

SCHOLASTIC CROSS COUNTRY

McQuaid places 3rd

McQuaid and Penfield, two of the leading contenders for class A sectional honors, met for the second time this season at scenic Akron Falls Park in the Clarence Invitational on Saturday, and this time the Chiefs bested the Knights, 63-76.

Both teams finished behind Section 4 power Corning (53), just as they did three weeks ago in the McQuaid Invitational, where McQuaid had 154 points, and Penfield had 163, behind Corning's 128.

"Take out Corning and put in Fairport and Canandaigua and you'll have a pretty good idea of what a scramble the sectionals are going to be," said McQuaid coach Bob Bradley after watching the three-team battle at Clarence.

"Our group was tighter this time, but so was Penfield's and their front strength was better, too. We're going to need our best race to beat them," Bradley said.

McQuaid was led as usual by junior Jeff Clark in seventh place of the 100-runner field, but Penfield topped that with Tim Reetz in fifth. Junior Andy Robertson had a strong race for the Knights, finishing 11th, Mike Perrotta and Kieran Chaudhry were 17th and 18th, and Dan Deckman was 23rd. The Knights' scoring group came across in 53 seconds, their best showing so far on a 5K course.

The Knights' varsity 2 team ran in the second of three varsity races at Clarence and placed seventh of 19 schools. Senior Pat Bernal finished

strong to lead the team in 25th place. Close behind were sophomore David Sohn (33) and junior Brian Beecher (35). Junior Tim Liebert and Kevin Chesterton completed the scoring. The JV unit was also seventh, led by Joe Wiltberger (39) and Dave Whitcomb (46).

An early highlight at Clarence was the tight two-team battle between McQuaid's junior high runners and St. Joseph's of Buffalo. Despite a 70-point loss to a dominant St. Joe's team at the McQuaid Invitational, the Knights went out aggressively and barely missed an upset, losing 32-35. Freshman Shane Woityra and Sanjay Narayan posted a 1-2 finish, just ahead of three St. Joe's runners. Then Collin Haire (9), Matt Davin (11), and Kevin Freytag (12) combined to produce the team's tightest scoring group of the season.

Last Tuesday, McQuaid remained unbeaten in City-Catholic league action with a sweep of Edison-Wilson. Sophomore John Sullivan took individual honors, followed by junior Steve Shaw, Sohn, Bernal, and Beecher.

This weekend, the Knights make their annual overnight excursion to Binghamton where they'll be hosted by Binghamton High School families prior to Saturday's Greenman Invitational. Three days later the City-Catholic Invitational at Cobbs Hill wraps up the season for most of McQuaid's men.