JABI IS the Baum

SLUH's Ben Murphy-Baum runs away from the field at Hancock

BY BILL HESTER CORRESPONDENT

St. Louis University High senior Ben Murphy-Baum has had a lot of success during his cross country career, including a top 10 finish at the Missouri State High School Activities Association Meet last season.

Murphy-Baum has just not been able to cross the finish line in first place very often. His only previous individual win was in last year's district race.

That was a meaningful triumph, but probably does not compare to winning the prestigious Hancock Invitational Saturday at Jefferson Barracks Park.

The Webster Groves resident won the Class 4 race with a time of 16 minutes, 27 seconds.
"This is my best win," Murphy-Baum said. "The

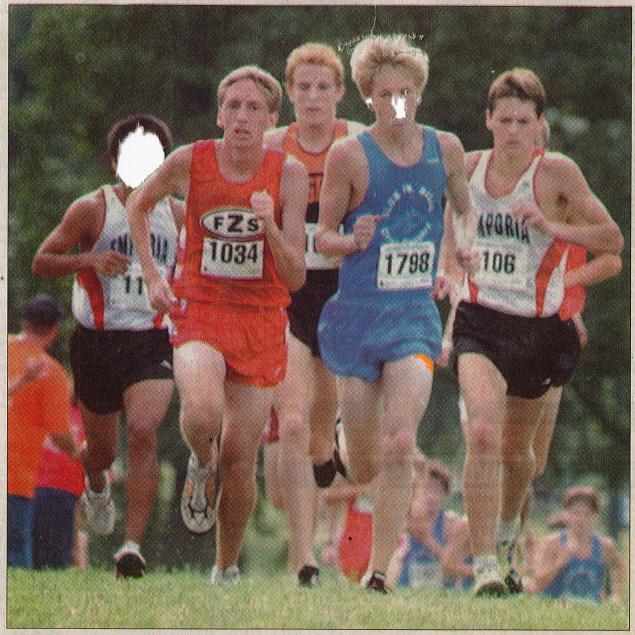
competition here is real good."

The biggest competition for much of the race Saturday came from Fort Zumwalt South's Nathan Young, who finished one place behind Murphy-Baum at state last fall.

Young had the lead for much of the run Saturday until Murphy-Baum passed him at the two-mile mark.

"I passed him at what we call surprise hill," Murphy-Baum said. "I got in front of him and tried to keep on going. He is a good runner and on any given day he can win or I can win."

This day was Murphy-Baum's and it was also a good day for the Junior Bills, who finished a solid second among the 14 Class 4 teams.



SCOTT FITZGERALD PHOTO

St. Louis University High senior Ben Murphy-Baum (1798) and Fort Zumwalt South's Nathan Young (1034) vie for the lead among the front pack of runners in the boys Class 4 race at the Hancock Invitational on Saturday at Jefferson Barracks Park. Murphy-Baum pulled away near the halfway point and won going away, while Young and his teammates took home the team title. SLUH settled for second place.

Jr. Bill

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"We were coming off a real good meet the previous weekend (the Rim Rock Farm Invitational in Lawrence, Ks.)," said Murphy-Baum, who year, we are more cohesive. had a personal best time of Today we really held the 15:59 in finishing fourth in that pack well."

meet. "That gave us confi- The Junior Bills had five dence and we ran real well medalists (the top 30 earned today. We really want a tro- medals). Senior Drew Kaiser phy at state as a team this was in the top 10 with a 10th year. It seems like we finish place finish. Other SLUH eighth every year and we are medalists were: senior Mike a better team than that. This Jonagan (18th); junior Matt

Lawder (19th); and first-year senior Shane Lawless (23rd).

SLUH finished a close second to Fort Zumwalt South in the team competition. The Junior Bills had 71 points. Zumwalt South won with 60 points. Jefferson City was a distant third with