

Schaefer leads Junior Bills to 5th place at state meet

SLUH runners turn in top performance by St. Louis area schools

By Glen Sparks
Correspondent

If St. Louis University High couldn't finish first at the state cross country championships, the Junior Billikens at least wanted to win this half of the state.

SLUH did just that Saturday in the Class 4A race at Oak Hills Golf Center in Jefferson City, finishing fifth overall with 144 points, behind team champ West Plains (47 points), Liberty (53), Blue Springs (85) and St. Joseph Central (130), but ahead of area schools such as Parkway South (sixth, 160) and Fort Zumwalt South (ninth, 261).

The Junior Bills completed a season that included a district championship, a sectional championship, the Metro Catholic Conference crown and first-place at every meet in 2002 except the Hancock Invitational. SLUH finished second there and Liberty was first.

Coach Jim Linhares didn't know if SLUH could get past some of the top Kansas City-area schools on Saturday. He took enough satisfaction at being No. 1 in St. Louis.

"It is a big deal being tops among the schools in the St. Louis area," Linhares said. "Even if you've been doing it all season, it's important that you do it at state. This is what people remember."

Peter Schaefer crossed the finish line first for SLUH, running the 3.1-mile course in 16 minutes, 56 seconds. Liberty's Adam Perkins finished first in the Class 4 boys race (16:09), followed by Josh Harper of West Plains (16:15) and another Liberty runner, Brian Graybill (16:35), also in the top three.

Billy Bell of Parkway Central (12th, 16:52), Kevin McNab of Howell North (14th, 16:53) and Eureka's Tony Payton (15th, 16:55) beat out Schaefer in the race to be the fastest cross country runner in the St. Louis area.

"I wanted to be the top runner from St. Louis," Schaefer said. "Some of these guys, like Billy Bell, I had beaten before."



Pam Doepke photo

St. Louis U. High's Peter Schaefer (757), a South County resident, competes in the state meet on Saturday in Jefferson City. Schaefer finished in 16 minutes, 56 seconds.

Perkins led much of the way. Schaefer didn't really get going until the second mile. As several runners faded in the last 400 meters or so, Schaefer kept going. About 1,000 miles of summer conditioning provided that extra kick.

The SLUH runners finishing behind Schaefer included Kevin Crean (33rd, 17:17), Kyle Gonnerman (44th, 17:27), Drew Noblot (46th, 17:29) and Linhares' son, Andrew (99th, 18:09), who ran despite suffering a stress fracture in his foot early in the season. Alex Muntges, a promising sophomore, could not finish the race because of exhaustion.

Linhares and Muntges are back next season, as are talented runners such as Don Flanagan and Brennan Cooper. The Junior Bills should once again be one of the top teams in the state.

"I could rattle off a number of kids who could be good runners for us and challenge for those top spots," Linhares said. "We're ready

to go."

Schaefer, a two-time state qualifier and a member of SLUH's state title team in 2000, also plans to keep running. He is looking into cross country programs at Truman State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and elsewhere.

"I'll be running somewhere," he said. "I can't believe my running career is over. I like to win and I like the challenge of doing your best."

Also in the Class 4A race, CBC finished 15th as a team, with Brian Sherwood (68th, 17:36) Joe Guinness (84th, 17:56), Kevin Fox (104th, 18:13), Pat O'Neil, (136th, 18:51) and Paul Winker (139th, 18:51).

Ed Missey of St. Mary's finished in 96th place (18:07) and Lindbergh's Kyle Hubbard took 113th (18:25).

In 3A, Caleb Wheeler of DuBourg finished 75th (18:40), Jamie Brinker of Lutheran South was 113th (19:14) and Affton's Doug Blackmon finished 118th (19:19).

2002 MSHSAA Cross Country Championships

at Oak Hills Golf Center, Nov. 9
25 runners in each class are all-state)

CLASS 4

Boys

Team scores: 1. West Plains, 47; 2. Liberty, 53; 3. Blue Springs, 85; 4. Central (St. Joseph's), 130; 5. St. Louis University High, 144; 6. Parkway South, 147; 7. Lee's Summit, 178; 8. Jefferson City, 228; 9. Fort Zumwalt South, 261; 10. Chaminade, 281; 11. Kirkwood, 300; 12. Marquette, 326; 13. Kickapoo, 344; 14. DeSmet, 348; 15. CBC, 356; 16. Fox, 438

Individual results

1. Adam Perkins (Liberty), 16:09.78; 2. Kevin Harper (West Plains), 16:15.73; 3. Nathan Graybill (Liberty), 16:35.99; 4. Kevin McNab (Central), 16:36.28; 5. Adam Tegenkamp (Lee's Summit), 16:37.90; 6. Brian Roe (West Plains), 16:38.52; 7. Adam Scrogg (Lee's Summit North), 16:40.09; 8. Matt Brown (West Plains), 16:41.59; 9. Tony Camareno (Blue Springs), 16:47.82; 10. Chris Crutcher (Blue Springs), 16:49.19; 11. Nathan Smith (Hickman),

16:51.98; 12. Billy Bell (Parkway Central), 16:52.28; 13. Bryan Touney (Lee's Summit North), 15:53.01; 14. Kevin McNab (Francis Howell North), 16:53.74; 15. Tony Payton (Eureka), 16:55.44; 16. Peter Schaefer (SLUH), 16:56.66; 17. Ross MacDonald (Poplar Bluff), 16:56.95; 18. Jason Simpson (Liberty), 16:57.86; 19. Ben Camareno (Blue Springs), 16:58.22; 20. Adam Pace (West Plains), 16:59.13; 21. John Leicht (Parkway South), 17:00.03; 22. Garrett Jeffries (Marquette), 17:01.30; 23. Mark Buha (Chaminade), 17:03.51; 24. Romaine Walls (Hazelwood Central), 17:05.10; 25. Nathan Frejo (Glen-dale), 17:17.25

Girls

Team scores: 1. West Plains, 32; 2. Blue Springs, 67; 3. Lee's Summit, 105; 4. Central (St. Joseph's), 126; 5. Lafayette, 130; 6. Marquette, 144; 7. Lee's Summit North, 165; 8. Hickman, 277; 9. Fort Zumwalt South, 279; 10. Jefferson City, 281; 11. Central (Cape Girardeau), 286; 12. Pattonville, 317; 13. Washington, 319; 14. Cor Jesu, 375; 15. Webster Groves, 391; 16. Ursuline, 391

Individual results

1. Kaly Prather (Raymore-Peculiar), 19:07.74; 2. Jennifer Harper (West Plains), 19:18.64; 3. Katy Bundy (Marquette), 19:26.39; 4. Mindy Lahey (West Plains), 19:32.37; 5. Jennifer Pancoast (Cape Central), 19:35.95; 6. Stephanie Lavin (Blue Springs), 19:54.96; 7. Kelli Denny (Lee's Summit), 20:02.53; 8. Erica Young (West Plains), 20:03.17; 9. Amber Knebel (Blue Springs), 20:03.80; 10. Jennifer Reekie (Fort Zumwalt South), 20:04.60; 11. Jaimee Hoffman (Liberty), 20:06.31; 12. Alicia McGregor (Truman), 20:06.63; 13. Tara Collins (West Plains), 20:07.91; 14. Kristy Sullivan (Fox), 20:08.28; 15. Amy Hall (West Plains), 20:10.70; 16. Amy Stetzler (Lee's Summit), 20:11.40; 17. Kelly Brownfield (Blue Springs South), 20:12.00; 18. Toni Picerno (Lee's Summit), 20:12.58; 19. Andrea Owensby (Blue Springs), 20:15.10; 20. Jessie Violand (Lafayette), 20:18.62; 21. Jana Teague (Blue Springs), 20:19.30; 22. Amy Moran (St. Joseph's Central), 20:20.07; 23. Taylor Scott (Lafayette), 20:22.79; 24. Beth Shearman (Parkway South), 20:23.84; 25. Courtney Cockrell (Raytown), 20:24.46.