

Still on the Right Track

by Nathan Bruno '08

“No Brandon Smith, Nik Berisha, or Valette Graham. Mount does not have a chance to win City Championships!” These words are what many of our opponents perceive about our team potential this year. Little do they know, however, that the Mount track team is still a contender for City Championships. The sour taste of losing the Outdoor Track Championship to Farrell is still fresh in our mouths. The defeat has not crushed our spirits nor has it intimidated us. Instead, it has made us crave the indoor city title even more. It seems like just yesterday we were just the young underclassmen watching Mount Track Alumni Eric Pettaway and Andre Easton dominate on the track. Now, we are the juniors and seniors contending for a city championship. There is much tough competition to win the CHSAA Track Championship and we acknowledge that it will not be easy. However, a combination of experienced coaching, dedicated runners, developing talent, and returning upperclassmen are creating yet another team of legitimate title contenders.

The Mount St. Michael track team has not been renowned for their distance running prowess for quite some time (since the days Mr. Hackshaw and Mr. Diaz ran in the 80s). After a solid cross-country season, there is optimism in the track locker room. Under the careful supervision of Coach Chavez, a former track star at Regis High School, the XC squad practiced under an intensive workout program in July and ran in a number of practice races. The Varsity distance runners got off to an exceptional start with three runners (Senior Alex Felicier and Juniors Nathan Bruno and Ibrahim Adeniji) under the 14:20 minute barrier. In October, the XC team competed in the Mayor’s Cup Championship held in Van Cortland Park and placed 1st among at least fifty schools. The Varsity distance runners hope to carry over their same intensity and work ethic as they try to qualify for the prestigious Millrose Games in January.

Head Coach William Hackshaw hopes to add yet another championship to his 16 years of successful coaching. Keys to winning will be challenging workouts, an unyielding desire to win, sustaining the health of the runners, and overall team morale. The Mount track team can always boast about its continual success on the track for the last two decades but with a promising junior class, the Mountaineers may have a reason to continue the tradition of success. As the era of Mount domination on the track continues, the trademark gold Mount logo will continue to intimidate rivals.