

McQuaid runners finish 3rd in state meet

McQuaid Jesuit's runners' hopes for a state championship in cross country will have to wait until next season. The Knights, taking their first crack at the title since 1985, fell one man and 35 points short last Saturday and wound up third in the 10-team competition.

One of the pre-meet favorites in the Class A race over scenic 5K Elma Meadows layout south of Buffalo, McQuaid got excellent races from sophomores Adam Reitz (13) and Dan Lesser (29) and junior Tim Kelley (31) and a strong fifth-man job from junior Matt Bunce (64) in the 115-runner field.

The normal fourth man in the Knights' winning lineup, junior Eric Garsin, ran while still recovering from a heavy cold and finished far back in the field, leaving Jesse Yeager to give the team its fifth score in 99th place.

McQuaid's total of 107 trailed Liverpool's 75 and North Rockland's 89 but placed it ahead of Section 6 champion Lockport (114), Section 11's Longwood (126), and Section 4's Ithaca (154), among others.

"Eric gave it his best shot, but he just wasn't physically ready," said

Coach Bob Bradley. "He's been that extra talent we needed to really click this year, and it's too bad he wasn't healthy for the big one. In cross country, that's half the battle, getting through a whole season without sickness or injury."

All of the Knight scorers will be back next year to shoot for another trip to states, which will be at Sunken Meadow State Park on Long Island.

The McQuaid team was part of one winning squad at states, however, for Section 5's A runners came away with a convincing victory over the other sections. Pittsford's Matt Wilkens and Greece Athena's Dan Cook and Greg Shuster combined for a 1-2-3, aided by a disqualification call against a Longwood runner for elbowing Shuster near the finish. Pittsford's Ben Ashfield in ninth and Fairport's Teague Ruder in 18th were the other individuals who combined with McQuaid's top four for a winning total of 169.

Looking at the results, Bradley noted that Reitz's 13th-place showing made him McQuaid's first sophomore to win a top-20 medal.

"With 45 of the top A runners in the state plus all the sectional team champions in one race, it's awfully hard to medal on your first try," said Bradley, "but Adam made it look easy." The Knights' other soph, Lesser, was close to the same distinction for much of the race but fell back to 29th when a whole string of runners came past in the final 400 meters. Kelley was one of the kickers and just missed catching his teammate, finishing two spots behind.

This Friday, the Knights will pass up the state federation meet at Wappingers Falls and make their annual trip to New York City for the Jesuit School Championships at Van Cortlandt Park.

"Our third at states entitled us to go to the federation meet, but with Garsin still a question mark, I think that the Jesuits is a better finale for us," said Bradley. "We'll have our hands full with Georgetown Prep, Gonzaga, and Loyola of Baltimore. It would be great to finish up with a win."

Adam Reitz heads McQuaid all-star selections

McQuaid sophomore Adam Reitz heads a group of 10 McQuaid Jesuit cross-country men who have received all-star honors for their past season.

Reitz was named one of the seven Section 5 all-stars on the basis of his races at the sectionals, where he finished fourth, and the states, where he was 13th. He is the only non-senior of this year's all-star team and the first McQuaid sophomore to earn the Section 5 plaque.

"When you figure that there are almost 400 varsity runners in Section 5, to be one of the top seven is quite an achievement," said Knights coach Bob Bradley, "especially in a year where our section did so well at states."

Reitz, in addition to his Section 5 recognition, also notched invitational victories at the Stock-Conwicke and Greenman meets in Section 4 in October and was runner-up at the Auburn and Jesuit meets.

Two of his teammates earned second-team Section 5 honors, based solely on their sectional races. Sophomore Dan Lesser and junior Matt Bunce, whose sixth- and seventh-place finishes were vital to McQuaid's team championship, gave McQuaid three men in the top 14 of the sectional list for the first time since the state championship team of 1984.

Just missing that select group was

junior Tim Kelley, ninth in the sectionals, who was edged out by some of the top finishers in the Class B and C races.

Seven more McQuaid runners won City-Catholic all-star patches for their league performances. Senior captain Steve Parrish and junior Jesse Yeager, both members of the Knights' sectional team, head the list. After them came juniors Rob Bradley, Tom Brewer, David Corsall, and Bobby Taylor and sophomore Shawn Watts, all members of the Varsity 2 team that handled the bulk of the league competition.

For-Parrish, last year's City-Catholic champion and this year's runner-up, the award culminated a season that saw him sidelined for a month with an ankle injury. He returned to action in time to qualify as McQuaid's seventh man for the sectionals.

"Steve was on crutches in September," said Bradley, "and I rated him a long shot to have much of a season. But he had his sights set on that sectional spot, and he worked real hard to pull it off."

Brewer and Taylor will turn to basketball and hockey for the Winter season, but the other eight Knights will make up the middle-distance and distance nucleus of McQuaid's indoor track and field squad.