

CROSS COUNTRY

SLUH makes statement

Junior Bills grab third straight crown

By Bill Hester
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The St. Louis University High cross country team made an early and impressive statement in the season-opening First Capitol Invitational Meet.

The Junior Bills have never left McNair Park with anything but the first-place trophy. They have competed in the prestigious meet three years and won it every time.

But this year's victory may have been the most impressive. SLUH won the White (large school) Division with 65 points. Fort Zumwalt South was a distant second with 105 points.

"We've always done well here, but we never had five guys medal like we did today," said Junior Bills coach Jim Linhares.

The top 20 runners earned medals at the meet.

"This is the deepest team I have ever had not only with my

varsity runners but my junior varsity runners," Linhares said. "And I have a group of very serious runners who put in a lot of mileage over the summer."

"I've got four or five guys who would like to eventually be near the 17:00 mark. They believe they can do it and so do I. We want to be competitive with the best teams in the state, although there are some really good teams like Liberty and West Plains from outside the area."

The Junior Bills finished eighth as a team at state last season, but look to improve on

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with First Capitol win

that this season.

Senior Peter Schaeffer was the only Junior Bill to finish in the top 10 Friday. He was third with a time of 17:01.

But the other four Junior Bill runners were in the next 10. Junior Andrew Linhares was 13th (17:26), senior Drew Noblot was 14th (17:26), sophomore Alex Muntges, who was running his first race, was 16th (17:31) and senior Kevin Crean was 19th (17:39).

Nate Smith of Hickman won the White Division race with a time of 16:45. Mark Buha of Chaminade was second in 16:55.

Parkway South, which finished fourth as a team, had two runners in the top five: Kevin John was fourth (17:06) and Tim Levine was fifth (17:10).

St. Charles West had three runners in the top five and nipped Herculaneum for the Blue Division team title. The Warriors had 53 points, five fewer than Herky. West's Corey Swinney won with a time of 17:18. Ladue's Don Hedgecock was second (17:28).

Marquette's girls had quite an impressive showing with three runners in the top five. The Mustangs, who had five individ-

ual medalists, won with 38 points. Jefferson City was second with 75 points.

Taylor Scott of Lafayette was the only girl to break 20:00. She won the large school event with a time of 19:58. Marquette's Katy Bundy was second (20:14).

St. Charles West swept the boys and girls championships in the smaller school division. Visitation and Ladue had strong showings in the girls race. The Vivettes, who were led by Sarah Douglas' seventh place finish, were second as a team. Es Stuk was fifth individually for Ladue, which finished third overall.