

Harriers Racing Toward Peak in Parkway West Invitational at Queeny Park

by Ray Griner
Prep News Sports Reporter

The varsity cross-country team, finally unhampered by mud, rain, or hills, ran their fastest times of the year to finish second at the Parkway West Invitational at Queeny Park last Saturday.

Junior Pat Hamel called it "a real breakthrough day," as he outkicked two Parkway West competitors to win the meet in a personal record of 16:47. The day was almost a breakthrough on another plane, as the varsity team led the Parkway West Longhorns, whom the team has not beaten for over ten years, for about two and a half miles. In the last half-mile, however, the team lost crucial places, and the eighth, eleventh, twenty-first, twenty-third, twenty-fourth, and thirty-first place finishes of senior Ray Griner (17:22), junior Kevin Myers (17:28), sophomore Tim Chik (17:40), senior Jack Kennebeck

(17:45), junior Tim Denny (17:50), and senior John Hunzeker (18:01) left the team ten points short of Parkway West. SLUH's score of 64 points did leave them seven ahead of district rival Kirkwood's 71 points and well beyond the other six teams in the field.

On the other levels, the SLUH squads were victorious. Senior Dave Chilenski ran an 18:09, his best time of the year, to win the junior varsity race. Senior John Barrett (18:20), sophomore Joel Brown (18:28), junior John Weller (18:30), senior Chris Jones (18:34), junior Matt Schuckmann (18:49), and senior Tim Rooney (18:58) were the third, sixth, seventh, ninth, eleventh, and fifteenth place finishers as the team's score of 26 easily beat second-place Marquette's 58.

The freshmen had an equally successful day although their margin of vic-

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tory was smaller, defeating second place Parkway West by ten points. Joe Donnelly (18:43), Tim Costigan (19:30), Ryan Monahan (19:39), Joe Monahan (19:48), Ryan Grimm (20:11), Mike Sciaroni (20:23), and Brian O'Neal (20:26) placed fourth, eighth, eleventh, twelfth, nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-second and were the top seven finishers from SLUH.

Last Tuesday, the junior varsity filled in for the varsity in the DuBourg Invitational at Wilmore Park. Senior John Barrett (17:55), junior John Weller (18:20), senior Tim Rooney (18:22), senior Dave Chilenski (18:38), senior Chris Williams (19:10), junior Matt Schuckmann (19:14), and senior Chris Aikin (19:18) led the team to a third place finish in a race dominated by the Webster Groves varsity. SLUH's finishes of ninth, thirteenth, fourteenth, sixteenth, twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth, and twenty-sixth did, however, put them a mere eleven points behind MCC rival DeSmet's varsity team.

Due in part to the loss of seven top junior varsity runners to the varsity race, SLUH's junior varsity runners finished second for the first time this year. Sophomore Joel Brown (18:16), sophomore Ben Caldwell (18:22), freshman Joe Donnelly (18:34), sophomore Keith Myers (18:56), senior Matt Hasik (19:08), senior Steve Schlitt (19:08), and sophomore Francis Shen (19:09) finished third, fourth, sixth, ninth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth in the junior varsity race only to lose by one point to Webster Groves.

The squad will compete Friday at the Metro Invitational at Jefferson Barracks Park, and next Thursday at home in Forest Park at the Metro Catholic Conference meet.