

Harrierbills Advance Past Sectionals to State Finals for First Time Since 1963

by Ray Griner
Prep News Sports Reporter

The cross-country squad, who costumed for the first time this year in tights, hats, gloves, and long-sleeved shirts, received both a trick and a treat last Saturday as they fell short of their goal of winning their first recent sectional title. Nevertheless, they qualified for tomorrow's state meet.

The squad had been looking forward to a possible victory because, as co-captain Jack Kennebeck stated, "We had done a lot of hard

work." Unfortunately, SLUH's burning desire for the sectional title was not enough in their coldest race of the year.

Junior Pat Hamel admitted that he and the rest of the team had an "off day." Indeed, after finishing second and setting the pace for the team to claim three top-ten places at the district meet, Hamel was the only SLUH runner to medal Saturday as he finished ninth in 16:55.

Junior Kevin Myers finished as SLUH's number-two

see JEFF CITY BOUND, page 8



8 Jeff City Bound

Sports

(continued from page 5)

runner, just eight seconds behind Hamel in fourteenth place. He was followed by senior Ray Griner (17:11), who finished eight seconds and ten places later. Sophomore Tim Chik (17:38), senior John Barrett (17:40), junior John Weller (17:55), and senior Jack Kennebeck (17:58), completed SLUH's squad, finishing thirty-fifth, thirty-seventh, forty-fifth, and forty-seventh.

After the team scores were adjusted to ignore individuals from already eliminated teams, SLUH ended up behind second-place Parkway South by two points, tying their lowest finish all year. However, placing in the top four teams was good enough to advance to the state meet.

Perhaps sensing this opportunity to

compete at Jefferson City, the junior varsity runners raced very competitively in the open division as they fought for varsity spots. Three SLUH runners, sophomore Ben Fanson (17:51), senior Chris Jones (17:53), and freshman Joe Donnelly (17:59) were able to use the competition to propel themselves to under eight-minute finishes. Although the varsity runners at the state meet were not declared immediately after the race, it was eventually decided that Hamel, Griner, Myers, Chik, Barrett, Fanson, and Kennebeck would race at state.

The state meet, which will be run at 12:20 tomorrow at Hough Park in Jefferson City, will feature very close competition for the top spots. SLUH, Parkway West, Hazelwood Central, Webster Groves, Blue Springs, and West Plains all have proven themselves throughout the season, with the West Plains Zizzers, the defending champions, again favored to win. Faced with such competition, Myers was cautious about the Harriers' chances, but appeared confident of their potential as he proclaimed, "If everyone has a good day, we'll do good—real good."