

# Footbills gear up with high hopes

**Dan Hannis**  
Reporter

Coming off a strong season in which the Jr. Bills lost to eventual state champs Riverview Gardens in the sectional round, the Footbills are looking to build on last year's success. With both the offense and the defense returning six starters, the team has enough experience to have a great season.

Last night the Jr. Bills kicked off their season with the annual Blue/White Scrimmage, a game for players to show the coaches what they can do, and a game where veterans of the team can hone their skills for the season.

On defense, the Footbills look much the same as they did last year. Captains Andy Christoff, Brent Holtgrewe, and

Dan Hannis stuff up the middle at nose guard and linebackers, respectively. They will be supported by Nick Shulte and Steve Buss, who are new to the defensive line. The defensive ends will be last year's starter Sean Garrison and a split between Matt Sinclair, Brian Sahrman, and Bob Heller. The D-backs will be led by Ken Meacham and Rory Casey, both starters last year. At cornerback, Nick Azar, junior Tim Vreeland and a handful of other players will vie for two spots.

On the offensive side, the captain-touchdown tandem of Joe Thaman and Mark Kornfeld, both of whom are two-year starters, looks to rack up TD's all fall long. Junior Zack Schmitt, a fullback, will be blocking for veteran Evan Noetzel as he tries for another big year at running back. On the line, size seems to be less

important this year, and the Jr. Bills' quickness will be the main factor. Returning starters Joe Zlatich at center and Tim Burbach at right guard should provide experience to both tackles, John Kramer and Chris O'Connell. Craig Doss will be supplying protection at left guard. The tight end spot is filled by Matt Sinclair, and backed up by Victor Rodriguez. The wide receivers will be Dan Chik and Thaman, but Tim Boyce, Ken Meacham, and Dominic Farinella will back up at the blink of an eye. Justin Scott will return to kickoff for the Jr. Bills, and when Thaman punts he will take his snaps from Matt Haywood, veteran long snapper.

The Jr. Bills hope to go farther than last year, but are modest about the situation. Azar commented, "We gotta do what we gotta do." For the Bills, it's that simple.

## XC thumps alumni, prepares for season

**Mark Monda and  
Murphy O'Brien**  
Reporters

The cross country team had extra motivation to train this summer: in addition to the team's standard goal of being in top physical condition, the team also wanted to defeat alumni runners in the first annual alumni race, which was held on August 14. The race, organized by 1998 captain Ben Rosario, gave team members an opportunity to race against coaches, older brothers, and other members of previous SLUH cross country teams. Open to all alumni harriers, the race brought over forty alumni together again. Among that number were several who ran or are still running in college. In an attempt to level the playing field, the race distance was set at two miles instead of the usual 3.1 miles.

Throughout the summer, the race was a hot topic of good-natured taunting between team members and alumni so that on race day, both sides were ready to run. The alumni dominated the first mile, but faded in the second, which set up a very

tight finish. Scoring for the current SLUH team were seniors Nathan Tower in second, Mark Monda in third, Tim Huegerich in sixth, Murphy O'Brien in eighth, and junior Dave Godar in ninth. For the alumni, Ben Rosario '98, Eric Monda '97, Chris Graesser '98, Joe Kardos '85, and Chris Borsa, a CBC grad who was running with the alumni, placed first, fourth, fifth, seventh, and eleventh, respectively. After five runners from each team finished, the score was a tie. But the current team's superior depth triumphed, and Dan Graesser, the sixth team finisher, won the meet and accompanying bragging rights for the team.

Following the race, the alumni and the team went back to school to enjoy a barbecue, reminisce and look through old yearbooks, photos, and scrapbooks.

As evidenced by their performance in the alumni race, this year's team looks very strong. In addition to the those who scored in the race, seniors Ted Snodgrass, Matt Brice, and Dan Westlund will be key on this year's team, along with junior Ryan Hatch and sophomores John Parr and Tipper O'Brien. The season begins at the First Capitol Invitational in St. Charles on Friday, September 3, when the team hopes to open with a victory.

### *PN Nightbeat: Blue and White Game*

Last night in the annual Blue/White scrimmage, the Blue Squad soundly defeated the White Squad by a score of 21-0. Scoring two times for the Blue team was Mark Kornfeld, with Joe Thaman on the receiving end of the other score.

—compiled by Dan Graesser

