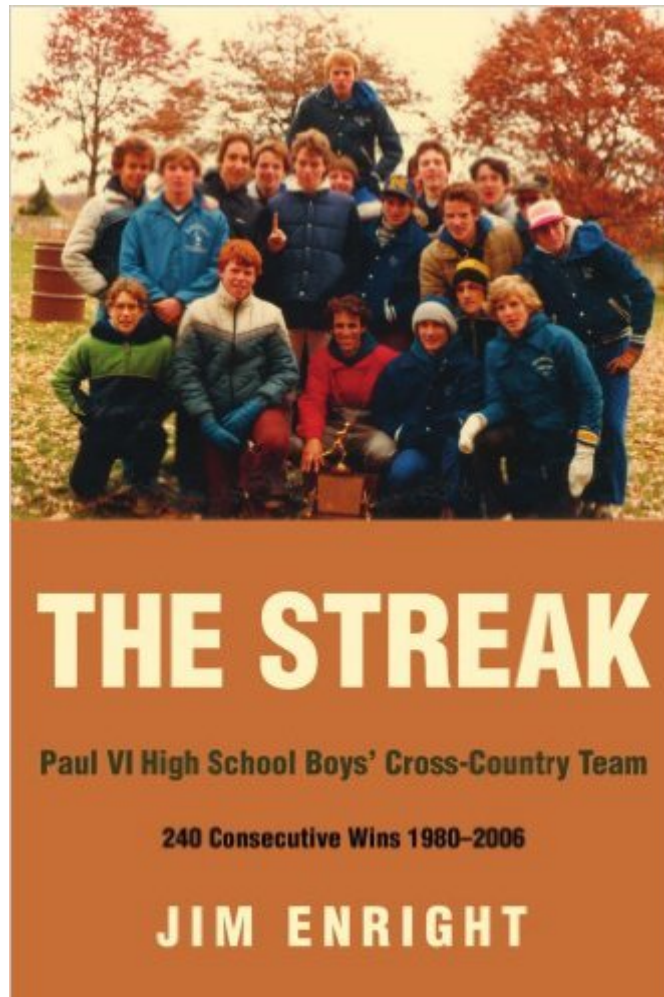


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The Streak: Paul VI High School Boys' Cross-Country Team 240 Consecutive Wins 1980-2006



Synopsis

Paul VI High School dominated boys' scholastic cross-country in South Jersey over a span of 20 years. From 1980 through 1999, Paul VI was voted the number one boys' cross-country team in South Jersey an unprecedented 15 times, including 11 straight seasons encompassing the years 1980 through 1990. Paul VI won 7 New Jersey State Championships in boys' cross-country over a 12-year period, within the toughest division in New Jersey-Parochial-A. The Paul VI Eagles also became the number one team in all of New Jersey 4 times by winning the prestigious Meet of Champions, the most titles won by any South Jersey high school. Jason DiJoseph, a 1989 Paul VI graduate and 3-time State Champion in cross-country, was named the Runner-of-the-Century by the Courier-Post newspaper in 1999. DiJoseph's coach, Mike Glavin, was voted the Coach-of-the-Century. From 1980 through 2006, Paul VI High School won 240 consecutive dual meets in boys' cross-country. This streak is the fourth longest high school winning streak in cross-country history. Jim Enright had the pleasure of coaching the Paul VI boys' cross-country team from 2003 through 2006.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Being a current Paul VI senior, I was very curious to read about the history of the cross country streak. However, this book provided very little information on the historical years of the streak other than statistics. Instead, the author seems to treat the streak as his own, despite only coaching the team for 4 years. It would be far better if he downplayed his own role, and wrote more about the

runners and gave them credit for running as part of the prestigious program. Instead, he goes so far as to insult members of the team, and praises his own coaching skills. The book is not about the historical cross country streak, but is instead a biased account praising the author rather than the program or the students. The idea makes for a great book, but the execution here is poor at best.

The first thing that jumps out at you with this book is the tremendous effort in research that went into writing it. It is a fantastic book, that based on my time at Paul VI, is very accurate and well presented. I especially appreciated the summaries of the track seasons that corresponded with each Cross Country season. If you ran for Paul VI you will really enjoy this. If you ran for one the many schools that competed against Paul VI, especially during the 80's and early 90's, I think you would enjoy it as well. I imagine a lot of runners probably wondered what it was like to run for a team that could get 40 kids to come out for the team and was so successful. This book really gives you insight into what it was like to run at Paul VI.

The stories in the book are great and the book is about an amazing program with a very rich history, however the author Mr. Enright has some pre existing unfair negative attitudes toward some of the runners in the book. It is unfair how he puts down runners who worked just as hard as the next guy but didn't have amazing times. He makes fun of the 2004 boy's freshman team saying that the freshman girls are better runners than they are. This is obviously not necessary in order to tell a story. Mr. Enright includes it simply to put down runners that he doesn't like. In addition, the book is a little pricey 26 dollars for a 368 page paperback is a little high in my opinion.

"The Streak" details the 27-year winning streak of the Paul VI cross country team. It is an inspirational sports story, not just for runners but for anyone who likes a good underdog story. And as a member of the team from 1985-88, I can tell you that it's VERY accurate: the descriptions of guys like Mike Glavin, Ron Faith, & Jason DiJoseph, and of the program in general, are right on. And it doesn't focus only on the individual standouts; it describes the growth (and sadly, the decline) of the team as the years went on. "The Streak" includes not just the statistics, but many of the good stories associated with the program (and they are many). Mr. Enright's writing style brought me right back to the days of the grueling training runs & nail-biter races. I strongly recommend "The Streak", especially to runners. And if you were involved with the program, I encourage you to read not just the chapters of your own "era"--read it all, chronologically. It's a great story of a legendary, classy program.

This is a wonderful story about generations of ordinary kids who did something extraordinary - maintain a Cross Country Dynasty for 28 years. There were some elite runners on the team at different points in time, like Jason DeJoseph, but most were just kids with fire in the belly and pride in their team. This isn't just a book for the die-hard harrier, but for anyone who roots for the underdog to win against often overwhelming odds. The best part of the story is that these kids formed a brotherhood that transcended their years on the team and bonds them to this day.

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