

West Plains sweeps titles

West Plains made another bold statement to St. Louis-area teams Saturday.

The Zizzers, two-time defending boys Class 4A champions, cruised to victory in the boys' large-school division with 36 points. Hancock is often considered a preview of the state meet, primarily because of the presence of West Plains.

Parkway West finished a distant second with 119 points.

West Plains seems to be a favorite to make it four boys state titles in five years in November. Parkway West won the boys state title in 1990, the last time West Plains hasn't won.

And West Plains' girls, also the defending state champs in 4A, were equally impressive, winning the girls division with 82 points. Jackson took second with 129.

West Plains could equal Parkway West's Class 4A record of two successive state titles in November.

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West's boys picked up strong performances from senior Andy Grimm (6th overall) and senior Matt Peters (8th) to finish second with 119 points, outdistancing St. Louis University High

(133). SLUH's top finisher was junior Pat Hamel, who placed 14th.

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Principia's boys team, which failed to qualify for state in Class 1A-2A last fall, might have been overlooked early this season, considering its move to Class 3A this fall.

But Principia looked good Saturday, finishing third overall (177) in the boys' small-school division behind North County Desloge (63) and Festus (88).

Prin, which had five finishers in the top 50, was led by Travis Griffiths, who took 21st.

Priory finished fifth, led by junior Phil Councilor's fourth-place finish. Mary Institute-Country Day placed ninth with 269 points.

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Marquette, a first-year school in the Rockwood district, placed fourth overall in the boys' small-school division. The team has competed in a variety of varsity and junior varsity meets this fall.

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The St. Louis Classic, held at Forest Park, was an alternate race for some area girls teams. Parkway West, holding its place as the top girls team in the area, won with



Ted Faulhaber photo

SLUH's Pat Hamel en route to a 14th-place finish.

47 points despite running without senior Keisha Grace.

Pattonville (62) was second, followed by Francis Howell (77), Lindbergh (112), Parkway South (123) and Webster Groves (182).

Parkway Central (228), Ladue (254) and Rosati-Kain (288) finished ninth, tenth and eleventh, respectively.

— Chris Murphy