

West Plains Boys, Lindbergh

Cross Country

By Jim Thomas

Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

For those of you who thought West Plains High would be just another cross country team without Chris Zinn, think again.

There's a lot more to the Zizzers than Zinn, as the rest of the field in the Hancock Invitational discovered Saturday at Jefferson Barracks Park. Running against a strong Gold Division lineup, which featured six of the top 10 boys teams in the Post-Dispatch cross-country poll, West Plains finished first among 24 scoring teams, with 61 points. DeSmet was second (84 points), Parkway West placed third (115) and Hazelwood Central was fourth (190).

Rolla took the title in the Blue Division, which consisted primarily of small schools. The Gold Division consisted of 4A schools except for sixth-place Herculeaneum, a Class 3A team. Lindbergh won the girls division title.

Zinn graduated last spring after winning three consecutive Missouri Class 4A championships. He broke his own state-meet record last fall, covering 5,000 meters (3.1 miles) in 15 minutes 46.7 seconds. In those three years, West Plains won the state title in 1981, placed third in '82 and was fifth last fall.

West Plains also won a state title in 1979 and has finished no lower than eighth since beginning its cross country program in 1978. But without Zinn, lots of folks thought the Zizzers would be mere mortals this season.

"That's what they say," said Coach

Joe Bill Dixon, who was not quite sure what to expect either. "I didn't really know where we were."

If Saturday's meet was any indication, the Zizzers appear to be in familiar territory as one of the leading contenders for the state title. Everybody is back from last year's team except Zinn. And of this year's top seven, only one runner, Paul Cross, is a senior.

Juniors Mark Stasney (second, 16:35) and Jon Hatley (fourth, 16:40) led the Zizzers' pack on a rain-drenched course at Jefferson Barracks. Six of West Plains' seven runners earned medals by finishing in the top 30.

"We were really in terrible position early," Dixon said. "I just didn't know if we could make it up. Our kids were way back."

The Zizzers made up plenty of ground Saturday, enough to win the meet. But none of the 161 other runners in the Gold Division could catch CBC's Chris Borsa, who was first across the finish line in 15:58, a whopping 37 seconds ahead of runner-up Stasney. Borsa had set course records in his first two races this season, but Saturday's rain kept him from approaching another course mark.

"I was shooting for it, but the weather was not the greatest in the world," Borsa said. "There were a couple of slippery spots."

Borsa led practically from start to finish, passing the 1/4-mile mark in 6:08 and the two-mile mark in 10:05.

Hazelwood Central, the Post-Dispatch's No. 2 boys team, ran according to form Saturday. The Hawks had three runners in the top six

(Mark Colvis, Ron Rosner and Terry Plunkett), but not much after that.

Fourth-ranked DeSmet had four medalists, led by seventh-place Louis Brescia (16:56) and eighth-place Bob Jotte (17:02). Tenth-ranked Parkway West also had four medalists, paced by 15th-place Scott Bransford (17:25).

The girls division competition was expected to be a showdown between the Post-Dispatch's top-ranked girls team, Herculeaneum, and No. 2 Lindbergh. But Lindbergh's Flyers cruised to an impressive victory, with 64 points and three runners in the top 10.

West Plains finished a distant second with 123 points, Hazelwood Central was third with 132 and Herculeaneum fourth with 145.

"We really didn't run well," Herculeaneum Coach Bud McMillin said minutes after Saturday's girls race. "I'm really not worried... Herky is known as a peaking team. The state meet is when it counts and we're going to be there."

Freshman standout Mary Lee Bankhead paved the way for Lindbergh, winning her third consecutive major invitational of the season. After the race, a perky Bankhead looked like anything but someone who had just run 5,000 meters in the rain. But looks were deceiving.

"I was dead," she said. "I took it out too soon. They told me that the (Herky) girls I was racing had kicks."

Fourth-place Ann Brumfield of Lindbergh also was wary of the Blackcats. "We didn't know what was going to happen," she said.

But, on Saturday at least, it was no contest as the Class 4A Flyers literally flew by the 3A Blackcats.

High Girls Win Hancock Meet

Weekend Results

Edwardsville Invitational (At SIU-Edwardsville) (Boys, 3 miles)

TEAM TOTALS — Lincoln 50, Centralia 80, Hazelwood East 106, Belleville West 164, Alton 165, McCluer North 195, Belleville East 200, Edwardsville 230, Lebanon 243, St. Charles 245, Springfield Southeast 285, Mascoutah 295, Granite City 296, Triad 353, Bethalto 397, Jerseyville 416, Roxana 452.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS — 1. Jon Burnett (BW) 15:30 (breaks own meet record of 15:33); 2. Norman Bilsbury (Lincoln) 15:44; 3. Tim Flamer (Edwardsville) 15:48; 4. Brian Brasher (Mascoutah) 15:52; 5. M. Montgomery (Centralia) 16:03; 6. Cecil Shy (Lincoln) 16:06; 7. N. West (Centralia) 16:06; 8. R. Williams (Lincoln) 16:15; 9. Orsey Nunn (Lincoln) 16:21; 10. J. Bucher (Triad) 16:22.

(Girls, 2 miles)

TEAM TOTALS — Lincoln 37, Granite City 61, O'Fallon 116, Belleville West 120, Belleville East 147, Collinsville 155, Centralia 161, Triad 179, East St. Louis 230, Mascoutah 246.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS — 1. Juleigh Barringer (Edwardsville) 12:10 (ties Pan Quarengri's record of 12:10 set last year); 2. Angie Taylor (Lincoln) 12:17; 3. Celesia Shy (Lincoln) 12:19; 4. Lisa Jones (Belleville East) 12:20; 5. Tammy Dill (Belleville West) 12:24; 6. Pam Quarengri (Collinsville) 12:26; 7. Lora Wiser (Granite City) 12:29; 8. Lisa Judiscak (O'Fallon) 12:41; 9. M. Johnson (Lincoln) 12:43; 10. Michelle Shoemaker (Granite City) 12:44.

Hancock Invitational (At Jefferson Barracks, 3.1 miles) (Girls)

TEAM TOTALS — Lindbergh 64, West Plains 123, Hazelwood Central 132, Herculeaneum 145, Lafayette 180, Parkway South 188, Hazelwood West 277, McCluer 294, Kirkwood 344, McCluer North 349, St. Dominic 376, Parkway Central 388, Parkway West 416, Jackson 417, St. Charles West 423, Rosati-

Kain 430, Festus 448, Fox 449, Lutheran South 462, DuBourg 503, Webster Groves 506, Hazelwood East 536, Principia 573, Oakville 643, Parkway North 743.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS — 1. Mary Lee Bankhead (Lindbergh), 20:06; 2. Kelly Woodman (Lafayette), 20:16; 3. Julie Bergfield (Webster Groves), 20:22; 4. Ann Brumfield (Lindbergh), 20:25; 5. Peggy Ehrhardt (Kirkwood), 20:26; 6. Sherry Cox (Sikeston), 20:31; 7. Tina Heidv (West Plains), 20:31; 8. Janet Buss (McCluer), 20:44; 9. Dawn Wheeler (Hazelwood Central), 20:45; 10. Sue Illig (Lindbergh), 20:49; 11. Lisa Portell (Herculeaneum), 20:51; 12. Lisa Skelton (Lafayette), 21:05; 13. Lisa Dobbs (West Plains), 21:06; 14. Christy Ledbetter (West Plains), 21:10; 15. Merrylin Finney (St. Charles West), 21:10; 16. Lesley Dugan (Herculeaneum), 21:12; 17. Sue Smart (DuBourg), 21:12; 18. Laurie Luedtke (McCluer North), 21:12; 19. Michelle Owens (Hazelwood Central), 21:13.

(Boys Blue Division)

TEAM TOTALS — Rolla 88, St. Dominic 110, Jackson 114, Wentzville 142, Lutheran South 147, St. Charles West 198, Crystal City 228, Troy 240, St. Pius 241, Festus 269, Principia 324, Prep North 330, Sullivan 330, Vianney 333, North County Tech 341, Clayton 369, Bayless 497, Country Day 501, Rosary 530, Affton 550, Oakville 586, John Burroughs 608, Priory 611.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS — 1. Eric Van Matre (Rolla), 16:26; 2. Robert Lawrence (Sullivan), 16:30; 3. Tim Keller (Crystal City), 16:32; 4. Andy Prater (Sullivan), 16:36; 5. Tim Swinfard (Rolla), 16:48; 6. Brian Lackey (St. Charles West), 16:55; 7. Mike Macke (St. Dominic), 17:03; 8. Walter Davis (Wentzville), 17:04; 9. Briant Wright (Festus), 17:06; 10. Darrell Mueller (Troy), 17:08; 11. Dodd McClellan (Jackson), 17:10; 12. Joe Lichtenwalner (St. Dominic), 17:17; 13. Dan Harig (Prep North), 17:20; 14. Jim Neff

(Lutheran South), 17:22; 15. John Lyvell (Jackson), 17:25; 16. Dave Mollis (St. Pius), 17:26; 17. Dave Pokorny (Clayton), 17:26; 18. Jim Johnson (Duchesne), 17:27; 19. Scott Brothers (Jackson), 17:34; 20. Tom McFadden (St. Charles West), 17:36.

(Boys Gold Division)

TEAM TOTALS — West Plains 61, DeSmet 84, Parkway West 115, Hazelwood Central 190, Parkway South 194, Herculeaneum 196, Northwest-House Springs 205, Fox 218, Poplar Bluff 268, Kirkwood 284, Hazelwood West 333, St. Louis U. High 341, Lafayette 342, Sikeston 354, Parkway North 406, Mehlville 420, Parkway Central 442, Ritenour 461, Webster Groves 471, St. Mary's 573, McCluer 623, DuBourg 675, Chaminate 690, Fort Zumwalt 703.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS — 1. Chris Borsa (CBC), 15:58; 2. Mark Stasney (West Plains), 16:35; 3. Mark Colvis (Hazelwood Central), 16:36; 4. Jon Hatley (West Plains), 16:40; 5. Ron Rosner (Hazelwood Central), 16:40; 6. Terry Plunkett (Hazelwood Central), 16:44; 7. Louis Brescia (DeSmet), 16:56; 8. Bob Jotte (DeSmet), 17:02; 9. Dave Carroll (Parkway South), 17:04; 10. Ivan Gorsky (Lafayette), 17:05; 11. Steve McFadden (Fox), 17:05; 12. Carlos Lima (Fox), 17:09; 13. Tim Waggoner (West Plains), 17:23; 14. Chris Murphy (DeSmet), 17:25; 15. Scott Bransford (Parkway West), 17:25; 16. Jim Filmont (Parkway West), 17:27; 17. Tim Cross (West Plains), 17:27; 18. Paul Pfeiffer (Hazelwood West), 17:29; 19. John Myers (Poplar Bluff), 17:31; 20. Matt Williams (DeSmet), 17:31; 21. Daryl Ayers (Parkway West), 17:32; 22. Dan Coates (Northwest), 17:32; 23. Mike Foster (Herculeaneum), 17:36; 24. Brian Davis (Parkway West), 17:37; 25. Paul Cross (West Plains), 17:39; 26. Art Bentley (West Plains), 17:40; 27. Mike Dobbs (Poplar Bluff), 17:42; 28. R. Bannister (Sikeston), 17:42; 29. Todd Smith (Parkway North), 17:43; 30. Jeff Hallman (Parkway South), 17:44.

Herculeaneum's top finisher was 12th-place Lisa Portell (20:51). Lesley Dugan, the defending 1A-3A state champion, finished 17th in (21:12).

Rolla, a 4A school, won the boys

Blue Division title with 88 points. Rolla was led by first-place Eric Van Matre (16:26) and sixth-place Tim Swinfard (16:48). St. Dominic

contender with a strong second-place finish (110 points). The Crusaders were paced by seventh-place Mike Macke (17:03) and 11th-place Joe