

McQuaid runners rank among the state's best

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

They may not have won their own invitational, but the McQuaid Jesuit cross-country team is undoubtedly a squad with state championship potential.

"We didn't have a great race, but we feel we have what it takes to be one of the best teams in the state," said Knights Coach Bob Bradley following his club's third-place showing in the 28th annual McQuaid Invitational on Oct. 3.

The colossal race, which drew 185 schools from all over the eastern United States and Canada, was held at Genesee Valley Park. Approximately 4,700 runners participated in the meet.

McQuaid, running in the elite Class AAA-2 division, finished third among 11 teams with 122 points. Ohio's Walsh Jesuit won the meet with 90 points.

The Knights entered the race ranked second in the state's Class A poll. With all of his best runners back from the 1991 team that won the Section 5 championship and placed fourth at the state meet, Bradley remains confident that his current club will continue to justify that ranking.

"I think we have the makings of a terrific team," commented Bradley, who began the hugely successful McQuaid program back in 1962. His program won the sectional crown in 1973, the first year Catholic schools were allowed to compete. The Knights have collected seven additional titles since then.

The Knights' top finisher at the McQuaid Invitational was junior Adam Reitz, who placed third with a time of 15 minutes, 43 seconds over the three-mile course.

Also placing among the top 10 was junior Dan Lesser, who took ninth with a time of 15:57. Rounding out the Knights' scoring was senior Tim Kelley in 28th place; junior Shawn Watts, 38th; and senior Matt Bunce, 44th.

According to Bradley, the top four runners for the Knights are usually

Reitz, Lesser, Kelley and senior Eric Garsin. The fifth position usually features a battle between Watts, Bunce and seniors Jesse Yeager, Rob Bradley (the coach's son) and Tom Brewer.

Our Lady of Mercy is another cross-country program with a winning tradition. The Monarchs, who have won two sectional titles under ninth-year Coach Tim Jones, placed second in the Class BB championships last year.

Mercy ended up ninth in the Class A seeded division at the McQuaid Invitational. Earlier this season, the girls took top honors at the Harley Allendale-Columbia Invitational.

Senior Amy Martin was Mercy's leading finisher at Genesee Valley, earning 19th place with a time of 20:00. Other top Monarchs include juniors Kate Crossed, Christina Wierenga and Sara Mastrantonio.

Seniors Lisa Demeco and Kirstie Marcello, along with sophomore Michelle Beaudoin, normally jockey for Mercy's fifth position.

"We're not where we want to be yet. A lot of girls have been sick, so we've backed off," said Jones. "But now we're going to start training hard and get ready for sectionals."

Geneva DeSales sophomore Stephanie Nearpass has been excelling thus far in individual competition. She finished fifth in the Class A-2 unseeded race at the McQuaid Invitational following a ninth-place showing at the Newark Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 26.

"She just started to jog this summer. She's definitely a natural," said first-year Coach Mike Scala.

Nearpass is one of only two runners for the DeSales girls: the other is junior Lindsay Higgins.

Leading male runners for the Saints are senior Todd Lush and juniors Dave Cox and Steve Mahoney. Backing them up are freshmen Dan Acquilano, Paul Lister and Tim Costello.

Like DeSales, Aquinas Institute has



The McQuaid boys varsity cross-country team jumps out to a good start in the Class AAA-2 race. McQuaid finished third among 11 schools with a total of 122 points.

a full boys' team but an incomplete girls' squad.

The top male performer for AQ is sophomore Jason Hasert, who finished 35th at the McQuaid Invitational in the Class AA-2 unseeded division. Following him are senior Steve Kershner, sophomore Jeff Cox and juniors Dave Riley and Kevin Donlon.

Girls' team members are freshman Maura Whelehan and junior Shana Behan.

"We have a very young squad with a lot of potential," said first-year Coach Maria Rosica.

At Nazareth Academy, the Lasers are led by junior Carolyn Courtright. She finished 20th in Class A-2 unseeded at the McQuaid Invitational despite being slowed by an illness.

"She could be a top-10 contender at the sectionals," said Coach Joe Merenda, whose program is in only its second year of existence.

Other Lasers include freshmen Karen Scozzafava and Shari Karlinski, and seventh-graders Jahan Cooper and Wakisha Bailey.

Bishop Kearney's program only contains three runners in 1992, but first-year Coach Dave Scarson has high hopes for his sophomore trio.

"We have the makings of a real good team down the line," said Scarson. "They're probably going to be right up there in Section 5 by the time they're seniors."

BK's roster includes Jeremy Schaut, Ryan VanAllen and Mike Weishaar.



Amy Martin (right), who was Our Lady of Mercy High School's top finisher in the Class A seeded race, passes a Clarence runner on her way to the finish line during the 28th annual McQuaid Invitational at Genesee Valley Park Oct. 3.

Basketball camp to feature several coaches

EAST ROCHESTER — Several prominent guest instructors will be on hand for the Hoops du Jour Basketball Clinic, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10.

The clinic will take place at East Rochester High School, 200 Woodbine Ave., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Men's head basketball coaches scheduled to headline the event are Jack Armstrong, Niagara University; Jim Baron, St. Bonaventure University;

Mike Neer, University of Rochester; and Jerry Burns, Monroe Community College. Also appearing will be Mike Palermo, local basketball official and president of IAABQ Board 60; and Quinn Smith, former star player for East High School and St. Bonaventure.

For advance tickets or group reservations, call Ed Baron at 716/647-6475 or 454-7800.

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