



Art Freeman

Photos by Scott Hunter

Freeman winner at Spartan Classic

By Scott Swinford

Twenty-eight teams from all over the state with 180 plus athletes lined up, as the starting gun blew and the eighth annual St. Joseph-Ogden High School Spartan Classic was underway, at the corner of U.S. 150 and Main Street in St. Joseph at 10:30, Saturday morning.

Georgetown finished the race in first place with a score of 100 points, as runners David Behm and Rob Nimrick led the way with fifth and sixth place finishes. St. Joseph-Ogden took second with 142 as Arthur Freeman won the contest and Buddy McElwee placed seventh. Hoopston-East Lynn was third with 143. It was Mahomet-Seymour fourth with 174 and Oakwood fifth with 187. The comeback award went to Warrensburg-Latham who placed nineteenth last year and this year moved up to seventh. Kirt Davis of Hoopston-East Lynn was the first freshman to finish at nineteenth. Tom Hault of Chrisman was the first sophomore placing third. The first junior in was Mahomet-Seymour's Mark Wieneke in fourth. St. Joseph-Ogden's Art Freeman, champion of the meet, was the first senior to finish. Other area runners were Oakwood's Dean Grimes and Mike Carnahan, placing ninth and tenth, and Chuck Abeln of Unity placing fifteenth.

At the halfway mark Art Freeman made his move to the front and held the position until the end of the race. He said, "All I wanted to do is be in the

front of the pack for the first half. That's been my game plan all week." Freeman's winning time of 15:06 was his career best. After McElwee's finish in seventh came Tim Streid placing third for SJO and twenty-eighth in the field. Mike Foster was fortieth. Eric Menzer was sixty-sixth. Imre Molnar placed seventy-eighth and Ted Sleeth was ninety-eighth. Freeman reported, "We've had strong practices all week and we're all really excited."

The State title is still in the team's visions. Tim Streid exclaims "I think this team's got a great attitude, so positive! We've got two super co-captains and a super coach." With Saturday's finish, spirits are high and the State title looms nearer and nearer in the future.