

# Depth spurs McQuaid to state crown

By Mike Latona  
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Attaining a No. 1 is a nice accomplishment. Justifying that position, however, can be a much greater task — especially in a sport such as cross country, where an illness, injury, stumble or wrong turn can add several unwanted points to a team's total.

So it was no small achievement when the top-ranked McQuaid Jesuit runners utilized their vaunted depth to capture the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A boys' championship last Saturday, Nov. 14. The state meet was held at Sunken Meadow State Park on a sunny, 45-degree afternoon.

This victory was achieved even though none of the Knights finished among the race's top 10 overall.

"That's unusual for us. But our top four runners did a terrific job," said Coach Bob Bradley.

McQuaid's highest finisher was senior Tim Kelley, who took 15th place over the five-kilometer course with a time of 16 minutes, 47 seconds.

Finishing close behind Kelley were junior Adam Reitz, 17th in 16:48; senior Eric Garsin, 22nd in 16:54; and junior Dan Lesser, 30th in 17:01. Completing the Knights' scoring was senior Matt Bunce, who took 74th place in 17:41.

However, these numbers were lowered significantly when team scor-



Members of McQuaid Jesuit's varsity cross-country team take off during the McQuaid Invitational, held Oct. 3 at Genesee Valley Park. The Knights won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A Championship at Long Island's Sunken Meadow State Park Nov. 14.

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ing was tabulated. Although the meet was run as a combination of both team and individual qualifiers from various sections around the state, team results do not take individual participants' placement into consideration.

Under team scoring, Kelley finished in sixth place; Reitz, seventh; Garsin, ninth; Lesser, 13th; and Bunce, 39th.

The quintet gave McQuaid a total of 74 points. Out of nine other sectional champions, the next closest squad was Suffern (Section 1) with 100 points.

The win marked McQuaid's second state cross-country title in school history; the other one came in 1984. The Knights had placed third in the states

last year, and arrived at Sunken Meadow as a heavy favorite after setting a meet record for low-point total (20) in winning the Section 5 Class A championship one week earlier.

Also representing Catholic high schools in the diocese at the state meet was Geneva DeSales sophomore Stephanie Nearpass, who took 17th place in the girls' Class C competition with a time of 20:17.

Nearpass had gained eligibility into the states by placing second in the Section 5 Class C race on Nov. 7.

McQuaid will now compete for a state crown of another type when it takes part in the Federation Meet,

which will held this Saturday, Nov. 21, at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls, located near Poughkeepsie.

Bradley feels that the upcoming competition will be his club's most challenging to date. He pointed out that the Federation Meet includes all sectional classifications — as well as several New York City-area public and private schools that did not run in the NYSPHSAA meet.

"(The NYSPHSAA) was a tough race, and this next one will be even tougher," Bradley remarked. "We were pleased with our five-man time (at Sunken Meadow), but this week we'll have to do even better."