

Cross Country Ends Successful Year With Disappointing Ninth Place Finish at State

by Ray Griner
Prep News Sports Reporter

Whatever the cause—inexperience, weather conditions, or flu—the 1993 cross-country team ended their season with an unexpectedly low finish at the State meet last Saturday.

Junior Pat Hamel led the squad as he had all year with a time of 17:15 on a 3.1 mile course at Hough Park in Jefferson City. Senior Jack Kennebeck ended his high school running career with his highest finish ever on SLUH's varsity, as he was the second fastest SLUH runner in 17:40. He was followed by junior Kevin Myers (17:44) in eighty-ninth place, sophomore Ben Panson (17:47) in ninety-second place, senior Ray Griner (17:50) in one-hundredth place, senior John Barrett (17:54), and sophomore Tim Chik (18:02).

These finishes, the lowest places of the year for all seven runners, gave SLUH

a score of 244 points and ninth place overall, behind winner Springfield Kickapoo and rivals Parkway West, Webster Groves, Northwest House Springs, and Parkway South. This finish, for a team hoping to take home a third, second, or first-place trophy, left a taste of disappointment on the wind-chapped lips of much of the varsity.

Junior Pat Hamel, running for an all-state finish, was "a little disappointed" in his overall place.

Sophomore Tim Chik, after finishing seventh on the team for the first time this year, went even further, commenting "My day was awful. The cold really affected my race."

Despite the immediate disappointment, team members still expressed satisfaction with the season and look towards the future. Coach Jim Linhares remarked, "It was still our best season in 32 years" see CAPITOL OFFENSE, page 7

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and noted that the lack of experience at State may have hurt the Junior Bills.

Coach Jim Goeke agreed, but he added that the team's performance this year may very well be a "stepping stone to future seasons."

With this goal of future success clearly visible, much of the team will be training during the winter, spring, and summer, sharing Tim Chik's vision that, "We'll get them next year."