

Bittersweet**Harriers have strong season despite sectional mishaps****Season Review**

While the overall season was sweet for the '86 cross country Harriers, it ended leaving them with a bitter aftertaste. The avid cross country fan will recall the disappointing sectional meet when prospective state competitors Chris Woodward and Dan Ortwerth fell short of their goals.

The Harriers started the season without most of last year's sophomore and junior runners. This left the varsity team with seniors Woodward and Ortwerth and junior Mike Schinsky. It appeared that the remaining four spots would have to be taken by the inexperienced sophomore runners. The positions were alternately filled by sophomores Charlie Lottes, John Sadlo, Angelo Directo, Brian Lawler, and Jamie Cummings. The team was not expected to have a very successful season.

Bad luck struck the team early when Ortwerth was sidelined with a shin injury for three weeks. This injury put more responsibility on the sophomores, and their early season times showed it. The only bright spots on the team were the low times of Woodward (16:21 at the intrasquad meet) and Schinsky.

Suddenly, though, the cloudy future began to clear. Ortwerth returned with a strong 20:11 in his first meet at the grueling Pattonville Tournament. But most importantly, sophomore times began to drop dramatically. The gap between the times of the "gods" (Woodward, Ortwerth, and Schinsky) and those of the sophomores was narrowing. Brian Lawler knocked one minute and four seconds off his time at Forest Park.

By the time districts rolled around, "Coachman" Jim Linhares realized that the team could go farther than they had ever hoped to before. The team performed well at districts with Woodward's time of 16:16 and Ortwerth's 17:07, and qualified for sectionals.

Woodward named to second All-Metro team

In his final high school season, senior Chris Woodward was named to the second team of the *Post-Dispatch's* All-Metro Cross Country Team.

After an extraordinary season, Woodward failed to qualify for state when he suffered extreme dizziness in the final fifty yards of the sectional race.

Compiled from NewsSources

Records don't mean everything**Sports Commentary**

In spite of their losing record of 3-7, the 1986 varsity Footbills can all be called winners. They deserve this title because they were a team that stuck together through wins and losses. Week after week, the Gridbills were out on the field, practicing and playing hard. Even after the sound defeats by Jefferson City and Columbia, the team held their heads high and worked hard even until the final buzzer sounded.

This spirit of pride and accomplishment, even in defeat, I believe, can be attributed to the excellent leadership the team received from its four captains, Pete Ferrara, Mike Mandle, Jim Michalski, and Mike Hemmermeier. They were always on the sidelines or in the game, boosting morale and inspiring the rest of the squad to keep a high head and never give up.

There was a "growth and camaraderie," as noted by one player, that the team as a whole experienced. I can still remember moments in the season that uplifted spirits regardless of the outcome of the game. I remember the exuberance of the team when Jim Michalski kicked a field goal with 19 seconds left to give SLUH its first win over St. Mary's. I can still see the lively and

Winter sports season openers**HOCKEY**

Saturday, November 22 vs. Parkway North at Queery Park at 6:15 PM

BASKETBALL

Friday, December 5 at Riverview at 8 PM

SWIMMING

Friday, December 5 in the Parkway North Relays

WRESTLING

Thursday, December 11 vs. Chaminade at home at 7 PM

enthusiastic team entering the locker room at Vianney with a halftime lead.

But most of all I see Chuck Overall leaping into the air to make a miraculous catch to score a touchdown over CBC. I also see just as clearly Jim Michalski intercepting that pass and running back for the touchdown to put the game away. I still see a team and all of its fans showing sheer elation at a win over CBC.

Michalski was, in fact, the leading pass receiver, and in defense second only to Chuck Overall. Chuck, also a great offensive and defensive asset, led the team in yards per rush as well as in tackles.

Throughout the season, many problems plagued the Gridbills. One of these included the quarterback situation. Coach Martel ended up picking Sean Nolan, who had "finally gained the experience needed to be a good quarterback by the last few games of the season."

The secondary was a major concern because of the injury of Bill Broun. Dan O'Connell cited that "the secondary got much better as the season progressed due to the gaining of experience by Juniors Romeo, Roy and Grimm. It took awhile for them to get suited to the position."

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