

# XC finishes second at sectionals, heads for state

**Henry Samson**  
Reporter

If there was one word to describe the conditions for the class 4A Section 2 race at Sioux Passage last Saturday morning, it would undeniably be "brutal." "I think I'm now missing a key part of my male anatomy," said Dan Flanagan. The sky, bearing a startling resemblance to Niagra Falls, relentlessly poured down huge sheets of water that drenched runners and spectators, and turned the event into a soggy bog of a mess. Mother Nature though, had more in her plans; the temperature hovered under 50 degrees all morning, making it one of the most unpleasant days of the season.

Unfazed by these hellish conditions, the Jr. Bills marched into North County fresh off their big district win determined to maintain their momentum; although they fell to a tough CBC squad by a mere 6 points, the Harriers were pleased with the race and hopeful for state. "I'm

glad to see the team succeeding," said head coach Jim Linhares, "though I wish we could have had a fifth man."

Hindered by the loss of sophomore Mike Jonagan due to tendon problems in his lower legs, and lacking junior Alex Muntges, the varsity cross country team finished in second place, once again among the three other M.C.C. schools who advanced from districts.

It was another close race; about 20 points separated first place CBC from fourth place DeSmet. Linhares commented, "To be honest, we had four really solid races."

Danny Meier stepped up for the team and finished 6th overall with a time of 16:43. He was followed closely thereafter by sophomore Ben Murphy-Baum, who finished 9th in 16:47, and Andrew Linhares, who finished 10th in 16:49. If the places for these fast times were this close in sectionals, then the places will be even tighter at the state meet tomorrow.

Chris Arb had another great race at Sioux Passage, running a 17:11 for 23rd

place. If he keeps progressing each week like he has been doing, he will be an anchor for the team amidst the throngs of runners at state.

Rounding out the top seven were Joe Carlson at 17:29 (31st), Dan Flanagan at 17:42 (33rd), and John Oliver at 17:54 (37th).

There is no looking back now as the team approaches the line for the 2003 state cross country race. The culmination of the season and the seniors' XC careers is in Jefferson City tomorrow. Always a momentous sight, Oak Hills Golf Course will be flooded tomorrow with thousands of tight-shorted runners from all across Missouri.

Smiling while prophesying about Saturday's outcome in between bites of his runner-healthy sandwich during freshman-sophomore lunch, Murphy-Baum emphasized, "We're gonna get it done!"

The race is at 1:45 p.m.; maps to the Oak Hills course in Jefferson City can be found at the welcome center.

# Torpedobills demolish 'Stangs, move on

**Dave Marek**  
Reporter

Two down, two more to go. In the past week, the St. Louis U. High water polo team took two crucial steps towards winning the state title: defeating Oakville 16-1 in the first round of the conference tournament on Saturday and stomping Marquette 15-3 in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. With such an auspicious beginning, it seems that the Polobills are poised to bring back the state title.

Oakville posed little problem for the Polobills, who significantly outranked their opponents (Oakville was ranked 15th whereas the Polobills were ranked 2nd in the tournament). SLUH won in part because of the juniors on the team. Juniors Adam Trafton and Tim Heafner both had three goals and the vast majority of the remaining juniors had at least one goal.

The Polobills' game against

Marquette was much more anticipated than the Oakville game. Although the Polobills had beaten Marquette twice in the regular season, Marquette's strongest player, Todd Patrick, did not play in one of the games. Patrick's previous absence and Marquette's definitive 10-7 victory over John Burroughs built excitement around Marquette's potential.

The Polobills shattered all doubts about their abilities and potential to win the state tournament in the first period of the Marquette game.

"We had to show them that we were going to be on top from the beginning," commented senior Brad Witbrodt.

SLUH had no problem getting the all-important early lead. Heafner notched the first goal for the Polobills on a breakaway goal that the Marquette goalie never had a chance of stopping. Nathan Harris scored the second goal of the game by gaining separation from his guard and easily shooting the ball above the unprepared goalie's arms. Marquette came back with a sweep

shot that slipped past Paul Guest from in front of the goal. But Andy Withington answered Marquette's goal, and at the end of the quarter, the Polobills led 3-1.

Marquette refused to sink in the second quarter and quickly notched their second goal in the opening minutes of the quarter. The early goal did not discourage the Potemkinbills, though, as Heafner added another goal to his total, and Withington earned a hat trick with two more goals. By the end of the first half, the Polobills led Marquette 6-2.

SLUH continued their dominance over Marquette throughout the third quarter. Heafner scored three consecutive spin shots against the helpless Marquette defense. Marquette continued to suffer in the third quarter as Todd Patrick received his second and third kick-outs and was ejected from the game. Without the threat of Patrick, the Polobills easily ended the quarter with a 11-3 lead.

By the fourth quarter, the Polobills  
**see STAMPEDE, 13**