

SLUH slides to win in MCC meet

By Jason Reckamp
Staff writer

The times, they are a-changin'. And at a perfect juncture in the cross country season, no less, for the St. Louis U. High squad.

SLUH barreled through the mud on Saturday at Chaminade and with a few surprising times, captured the Metro Catholic Conference meet by 26 points over the host school.

"We did real well," said SLUH coach Jim Linhares. "It was a slow and muddy track and the boys turned in some great times. I think the times would have been better (on a drier track), but it's always hard to say in cross country. They did some good things. They all ran a real strong first mile and they

ran in strong packs."

The Junior Billikens got an expected top-notch performance from first-place finisher Peter Schaefer (16 minutes, 41 seconds), as well as a pleasant surprise from senior Kyle Gonnerman (17:19). Gonnerman finished fifth overall as a replacement for Andrew Linhares, who has been nursing a stress fracture and remains in doubt for the postseason meets.

"(Kyle) had been just off the crest of our varsity team all year," Linhares said. "He was down on the jayvee team and had been winning some races. And with the injury to Andrew, Kyle stepped in and did really well. It was a big surprise, considering the conditions."

The "strong pack" was evident in the remaining five finishers. The rest of the SLUH squad fin-

ished within 20 seconds of each other, led by sophomore Alex Muntges (17:19). Seniors Kevin Crean (17:26), Matt Killiany (17:28), Drew Noblet (17:34) and Geoff Stewart (17:41) all crossed the finish line among the top 15.

Second-place Chaminade had three runners — Mark Buha, Kyle Kniepra and Mark Zaegel — finish in the top 10. DeSmet finished third, followed by CBC and Vianney.

After another quality performance as a team, SLUH can look ahead to Saturday's district meet at Parkway Central.

"It's great to have a strong team," Linhares said. "We turned in some great times. And it's great to have a performance like (Gonnerman's). As a coach, you feel like that's one more guy. You've got to love that."

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