

# XC flock flies to first-place finish

**Stephen Kuehner**  
**Reporter**

There are strange things done in the  
blazing sun / By the men who run for  
the gold; / The Forest Park trails have their  
secret tales / That would make your blood  
run cold; / The City Lights have seen queer  
sights, / But the queerest they ever do see  
/ Come from men wearing blue, those run-  
ners from SLUH / Who discover how fast  
they can be.

This adaptation of Robert W. Service's  
"The Cremation of Sam McGee" conveys a  
simple cross country truth: running can have  
strange effects on the runner. Runners have  
been known to run straight into a parking  
meter, not noticing the obstacle until after  
impact, and to plummet to the ground after  
stepping into a large, and rather noticeable,  
ditch along the course.

A more recent incident occurred at the  
First Capital Invitational this past Friday,  
when a St. Louis U. High sophomore at-

tempted to cross the finish line after running  
only 2 miles of the 3.1-mile race.

Despite this accident, the U. High cross  
country team opened the racing season with  
a powerful team performance.

"We hung together, definitely, for the  
first mile, but it was very difficult to stay  
in a pack through the woods," said SLUH  
sophomore and varsity runner Bill Gabler.  
"We got strung out a bit, but I think we did  
well finishing close together."

Team captain Chris Murphy echoed that  
sentiment. Referring to SLUH's attempt to  
stay together for the first 1.5 miles, Mur-  
phy said, "Everyone did an amazing job of  
that." According to Murphy, head coach  
Jim Linhares then gave him permission to  
try to advance alone in the race, leaving  
junior Austin Cookson as the "shepherd of  
the pack."

While individual results may have  
suffered slightly from this pack-oriented  
approach to running, the first-place trophy

quickly eased any wounded pride. "We ran  
our race plan, and we won," said Murphy.

SLUH won the First Capital Invitational  
with a team score of 63, barely edging out  
Columbia Hickman, who scored 67. Murphy  
came in eighth place with a time of 16:47,  
followed by Cookson (10<sup>th</sup> place, 17:03),  
Gabler (12<sup>th</sup>, 17:19), sophomore Ben Ford  
(16<sup>th</sup>, 17:25), and senior Dan Warner (17<sup>th</sup>,  
17:28).

Sophomore Casey Fitzgerald (17:36)  
and junior David Kuciejczyk-Kernan (17:51)  
were not far behind the scoring five, placing  
20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

The junior varsity team also proved  
themselves a threat on the course, with nine  
out of ten runners finishing below 19:00, and  
two below 18:00.

Although not participating at First  
Capital, the rest of the team did race among  
themselves. Some highlights include juniors  
Brandon Thornberry (18:38), Ben Carron  
**see THE FLAN-MAN, 8**

## Six swimmers secure State spots

**Kip Tandler**  
**Reporter**

Six State-qualifying times. This stat  
pretty much sums up the swim meet  
held at Forest Park Community College  
against Clayton and Cape Notre Dame last  
Wednesday.

"I think to have a performance like  
that in the second meet of the season is re-  
ally impressive," said assistant coach John  
Penilla.

Getting a State time is no simple task.  
Only the swimmers who sweat through the  
100-degree waters of FoPo in practice have  
a chance to even come close to qualifying.  
Junior Will Derdeyn is one of those swim-  
mers. He easily made state with a time of  
54.89 seconds in the 100 butterfly.

Tim Dale also managed to pull off the  
State cut, swimming the 100 free with a  
blazing time of 50.66. Junior Trent Going  
swamped the 100 back, finishing in 58.88.  
Mike Sizemore swam a 22.92 in his 50 free,  
and junior Pat Nugent turned in a seemingly  
effortless 1:06.55 in the 100 breaststroke.

"I think all the hard workouts and dry  
land has really paid off," said junior Michael

O'Neill. "It's just reassuring when you see  
your time drop a few seconds each meet. I  
love it."

Meanwhile, the diving team was as  
strong as ever.

Junior Mick Dell'Orco, a third-year  
diver, really stepped up last year, earning a  
State team position, and hoping for another  
this season.

Freshman Gil Plitt finished third in the  
competition.

"His performance now compared to  
the very first day of practice, it's like I'm  
watching an entirely different diver," said  
diving coach Brendan LeBrun.

However, it wasn't just the State  
qualifiers that led the Heafnerbills to another  
win.

"The JV guys really stepped it up a  
notch and worked their turns really hard  
and strong," said head coach Fritz Long.  
"Even in the close races our guys ended up  
finishing strong into the walls and touching  
out the other teams, and that is huge."

This weekend, the Jr. Bills will be com-  
peting in the Marquette Relays at Marquette  
High School.

## Attention! ¡Atención!

Here's your chance to see the resurgent  
Cardinals at a bargain price! SLUH's third  
annual **Night At The Ballpark** is coming  
up. Doc Koestner will lead our chorus  
in a rendition of "God Bless America" as  
part of the pre-game ceremonies. Here  
are the details:

- \* **Thurs., Sept. 20** v. Houston Astros
- \* **\$10/** Outfield Terrace Reserved ticket
- \* **All are welcome:** Buy for family,  
friends, neighbors, etc.
- \* Buy tickets in **Advancement Office**,  
J-wing floor 3

In light of the passing of Christo-  
pher Lee Zandstra, the following  
events scheduled for today have  
been postponed:

- Mass of the Holy Spirit:** now sched-  
uled for Friday, Sept. 14.
- Freshman Fun Day:** Sept. 14
- Yearbook photos:** Sept. 26

## BEEZLEY

(from 7)

"My grandma would want more than anything to see (the grave)," said Beezley.

Beezley was glad to be the medium for his grandmother's love so that it could reach her brother.

"It was more for my grandma and for James's daughter Joyce," said Beezley.

The news, unfortunately, was none too soon. Dorothy Beezley joined her brother James this past Wednesday night.

## THE FLAN-MAN

(from 6)

(18:47), and junior Neil Backer (18:48) leading the pack in the 5000-meter time trial, followed closely by senior Steve Kelly (18:49) and sophomore Ted Varty (18:51).

The freshmen participated in a 3000-meter time trial to introduce themselves to race level running. Freshmen Dan Raterman led the way with a time of 10:59. With three other freshmen running under 12:00, the future of SLUH cross country appears to be in good hands.

While time trials can be a good means of evaluation, there is nothing quite like a race. SLUH will hold nothing back at this weekend's Forest Park Cross Country Festival. The freshmen will make their racing debut at the 3000-meter distance, while the rest of the team will run 5000 meters.

Team captain Mike McCafferty and sophomore Caleb Ford will also return to the varsity team this weekend, increasing SLUH's strength significantly. With 2,000 runners, some from as far away as Wisconsin, the Festival is sure to be a spectacular display of all out, no-holds-barred, pure guts racing.

The tougher competition, including a very impressive Potosi team, calls for a slightly different approach to this weekend's race. While pack running will still be important, Murphy has already been given the go-ahead to chase the leaders. McCafferty, Ford, and the rest of the pack are sure to be close behind.

Days like tomorrow are the days when the queerest sights and the most inspiring performances can be seen by those watching the men who run for the gold.

## Ehlman fills math, sr. project roles

**Will McManus**  
**Reporter**

A helpful no-nonsense teacher, Nick Ehlman is a new Algebra I and Algebra-Trigonometry teacher at St. Louis U. High. A 1999 SLUH graduate, Ehlman was a senior advisor, Habitat for Humanity member, and Spanish class trip attendee. Ehlman came to SLUH as a freshman in '95, a little nervous. The youngest of five, Ehlman followed an older brother to SLUH.

"You come in knowing it's SLUH, and its reputation makes you feel better," he says. When he graduated, he left behind some teachers that this year went from former teachers to colleagues.

"So many teachers like to stay here, that I know many of them and some became mentors," he said.

Ehlman then spent four years at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

After spending his time there, he left for a teaching job in Polkwane, South Africa, at a boarding school called Pax. There, he taught eighth grade math and tenth grade English. He then returned to the United States where he taught for three years at Francis Howell North before returning to SLUH.

After leaving SLUH for eight years, Ehlman is back, and is taking the place of Jeff Harrison, S.J. as senior project coordinator, along with ASC teacher Jim Fox (see p. 4).



Nick Ehlman, '99, returns to SLUH this year as a teacher and senior project coordinator.

## BABY RUSSO

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY RUSSO



Liam Michael Russo was born July 5, 2007, at 6:28 p.m. to science teacher Mary Russo, who returned to school this week. Liam was born 20.5 inches long and weighed seven pounds, eight ounces.

Congratulations to the whole Russo family!