

Speedy runners place McQuaid near the top

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

When Bob Bradley says he's got a good team, you can take his word for it.

After all, it's awfully hard to doubt the opinion of a man who's guided McQuaid Jesuit to a combined total of 16 Section 5 championships during a coaching career stretching back to 1962.

Bradley is looking for another sectional title with his indoor track squad, which features numerous outstanding performers in its 52-member program.

"We have a lot of excellent runners this year; that's where our strength largely comes from. All of our runners, from sprints on up, have improved in the last year, so we'll be in the thick of things. Fairport and McQuaid are probably favored," said Bradley, who has won three indoor track sectional titles (in 1979, 1988 and 1989).

He has also coached the Knights to eight cross-country sectional championships (including one this past fall) as well as five outdoor titles.

Aquinas Institute also boasts a large indoor track program, with 43 boys



Aquinas Institute's Josie Walters makes her winning triple jump with a distance of 34 feet, 11 1/2 inches.

and 30 girls competing this season.

"Our goal is for the boys to be among the top three (at sectionals) and the girls in the top four," said Coach Ray Manuszak.

Bishop Kearney, which last had indoor track two years ago, has resurrected its program and has 15 people participating this season.

"What I'm trying to do is just generate some interest and enthusiasm," said Coach Andy Petrolino. "I think it's starting because when we were practicing in the hallways, kids were coming up and wanting to join the team," remarked Coach Andy Petrolino.

This year's Elmira Notre Dame indoor-track program rates about the middle of the pack among Section 4 schools, according to Coach Wayde Herneisey. The Crusaders have 25 athletes, with a fairly even distribution of boys and girls.

Knights strong again

With so much depth, McQuaid is always a threat in relay events. The Knights' 1,600- and 800-meter relays are led by seniors Damon Wade, Mike Keogh, and Kris Weldon; and junior Les Bernard.

In the distance relays, Bradley uses juniors Tim Kelley and Eric Garsin along with sophomores Adam Reitz and Shawn Watts. Further distance strength comes from juniors Matt Bunce and Jesse Yeager.

Sophomore Dan Lesser is already one of the top 3,200-meter runners in the Rochester area. Other individual standouts include senior Steve Parrish in jumping and hurdling events, senior Steve Wampler in the pole vault and shot put, and junior hurdlers Joe Tiffany and Mark Beresniewicz.

In a Rochester Winter League meet held at the University of Rochester last Saturday, Jan. 4, Garsin won the 1,000 meters with a time of 2:45.4 while Parrish went exactly six feet to win the high jump.

McQuaid's biggest competition of the season thus far will occur this Saturday, Jan. 11, when the Rochester Relays are held at the U of R. Sectionals will take place Feb. 22, also at the



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
McQuaid Jesuit's Tim Kelley (right) turns the track during the 1,600-meter race at a Rochester Winter League meet at the University of Rochester Jan. 4. Adam Reitz (behind Kelley) came in first for the Knights in the event.

U of R.

Walters leads Irish

Aquinas' most proficient performer is senior Josie Walters, who has won three Section 5 girls' track titles and is aiming for more this winter. An outstanding hurdler and jumper, she placed first in the triple jump at the U of R on Jan. 4 with a distance of 34 feet, 11 1/2 inches.

Another talented female athlete is senior Sarah Bierley, who runs middle-distance events.

Tops among the boys are senior Robert Smart, a sprinter; sophomore Gabe Bauza, a long jumper and hurdler; and sophomore Joe Hayes, who competes in the shot put.

The boys' team has fared extremely well in the Class B sectionals in recent years, finishing second last season and placing first in 1990.

Trio stars for BK

Leading Kearney athletes are senior Paul Blandino, a distance runner; junior Jason Thomas, a jumper; and senior Mark Campanella, a shot putter.

"Those are our three main people.

They're probably the top ones who will place in sectionals," said Petrolino.

The Kings also feature a strong 800-meter relay comprised of juniors John Addino, Scott Atwood, Steve Geier and Mike Grevall.

BK's only female team member is sophomore Brenda Gustyn, a sprinter.

ND returning to states?

In his previous four seasons as the Elmira Notre Dame coach, Herneisey has sent at least one athlete to the state championships each year.

A good bet to continue that string is junior Julie Valeant, one of Section 4's best in the girls' 1,500-meter race walk. Valeant holds Notre Dame's school record of 8:42.

"She's my hope (for states) this year," Herneisey said.

Other talented girls include sophomores Amanda Susco and Christina Brunner, who both run middle-distance events.

Top boys are senior Mike Falzarono, a sprinter; and junior Jeremy Kimball, who competes in sprints and middle distance.



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