

State

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Catholic Conference Meet along with the district and sectional titles.

But it was a different story at state as the Junior Bills finished eighth as a team.

"I'm not going to mince words, it was a tough day for us," Linhares said. "We knew coming in that we had seven fine runners and we felt we could score very well with five of them. But you need a little luck to go along with talent and we didn't have that Saturday. One of our runners (John Parr) was sick the night before and we had one runner (Peter Schaefer), who has run in the 16:30s, really struggle. I thought he had an outside shot at being all-state and he was our seventh runner (and finished 127th)."

The meet was not without highlights, which included another all-state effort from senior Tom O'Brien. He followed up last year's 23rd place finish with a 25th place effort this year (the top 25 get medals and all-state recognition).

"Tom knew his position and it was high drama at the end," Linhares said. "His legs were gone but he managed to hang on and gave the ultimate effort to lean at the end. I know Tom would have liked to have finished even higher but he missed six weeks because of a stress fracture. I am delighted with him being all-state again."

The Junior Bills got better than expected efforts from their usual five, six and seven runners. Juniors Drew Noblot, Kevin Crean and Kyle Gonnerman were 41st, 69th and 73rd respectively. Senior Patrick Leinauer was 52nd after being 57th last year.

But Parr and Schaefer both failed to make it into the top 100.

SLUH wanted to not only bring home a trophy but also be the top St. Louis area team at state. That did not happen as MCC rival DeSmet was fourth and Parkway South was fifth.



Dennis Caldwell photo

St. Louis U. High's Drew Noblot (745) and CBC's Justin Stein make their way over the course on Saturday at Hough Park in Jefferson City, annual site for the state cross country meet.

SLUH falls short of its expectations at state

By Bill Hester
Correspondent

Expectations were high for the St. Louis University High cross country team as they left to compete in Saturday's Missouri State

4A CROSS COUNTRY

High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Class 4A Meet at Oak Hills Golf Center in Jefferson City.

"We felt coming in that we had an excellent shot at a trophy," said Junior Bills coach Jim Linhares.

A top four finish, which would result in a trophy, seemed like a legitimate goal. The Junior Bills, who were sixth in state in 2000, were one of the dominant teams in the area during the season and had performed very well in recent weeks winning the Metro

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