

With intense spirit and talent, the freshman cross country team chalked up another successful season. "It was a very hard-working team", commented Mr. Linhares. "I am very optimistic of what will come in the future."

The first test of speed and stamina came at the Prep Seminary Invitational. On a fairly flat course the C-Harriers finished a strong second. The next meet, the Parkway West Invitational prove a complete success for the C-team. They captured first, overtaking powerhouses such as McCluer North and Parkway West. The next obstacle for the team was the DeSmet Invitational. They wiped up and took home first by defeating DeSmet and Yianney to a pulp.

After running and competing quite well in several sophomore meets, the C-Linharriers were ready for the real test. The Hazelwood Freshman Invitational, dubbed the "Freshman State Meet", proved to be challenging as the Jr. Bills took a respectable sixth place.

"We competed with the best in the state throughout the year", Coach Linhares said enthusiastically. With a continually strong program, SLUH Cross Country will definitely BLAZE INTO THE '90's and beyond.

Kris Knapstein

A hot summer day didn't stop the varsity Harriers from their first practice August 8, 1989. The team knew they would need some returning varsity talent, some summer running, a good deal of hard work and a lot of believing to get to state.

First the Harriers were upset by Parkway South, who would prove to be one of the team's big rivals. The Harrier Bills stayed alive by winning the Southpaw Invitational. The Eureka Invitational was a major turning point for the team, even though they lost to rival, Lafayette.

From that point on the Linharriers knew they were going to state. The Hazelwood Invitational was a bit of a disappointment, although the team finished a respectable seventh. The Harriers finished a strong eighth at the Hancock Invitational, a sort of "microstate". Here they did conquer Lafayette. At the De Smet Invitational the team improved, taking second, right on the heels of DeSmet.

Districts arrived and were held at Jefferson Barracks. The Linharriers finished third, behind Parkway West and Kirkwood. The third place finish allowed the team to advance to sectionals. Sectionals took place at Sioux Passage Park, on an immensely hilly course. Again the team blazed into third, this time beating Kirkwood. For the first time in 21 years the Harrier Bills had qualified for state as a whole team.

The State meet was an exciting experience for the runners, coaches, and fans alike. The highlight was Micky Luna's tenth place finish, which qualified him for all state honors. But the best news was yet to come. When the final results came in Mr. Linhares was estatic. The team had finished tenth out of sixteen teams, making SLUH the fourth best team in the St. Louis area in 1989.

After it was all over Coach Linhares commented, "Seven or eight years ago Fr. Goeke and I began seriously setting our sights on qualifying a team for state." As for the whole experience of state, Mr. Linhares stated simply, "It was a wonderful experience." With this kind of spirit and drive the Harrier Bills will do some big time BLAZING INTO THE '90's.

Jerry Kester