## CROSS COUNTRY

## **Thompson Sets Sectional Mark**

By Kevin E. Boone Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

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Shoux Passage Park looked like a
MASH outpost Saturday.
Athletes were strewn about the finish line either trying to catch their
breath or recover from collapses induced by gut-wrenching performances during a hard-fought boys and
girls Class 4A sectional meet.
There were four casualties that necessitated ambulatory care. Parkway
West junior Stacy Wehking and Parkway-North freshman Ryan Unter-

way North freshman Ryan Unter-reiner appeared to be the most serious casualties, as both crumpled to the ground while making entrances into the finish chute.

For Unterreiner, one of the area's most promising underclassman runners—he finished fourth in districts last week - it was the end of a long

road.
Parkway North didn't qualify for the state meet, scheduled for Saturday in Jefferson City. Unterreiner, hoping to earn a berth as one of 25 individual qualifiers, was passed while still on the ground. He wound up finishing 44th

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Wehking, whose condition was thought to be brought on by an asthma problem, qualified when Parkway West's girls won the girls sectional tile with 36 points.
Hazelwood Central, behind a record-setting performance by defending Class 4A champion — and high school All-American — Megan Thompson was second with 48 points, followed by Parkway South (48) and Hazelwood East (116). East nudged out Kirkwood, which finished a gallant fifth with 120 points.
Thompson was superb, finishing in 18 minutes 5 seconds. She broke the course and sectional records of 18 minutes 22 seconds set by ex-Francis

minutes 22 seconds set by ex-Francis Howell standout Sue Bliss in 1987. Thompson's time was 18:05.

"It feels great!" Thompson ex-claimed. "I wasn't focused on it [re-cord], but when I heard that my time at the one-mile mark was 5:42, I just

"I think," she said, "I might try to break the state record. I think I might

break the state record. I think I might make it my goal."

Parkway West achieved its goal, also capturing the boys meet. The Longhorns posted 39 points, followed by McCluer North (60), St. Louis U. High (101) and Parkway South (107). The Patriots scattered their top five runners between the ninth and 26th places to sneak past Kirkwood for the final state berth. Kirkwood was fifth with 107 points.

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"I don't think anyone expected a top-four finish," Parkway South coach

Jim Schmuck said.

Kirkwood had beaten Parkway
South 62-87 at the District 5 meet at Jefferson Barracks on Oct. 21.

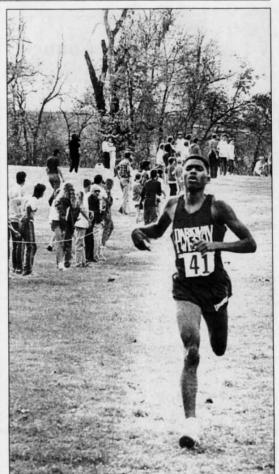
"We wanted to put pressure on our-selves," Schmuck said. "Pressure is a funny thing. Either you rise to the occasion or you fail. I told our guys if they fail, we'd go home and wouldn't worry about it, but if they wanted to go to state, they had to be businessmen, you ut and do their job."

go out and do their job."
Greg Levine was the lead runner
for Parkway South, covering the difficult 3.1-mile course in 17:22 for a
ninth-place finish.

SLUH, led by Mickey Luna's sec-ond-place performance, qualified a team to the state meet for the first

time in a couple of decades.
"This is a landmark for our program," coach Jim Linhares said.
Luna's time was 16:48.
Parkway West's Ron Cross, who had

been nursing a sprained ankle, wasn't deterred in the boys race. He passed Luna with about 400 meters remaing and held on, winning the boys race in a time of 16:40. McCluer North's See RUNNING, Page 5



Ted Dargan/Post-Dispatch
Parkway West's Ron Cross wins the boys Class 4A sectional cross country meet at Sioux Passage Park.