

PREP BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PREVIEW

SLUH tabbed as front-runner

By Nate Latsch
Staff writer

Last season, four of the five schools in the Metro Catholic Conference advanced to the Missouri High School Activities Association Cross Country Championships.

One of those schools, Chaminade, won a state title, competing in the 3A division. The other three, DeSmet (fourth), St. Louis University High (eighth) and CBC (11th), all turned in respectable performances competing in 4A in

Jefferson City.

CROSS COUNTRY
? Though graduation losses may deflate any state title dreams for the MCC squads this fall, the conference should again be strong.

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH looks to be the early favorite.

Coach Jim Linhares lost three seniors from a year ago, including Tom O'Brien, who finished 25th at state, but will return four kids with varsity experience. Peter Schaefer, who finished a disappointing 127th at state, leads a group of seniors that includes Drew Noblot (41st at state), Kevin Crean (69th) and Kyle Gonnerman (73rd).



Journal file photo

Drew Noblot (left) is one of four St. Louis U. High seniors who hope to improve on last year's eighth place finish at the state meet.

"We're really gonna be deep," Linhares said. "I have a whole lot of kids able to run respectable times."

The big question, though, is: "How tough are we going to be at the top?" Linhares asked.

The rest of the top seven will probably be drawn from a group that includes senior Matt Killiany, jun-

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iors Andrew Linhares, Brennen Connor and Dan Flanagan and sophomore Alex Muntegs.

"Our goals have been the same for the last four or five years," the coach said. "We want to go to state and compete with the top teams."

At CBC, coach Gaylerd Quigley also returns four runners with varsity experience. But, just like at SLUH, the coach doesn't know which of his kids will step up to lead the way.

"We graduated two pretty good kids (Matt Hagenhoff and Justin Stein)," Quigley said. "There are no real frontrunners

(this year), at least not like we've had in the past."

The first four will probably be seniors Joe Guinness (143rd at state) and Kevin Fox (149th) and juniors Bryan Sherwood (95th) and Paul Winker (136th).

"We'll be strong," Quigley said. "We're looking for help in the five, six and seven spots right now."

The group of kids fighting for those positions includes senior Tom Lucido, juniors Pat O'Neill and Joe Hahn and sophomores Jon Wixom and Rob Morgan.

"We're looking to make it back to the state meet for the sixth straight year," Quigley said.

Coach John Mohr's VIANNEY squad had the dubious distinction of being the lone MCC team left out of the state meet last season, but that doesn't mean the Golden

Griffins aren't poised for a better result this fall.

Senior Beau Wethington returns at Mohr's No. 1 runner. Wethington finished 72nd at the state meet a year ago and should form a solid 1-2 punch with junior Tim Hentz.

Mohr expects the rest of the lineup to come from a group that

includes seniors Casey Blood, James Jackson, Mike Kegel, Stephen Mannhard and Tom Vogel and juniors Jim Thoele and Matt Bono.

"There is a lot of good competition," Mohr said. "Their attitudes are really solid. . . . By the end of the year we should show improvement from last year."

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