

# State meet marks end of era for McQ seniors

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

AMHERST — For all the great runners who have come through McQuaid Jesuit High School, there may never have been a trio quite like the group of Knights which ran its last race over the weekend.

"Without question, they were the best distance tandem we ever had," remarked Coach Dave Warth about seniors Dan Lesser, Adam Reitz and Shawn Watts.

"Between team, individual and relay, there's got to be close to 40 sectional patches."

Fittingly, these athletes were all teamed up for their final high-school event this past Saturday, June 11. The three speedsters, along with fellow senior Jim Barnum, combined for a sixth-place finish in the 3,200-meter relay at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships. The meet was held at the University of Buffalo in Amherst.

Lesser fared even better in individual state competition, soaring to second place in the 3,200 run on June 10. He posted a time of 9 minutes, 12.03 seconds.

The only runner to place ahead of Lesser was Matt Tooman of Deer Park in Section 11, who finished with a 9:07.19 clocking. Tooman took a substantial early lead while Lesser remained with the pack; and although Lesser eventually broke free, Tooman never faltered.

"Dan ran just about a perfect race ... I think he was a little surprised he wasn't able to close on (Tooman)," Warth remarked.

Lesser's superb effort not only set a school record, but it also shattered his personal-best time by a full six seconds. In addition, the 9:12.03 finish stands as the fifth-best time in the 3,200 in Section 5 history.

One day after Lesser's heroics, the McQuaid 3,200 relay took its last laps together — Barnum leading off, followed by Reitz, Lesser and Watts. They completed the race in 8:03.85, with the winning time of 7:55.93 being posted by Wingate of New York City.



Members of the McQuaid Jesuit 3200-meter relay team (from left) Adam Reitz, Jim Barnum, alternate Jeff Clark, Shawn Watts and Dan Lesser. The relay team placed sixth at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships in Buffalo.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Joining the four Knight runners in state competition was McQuaid junior Greg Schlachter, who earned a 19th-place finish in the pole vault. Also representing Section 5 at the state meet was Bishop Kearney senior Richard Cannon, who took 33rd in the high jump. The state meet capped a stunning championship

year for McQuaid cross-country and track. The Knights began their dominating streak by taking the Section 5 cross-country title last November as Lesser led the way with a first-place individual finish. McQuaid then won the sectional indoor track championship in February before claiming the sectional outdoor crown in May.

## Penfield man arrested for alleged beating of McQuaid Jesuit student

EDITORS' NOTE: Language in fifth paragraph may be offensive to some readers.

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

BRIGHTON — A Penfield man who served as an assistant varsity football coach at McQuaid Jesuit High School last fall is scheduled to stand trial later this month following his arrest for allegedly hitting a McQuaid student on school property.

Mark W. Schiller, 46, has been charged with second-degree harassment following the incident which occurred on May 26. According to a Brighton Police Department report, Schiller is accused of striking William C. Stapleton, 15, a McQuaid freshman.

The police report stated that the in-

cident occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m., shortly after the conclusion of a varsity lacrosse game between McQuaid and Rush-Henrietta.

Stapleton and four friends entered the school's basement hallway to retrieve books from their lockers. They encountered Schiller, who had attended the May 26 game to watch his son, Chris, a McQuaid junior, play.

Schiller denied Stapleton's request to go to his locker, saying that he was not going to be responsible for the youths. Stapleton, a junior-varsity lacrosse team member, turned away and muttered, "This sucks."

According to the report, Schiller became enraged and ordered Stapleton to come to him, whereupon he struck Stapleton three times — the final blow

knocking Stapleton to the floor.

Police did not detect any physical injuries to Stapleton upon their arrival at the school later that evening, but the report indicated that he "appeared to be physically and mentally shaken."

A citizen's information report was completed by Stapleton and co-signed by his father, Michael. A supporting deposition was completed by Scott Bryant, 15, who witnessed the incident.

Schiller was arrested the next day and pleaded innocent at Brighton Police Department. The trial date is June 21.

According to McQuaid spokesman Father Leon Hogenkamp, Schiller has been an assistant football coach at McQuaid for the past three years. Yet he was not an official employee of the

school at the time of the incident, since coaches are hired on a yearly contractual basis and contracts have not yet been offered for the 1994-95 season.

Therefore, Father Hogenkamp acknowledged, the school shoulders less responsibility than if this was, for example, a teacher-student matter.

"If it were a full-time employee, it would have called for a review of the circumstances and prior history of the individual, and corrective measures as might be needed," said Father Hogenkamp. "If somebody else wants to press charges, it's their right."

Father Hogenkamp did not elaborate on Schiller's future status as football coach, saying only that it was a personnel matter.

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