

Cross Country visits three meets, finds success in all

Murphy O'Brien and Mark Monda
Reporters

Last Friday, the Harrierbills ventured to Columbia to take on some of the best teams in the state at the Mizzou Cross Country Invitational. The team placed second and came up only five points shy of a victory at its biggest meet of the year besides the state championships.

Senior captain Ted Snodgrass led the way for the Junior Bills with his fourth place finish in the remarkable time of 16:30. Seniors Nathan Tower, 16th at 17:07, Murphy O'Brien, 17th at 17:08, Tim Huegerich, 20th at 17:15, and Matt Brice, 22nd at 17:19, finished in a tight pack that carried the Jr. Bills to their best finish ever at the meet. Senior Mark Monda and junior Dave Godar rounded out the top seven. However, the team was disappointed by the fact that West Plains, a perennial state championship contender, beat them by only five points.

After contemplating the race, Tower summed it up, saying, "Dude!"

The JV team handily won their meet as they overwhelmed the competition and put all nine of their runners in the top twenty. The team was led by senior Dan Westlund, who won the race and earned a spot on the varsity team, and junior Ryan Hatch, who placed second. Juniors Dan Leinauer and Jason "Ferret" Towers, and sophomores Pat Leinauer, John Parr, and Tipper O'Brien, also turned in good races and contributed to the team's victory.

The rest of the team who did not make the journey to Columbia raced the next day at the McCluer North Invitational. Senior Joe Hoffman and junior Chris Crews paced St. Louis U. High's varsity team, while Pat Kim and Ken Chik medaled in the sophomore race.

The freshmen were also successful at McCluer North in their first big race and came out victorious, defeating Desmet,

CBC, and many other strong area teams. The freshmen were led by Sean McDonald in third place, who turned in a fast time on the 2.23 mile course. Following him were Peter Schaeffer in 4th, John Belgeri in 6th, Boyd Gonnerman in 11th, and Andrew Westlund in 14th, who ran as a pack through much of the race and finished very well.

On Saturday the XCbills will head up to Sioux Passage park to battle area teams and "The Manmaker," one of the toughest hills around.

SOCCER SCORES

(from 5)
day, when the Soccerbills learned that they were ranked 14th nationally by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Excited, yet keeping a low profile about the recent rankings, the Bills faced off against St. Dominic's on Tuesday. The team played with intensity and emerged victorious by the score of 5-0. Senior captain Dave Minges continued his offensive production by netting two goals, while seniors Ricky Vigil and John Barringer and junior Dave Brooks also scored.

Despite being played at the geographically-challenged O'Fallon site, the Junior Bills still drew several dedicated senior fans to cheer them on.

Senior spectator Pat Carmody said, "The drive was way too long, but the cheerleaders at halftime made it worthwhile."

The surging Jr. Bills will play nemesis DeSmet at 7:00 p.m. Saturday night at DeSmet.

PN Nightbeat

In soccer action at SLUH last night, the top-ranked Jr. Bills defeated Mehlville 8-0, featuring a hat trick by junior Dave Brooks.

Polo sinks Lafayette

Jeff Dueker
Reporter

The varsity water polo team really showed its depth Tuesday evening at Forest Park Community College, SLUH's home pool, with an impressive 17-5 victory over the Lafayette Lancers.

The Polobills and the Lancers played equally well in the first quarter and half of the second quarter. However, in the middle of the second quarter, SLUH took advantage of a series of Lancer mistakes and made some great plays.

"The turning point in the game," said coach Charlie Busenhart after the win, "was a bad pass from a Lafayette player to his own goalie, which resulted in a SLUH goal, and then a great save by SLUH goalie Nick Bellon to stop the Lancer four-meter [free shot], followed by a nearly perfect SLUH counter attack that also resulted in a goal."

After that series of events, the Lancer defense seemed to fall apart just as the SLUH offense started to come alive. Major contributors to the 17 SLUH goals were seniors Mike Murphy and Tom Milford, who each had three goals.

Other offensive accomplishments included three assists by Kevin St. Cin and two goals each for seniors Kevin Gates and Matt Birke and junior Kevin Rose.

Goalie Nick Bellon did his part in the win, racking up an amazing eight saves in the game.

The team maintains its undefeated record four games into the season, and shows no sign of slowing down.

"[Lafayette] was the best team we've played so far, and it took a total team effort to win," said Busenhart.

With an amazing goal ratio of 4.3 to 1 for the season so far and high hopes for a championship among the coaching staff, this year's polo season looks to be very high-scoring and enjoyable.