

SCHOLASTIC CROSS COUNTRY

Perrotta, Deckman highlight McQuaid cross-country awards

McQuaid seniors Mike Perrotta and Dan Deckman were co-winners of the cross country team's premier award, the Vince Lombardi Memorial, as the Knight runners wrapped up their season with an awards banquet at the school recently.

Both winners were cited by McQuaid coach Bob Bradley for the consistent effort and steady improvement that marked their performances from junior high level up through varsity. The Lombardi award, voted on by runners and coaches, goes to the team member who is most exemplary in devotion to his faith, his team, and his sport.

"We've had only three co-winners in 25 years," Bradley said, "but it was certainly in order for Mike and Dan."

Junior Kieran Chaudhry won the next most prized award, the Royden Smith Memorial, as McQuaid's most improved runner. Chaudhry progressed from the rear of McQuaid's Varsity 2 team a year ago to become a consistent fourth scorer on this year's Varsity 1.

"Kieran was one of our seven 500-milers this Summer," Bradley said, "and it really made a difference."

Another junior, Jeff Clark, who logged more than 700 miles in the Summer, took home three awards: The Bob Bossert Memorial as the top Catholic schools finisher in the sectionals, the Best Index Award, for having the lowest set of race scores, and the Junior Year Student-Athlete trophy.

"Jeff was sick for his last four races of the season," Bradley said, "but he still managed to lead the team in three of them. It's not easy to compete when you know you're not a hundred per cent, but Jeff wanted to, and he gave it everything he had."

Clark was also named as a tri-captain for next season, along with juniors Steve Shaw and Andy Robertson.

Shaw, who lettered in his first season of cross country, was the winner of the Best New Runner plaque as

well.

Other student-athlete winners were senior Rob Pacer, sophomore David Sohn, freshman Matt Davin, and seventh-grader Jim Brasser. Senior Pat Bernal was named to receive a new award, based on his 95.5 three-year cumulative average, ranking him third in McQuaid's senior class of 140.

"Our cross country men are usually excellent students and this year we had 38 out of 47 on the honor roll," Bradley said.

Winners of other special awards were: David Sohn as Most Improved Sophomore, freshman Rob Whitcomb and Most Improved Junior High Runner, freshman Sanjay Narayan as Most Improved During Season; and freshman Shane Woityra as Outstanding Junior High Runner.

The Latter Award is a memorial in honor of Jeremy Abbott, class of '66, who died in 1990. Abbott was McQuaid's leading junior high runner in 1962, the year that Bradley began coaching there. Woityra led coach Bill Dodd's young Knights in five of his eight races this season.

The final set of awards were City-Catholic League all-star patches to eight of the Knights who finished a 23rd straight year without defeat in the league. Patch winners were Pacer, Bernal, Shaw, Sohn, juniors Brian Beecher, Brendan Hogan, and Tim Liebert, and sophomore John Sullivan.

McQuaid's parents also came in for a share of the awards. Seven of them whose last current runner will be graduating received McQuaid paperweights. They were Bernie Deckman, Terri Schmitt, Paul and Marie Nasipak, Paul and Becky Lachapelle, Peter and Nancy Chesterton, Pat and Suzie Bernal, and Bob and Noelle Pacer.

McQuaid president the Rev. James Fischer, Principal Frank Kamp, and assistant coaches Tony Trama and Bill Dodd assisted Bradley with the awards before a gathering of 130 people in the McQuaid cafeteria.

YOUTH SWIMMING