

## New "Pack Attack" Helps Harriers at Southpaw, Eureka

by Tim Probst  
*Prep News Reporter*

Using the "Pack Attack," a new strategy this year, the SLUH cross country team ran its way to a third place finish at last Friday's Southpaw Invitational and a second place finish in the Eureka Invitational on Tuesday. In both races, five of the top seven SLUH runners crossed the finish line within fifteen seconds of each other attesting to the "Pack Attack's" immediate success.

At Southpaw, senior Tim Probst paced the Harriers with a ninth place finish and a time of 17:44, followed by a strong pack consisting of senior Matt Dougherty, junior Jack Kennebeck, sophomores Pat Hamel and Kevin Myers, and junior Ray Griner all finishing between 18:21 and 18:35. Senior Mike Russo rounded out the top seven with a time of 19:05. SLUH had a team score of 86, losing only to Mehlville (82) and Kirkwood (58) in the ten team field.

"I am really pleased with the spirit of the varsity," Coach Jim Linhares commented. "We are competitive earlier in the season than I thought we would be." assistant coach Jim Goeke S.J. said, "The varsity's gutsiness and support for one another were very impressive. The spirit on this team is great."

Also at Southpaw, the junior varsity captured second place with a score of 43 points. Webster Groves won the race with 34 points. Sophomore Matt Schuckmann led the way with a third place finish in 18:51, therefore qualifying for varsity. Rounding out the top five JV finishers were juniors Chris Williams (19:14) and Tom Schoenbeck (19:30) and sophomores Tim Denny (19:23) and Ben Goeke (19:49).

"The JV is deep and talented," said Linhares. "I think that there are five or six guys who don't realize their talent and who can help us on varsity."

Tuesday at the Eureka Invitational, the "Pack Attack" was successful again, as the Harriers finished second out of six teams with 57 points to LaFayette's 42 points. Probst again led the team, with a fifth place finish and a time of 17:45. Dougherty followed in tenth place in 18:07. Then the pack of Schuckman, Kennebeck, Griner, Myers, and Hamel crossed the line between 18:16 and 18:24, capturing places thirteen through seventeen.

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“I think the key part of our success this year will lie in how well our pack performs,” Dougherty said. “It helps to have your teammates working with you in the race.”

Kennebeck agreed, saying, “It helps the endurance of the whole group to have your teammates there with you. If we keep our minds focused and believe in ourselves, we can have a great season.”

In the junior varsity race, SLUH’s 36 points placed second to Lafayette’s 23 points. Russo won the race with an impressive time of 18:30. Russo was followed by Schoenbeck, sophomores Tom Flanagan and Doug Auer, and senior Chris Welling. On Wednesday, the freshman continued their perfect season with a rout of CBC and DeSmet. SLUH had a perfect score of 15, while CBC had 75 points and DeSmet 80 points.

Ben Fanson and Joel Brown raced to an early lead in the two mile race and worked well together on the hilly course. Fanson outkicked Brown in the final one hundred meters and finished with a time of 13:01. Brown placed second in 13:02. Shannon Yates was third in 13:38, followed by John Caldwell (13:44), Mike Horvath (13:45), Keith Myers (13:57), and John Johnson (14:14).

“They are a really impressive group,” Linhares noted. “Fanson and Brown know how to run, and there are four or five guys after that who also look very good.”

The next race for the Harriers is the Hazelwood Central Invitational tomorrow at Sioux Passage Park. Not only must SLUH deal with a very hilly course but, in addition will face strong teams such as Jefferson City, Jefferson City Helias, CBC, DeSmet, and Hazelwood Central.

Linhares added, “Sioux Passage is a strength course and a psychological course. I think we can use it as another leapfrog over many teams.”