

## Knights stopped, 2-1, in boys' soccer finals

SPENCERPORT — After winning three sectional games by gigantic margins, the McQuaid Jesuit boys were finally stopped in a game of inches.

McQuaid played standout soccer in its Section 5 Class A championship contest, but the Knights were edged by Gates-Chili, 2-1, last Wednesday evening, Nov. 10, at Spencerport High School.

McQ, seeded fifth for the tournament, ended its season with a 15-4-3 record. Gates-Chili was the No. 2 seed and defending champion.

Gates-Chili drew first blood early in the title game, as Viktor Chernobay scored with just 2:16 elapsed on an assist from Yuri Lavrinenko.

The score remained 1-0 at halftime in spite of dominating play by the Knights. A Greg Stevens shot deflected off the Gates-Chili crossbar with 17:30 left in the half, and McQ once again rattled the bar without scoring on a near-miss by Franco Bari with only 20 seconds to go before half-time.

"That's just the game of soccer. Sometimes they go in your favor, and sometimes they don't," obser-

ved McQuaid Coach Dan Schied.

McQuaid finally broke through for a 1-1 tie after Spartan defender Chris Dadey was whistled for a hand ball in the penalty area. Greg Light connected on the ensuing penalty kick to knot the score with 24:39 left in the game.

McQ goalie Adam Lehmann kept his club in the game with some brilliant saves in the closing minutes. Yet Chernobay netted the game-winner, again on an assist from Lavrinenko, with 8:46 to go.

"Adam played an outstanding game, and is an outstanding keeper," said Schied, who noted that his junior goalie has already recorded 20 career shutouts.

"We're happy with the game we played. The players did all they were asked to do," Schied added.

The Knights were making their first appearance ever in a sectional boys' soccer championship game. They reached the finals by winning 4-0 over 12th-seeded Rush-Henrietta, 5-1 over No. 4 Greece Olympia and 5-0 over No. 8 Spencerport.

— Mike Latona



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
Ryan Mooney of McQuaid Jesuit squares off against Ryan Ruta of Gates-Chili during the Knights' 2-1 loss to the Spartans in the Section 5 Class A championship game on Nov. 10 at Spencerport High School.

## McQuaid runners hit top 15

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

NEWARK — It was a day of mixed feelings for Dan Lesser.

The McQuaid Jesuit senior achieved a milestone, tying his school's record for the highest finish ever at the state cross-country championships.

Yet Lesser, a senior, was not ecstatic about his seventh-place finish in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A race.

"I just never really felt strong," said Lesser, who ran a time of 16 minutes, 43.5 seconds this past Saturday, Nov. 13. The state meet was held at Stuart Park in Newark.

Lesser added that his performance may have been affected by a cold which had temporarily sidelined him earlier in the week.

On the other hand, McQuaid Coach Bob Bradley felt that Lesser was being a little too hard on himself. Bradley noted that only Scott Patterson, who finished seventh in 1985, had ever placed as high as Lesser for the Knights at the state level.

"When you've finished no lower than second in a race all year, and then you finish seventh, it's a jolt. But that's the way it is at states," Bradley said.

The Knights' Adam Reitz joined Lesser among the top runners at the state meet, finishing 15th with a time of 16:57.9.

As a team, McQuaid had to settle for eighth place after winning the state crown in 1992.

One week prior to states, the Knights had won their third straight, Section 5 Class A title at the same Stuart Park course. Lesser took top individual honors that day.

Next up for the Knights will be the Jesuit Championships competition this Saturday, Nov. 20, at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. That event will comprise approximately 10 Jesuit schools from throughout the northeastern United States.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
McQuaid Jesuit's Adam Reitz placed 15th overall, with a time of 16:57.9, in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A race on Nov. 13 at Stuart Park in Newark.

One other diocesan team, the Our Lady of Mercy girls, traveled to Stuart Park for the Nov. 13 state meet. The Monarchs placed 13th in Class B, with Kathryn Belgiorno's 81st-place run serving as the top Mercy finish.

Nazareth Academy's Karen Scozzafava and Geneva DeSales' Stephanie Nearpass, who qualified for individual competition at the state meet, fared well in the Class C girls' race. Scozzafava took 22nd place, while Nearpass came in 31st.

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