we've run on in Section 4, the Newark course is still the toughest of all," said Bradley. "We're expecting a real bear of a race."