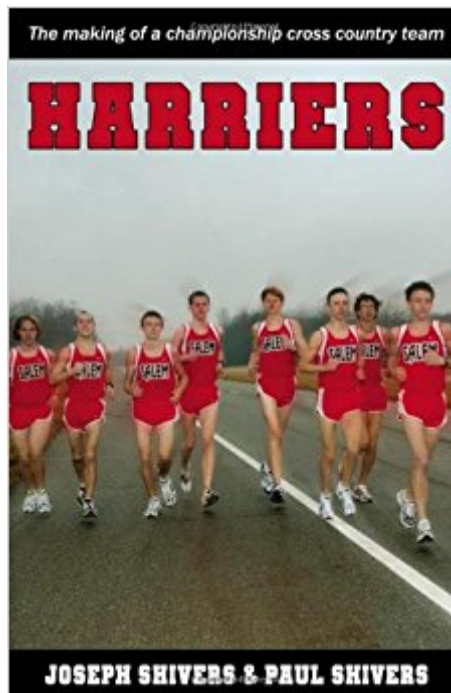




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# Harriers: The Making Of A Championship Cross Country Team



## Synopsis

A fresh perspective enlivens this classic story about a losing team with an energetic new coach. Written by two Ohio teenagers about their high school's cross-country team, this account offers engaging portraits of the kids and their coach, passes on lessons of hard work and sacrifice, and follows the ascent of the Salem Quakers cross-country team to a first-place ranking in their conference and third place at the 2003 state championships. Along the way the teenagers learn the unromantic truth about the athletic association that regulates their high school sport's legal wrangling and uproar ensue when officials find scoring errors in a postseason meet. As they develop their talents and teamwork, the teens also learn valuable lessons about sports rules, bureaucracy, and true success.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #348,244 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Teens > Sports & Outdoors > Track & Field #22 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Track & Field #121 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Other Team Sports > Track & Field

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

"Harriers is more than Rocky in spikes and singlet. It yields insights about hard work, disappointment, trust and relationships." — Salem News

Joseph Shivers and Paul Shivers are cousins, high-school seniors, and winners of the 2005 Fresh Writers Competition, a contest encouraging students to pursue careers in writing. They live in Salem, Ohio.

A short and refreshing look at the sport of cross country written from a high school student's viewpoint. This should be a good read for middle school or high school students as an inspiration for their own running careers. Coaches can use this book to gain an insight into the sport from the student's perspective.

This book brought back many celebrations and disappointed I had as a high school track and cross country runner. I was definitely pulling for them.

I enjoyed the story as I have boys who will be running high school cross country next year. To me, the book could have had better continuity, but it was still interesting and that is why I gave it 4 stars. It was a real life story and you feel good for the boys. If one does not have an interest in cross country, they might give it 2 stars.

Entertaining read, especially for those with a passion for the great sport of cross country, especially at the high school level.

Fun little read  
Great for kids  
Nice portrait of a group of people who work hard to reach a goal even after adversity.

For two high school guys to run a championship cross country season then write and publish a book about it is no small feat. That warrants a lot of praise. However, as other reviewers have noted, this book is sometimes adolescent and overly detailed without an underlying theme. It seems the authors relied more on their journals rather than crafting a series of anecdotes tailored for the audience. If you're seeking an insightful look into competitive running or an inspiring tale to motivate you, try *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner* (Contemporary Fiction, Plume). Having grown up and run high school cross country in NE Ohio, there were a lot of points in the story that recalled some great times. Yet this book missed capturing the challenge, emotion and pride of the sport by dwelling on the anxieties and angst of the teenage years.

This the true story of a high school cross country team in Salem Ohio that grows from "also rans" to champions (with a lot of controversy in between). The story is quite compelling. The fact that it was written by two of the athletes on the team will stun you. It is extremely well written. I would have never guessed it was the product of two high school students. In my estimation it becomes the third

volume of the cross country trilogy which started with "Running with the Buffaloes" and continued with "God on the Starting Line". It offers a unique perspective of the high school runner. It is the season seen through their eyes. It rings true with their hopes, dreams, disappointments and triumphs. I'm not sure anyone has written so clearly about the "feeling" of racing. This is a very well written little gem of a book.

I enjoyed this story, very motivational. Those not intimately acquainted with xc running might have difficulty with some of the technical aspects of scoring meets. I personally would have preferred less of that and more on the human interest angle. It is a very creditable job considering the age of the authors.

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