

Harriers Fight Mud at Hancock Invitational

by Ray Griner
Prep News Sports Reporter

When cross-country Jim Linhares referred to last week's Hancock Invitational as the "worst I've ever seen," he was referring not to the team's performance, but rather to the effect Saturday's race had on the 3.1 mile course itself.

Last week's rains turned some parts of the Jefferson Barracks course into a virtual mudpit, but meet officials decided to run the meet anyhow. As a result, the Jefferson Barracks course was decimated by the huge field and may be out for the rest of the season, necessitating a change in location for the Metro Invitational as well as see MUD WRESTLIN', page 7

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Mud Wrestlin'

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SLUH's sectional race.

The course was already well on the way to being ruined by the time SLUH's varsity stepped up to the line in the third race of the day. But, as co-"cap'n Jack" Kennebeck put it, "the course and competition were intimidating, so we decided to race man-for-man and place-for-place." With this philosophy in mind as they navigated the saturated ground and overcame treacherous footing, the Harriers were able to acquire the third place trophy among the field of twenty-seven teams.

Juniors Pat Hamel (18:17) and Kevin Myers (18:41) who finished fourteenth and twenty-third respectively led the top seven SLUH runners. Junior Tim Denny (18:55) had his best race of the season and netted the thirtieth and final medal. Close behind Denny, senior Jack Kennebeck (18:57), sophomore Tim Chik (19:03), senior Ray Griner (19:05), and senior John Hunzeker (19:13) finished with thirty-first, thirty-fifth, thirty-seventh, and forty-first place respectively.

Although the team score of 133 left them well behind a strong West Plains team, the team was close to second place Parkway West. Coach Jim Goeke noted after the race that if the meet had been a dual meet, Parkway West would have beaten SLUH by a single point. In addition, Goeke pointed out that even without front-runner Hamel, the team would have finished third in front of area powers Hazelwood Central, Northwest House Springs, Kirkwood, and Mehlville.

By the time the sophomore race began, the course was even messier. Expecting these poor conditions, the coaches had already declared Saturday's race optional for the sophomore and junior varsity teams. The sophomore team, composed of only six runners, still ran to a third place finish. Joel Brown, freshman Joe Donnelly (19:56), John Flynn (20:44), Keith Meyers (20:55), Francis Shen (21:13), and freshman Brad Weber (25:45) conquered all but West Plains and Fort Zumwalt South by finishing eighth, twelfth, twenty-ninth, thirty-fourth, forty-

second, and one hundred seventy-second.

By the final race of the day, a large crowd of spectators had sought out entertainment along the course. Congregating at a particularly muddy downhill and imitating third-base coaches, the crowd began to chant "Slide! Slide!" as they urged runners to throw themselves head-first through the mud.

Although the SLUH team did not utilize this particular tactic, the junior varsity, without the usual number of runners, turned in the usual result with a first place finish among the field. Senior John Barrett (19:57), senior Chris Jones (20:33), senior Tim Rooney (20:44), junior John Weller (20:45), senior Matt Wadalawala (21:22), senior Chris Aiken (21:50), and senior Matt Hasik (22:50) all braved the elements to turn in finishes of fourth, sixth, seventh, ninth, twenty-fifth, thirty-first, and fifty-second respectively. Their score of fifty-one put them ahead of Northwest House Spring's sixty and the third place Parkway West's 136.

The team's next meet will be Saturday at the smaller but no less competitive Parkway West Invitational. As senior John Hunzeker put it, the Harriers will "Fire it up!" against Parkway West. Northwest House Springs, Kirkwood, Mehlville, Webster Groves, CBC, and others.

The freshman Harriers fared just as well as their upperclass counterparts last week, despite the same poor weather and terrible course conditions. The heavy rains marred Hazelwood East's Freshman Invitational last Wednesday, as the downpour created a thick mud that coated nearly half of the 2.4 mile course. Slower trails and mud slick hills sent many rookies careening into the surrounding vegetation and even forced some to taste the mud.

The two top runners for Wednesday's race, Eric Monda (15:03) and Joe Donnelly (15:31) medaled at twelfth and nineteenth place respectively. Also contributing to SLUH's score of 135 points were Joe Monahani (16:16), Tim Costigan (16:21), and Brian O'Neal (16:37). Mike

Kuhn noted, "I thought we would do better than second, but the mud really slowed us down."

Factors such as shoes with little tread and reports of bee attacks on a few freshmen also detracted from SLUH's performance. Hazelwood Central capitalized on these advantages to take first place among the twelve teams with 67 points. The Jr. Bills finished second with 135 points, just ahead of third place Francis Howell North's total of 147.

Sports Matter

A weekly summary of JV, B, and C sports compiled by Dave Matter with Chris Pellikan.

JV Cross Country: Sep. 18, Hazelwood Inv.; SLUH 1st place of 28 Teams; Top SLUH Finishes: Hunzeker 1st (18.40), Chilenski 2nd, Denny 3rd, Barrett 4th, Weller 5th. Hancock Inv., Sep. 25: SLUH 1st Place of 28 Teams, Top SLUH Finishes: Barrett 4th, Jones 6th, Rooney 7th, Weller 9th. Top SLUH B Finishes: Brown 8th, Donnelly 12th. **Next Meet:** Tomorrow @ Parkway Central.

C Cross Country: Sep. 22, Hazelwood East FR. Inv.; SLUH 2nd Place of 11 Teams; Top SLUH Finishes: Monda 12th (15.03), Donnelly 19th. **Next Meet:** Tomorrow @ Parkway Central.

C Football (3-0): Sep. 25: SLUH 7 Belleville East 0, Scioto Hills continue their winning ways with another victory. **Next Game:** Oct. 7 vs. Chaminade

C Soccer (3-1): Sep. 28: SLUH 6 Pattonville 0, Goals: Gerwitz (2), Adrian, Sommer, Haglin, Sanders. Assists: Sommer, Miller, Drete, Shea, Fitzgerald. Sep. 29: SLUH 0 CBC 1, Sep. 30: SLUH 3 Chaminade 1, Goals: Schneider, Kirchhoefer, Sanders. Assists: Sanders, Adrian, Miller. **Next Game:** Today vs. Fort Zumwalt South at Forest Park #11, 4 pm.