

SUMNER LIFTS McQUAID

Brad Sumner sets a national season best in the 800 meters and leads McQuaid's 3,200 relay to its second straight national indoor track championship. Story on 5C.

HIGH SCHOOLS

McQuaid relay, Sumner capture national honors

Democrat and Chronicle and The Associated Press

McQuaid defended its 3,200-meter relay title at the National Scholastic Indoor Track and Field Championships yesterday, with senior Brad Sumner scoring yet another major victory as well.

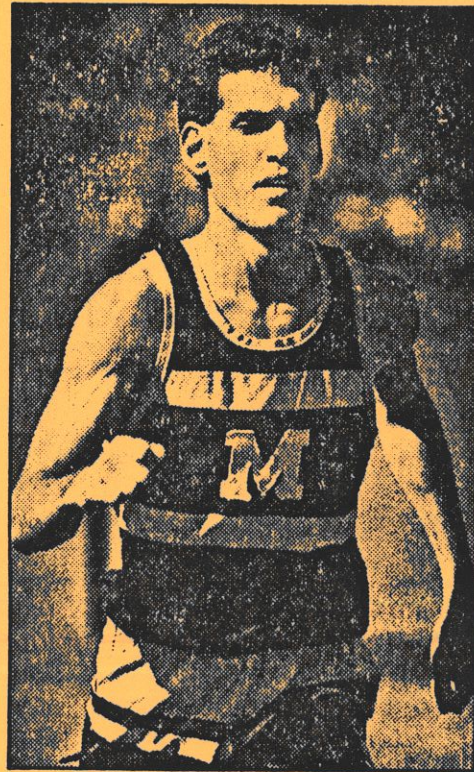
Competing at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., one day after setting a national record in the 600 meters at the state championships, Sumner won the 800 in 1 minute, 55.29 seconds.

Two hours later, Sumner, Scott Romanowski, Jason Fahy and Mickey Stone won the relay in 7:56.50. Romanowski ran an opening 1:58.4 leg to take the lead, and then Stone and Fahy ran at about 2:02 apiece to keep the Knights close before Sumner (1:54.1) edged Newark, N.J. West Side anchor Ernesto Perez. West Side took second in 7:56.60.

The same McQuaid foursome placed second in the 1,600 relay Saturday at the state championships.

"Brad was really hauling to hang on to his lead at the end," McQuaid Coach Bob Bradley said. "It was a foot race. I was just hoping Brad had one good lap left after running five terrific races in two days."

Sumner is the indoor season's national leader for the 600 (1:19.56), 800 and 1,000 (2:23.85). He raced in an early heat of the 800 yesterday, then watched as Ricky Jordan of Lawrence High on Long Island posted a close 1:55.40 in the next heat.



Democrat and Chronicle

McQuaid's Brad Sumner won the 800 at the National high school meet.

Romanowski sparks McQuaid relay win

McQuaid senior Scott Romanowski has run brilliantly in the large shadow of teammate Brad Sumner in the past two years, but last Monday night in the Eastern States Championships at Princeton, he stepped into his own limelight with a key relay leg to propel the Knights to a successful defense of their 3,200-meter relay title.

When Romanowski, running his first 800 meters in a month, got the baton,

McQuaid was in fifth place and barely in contention. The long-striding senior proceeded to run a 1:57 leg, his fastest indoors by almost 3 seconds. Result: from almost 40 yards behind, McQuaid's Bumblebees forged into second place, just 5 yards off the lead.

Sumner took over and produced a strategic 1:56.7 leg that kept him in striking distance until the final 200 meters. Then he turned loose a 27.5

that swept him away from three other contenders and past the leader from Newark West Side. He won going away in 7:59.43, making the Knights the first school to repeat as 3,200 champion at Princeton.

Coach Bob Bradley, talking about his team's victory, said, "It was a great race to watch. Mickey (Stone) and Jason (Fahy) ran well to keep us even

Continued on Page 17C

McQuaid senior runs fastest 1,000 meters

Time of 2:27.32, best by high schooler this year, occurs at Meadowlands

Democrat and Chronicle

McQuaid senior Brad Sumner raced the fastest 1,000 meters by a high school runner this season en route to a victory last night in the Vitalis-Meadowlands Invitational at East Rutherford, N.J.

Sumner finished in 2:27.32 to lower the Section 5 indoor record for the fourth

time this season. According to *High School Track 1989*, a publication documenting the all-time best scholastic performances, Sumner ranks as the eighth-fastest runner ever for that distance.

The national record is 2:23.85 by George Kersh of Pearl, Miss., in 1987.

Sumner passed Todd Orvis of Colonie High (Section 2) on the final banked turn off the 160-meter fiberglass track. Orvis finished second in 2:27.81, well ahead of Newark, N.J., runner Ernesto Perez (2:29.50) in the eight-boy field.

McQuaid

Continued from Page 1C

as close as we were, but I knew we would need a great leg from Scott to get us back into it. When he started charging, I was hoping he could sustain it, and I think he got an extra shot of adrenalin when he saw the other teams coming back to him. He set Brad up beautifully."

So well, in fact, that Sumner was able to come back two hours later feeling relatively fresh for his crack at the individual title in the 1,000-yard run, an event he had never tried before. Again, he was content to follow, this time a fast pace by Andrew Butler of Pawtucket, R.I., whom Sumner had nipped at the wire in the Yale five week earlier.

Butler held on through a 58 400 and a 1:58.800, but Sumner was at his shoulder then, and he wasn't able to deny the McQuaid runner's surge. Sumner widened his edge gradually in the homestretch to win in 2:14.71, fastest time in the country this year. (Sumner also leads the national list at 600 and 1,000 meters.) The victory was the first for a Section 5 runner in the Easterns since Olympian John Tuttle of Alfred-Almond won the mile in 1977.

On Saturday, the McQuaid foursome were back home for Section 5's Meet of Champions at the University of Rochester. Sumner and Romanowski ran a very fast 1-2 in the 600 with times of 1:21.1 and 1:23.4, sending them into this Saturday's State Meet at Cornell as

two of the top seeds. Sumner now is less than a second off the national high school indoor mark of 1:20.34 and will be running to break that record in the process of achieving the 600 championship.

Both runners returned to lead a meet and track record performance of 3:30.5 in the 1,600-meter relay, which they'll run in the state meet instead of the 3,200. Romanowski led off in 52.2, Stone followed with a 53.4, Fahy with a 54.3, and Sumner anchored with a 50.6, as the Knights outran a tough Pittsford team that also broke the old meet record of 3:34.8 with a 3:33.7.

In other events at Saturday's meet, hurdlers Kirk Preston and Dave Privett both ran 6.1, but failed to qualify for the States. Also missing out despite season's-best showings were senior shot-putter Greg Beale (46-8½) and senior all-purpose man Tim Cain, who clocked 39.5 in the 300. Cain and senior Ahdy Stone will be alternates on the 1,600 team at Cornell.

The grand finale of the indoor season will take place on Sunday at Annapolis, where the fast Naval Academy track will host the National Scholastic Championships. Sumner will make his bid in the 800 meters, taking on an elite field headed by last year's runner-up, Steve Adderley of Florida. Two hours later, the 3,200 team will try to repeat its victory of last year at Yale, where they ran to a national-best 7:54.66. "We'll have to run close to 7:50 to win, I think," said Bradley. "It'll be tough coming on top of the States, but I'm sure our guys will be up for it."