

McQuaid runners capture state team championship

The "New Wave" that started in McQuaid cross-country three seasons ago continued towards its crest last Saturday on Long Island where the Knights battled to the State Class A championship at Sunken Meadow State Park.

"It was a very tough race," said coach Bob Bradley of his runners' scramble for their winning 74 points in a field of nine sectional champions from around the state. With the top five individuals from each section included, there were 108 runners vying for honors on the challenging trails of Sunken Meadow's 5k course.

Though the Knights came away with

the team title, Section 5's bid for sectional honors fell short. Fairport's Teague Ruder and Pittsford's Chris Wilkens, expected to be mainstays of the 10-man sectional score, both met misfortune. Ruder dropped out with stomach trouble and Wilkens limped home on guts with an injured hip to finish 93rd.

Section 5 placed fourth in the "A" race, behind winning Section 8. In team scoring, Suffern from Section 1 was runner-up to McQuaid with 100 points and Section 8's Mepham was third with 111.

McQuaid didn't crack the top 10 of
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McQuaid places 5th in state federation meet

"We didn't get out" is a lament that has summed up many a cross-country race, and it served all too well last Saturday to describe McQuaid Jesuit's final race of an outstanding season.

The Knights were one of the favorites in the New York State Federation Championships field of 25 teams and 60 individuals at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls. Primed for their best effort of the season, they knew they had to be well up in the race to contend with Catholic league powers St. Anthony's and Bishop Ford and PSAL champ Tottenville.

"We felt if we had our front four in the top 40 at the bridge, we'd be fine," said Coach Bob Bradley. Instead, with team leader Adam Reitz taking a spill about 300 meters into the race, the Knights found themselves well back after the opening sprint to a bridge

funnel at the quarter-mile mar, and never really were a threat in the race.

"It was like fumbling the opening kickoff and having the other team run it in," said Bradley. The other team in this case was St. Anthony's of Long Island, the defending champions, who won the race easily with 99 points. Bishop Ford was runner-up with 155, and Suffern (173), Tottenville (173), and McQuaid (177) wound up in a virtual tie for third. "The race was so crowded our guys wore themselves out trying to move up. They did well to finish where they did."

Senior Eric Garsin (31) was McQuaid's first finisher, followed by juniors Dan Lesser (40) and Reitz (52) and seniors Tim Kelley (58) and Matt Bunce (124).

When individuals were pulled out for team scoring, their places were 15-

20-30-35-77. It was the Knights' first run at Bowdoin, a course that they liked with the exception of that critical early narrowing.

Ninety miles to the south, at Van Cortland Park in New York City, McQuaid had 14 runners in action at the Jesuit Championships. Junior Ian Sohn produced the Knights' best race over the 2.5 mile course, placing 20th in the varsity race in 14:52.

Sophomore Pat Bernal finished seventh in 15:35 to lead the four-man JV contingent. Jeff Clark came from far back to take second in the freshmen race as the Knights only team score placed them third behind Regis and Fordham Prep.

This Saturday, Kelley, Reitz, and Lesser will compete in the Kinney Northeast Regional qualifier at Van Cortland.