

XC takes third at Hancock meet

Dan Graesser
Sports Editor

Last Saturday, the St. Louis U. High cross country team traveled to Jefferson Barracks Historic County Park to compete in the prestigious Hancock Invitational Meet. This year the team hoped to have a peak performance that would indicate they were strong contenders for the state championship.

The race began well, as the team attacked the hilly first mile of the difficult Jefferson Barracks course. As the pack held places in the high twenties through the first mile, it appeared that the team was in position to contend for its first team championship at the Hancock Meet.

Most notably, senior captain Ted Snodgrass aggressively extended himself, as he passed the first mile with the lead pack. Unfortunately for the Junior Bills, as the team passed the two-mile mark of the course (which includes the dreaded "Surprise Hill") they began to lose places to their main rivals, Jefferson City and West Plains.

Snodgrass led the pack to the line with a seventh place-finish (16:55) that cemented him as one of the premier runners in the state. Following him were seniors Murphy O'Brien (17:27) in twenty-third, Nathan Tower (17:31) in twenty-sixth, Tim Huegerich (17:47) in thirty-sixth, Dan Westlund (17:48) in thirty-seventh, Mark Monda (17:50) in thirty-ninth, and Matt Brice (17:59) in forty-fifth place. These finishes were good enough to earn the Junior Bills a third place finish in the meet, only nineteen points away from champion Jefferson City.

Tower summed up the race by stating, "I ran like a chump, yeah, like a chump yeah," to which team coach and running guru Rob Behm responded, "It does not take a lot to change 'chump' into 'champ'."

In the junior varsity competition, the team overcame an enormous field of over 450 runners and the midday heat to finish first. The team was led by junior ironman Ryan Hatch who ran away from the field with a time of 18:18. Following him was

fellow junior Dave Godar in second place, senior Joe Hoffman in fourth, junior Chris Cruise in fifth, and Dan Leinauer in seventh place.

The B-team fared almost as well as the JV team, placing second behind conference rival DeSmet. The team was led by sophomores John Parr and Pat Kim, who finished in eleventh and twelfth places respectively, with times that put them in the top twelve on the team. Following the pair was another sophomore, Tipper O'Brien, in sixteenth place, and freshmen Peter Schaeffer, Sean MacDonald, and John Belgerri, all of whom ran very impressive times.

In response to the team's results, head coach Jim Linhares explained that "It is hard to be upset with our finishes on each of the levels, but our goals for the meet were higher than what we accomplished."

This Saturday, the XCBills will travel to the Parkway West Invitational at Parkway Central to try to show why they are currently number one in the Saint Louis area.

Busenbills fall to MICDS, 13-12

Mike Murphy
Reporter

Last Saturday at St. Peters Rec-Plex, the St. Louis U. High water polo team played for the title of the 1999 Suburban Central Conference Tournament. Although they were nervous about playing rival team MICDS for the first time this season, the Busenbills were confident in their ability to win.

SLUH's water polo team, SLUH has had an overall record of 37-29 against MICDS. "MICDS has had some great teams," explained senior goalie Nick "Unappreciated" Bellon. "This is probably due to the genius water polo guru they have as a coach, who of late has been looking awfully dapper, Don Casey."

Coach Charlie "Flipper" Busenhart laid out the team's strategy before the game: "We wanted the whole team to

come prepared to play. The Rec-Plex has no shallow end, so it tends to make people tired. Our plan was to substitute often and tire the other team out."

As expected, Saturday's match up was a hair-raising, spine-tingling, edge-of-your-seat thriller. Both teams came out with the taste of sweet, sweet, chocolatey victory in their mouths. As he was taking the opening swim-off, junior Kevin Rose was actually seen salivating.

Although the MICDS Rams scored a quick goal on their first possession, SLUH was not discouraged. The Backstreetbills rang up three goals by the end of the first quarter, while MICDS netted four. "We are not traditionally a good first quarter team," commented last year's captain John "Washed Up" Penillia, "so the fact that we were only down one at this point was quite favorable."

During the second quarter, though,

the Barenakedbills were outscored again, 3-2. "We were not filling the passing lane, so we allowed too many shots from the 2-meter. They are a fast team and we had a tough time with their counter-attack," snarled senior Kevin "Sleepover" St. Cin. "In short, our play was as cold as the other side of the pillow."

Heading into half time, SLUH was down 7-5, but SLUH's players knew that they were not out of the game. "Those guys are getting tired. They don't have as much depth as we do," exclaimed co-captain Steve "I wanna be like Mike" Luebbert, riling up his teammates during half time.

The third quarter began with a whistle from referee Bob Higgins, and the Turbobills "changed the momentum of the game" according to assistant coach Paul "Physical Education" Baudendistel.

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