

# Depth spurs McQuaid to state crown

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Attaining a No. 1 is a nice accomplishment. Justifying that position, however, can be a much greater task — especially in a sport such as cross country, where an illness, injury, stumble or wrong turn can add several unwanted points to a team's total.

So it was no small achievement when the top-ranked McQuaid Jesuit runners utilized their vaunted depth to capture the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A boys' championship last Saturday, Nov. 14. The state meet was held at Sunken Meadow State Park on a sunny, 45-degree afternoon.

This victory was achieved even though none of the Knights finished among the race's top 10 overall.

"That's unusual for us. But our top four runners did a terrific job," said Coach Bob Bradley.

McQuaid's highest finisher was senior Tim Kelley, who took 15th place over the five-kilometer course with a time of 16 minutes, 47 seconds.

Finishing close behind Kelley were junior Adam Reitz, 17th in 16:48; senior Eric Garsin, 22nd in 16:54; and junior Dan Lesser, 30th in 17:01. Completing the Knights' scoring was senior Matt Bunce, who took 74th place in 17:41.

However, these numbers were lowered significantly when team scor-



Members of McQuaid Jesuit's varsity cross-country team take off during the McQuaid Invitational, held Oct. 3 at Genesee Valley Park. The Knights won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A Championship at Long Island's Sunken Meadow State Park Nov. 14.

ing was tabulated. Although the meet was run as a combination of both team and individual qualifiers from various sections around the state, team results do not take individual participants' placement into consideration.

Under team scoring, Kelley finished in sixth place; Reitz, seventh; Garsin, ninth; Lesser, 13th; and Bunce, 39th.

The quintet gave McQuaid a total of 74 points. Out of nine other sectional champions, the next closest squad was Suffern (Section 1) with 100 points.

The win marked McQuaid's second state cross-country title in school history; the other one came in 1984. The Knights had placed third in the states

last year, and arrived at Sunken Meadow as a heavy favorite after setting a meet record for low-point total (20) in winning the Section 5 Class A championship one week earlier.

Also representing Catholic high schools in the diocese at the state meet was Geneva DeSales sophomore Stephanie Nearpass, who took 17th place in the girls' Class C competition with a time of 20:17.

Nearpass had gained eligibility into the states by placing second in the Section 5 Class C race on Nov. 7.

McQuaid will now compete for a state crown of another type when it takes part in the Federation Meet,

which will held this Saturday, Nov. 21, at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls, located near Poughkeepsie.

Bradley feels that the upcoming competition will be his club's most challenging to date. He pointed out that the Federation Meet includes all sectional classifications — as well as several New York City-area public and private schools that did not run in the NYSPHSAA meet.

"(The NYSPHSAA) was a tough race, and this next one will be even tougher," Bradley remarked. "We were pleased with our five-man time (at Sunken Meadow), but this week we'll have to do even better."

# Windsor ends Notre Dame's season with late field goal

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

They got here on the strength of a climactic finish — and went home a victim of one.

The Elmira Notre Dame football team was stopped short in its bid for a perfect season, as well as the Section 4 Class C championship. Chris Congdon's 23-yard field goal, with 23 seconds remaining, gave Windsor a 3-0 victory over the Crusaders in the Class C Bowl Game held last Saturday, Nov. 14, at Cornell University's Schoellkopf Stadium in Ithaca.

Both teams came into the game as

the only undefeated schools left in all of Section 4. ND finished the season with a 9-1-0 record, while the Knights (9-0-1) move on to the state Class C regional playoffs. Windsor will face Section 5's Caledonia-Mumford this coming Saturday, Nov. 21, at the University of Rochester.

"Windsor was ranked eighth in the state (for Class C and D schools), and we were ninth. They had the second-ranked defense in Section 4, and ours was ranked third. It was a real dream matchup," observed ND Coach Mike D'Aloisio.

Notre Dame had advanced to the Class C Bowl Game with a 13-8 semi-

final victory over Tioga on Nov. 7 when Shaun Bennett made a one-yard touchdown run — on fourth down — with 1:07 to go.

In the game against Windsor, the Crusaders stopped two first-quarter threats inside their own 10-yard line: Joel Stephens made a fumble recovery on Windsor's opening drive, and the Knights later failed on a field-goal try after a bad snap from center.

ND reached Windsor's 10-yard line three minutes before halftime, but Pat Palmer's 27-yard field-goal attempt narrowly missed to the left side.

Windsor came up empty on yet another field-goal effort when ND's Brian Parmenter blocked Congdon's kick late in the third period.

From there, the Crusaders moved all the way from their own 15-yard line to the Windsor 6. However, the Knights' Wes Schrazjko thwarted the drive with an end-zone interception.

On the ensuing possession, Windsor advanced to the Notre Dame 6-yard line, before Congdon split the uprights with :23 to go.

ND senior linebacker John Maio, who finished with 18 tackles, was named the game's outstanding defensive player.

Despite the painful defeat, D'Aloisio managed to muster some optimism about his club's performance.

"We're all real proud of our kids," he said. "We had an outstanding year; the kids gained a lot of respect."

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