

1994 McQuaid Cross-Country

The 37-year history of McQuaid varsity cross-country has been forged by over 525 runners and just two coaches-Terry Foley, who began the program in 1957, and Bob Bradley, who took over when Foley moved to Penfield High in 1962.

Since their first major win at the '59 Watertown Invitational, the Knights have won some kind of championship every single year, including over 100 invitational titles, thirteen Jesuit schools championships, seven diocesan crowns, twenty-two straight City-Catholic titles, ten Section V championships, and two state championships. McQuaid has not lost a dual meet since 1971, giving it the longest high school winning streak in the nation.

Though team balance and depth have been the key factors in McQuaid's success, the Knights have had their share of individual standouts, beginning with Bob Wilson and Dave McBride in Coach Foley's time. Coach Bradley's first champion was Mike Connor in 1962, followed by Eric Kendrick in 1963-5. Chris Horton, still the Section V record holder in the mile, was a standout in the 1970s, as were Sean McGinnis, Jack Reiser, John Farrell, Tim Lawrence and Peter Glavin. A string of sectional wins in the 80's was sparked by the talents of Paul Dodd, Tom Warth, Mike Das, Chris Lyboldt, Rob Smillie, Chris Cusak and Scott Paterson, who in '85 was the first McQuaid runner to win a Sectional crown.

In 1989, Smillie returned to McQuaid as junior high coach for one year and launched the "New Wave" which swept the Knights to sectional titles in '91, '92 and '93 and a state win in '92. Last year's victory ended the era of 4-year standouts Dan Lesser and Adam Reitz, both sectional champs. McQuaid heads into the '94 season with a front-running junior, Jeff Clark, and a host of developing runners led by senior Mike Perrotta. "These guys have put in a lot of miles this summer," said Bradley. "I'm looking forward to seeing some real breakthroughs by November."



The McQuaid Cross Country Invitational

You have to experience it to understand what a special running event the McQuaid Invitational is. One visiting coach aptly referred to it as "the glory of the sport."

When Bob Bradley started it in 1965 as a replacement for the Brighton Invitational, only 11 teams lined up for Terry Foley's starting gun. Last year the meet attracted over 170 schools and 4700 runners from six states and Canada and ranks as one of the largest in the nation. It takes 23 races and 7 hours of non-stop competition to handle the annual invasion of Genesee Valley Park. One race is still finishing as the next group gallops off.

While the coaches and runners put a lot of hours into the preparations, on race day they're joined by parents, faculty, students, alumni, and just plain cross-country buffs. All of them combine to make the meet the showcase that it has become.

This year's 30th running of the McQuaid Invitational will be held on Saturday, October 1st, with the usual cast of thousands. It will be a festival as much as a competition. Come and see for yourself.