

3 records highlight McQuaid win at Hamilton

Five victories including two school records and one Section 5 record highlighted McQuaid Jesuit's first team championship in the Hamilton College Invitational last Saturday.

With only eight schools picking their way through the snow to get to the meet, the Knights found themselves in a three-way battle with Section 3 powers Henninger and Liverpool going into the final two events. They responded by winning both of them to wind up with 103 points to Henninger's 92 and Liverpool's 89.

One of the victories also put four Knights into the Section 5 record book with a 3:42.5 clocking in the sprint medley relay. Seniors Biram Lawrence and Mark Spagnola handled the lead-off and anchor legs of 400 and 800 meters, while junior Damon Wade and Kris Weldon sprinted the middle 200 legs, Lawrence, who earlier had won the long jump, was running his first 400 of the season, but he jumped right into the lead and touched Wade off five yards ahead with a 54.6.

Wade tore through his 200 in 22.9 to widen the lead to 20 yards and Weldon stretched the lead further with his 24.0. Spagnola, needing his fastest 800 yet, reeled off a personal best 2:00.7 to break by two seconds the record that McQuaid standouts Scott Romanowski and Brad Summer had helped fashion on the same track three years ago. The time also established a new meet record.

That still left the meet in doubt, with McQuaid leading Henninger by only two points and Liverpool by eight heading into the 1600 meter relay finale. Freshman Shawn Watts had his team in contention with a 56.2 leg, and sophomore Les Bernard had them in second place with a strong 54.2. Senior Paul Hammond gave McQuaid the lead with another 54.2, and senior Jim Murphy clinched it with a 53.5.

"I love it when a meet goes down to the last relay," said a pleased coach Bob Bradley. "That almost always gets a little extra from the runners, and they certainly came through with that to-

day."

Almost all of the 20-man McQuaid contingent had come through to put the Knights in their clinching position. Senior Kevin Kosieracki was the most notable contributor, posting a school record 12-6 in the pole vault. Kosieracki, who's been breaking in a new pole, could clear only 10-6 the night before at the University of Rochester but got into his groove at Hamilton and jumped almost flawlessly before missing his final three tries at 13 feet.

McQuaid had another first from a new relay combination. In the distance medley, Watts, sophomores Eric Garsin and Tim Kelley, and senior John Whittaker produced an 11:13.6 clocking to outrun Liverpool, Kelley's 3:21.6 1200 leg was the key, turning a 30-yard deficit into a 30-yard lead for Whittaker to work with on his 1600 anchor.

In the 3200 relay, seniors Brendan Farmer (2:10.9) and Kellett McConville (2:09.8) had personal bests, and Garsin and Whittaker were close to theirs as the Knights finished second to Henninger. Another second came in the 800 relay with Bernard, Weldon, Hammond, and senior Chris Nikodem beating the competition in a race for runner-up spot to East's runaway 1:33.4 meet record.

A notable second place came from Spagnola in the 600. Matched against Section 3's best, Henninger's Jim Johnson, Spagnola ran a tough race all the way but couldn't catch Johnson with a move down the homestretch. His 1:25.8 kept him at the top of Section 5's 600 list, improving his previous best by over a second. Fellow senior Jim Murphy took fifth in the 600 with a 1:29.2.

Kelley added another eight points with a strong 2:43.3 in the 1000, and a pair of fourths added another eight from Wade in the 55 dash and freshman Adam Reitz in the 3200. Reitz's classmate, Dan Lesser, also ran the 3200 in an effort to qualify for the sectionals and succeeded with a 10:57.3.

The Knight's picked up their final six points when senior Cris Ellis and sophomore Joe Tiffany took second and fourth in the high jump.

Many of the McQuaid runners were in action for at least one event in the RWTL meet the night before at the University of Rochester. Lawrence did his first triple jumping of the season and posted an encouraging 42-4½. Sophomore Matt Bunce had a 10:58 in his first try at the 3200, and Watts made a successful debut in the sprints by winning his section of the 300 in 40.8. McQuaid's other win in the development meet was sophomore David Corsall, who took his 1000 race in 3:08.5.

This weekend the Knights will move into the stiff competition of the Yale University Track Classic in New Haven, where seven of them will be in action on Saturday. Then, on Monday, the whole McQuaid varsity will head west to the University of Buffalo Invitational.