

XC wins Sectional en route to State

Murphy O'Brien
Reporter

In their final race before the State Meet, the XC bills traveled to scenic Florissant to compete in the Sectional race at Sioux Passage Park. In the end, the Junior Bills were able to pull off a narrow victory over arch rival CBC by a single point, despite the absence of key performer Tim "Working Man" Huegerich, who didn't complete the grueling race due to exhaustion caused by an infection. This victory secured a berth for the team in the State Meet at Hough Golf course in Jefferson City.

The Billikens began aggressively, moving up intelligently through the pack after they reached the crest of the infamous "Man-maker" Hill. Senior captain Ted "Eddie Tucker" Snodgrass waited until almost the one mile mark before he surged past the over-anxious competition

to take the lead. Snodgrass held the lead until he was briefly passed by fellow SLUH senior Nathan "Baxter" Tower on the back loop of the course. At the two-mile mark, Snodgrass and Tower led a strong SLUH pack that appeared to have the championship easily in hand.

However, the team's hopes appeared to take a dive as Huegerich, feeling highly fatigued and dizzy, dropped out of the race shortly after scaling "Man-maker" for the second time. Junior Dan "Renfield" Leinauer, however, saved the day for SLUH by outsprinting his opponent from CBC and securing the Sectional Title.

Ted "Eddie Tucker" Snodgrass continued his domination of area runners, winning his fourth race in a row with a time of 16:50. Joining in the fun were Tower (17:13) in 7th, Murphy "Murphy" O'Brien (17:23) in 11th, and Dan "Dr. Naughty" Westlund (17:26) in 13th place. The Varsity was rounded out by Leinauer

(17:52) in 18th and Ryan "Night Train" Hatch (18:06) in 30th.

In order for their teammates to gain a firsthand experience of the State Meet and as an insurance policy for those racing in the meet, the top seven will be accompanied on the trip to Jefferson City by teammates Tipper O'Brien, Joe "2-0 In Open Races" Hoffman, Mark Monda, John Parr, and Dave Godar.

In preparation for the State Meet, Coach Pat Hamel exclaimed, "I hope somebody brings the new Rage CD to Jeff City. I think our guys would find it really soothing before the big race."

Coach Jim Linhares added, "Saturday promises to be a defining day in our cross country program."

The Placard bills' last meet of the season is the State Championship tomorrow in Jefferson City, so grab your pitchfork and motor down to support the team. The race starts at 1:10 p.m.

Soccerbills upset CBC, win District

Greg Holland
Reporter

After breezing by their opponents in the preliminary rounds of the District Tournament, the stage was set for the Jr. Billiken soccer team to face arch rival CBC in the championship game on Wednesday night at the SportPort soccer complex in Maryland Heights. SLUH had played the Cadets three times prior to the District final, drawing two ties and one loss. However, the Martelbills were anxious to prove themselves with a win that would allow them to advance in the state playoffs.

The atmosphere at the game was electric, as hundreds of fans filled the stands to watch two of St. Louis' soccer powers compete. The air was crisp, the field was precisely manicured, and the Soccerbills were poised for victory.

The first half was well played by

both teams, with each having numerous scoring opportunities. SLUH peppered CBC goalkeeper Brian Schonbein with several shots from long range, but was not able to tally a score.

The strong play continued in the second half, as the Jr. Bills continued to play aggressively, nearly scoring on several occasions. Senior Dave Minges almost scored as he blasted a shot from inside the Cadet penalty box, only to have it blocked by a throng of defenders in front of the goal. Another excellent offensive chance was created when senior John Barringer dribbled past three CBC defenders and fired a shot that was saved by Schonbein.

Meanwhile, SLUH's defense stymied the powerful Cadet forwards. Junior goalkeeper Mark Valdez helped to keep the score 0-0, as he made an incredible sliding save on a shot from CBC senior Chance Ernst. The play continued to be back and forth all the way to the end of regulation

time, sending the match into sudden death overtime.

Motivated by an overwhelming amount of loud student support, SLUH continued their determined play into overtime. The Soccerbills and the Cadets survived the first ten-minute period and entered a second overtime still at a scoreless stalemate. The Jr. Bills had lost to CBC in double overtime earlier in the season in the Rick Hudson finals. The team vowed not to experience the same type of defeat on this night.

SLUH increased their quick play by putting together passing combinations, and they continually attempted to break through the CBC defense. Finally, with only four minutes remaining in the period, junior James Twelman received a pass near the top of the Cadet penalty box, turned and launched a shot that sailed over Schonbein

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