

# SLUH finds summit thru Sioux Passage

Junior Bills defend sectional championship, advance to state

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## CROSS COUNTRY

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A cross country season can be a long steep hill to climb, and St. Louis University High reached the crest of one of the biggest hills Saturday.

The Junior Bills successfully defended their title at the Missouri Class 4A Sectional 2 meet at Sioux Passage Park.

So strong was their performance that the Junior Bills fairly blew away their competition on the extremely hilly course. SLUH had 42 points; second place, CBC was far behind with 73 points, and Parkway West was third, also with 73.



Linhares

SLUH coach Jim Linhares said that winning was no surprise.

"We actually thought we had a good shot at winning it," Linhares said. "We hadn't lost to any of those teams, but we had a lot of respect for them."

It has been a great season for the Junior Bills — maybe the best season since their state championship year in 1961. SLUH is easily the best team in the St. Louis area, and is now comfortably secure in the knowledge that it is one of the elite Missouri squads.

At Sioux Passage, the Junior Bills kept a tight pack together through the first mile. When they passed the mile mark, they did so as one long, blue wave.

"We wanted to stay fairly relaxed through mile one and keep our pack together," Lin-

Cross Country Polls	
BOYS	
1. SLUH.....	100
2. CBC.....	90
3. Parkway West.....	78
4. Parkway South.....	72
5. De Soto.....	60
6. DeSmet.....	50
7. St. Charles West.....	40
8. Francis Howell North.....	22
9. Eureka.....	14
10. (tie) McCluer North.....	8
10. (tie) Francis Howell.....	8
Others receiving votes: Webster Groves, Lutheran South and Collinsville.	
GIRLS	
1. Kirkwood.....	100
2. De Soto.....	86
3. Nerinx Hall.....	74
4. St. Charles West.....	70
5. Hazelwood Central.....	58
6. Lafayette.....	48
7. Francis Howell.....	40
8. Duchesne.....	32
9. Ft. Zumwalt South.....	24
10. St. Joseph's.....	10
Others receiving votes: Visitation.	

hares said. "I think we did that."

As usual, senior Ben Rosario led the squad. Rosario finished fourth overall with a time of 17 minutes, 23 seconds.

In fact, Rosario had been locked into third place until an extremely determined Mike Krull of CBC finally edged him out in the closing seconds of the race.

"Krull just kind of closed in the last mile and passed him with about 150 meters to go," Linhares said.

The overall winner of the race was Parkway West's Jon Cordes in 16:43. Andy Doering of McCluer North was second with a time of 16:50.

"My goal was to get first," Doering said, "but he killed me. I was just trying to catch him the whole time. Next week I'm just going to key off of him the whole race."

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# SLUH

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Krull was third with 17:22. "He got me again," Rosario said. "Just like he did at conference."

The Sioux Passage run was something of a litmus test for Rosario. The senior has been a solid performer, but the Sioux Passage course is one of the most challenging cross country courses in the area. The race begins with a mad dash up a shockingly steep hill — one so

infamous that it is widely known as "The Man-Maker" — and winds up and down several other hills just this side of Everest.

"In years past," Rosario said, "I just wasn't strong enough to conquer it."

There are parallels between this year and last. In both years, the Junior Bills got progressively stronger and more confident as time went by, sure that this would be the year that they break their '90s state record of

eighth, which has held since 1991, and which itself was the best finish since their '61 victory.

But last year, the bottom fell out at state.

Rosario believes that you shouldn't expect the collapse to be repeated.

"This year is a lot different," Rosario said. "We have already proved to ourselves that we can win. We are the number one team in St. Louis, so we should

be in the top two (in Missouri)."

Other area runners who advanced to state in competitions held around the region included Josh Adkins from Hancock; Josh Vassalli, Earl Colvin, Bryan Rucknagel, Tim Jerry and Brian Greeves of Lutheran South (Lutheran South qualified as a team in the District 1 competition held in Potosi); and James Kennedy of DuBourg.