

(with an even bigger one coming Saturday).

Three individuals and one team were crowned champions at state cross country Saturday.

Two teams won plaques at state volleyball.

State swimming is this coming weekend.

I'm going to try and squeeze in as much as I can from all around the area.

On the gridiron, Kirkwood, St. Louis University High, DeSmet, Lafayette, Pattonville, Parkway Central, Mary Institute-Country Day School, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Borgia and Brentwood all won their districts.

Yeah, you read that right.

Brentwood won its district.

The Eagles scratched out a 13-6 win at Valle Catholic to advance to the Class 1 sectional round Wednesday. It's their first district championship in 11 years.

"It's huge," Brentwood coach Scott Surgener said. "We'd talked about winning a district championship."

Brentwood's season, however, would prove up and down. The Eagles lost seven of their first eight games. Making matters worse was they were within striking distance in just about all of them. One play or one drive and things could have been different.

District play opened with a 16-12 loss at Van Far and the coaches and players got together and decided this was not how they were going to go out.

They rebounded to pound Louisiana 35-0 at home and then went on the road to beat Valle Catholic.

"On Friday night, we knew if we won, the (tiebreaker) didn't matter," Surgener said. "We had to win."

After giving up a first quarter touchdown, Brentwood scored 13 unanswered points on two touchdown passes from Tywan Brooks and held on for the victory.

Their reward for winning the district title is a sectional game against Hayti (10-0). Brentwood plays host and kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Surgener doesn't think the short week will have much effect on the team. As energized as they are, they'd have lined up last Saturday.

"We're not going to make any huge changes, we've been pretty solid (on both sides of the ball) all year," Surgener said. "There's a real buzz in the air at the school and around town. It's a step in the right direction."

Soccer sectionals are usually scheduled for Tuesday night (yesterday). But, when Christian Brothers College High and DeSmet line up at the Anheuser-Busch Center, it'll be

Mason broke the Rams' hearts when she took a corner

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "Scoring the game-winner,

unbeaten at home on Condie Field.

good defense. Even our bench was really strong."

"I don't know how to process that in my head."



RICK GRAEFE PHOTO

Parkway West's Eric Fernandez (628) broke through to win the boys Class 4 state championship Saturday at Oak Hills Golf Center in Jefferson City. Fernandez won the race in 15 minutes and 50 seconds.

Capping a career Fernandez takes Class 4 crown

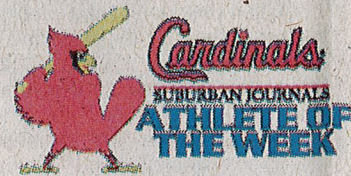
BY BRETT AUTEN
STAFF WRITER

JEFFERSON CITY — While basking in the glow of the early afternoon sun and after making it through a sea of backslaps and congratulations, Eric Fernandez removed his trademark sunglasses and took it all in.

The Parkway West senior was crowned king of the course Saturday at the Missouri State High School Activities Association Class 4 Boys Cross Country Championships at Oak Hills Golf Center.

"Now that all my dizziness is gone, it feels pretty nice," Fernandez, a Ballwin resident, said. "It hasn't quite fully struck yet."

Fernandez trudged up and down the hilly three-mile terrain



a second place finish. The Longhorns' Ross Larimer and Jake Lamke finished 15th and 16th, respectively, with times of 16:28 and 16:29. Parkway West tallied 118 points, just behind St. Louis University High's 113.

"Today was pretty much all for my team," Fernandez said.

Also rounding out the scoring for Parkway West was Thomas Campbell (65th in 17:23) and Comron Hassanzadeh (81st in 17:32).

The pace of the race started slow, which fit right into Fernandez's plans, as the

defending state champion in that event in track and field.

"I had my coaches at varying points where I needed their help and they were telling me that it was lap five or lap six like it was the 3,200," he said. "I always go over the race a million times in my head and I always picture myself breaking away and taking the lead, but I'm surprised that it actually happened."

But, as he neared the finish, the mileage started taking its toll.

"I was hurting at the end. I was really dying," Fernandez said. "I heard (Kickapoo's) Rick (Elliot) was pretty far behind me and I was just going as hard as I could, which wasn't much."

As Fernandez and the rest of the Longhorns gathered near Parkway West's camp, there were smiles aplenty. A season

▼ BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Jr. Bills eke past field for 1st place

BY TOM SCHNABLE
CORRESPONDENT

JEFFERSON CITY — Five points.

In a cross country meet, five points is nothing. But, five measly points is what separated St. Louis University High from its closest competition, allowing the Jr. Billikens to capture the Class 4 cross country state championship on Saturday.

"It's five points," SLUH coach Jim Linhares said. "If anybody had given just a little bit less, you lose a race like this. It was a race in which team was spelled with a capital T."

The title marks the second time Linhares has led SLUH to the state crown, the last occurring in 1999. That year also marked the last time a Class 4 team championship was decided by fewer points than this margin, with SLUH edging Liberty by only one point. It might have been three titles for Linhares, but the Jr. Bills took a runner-up prize last year to



RICK GRAEFE PHOTO

SLUH's John Clohisy was the top finisher for the Class 4 boys team champions.

▼ See SLUH, Page D2

▼ FOOTBALL



RICK GRAEFE PHOTO

University City's David Bass (right) breaks up an errant pass as Normandy's Jordan McClendon tries to haul in the interception.

U. City's rally comes up short in district title game

▼ CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

SLUH: Junior Bills win Class 4 team state title

Fort Zumwalt South.

"Last year, Fort Zumwalt South was the team of destiny, everybody's pick, and they went and they had their day," he said, "We didn't feel disappointed at all. But, we sure would have had a hard time swallowing it if we came up second today, because we really felt like we had the talent and we had the opportunity, so it's sweet."

Junior John Clohisy led the SLUH charge with an 18th-place finish, which on the surface would seem disappointing because it is five spots worse than he placed at last year's state meet. But, considering the journey Clohisy took to finish where he did, it's quite a feat.

"Clohisy is coming off of a period where he had to deal with, not that he would ever complain about this, but two stress fractures," Linhares said.

The injuries forced Clohisy to alter his training program, and Linhares had him run extra miles and scheduled special practices to make up for the time lost.

Clohisy credits the pace of the eventual individual champion, Eric Fernandez of Parkway West, for helping him realize his goal.

"The first mile we went off pretty slow; it was rough," Clohisy said. "Then, Fernandez put on a huge move, and it kind of strung out the race, so everyone started to fit into their place in the race, and that helped a lot."

Fernandez's Parkway West squad ended up being the team that fell five points short.

It took more than just the efforts of Clohisy to bring SLUH the title. Austin Cookson and Dan Warner finished 26th and 27th, respectively, helping the Jr. Bills' overall score.

"Austin and Dan ran times that are right at their best on this course," Linhares said. "You've got to say they absolutely came through for us."

Caleb Ford and Chris Murphy finished 43rd and 49th to round out the SLUH top five, and even SLUH's sixth and seventh-place runners finished before Parkway West's fifth best, something that made Linhares particularly proud.

"For us today, it was the whole group of seven that made the deal," he said.

For Clohisy, the Oak Hills Golf Center course felt just like home. Clohisy does a lot of his running at The Bogey Club, St. Louis Country Club and Old Warson Country Club, so the lay-out was nothing new for him.

"It's one of the toughest courses anyone races on all year," he said.