

It is somewhat of a distraction to him and his team and it shows. McQuaid has not had many stellar performances at the Invitational. Mr. Bradley does not run the Invitational for the greater glory of McQuaid, his team or his coaching record. He does it to give back to the sport that has given so much to him and his athletes.

That spirit of gratitude is reflected in the team prayer he leads before each meet. In the prayer, we do not pray for Our Lady of Victory to lead us to a triumph over our rivals. Instead we pray, "Lord, thank you for this day, this team, this chance to compete. Help us to do our best." That spirit of giving back is very consistent with the mission of McQuaid, which is to develop students into "Men for Others."

Mr. Bradley's example of service to us, to McQuaid, and to the sport prompted the team, beginning in 1980, to run a 25-hour charity relay over the summer. With Mr. Bradley's encouragement, the relay has become a McQuaid cross-country tradition, which continues to this day.

Mr. Bradley's teaching about what matters in life also comes through in his sense of sportsmanship. He made it clear that he never wanted to hear or see any "We're Number One" chants or finger waving. I attended Notre Dame for seven years, and despite all of the screaming pep rallies, and home football games, I could never bring myself to join in on the "We're number one" business.

In my senior year, Mr. Bradley taught my teammate and me a lesson about sportsmanship we will never forget. At the State Cross Country meet that year, we came in number one ranked in the state with hopes of winning the first state championship in Mr. Bradley's illustrious career and, indeed, in McQuaid's history. After racing and slogging through the four inches of snow, we learned that we had won. We were presented with the State Championship trophy. But then we learned that we had won on a technicality. The lead runner for Corcoran, who would have otherwise won the race, was disqualified because he unintentionally ran off the poorly marked course, taking a

few yards off of the course, but not enough to change the final outcome. Corcoran would have won if the runner had not been disqualified.

At practice, the following Monday, Mr. Bradley suggested that we consider giving the trophy to Corcoran, because they truly deserved it that day. He said he would leave it up to us to decide. Over the next day, we discussed it among ourselves and with our parents. We heard all of the rationalizations about why we should keep the trophy: You should respect the call of the officials who made the decision. We beat Corcoran in our prior three meetings that season. We ran through the snow and did not go off the course. Why couldn't Corcoran? We earned the trophy. Etc. etc.

But when it came time to decide, we all agreed with Mr. Bradley. We sent the trophy and medals to Corcoran. His example of sportsmanship drowned out all of the other arguments. He would be uncomfortable keeping the trophy, despite twenty years of coaching, despite an entire year focused on winning the prize, and despite the fact that the technicality would be forgotten pretty quickly. We witnessed that example and, without Mr. Bradley saying more, we knew it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Bradley never has sought out Hall of Fame status or any of the other awards he has won as a coach and contributor to athletics. But he deserves Hall of Fame status because, for so many competitors, in so many events, for so many years, he has helped make athletics what it should be: a venue for building strong bodies, strong competitors, and strong characters.

This narrative was prepared by Tom Warth (McQuaid '82), with the help of Bill Quinlisk '69, Pete Glavin '80, Dave Warth '85, and Rob Bradley '91. It was written as part of the nomination process that enabled Coach Bradley to be selected to the Hall of Fame for the Niagara Association of USA Track & Field.

The Harrier

Congratulates the McQuaid Invitational For 40 Years of Outstanding Running

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