

Cross country shines in practice race

MATT SCHAEFER AND ALEX SPEISER
REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High cross-country team could be one of the best in St. Louis for the fourth year in a row. With more than eighty runners and four coaches, the 1998 team appears prepared to improve upon last year's undefeated regular season and third place finish at state.

Senior captains Ken Reichert, Matt Schaefer, and Alex Speiser were elected before the summer and are providing strong leadership. Head coach Jim

Linhares is supported by assistants Rob Behm, Tom Flanagan, and Pat Hamel. The team has been practicing for nearly a month, and, in addition,

a core group of athletes lifted weights and ran between 300 and 500 miles this summer.

Last Saturday the team met at the course in Forest Park and treated the practice as if it were a true race, even though there were no other competing teams. The race was fast from the start, and the times compared very favorably with last year's first race.

Junior Ted Snodgrass won the 5K (3.1 miles) race in 17:11, followed by classmates Nathan Tower in 17:18 and Murphy O'Brien in 17:32. Varsity veteran Reichert came in fourth at 17:48, while Schaefer and juniors Mark Monda and Tim Huguerich broke into the top seven for the first time in their careers with times of 17:51, 17:52, and 18:00.

Seniors Matt Crow, Alex Speiser, John Senn, junior Dan Graesser, and sophomores Ryan Hatch, David Godar, and Jason Towers all ran below 18:30, times which attest to the tremendous depth of the team, particularly on the JV level. All of these runners will be going to the Mizzou Sportshake Invitational on September 11, along with seniors Sean Burns,

Greg Leuchtman, and junior Dan Westlund. Sportshake is one of the most competitive meets in Missouri, and the competition includes many teams that will be running at the state meet.

The rest of the team will be racing Parkway South at Shroeder Park on September 9 and again at the McCluer North Invitational on September 12.

The freshmen also had a great day in their first racing experience. They ran the

same course, but stopped at the two mile mark rather than finish the 3.1 mile course.

Ten freshmen ran under 14 minutes, a great time for beginning runners. Tipper O'Brien led the race, although he inadvertently cut the course, and was pursued by Pat Kim. The duo's adjusted times were 12:08 and 12:33. Pat Leinauer finished third in 12:34, but he ran the entire course. Bobby Lucky also finished below 13 minutes with a time of 12:41.

Footbills ready for hittin'

RYAN FOX AND ROB HUTCHISON
EDITORS

While walking to the first practice on Monday, August 10, the Junior Bill Varsity football team put behind them a summer of squats, presses, sprints, and sweat. The players carried with them the benefits of that toil as they crossed beneath Highway 40 to begin a season that greeted them with as many questions as guarantees.

"We have to find new kids each year," said coach Mark Tychonievich, "and each year the kids always respond. I think they'll do it this year."

For the first season in some time, the Varsity squad will enter the season without a dominating presence in the backfield. While teams in recent years have relied on wearing out opposing defenses with a solid running game, the talents of this year's squad call for a return to the more pass-oriented style of play that has made head coach Gary Kornfeld's teams earlier this decade so dominant.

This season sees the return of last year's starting quarterback, junior Mark Kornfeld. However, a lack of speed at the wide receiver position might keep the passing game from breaking games wide open. Despite the lack of flash, however, the receiving crew is led by two extremely capable and hardworking receivers, senior Sanjay Dwivedy, and Joe Thaman, who, although only a junior, saw a lot of

playing time last season. Dwivedy's sure hands and Thaman's crisp routes should provide a sufficient target for Kornfeld. Coach Kornfeld also expects "big things" from senior tight end Dan Parker.

The offense will be built upon an offensive line nothing short of gargantuan. Anchored by center Nick Wade, the line, which averages 6'2", 275 pounds, flares out to include senior stalwarts Mike Lunneman, Adam Krieger, and national prospect Dan Weidle.

"The key to our success will be to keep the intensity level up," said Lunneman, "If we can do that, we'll be able to move people."

Senior lineman Matt Harrison adds, "I'd like to see the size we have on the team contribute to a winning and productive season."

On the other side of the ball, the defensive line will be led by senior noseguard Matt Graves, the only returning starter. The team will start two junior linebackers, Brent Holtgrewe and Dan Hannis, and a young defensive backfield that will be challenged by the speed of such opponents as CBC and Hazelwood Central.

"We hope to get better week by week," said Coach Kornfeld, who acknowledges this season's increasingly tough schedule, especially the difficulty of the non-conference matchups. "We are hoping for big things, though."