

Art Freeman Wins Spartan Classic And Makes Dream Come True

"It was a goal I had thought about for a long time," said Art Freeman, St. Joseph-Ogden senior who won the 8th Annual Spartan Classic, September 22, held on the streets of St. Joseph. His time was 15:06 for the 3-mile run. "It's a good feeling whenever one of your dreams come true. I wasn't sure until I got past the intersection (just outside the high school grounds) that I was going to have a chance at winning. I had two right on my shoulder until then. It never stops surprising me when everything works out as you plan it."

Jeff Stipp, Hoopeston, and Tom Hoult, Chrisman, quickly followed Freeman in leading the field at the finish. Fourth place went to Mark Wieneke, Mahomet, and fifth to David Behm, Georgetown.

Despite his big victory, Freeman states the season is still on and his big goal is still down the road, the State meet in early November, where he hopes to run "real well."

Freeman works at making his dreams come true. He often puts in 10 miles running on Sundays and 3-5 miles a day during the week to get in better basic shape.

Asked if he had any moments of doubt in the Spartan Classic, he said, "It's those fast starts. In Saturday's race, they were really fast at first. I was behind so many people at the beginning." Freeman says that one can't worry about that though, all you can do is run your own race.

He says work is needed on his kick. At the state meet, he'll be facing really top notch athletes who can run as fast as they want and still have enough kick at the end.

Freeman was pleased with the

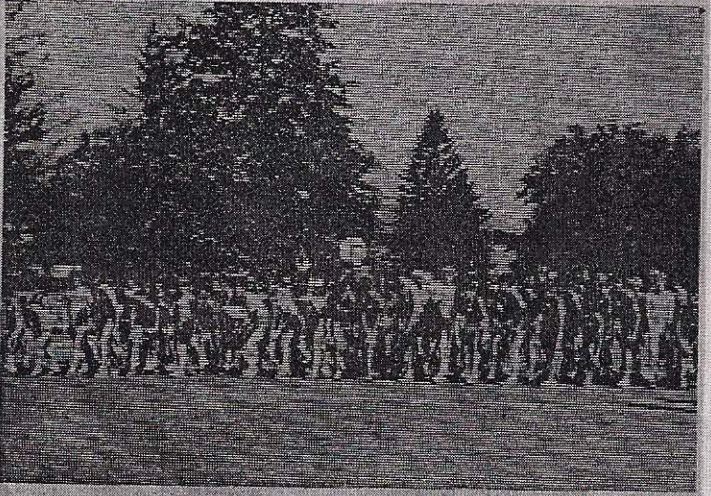
great effort the SJ-O team put on for the Classic. He particularly praised Buddy McElwee for doing a "super job" by coming in 7th overall.

Team-wise, Georgetown took number one honors with 100 points. St. Joseph-Ogden was second with 142 points. Other top five teams were Hoopeston, Mahomet-Seymour, and Oakwood. Trophies were given to the top 100 runners in the field of over 200. 28 schools competed in the meet.

Next big meet for the SJ-O cross country team will be the Clinton Invitational on October 6.



Bedecked with a medal and holding two big trophies, Art Freeman, winner of last Saturday's Spartan Classic, is pleased his dream came true.



Runners are massed across the width of St. Joseph's Main Street waiting for the starting gun. Seconds later, the stampede started.