

XC wins MCC meet with authority

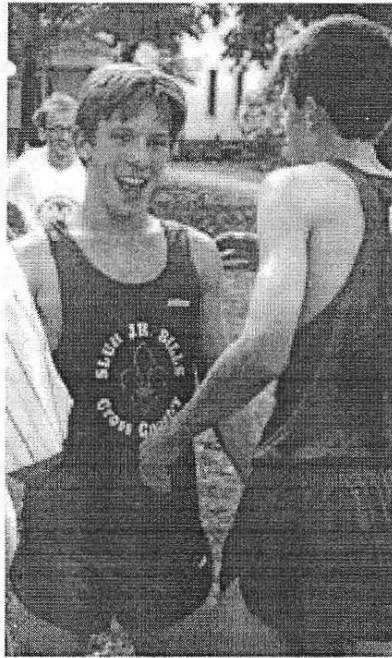
Murphy O'Brien
Reporter

Last Saturday the XCbills arrived for the MCC Championship meet at Chaminade expecting stiff competition from the Spartans, Griffins, Cadets, and Flyers, but the conference rivals might as well have stayed at home and watched cartoons. The Jr. Bills trounced the field, winning on the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshmen levels, and gained some momentum as they head towards the end of the season.

The Varsity squad tuned up for the District meet with a convincing victory, outdistancing second-place DeSmet by 17 points. Winning the race was captain Ted Snodgrass (16:50), who was spurred on by captains Murphy "Bogfarmer" O'Brien (16:54) in 2nd place and Nathan Trower (16:58) in 3rd place. Tim "Bradley" Huegerich (17:11) also broke the top ten with a 9th-place finish, and was followed closely by Dan "There's Nothing About Mary" Westlund (17:18) in 12th, Ryan "Night Train" Hatch (17:25) in 13th, and Dan Leinauer (17:45) in 18th place. Even without Matt Brice, who is out for the season after suffering a broken foot in a mountain biking accident, the Top Seven displayed why they are ranked number

one in St. Louis.

According to coach Jim Linhares, the times and places by the varsity in the race made it one of the finest team races in



SLUH cross country history.

Commenting on the individual and team effort, Linhares said, "To get first place individually in conference is a great thing, but to take the top three spots is

truly historic."

The domination continued in the JV race, as the XCbills decimated their competition. Leading the way were Tipper "Pecs" O'Brien (18:00) and Joe Hoffman (18:02) in 2nd and 3rd places. These two were paced by Chris "Just Cruisin" Crews (18:22) in 7th, Dave Nischwitz (18:23) in 8th, John "Ringo" Parr (18:25) in 9th, Pat Leinauer (18:26) in 10th, and Ryan Oldani (18:41) in 17th place.

On the freshman level, the XCbills once again rolled over their opponents, completing SLUH's domination and establishing a new Triple Crown. The freshmen were led by Peter "The Third Coming" Schaefer (18:59) in 2nd, Sean MacDonald (19:20) in 3rd, Geoff Stewart (19:31) in 4th, Kyle "The Evil One" Gonnerman (19:33) in 5th, John Belgeri (19:33) in 6th, Boyd "The Good One" Gonnerman (19:35) in 7th, and Andrew Westlund (19:46) in 8th place.

The XCbills look forward to this weekend's District meet at Parkway Central, where the Top Seven will continue to roll towards State, and the rest of the team will race in the open division.

Said XC alum Tim "Doughboy" Blessing, "everybody should come out to the meet on Saturday and see Pat Hamel try to race."

Kickbills shut down, shut out JFK

Greg Holland
Reporter

This week the St. Louis U. High soccer team had a rare chance to practice and recuperate from the chaos of the recent tough competition from area schools. The Martelbills played only one game against John F. Kennedy High on Tuesday night.

SLUH wasted no time igniting its powerful offense in the Kennedy match, as senior captain Dave Minges blasted a shot past the Kennedy goalkeeper in the first five minutes of play. He would soon add another, leading a scoring barrage

that overwhelmed the Celts in a 7-0 victory. Junior Kevin McCarthy netted two goals; junior Kyle Ottwell and senior Rick Vigil also contributed. Junior forward James Twellman returned to play after recovering from a thigh injury to net a goal and boost the score. The Jr. Bills dominated the game, holding Kennedy to only one shot on goal. Senior goalkeeper John Quinn described the game's atmosphere: "It was a real nail-biter."

SLUH's offense and defense have both been exceptional lately. In the past four matches, the Bills have tallied twenty goals while allowing none. "We've been cookin'," said senior defenseman Shaun

Lieser, who scored a magnificent goal against Parkway South last Saturday. "But there is a tough test coming," he added.

The Bills will face a major test indeed when top-ranked Chaminade visits the SLUH Stadium on Saturday afternoon in a highly anticipated MCC rematch. The Flyers humbled the Jr. Bills earlier in the season, defeating them 4-1. However, the Soccerbills are primed to make an authoritative statement before the approaching playoffs. The MCC title is at stake, and the winner will carry a lot of momentum into the final week of the season. The clash begins with kickoff at 2:00 p.m. Saturday.