

# McQuaid relay breaks time barrier

McQuaid Jesuit's 3,200-meter relay broke the 7:50 barrier for the first time in 13 years, and Brad Sumner shattered the Section 5 1,500-meter mark by over five seconds to highlight the Knights' annual visit to the Penn Relays at Philadelphia last weekend.

For all that, the four McQuaid runners and Coach Bob Bradley left a rain-drenched Franklin Field a disappointed group. After running their best race — a 7:49.48 — to win one of Saturday morning's six qualifiers, they had come up short in the afternoon final, running a slower 7:51.63 and finishing fourth.

"They were hoping to better their morning race and have a crack at the top-seeded Jamaican team, but it didn't work out that way," said Bradley. "I told them not to feel bad. When they compete at this level, they're not going to win all the time."

The 10-school championship race saw McQuaid fall behind on the first two legs, a pair of 2:01's by Jason Fahy and Mickey Stone, then move up to third on a 1:52.4 effort by Sumner. Scott Romanowski ran his anchor in 1:57.2, being leaned out for third place by Delcastle Tech of Wilmington, Del. The top two spots were taken by teams from the West Indies in 7:43 and 7:47.

Sumner's brilliant 3:53.71 on Friday also failed to produce a win, though it far eclipsed the previous sectional best of 3:58.9 by McQuaid's Tom Warth in 1982. "Brad ran a perfect pace race," said Bradley, "but he wasn't quite confident enough at that distance to move in close enough for a winning move." Sumner trailed Colonie's Todd Orvis by eight yards with a lap to go and



McQuaid's Brad Sumner easily wins the 400-meter run against Bishop Kearney last Wednesday afternoon.

seemed ready to launch a winning surge. But Orvis had something left, too, and maintained his lead to the finish for a 3:52.5 victory. Both men ran their last 400 in 61 seconds.

Sumner's third place was the best individual showing by a Section 5 runner at Penn since Grant Whitney of Penfield took second in the 3,000 in '82.

The Knights' Saturday-morning qualifying race produced an exciting victory over Newark (N.J.) West Side as Sumner brought his team from 25

yards back with a great 1:51.9 anchor. His time stands as the fastest 800 leg ever by a Section 5 runner, and puts him in sight of the sectional 800 record of 1:51.6. His teammates also posted personal bests, Romanowski leading off with a 1:57.2, Fahy following with a 1:59.5, and Stone going 2:00.7.

This Saturday, McQuaid will be at the Hornell Invitational in a warm-up for next week's two important league meets, against Aquinas on Monday and East on Wednesday.