

# Invitational Puts Harriers to Test

by Tim Probst

Prep News Reporter

The SLUH varsity cross-country team finished sixth out of ten teams in the very competitive Parkway West Invitational last Saturday at Queeny Park. The meet is considered the most competitive, team for team, of the season.

Senior Tim Probst crossed the finish line first for the Harriers, with a time of 17:39 and 21st place. Then sophomores Pat Hamel (17:48) and Kevin Myers (17:52), and senior Matt Dougherty (17:53), finished with 22nd, 26th, and 27th places, respectively. Rounding out the top seven were junior Jack Kennebeck (18:40), sophomore Matt Schouckmann (18:57), and junior Tom Schoenbeck (19:06).

Although head coach Jim Linhares was somewhat disappointed that his team did not finish with better positions in the standings, he was impressed with the races of the lead pack, especially Hamel. "Hamel was dynamite on Saturday; he was using the course very intelligently," said Linhares. On the top SLUH finisher, he commented that "Probst also responded really well. He also learned he has to get a little meaner at the end of races."

The races also served as a test for districts, because many of the district teams were at the meet. "We need a day for districts when all of our pack are up there," Linhares said

The junior varsity team placed third out of nine teams, behind only Jefferson City Helias and Lafayette. Junior Ray Griner (18:26) and sophomore Ben Goeke (18:32) both raced very well and qualified for the varsity race at tomorrow's league meet.

Linhares said, "Griner was very tough and competitive and Goeke is one of the most naturally competitive people on the team. I have full confidence in each of them running varsity."

Rounding out the top five for SLUH's JV team were senior Mike Russo (18:47), junior Dave Wolzenski (18:48), and senior Gene Marshall (19:05).

The freshman team capped off the meet with an impressive first-place finish. The top five for the freshmen were Joel Brown (19:58), Keith Myers (20:04), Mike Harvath (20:22), John Sauter (20:51).

"To win in that kind of field is very impressive, especially without Fanson," commented Linhares. Ben Fanson, one of the top freshman runners, did not compete because of injury.

Tuesday in the DuBourg Invitational, SLUH ran their junior varsity in the varsity race and finished third out of six teams.

Senior Mike Russo ran an impressive 17:52, and was followed by Schoenbeck, junior Chris Jones, senior Chris Welling, and junior Dave Chilenski.

The freshmen and sophomores combined to impressively win the B race. Schouckmann won the race with a fast time of 17:39. Sophomores John Weller, Steve Schlitt, and Doug Auer, and freshman Joel Brown, rounded out the top five for the SLUH B-Team.

"It was a good race for many guys, and for the freshmen and sophomores to win a meet like this really showed their depth. I was very impressed," said assistant coach Fr. Jim Goeke S.J.

The team's next race is the first MCC meet tomorrow at Conway Park. Their chief competition will be CBC, a team the varsity will also have to face in the district race.

"We want to win the MCC and give CBC a good run at full strength," commented Linhares. "It will be a good character test."