

# McQuaid soars in JETS academic competition

## Knights seeking defense of title

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

BRIGHTON — You don't win academic competitions on high IQs alone, Brad Bovenzi maintains.

Describing a recent Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) tournament in which his McQuaid Jesuit High School team competed, Bovenzi noted that extensive preparation for the open-book testing may have been the determining factor.

"I had two backpacks full of books. We probably would have won the award for most books there," joked Bovenzi, who is ranked No. 1 in his class.

"Other people were coming in with one or two books each; we had eight or nine each," recalled Bovenzi, a Rochester resident and parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 150 Varinna Drive.

This approach obviously paid off, as McQuaid's eight-member team won the Rochester-Syracuse regional JETS competition for the fourth consecutive year.

Competing among six squads in the small-schools division, McQuaid accrued the highest score for the one-day testing held March 20 at Monroe Community College.

And, within the next couple of weeks, the McQuaid team will learn if its score is high enough to earn a fourth consecutive state championship. The highest total among re-



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Members of the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) at McQuaid Jesuit gather on what appears to be the moon's surface (actually a mural in one of the Catholic school's science labs). Members are (front row, left to right) Jim Snyder and Dave Jackson; (second row) Sudipto Ghosh, Mike Farwell, Dave Wrubel, Brad Bovenzi and Soumya Raychaudhuri.

gional winners determines the state-champion team, which then goes on for national-tournament testing later this spring.

Mary Klein, a McQuaid mathematics instructor who serves as the team's moderator, feels that her contingent from the all-boys' school has a solid shot at repeating its state title.

"These kids are really good; they're all probably in the top 10 or 15 of their class. It's the best team I've ever had,"

Klein observed.

The all-senior lineup comprises captain Christopher Kling along with Bovenzi, Mike Farwell, Sudipto Ghosh, Dave Jackson, Soumya Raychaudhuri, Jim Snyder and Dave Wrubel.

The JETS testing last month at MCC involved components of physics, chemistry, biology, math, computer science and English. Students are re-

quired to solve questions in 13 categories within a two-hour period. Teams split up into sub-groups, linking questions with each individual's area of expertise.

"A lot of the problems seemed applicable to real life," noted Snyder. "They were pretty complicated. Each was based on a situation and had a number of questions related to that situation. In one, we were trying to build a bridge. Others dealt with management and health codes. It was kind of like having a taste of what you'd actually experience."

Klein added that the team aspect of this contest depicts a "real-world" setting as well.


"An engineer does not work in a vacuum. He works in conjunction with many other people," she said. "That's why they have this approach."

And, because the competition includes so many questions from so many skill areas, each McQuaid contestant believed that he had played a vital part in the victory.

"It wasn't like anyone was sitting back, letting someone else do all the work," said Snyder, a Fairport resident and parishioner at St. John of Rochester Church, 18 Wickford Way.

Should McQuaid advance to national competition — which includes teams from all 50 states — the team's faculty leader is eyeing a high finish.

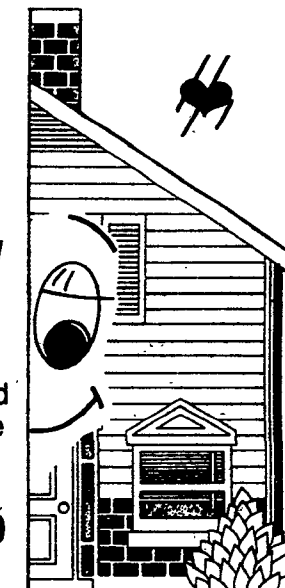
"Our best results were last year; we finished right in about the middle. This year I'm looking for us to be in the top 20 percent," said Klein. "This group is really into it."



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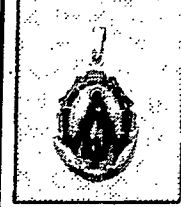
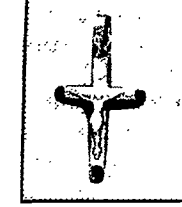



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