

McQuaid runners group well at Clarence, East

"We need five" is a well-worn exhortation in cross-country huddles, and McQuaid Jesuit's runners responded with some impressive group finishes in last Saturday's invitationals.

In East High's City Classic at Cobbs Hill, the Knights' Varsity -2 lineup had only two men in the top ten, but won the race by finishing their next four men in a five-second cluster. Ryan Dougherty (8) and Tyler Lemcke (9) did the job up front, but it was the 17 through 20 finishes of Will Payne, Pat Freytag, Dan Burke, and Nick Moeller that made the difference in a 71-77 victory over Gananda in the 9-school Field.

McQuaid's J.V. victory came more easily, with five in the top 10. Freshman Sunil Narayan (2) led the way, followed by Steve Chesterton (4), Ken Camann (6), Marquis Wright (7), and Matt Payne (10). Junior David Insel, who set the early pace, finished 11th but posted his first sub-20 clocking at Cobbs, as did Camann, Wright, and Payne.

"It was a perfect cross-country day," said assistant coach Tony Trama. "Our guys were really into it."

The junior high race at Cobbs was non-scoring, but Cameron Doran and Ryan Steenberge had good races to lead the McQuaid

contingent.

At Clarence, junior high coach Bill Dodd's young Knights scored their fifth invitational win of the season by putting their five scorers in the top 16 of a crowded field. Trevor Alvut (2) again led his team, with Mike Coast (4), Matt Jones (9), Scott Rubino (10), and Will Ciszewski (16) providing close back-up.

Three hours later, McQuaid's Varsity-1 team, minus scorers Rob Way and Drew Kassmann, managed a respectable sixth-place among 13 schools by grouping Jim Brasser (20), Luke Flessner (21), Mark Bernal (23), and Chip Galusha (25) within five seconds,

17:51-17:56. Junior Ian McBride, making his first Varsity-1 start, was 45th to complete the scoring.

"If we can get two men as close to Luke as they were today, we'll do well when Brasser and Way are both clicking up front," said coach Bob Bradley of his team's performance.

This weekend, the Knights make their traditional sectional warm-up trip to the hilly Ely Park golf course at Binghamton against a largely Section 4 field. Back home, McQuaid will also be represented at the City-Catholic League's individual championships at Cobbs on Saturday morning.