

McQuaid runners look good at season opener in New Hartford meet

Jesuit's cross country men got their season off to a promising start at SUNY Tech in Utica last Saturday, finishing third in a field of 23 schools at the New Hartford Invitational.

The Knights had to travel an extra 50 miles eastward from their usual opening meet at Liverpool because the hilly SUNY Tech course will be the site of this year's Section 3 meet, and most of Section 3's powers, including Liverpool, were on hand.

Coach Bob Bradley, beginning his 38th year with Knights runners, was pleased with his team's showing and, like almost everyone else, surprised that the winning team proved to be Class B Chittenango, which scored 78 points. Class A favorite Cicero-North Syracuse was second with 107, ahead of McQuaid's 111, Liverpool's 118, and Gates-Chili's 125.

"Our scoring group was 42 seconds, one of the best we've had for a first meet," Bradley said.

"Now we have to work at getting it up into the low scores."

McQuaid's first four runners were all seniors: Jim Brasser in 12th, Rob Way in 17th, Luke Flessner in 18th, and Mark Bernal in 33rd. Way was up as far as sixth place after the tough hill section, but struggled home with a cramp as Brasser finished strong to lead the Knights.

Three juniors came next: Drew Kassmann (37), Chip Galusha (53) and Pat Freytag (62). They were followed by seniors Will Paynte (64) and Tyler Lemcke (117), the latter having an off-day after running near the lead in most practices. In all, 184 runners competed.

The nonscoring junior varsity race was dominated by the rest of the 19-man McQuaid contingent. Junior ~~Ian~~ McBride, a first-time runner, made his first-ever race a winning one as the Knights will open their season at both meets, as will the 15 varsity and JV runners who were not at Utica.