

Harriers Look Towards Districts

by Tim Probst

Prep News Reporter

The SLUH cross-country Pack Attack once again proved successful last Saturday at the Hazelwood Invitational as the Harriers finished fourth in the thirty team field.

Senior Tim Probst crossed the line first for SLUH with a time of 17:47, 23rd place overall. Probst was followed by sophomore Kevin Myers(18:00), senior Matt Dougherty(18:01), and junior Ray Griner (18:22), junior Jack Kennebeck(18:23), and sophomore Matt Schuckmann(18:33).

The only St. Louis area team that defeated SLUH's varsity was CBC, which had 135 points to SLUH's 169 points. Jefferson City and Jefferson City Helias finished first and second respectively.

But the race left head coach Jim Linhares with "mixed feelings." "I am very enthusiastic about the results and we are improving significantly; we are running state qualifying times," he stated.

"But it is frustrating," continued Linhares, "because with the enthusiasm and talent on this team, we deserve to go to state. But we have to look at the hard realities of the districts."

That "hard reality of the districts" is the disparity between the north and south districts in St. Louis. This year, the teams in the north district are considerably weaker than the teams in the south district. Because of SLUH's central location, the team could be sent either north or south. SLUH should find out its location early next week.

Linhares believes the team will be sent south, where the top eight teams in the area will be competing in the same district, with only four teams advancing to sectional. "Any other district is a guarantee," Linhares commented.

In the junior varsity race, SLUH once again established itself as one of the best JV teams in the state by capturing first place. Senior Mike Russo had another solid performance, finishing third overall in 18:56. Following Russo were senior Gene Marshall(19:03), junior Tom Schoenbeck(19:12), and Chris Williams(19:18), and senior Pat Nahm (19:36).

The B team, awakened somewhat by the presence of three sophomores on the varsity squad, finished sixth out of thirty teams. The top five finishers for the B-team were sophomore Ben Goeke(18:58), freshman Ben Fanson (19:07), sophomore Steve Schlitt (19:47), freshman Joel Brown(19:50), and sophomore Tom Flanagan(20:06).

In the JV race, Linhares noted the efforts of Senior Tim Fete, who is "really coming on," and Marshall, who now seems to be "really putting it all together." Linhares also noted the race of Fanson who, as a freshman, "impressively established himself as number eleven on the team."

The freshman team continued its undefeated season Wednesday with a victory in the Hazelwood East Freshman Invitational. Joel Brown led the way for SLUH, finishing in seventh place. The remainder of the top seven SLUH freshmen included John Caldwell, Mike Harvath, John Sauter, Max Ferrigni, Keith Myers, and Steve Kremer. Assistant coach Jim Goeke S.J. commented, "The freshmen look very strong and very competitive. Even with the absence of the top runners Ben Fanson and Shannon Yates, the pack really came through."

Today some of the JV and B Harriers race in the DuBourg Invitation while the varsity, top junior varsity, and top sophomore runners will run in the very competitive Hancock Invitational on Saturday.

Looking at Saturday's race, Kevin Myers remarked, "A lot of people were writing us off before the season, but we're doing better than expected. I think we can finish near the front Saturday."

Dougherty agreed, "We've been underdogs all year, and we still have a few surprises left."