

Lesser rises to the top at McQuaid Invitational

Senior triumphs over large field

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

In the Sept. 30 issue of the *Catholic Courier*, McQuaid Jesuit cross-country Coach Bob Bradley remarked that Dan Lesser, his senior star runner, is "beginning to realize he can run with anybody in any race."

Bradley obviously knew what he was talking about.

Lesser became only the second McQuaid runner ever — and the first since the McQuaid Invitational's first running in 1965 — to take first place overall in the mammoth competition hosted by his school.

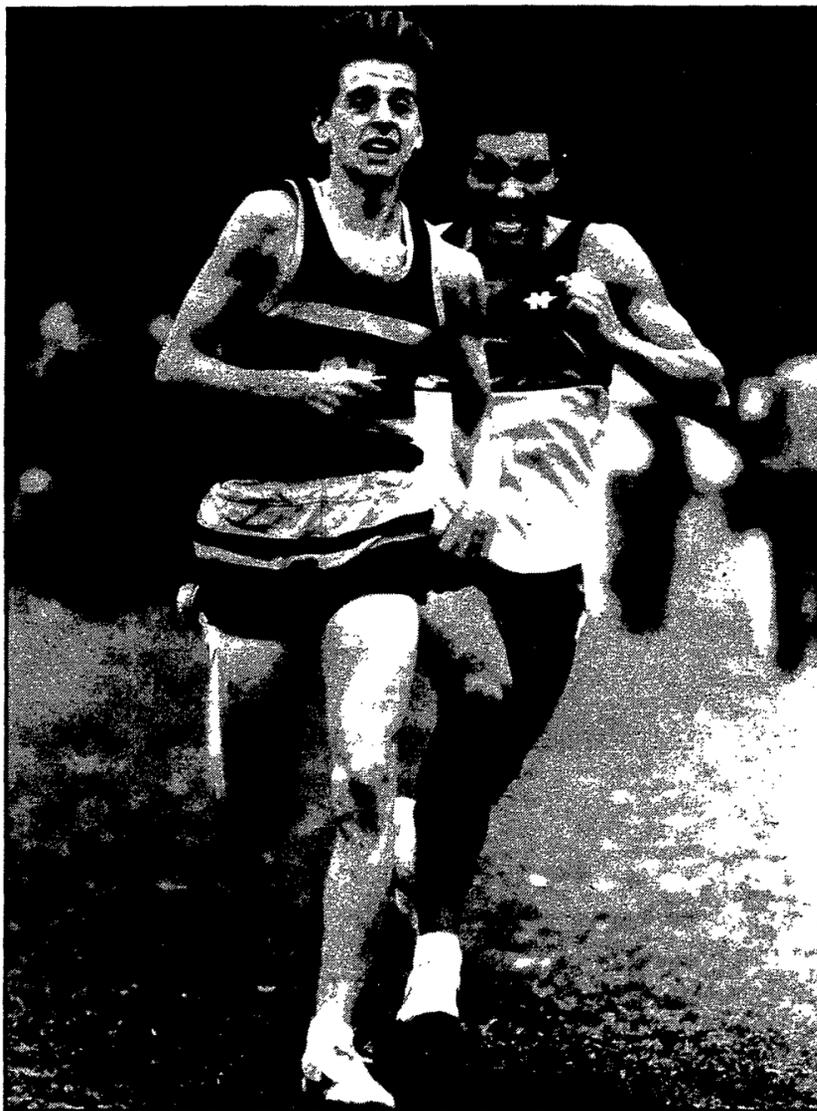
The 29th annual meet, which attracted 180 teams from the northeastern United States and Canada, was held this past Saturday, Oct. 2, at Genesee Valley Park in Rochester.

Lesser posted a time of 15 minutes, 10 seconds as he placed first in Race Two of the boys' mixed varsity AAA division. The invitational's next-best time came from Paolo Frescuta of St. Michael's in Toronto, who competed in the same heat as Lesser and finished six seconds behind him.

With the victory, Lesser earned the Steve Prefontaine Memorial Award. Teammate Adam Reitz added a 10th-place finish as the Knights placed third in team competition within their division.

Other noteworthy finishes among the diocesan Catholic high school teams and runners also competing in the McQuaid Invitational were:

- Our Lady of Mercy, third in team scoring in girls' mixed varsity AA;



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
McQuaid Jesuit's Dan Lesser (left) passes Paolo Frescuta of St. Michael's in Toronto to win the mixed varsity AAA race during the 29th annual McQuaid Invitational at Genesee Valley Park Oct. 2.

Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass, fifth in girls' mixed varsity A; and Nazareth Academy's Karen Scozzafava and Carolyn Courtright, who finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in girls' unseeded varsity A-2.

More sports highlights

The McQuaid Jesuit boys' soccer team (6-2-3) rolled to a 5-0 City-Catholic League win over host Wilson Magnet on Sept. 29 behind two goals from Christian Garofalo.

Aquinas Institute (6-4) also won by shutout on Sept. 29, downing host Edison Tech by a 2-0 score in another City-Catholic contest. Doug Crowley and Tad Valentino were the Little Irish goal-scorers against Edison.

Bishop Kearney (5-4-1) was a 1-0 winner over host Honeoye on Sept. 28, as Sam Mistretta scored the game's only goal.

The AQ girls' soccer team (5-3-1) edged host Buffalo Nichols, 1-0, on Oct. 2. Tricia DiQuattro's second-half goal was the difference.

Our Lady of Mercy (8-4) cruised to a 6-0 win over visiting Kearney (5-4-1) on Sept. 30, as Danni LaMagna scored twice.

Nazareth (4-5) recorded two girls' soccer wins at home: 6-3 over East on Sept. 30 and 3-1 over C.G. Finney on Oct. 1.

The Elmira Notre Dame girls' soccer squad (12-2) collected three wins last week. The Crusaders won 4-1 at Horseheads on Sept. 28, 4-0 over visiting Corning on Sept. 30, and 2-0 at Trumansburg on Oct. 2.

In girls' swimming, Mercy (2-2) recorded a 90-80 win over Wilson on Sept. 28 at Monroe Community College. The Monarchs' Nikki Trieste and Katie St. Martin each won two events that day.

McQuaid outshines Edison; Aquinas, Notre Dame win

Knights usher in era under lights

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

McQuaid Jesuit's football team is beginning to see the light — in more ways than one.

The Knights took another big step toward a City-Catholic League championship and Section 5 playoff berth by stopping previously unbeaten Edison Tech, 17-7, on Friday evening, Oct. 1.

The victory marked a successful debut to night football at the school. McQuaid's triumph under the lights was its third in a row, and it kept the Knights undefeated in league play with a 4-0 record. McQ improved to 4-1 overall.

Aquinas Institute (3-2) was also victorious over the weekend, scoring a 34-6 home win over longtime rival Bishop Kearney (1-4) in non-league action on Oct. 2.

Elmira Notre Dame (2-0, 3-1) stayed unbeaten in the Southern Tier League, rolling over host Watkins Glen by a 47-0 count on Oct. 1.

Geneva DeSales (0-5, 0-5) remained winless with a 36-7 loss to host South Seneca in Finger Lakes West action on Oct. 2.

McQuaid gave up the game's opening touchdown against Edison, on a 23-yard first-quarter run by Aundell Terrell. However, the Inventors were completely stopped from that point on.

"Our defense is doing a really, really good job," said Coach Tom Sprague, whose Knights have only allowed 27 points all season.

McQ closed to within 7-3 on a 30-yard field goal in the second quarter by Rich Mayewski. The Knights took the lead on a 12-yard touchdown run by Dave Medina in the third period, and they got some insurance on Mike Kehoe's 12-yard scoring run in the final quarter.

Kehoe, making his debut as starting quarterback, helped hand Edison its first loss by completing six of nine passes for 83 yards. The Knights' defense chipped in by recovering five Edison fumbles.

McQuaid will be back in action this Saturday, Oct. 9, with a 1 p.m. road game against Marshall. The Knights can clinch at least a share of the City-Catholic title with a victory.

Aquinas' running game excelled in its rout of Kearney: the Little Irish compiled 270 yards on the ground as they recorded their second straight win.

Jim Miner scored AQ's first three touchdowns — on runs of three, two and 35 yards — to put his team up 20-0 early in the third quarter. Gabe Bauza picked up the final two Irish scores with an 18-yard carry and an 80-yard kickoff return.

BK's sole touchdown came in the fourth quarter, on a three-yard pass

play from Bob Pellegrino to Colin Ribble.

"We pretty much dominated the whole game. We're just getting better every week," remarked AQ Coach Joe Munno.

The Little Irish will attempt to improve their City-Catholic record to 3-2 when they travel to East on Oct. 9 at 1 p.m.

BK, meanwhile, which holds a 1-2 record in Finger Lakes East play, hosts Victor in an Oct. 9 league game at 7:30 p.m.

Elmira Notre Dame's 47-point victory over Watkins Glen could actually have been much worse. Both teams agreed to let the clock run continuously after the Crusaders had built a 33-0 edge at halftime.

"I can't tell our second- and third-string players not to score, but I told our first group to go out of

bounds if they broke a long run," Coach Mike D'Aloisio said.

Joel Stephens led the ND offense with a career-high 195 yards on 15 carries. He scored two touchdowns.

Notre Dame goes after its third straight win when it hosts Newark Valley in a Southern Tier League game on Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

DeSales was plagued by several turnovers in its loss to South Seneca. The Saints trailed 14-0 at halftime before the Falcons put the game away with a 16-point third quarter.

DeSales' only score came in the fourth quarter, when Jayson Lamson connected on a 77-yard touchdown pass play to Ben Kiley. Steve Davoli added the extra point.

The Saints are back in action on Oct. 8 with a 7:30 p.m. Finger Lakes West home contest against Spencer-Van Ethen.

Volleyball

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Top AQ players are seniors Colleen Quinn, Shawndralynn Joiner and Tina Murty; and juniors Jenny Werner, Eileen Mentus and Vicki Anthony.

An additional pair of juniors, Alison Noll and Crissi Sanfilippo, are injured and out of action indefinitely.

McQ wins at the wire

McQuaid literally went down to the final point against Canandaigua. With

a sudden-death rally-point system in effect, the Knights broke a 16-16 tie against the Braves in the fifth and deciding game.

"They're on the right track. Now that they're starting to play together, I think they can play with anyone in Section 5," said Coach Ed Waller.

Knight starters include senior hitters Paul Carreo, Steve Dianetti and Chris Wallen; senior setter Dave Crooker, junior hitter Sean Kirchoff and junior setter Tim Lincoln.

Other leading McQuaid players are senior setter Tony Molina and senior hitter Dave Hartman.