

SLUH XC smokes rivals in Districts

Murphy O'Brien
Reporter

When the XCbills arrived at Parkway Central for the District Meet last Saturday, they were greeted by the ridiculous sounds of Shania Twain, Will Smith, and Willie Nelson. But the Jr. Bills were unfazed by Parkway's taste in music. They smoked conference rivals CBC and DeSmet by over 20 points en route to their seventh consecutive District title.

Senior Ted "Ted-Train" Snodgrass continued his string of victories, earning his third straight win with a time of 16:25. Snodgrass's effort was supported by fellow seniors Nathan "Norelco" Tower (16:41) in 3rd, Tim "Squeezebox" Huegerich (16:50) in 6th, and Dan "Still

the Beast" Westlund (16:57) in 9th place. Also contributing to the victory were senior Murphy O'Brien (17:03) in 11th, junior Dan Leinauer (17:12) in 14th, and junior Ryan "Night Train" Hatch (17:20) in 15th place. After the race, coach Pat Hamel commented, "We beat CBC and DeSmet today, but those two teams are more relentless than Deion Sanders, and they'll be gunning for us at Sectionals."

In the Open Division, the JV squad faced all comers, and placed well in the unscored competition. Senior Joe "The Pen is Mightier" Hoffman won the race, surging across the finish line with a time of 17:17. Hoffman was followed by sophomore Tipper O'Brien (17:19) (who led much of the race) in 2nd, sophomore John "Sniper" Parr (17:25) in 3rd, senior Mark

"Eible" Monda (17:41) in 4th, sophomore Pat "I Crushed Hamel" Leinauer (17:48) in 7th, junior Chris "Flava of the Month" Crews (17:59) in 10th place, and sophomore Pat Kim (18:25). Even the imposing coaching trio of Pat "Prime Time" Hamel (18:20), Rob Behm (18:53), and Tom "The Derivative" Flanagan (22:11), despite their experience and peak physical condition, could not beat the XCbills.

This Saturday the Varsity squad faces seven teams in the Sectional Meet at Sioux Passage, with the top four teams qualifying for state. In addition, many freshman and JV runners will compete in the JV race, the final competition for most of the senior class. The XCbills invite everyone to grab a map from the switchboard and come on up to the meet.

Gridbills outrun McCluer Comets

Pete Granneman
Reporter

The Jr. Bills started off district play Friday when they welcomed the McCluer Comets to the St. Louis U. High stadium.

The Bills got on the board early in the first with a rapid drive downfield. QB Mark Kornfeld began the drive with a pass to tight end Matt Sinclair for a huge gain; he then passed to running back Evan Noetzel, who was taken down at the thirteen. Kornfeld ended the drive when he slipped on his Nikes, said "I can," and proceeded to run the ball in for a thirteen-yard touchdown run and a 7-0 lead.

Things looked good on the Billikens' next drive, which started with a fumble recovery by Nick Azar. Kornfeld hooked up with Joe Thaman and then Evan Noetzel for two substantial gains. The Bills attempted to convert a field goal, but were unable to do so; the first quarter ended with SLUH ahead 7-0.

The second quarter started with the Bills defense holding McCluer's offense

deep within their own zone. But things quickly changed when SLUH turned the ball over to McCluer, who then scored a touchdown and two-point conversion for a sudden 8-7 lead.

The team remained undaunted, however, and shortly after the strike by McCluer, Kornfeld found Matt Sinclair open in the flat for a long reception. Kornfeld followed that with a QB draw of his own that measured forty-nine yards and was good for a touchdown and a 14-8 lead. Before half, McCluer drove downfield for a TD and secured a 14-14 tie going into half.

"[SLUH] looked as good as my curly locks in the first; I hoped to see some of the same action in the second half," noted senior superfan John Rebman.

In the fourth quarter, with time running down, the Billikens scored what would have been the go-ahead TD had it not been called back on a holding call that forced the Bills to punt.

"Holding, I didn't see anything that may have been considered a 'grab.' But I can see where the official could have been

confused," commented offensive lineman Tim Burbach.

Except for that call, McCluer had nothing going for themselves, and they were forced to punt. SLUH defensive lineman Sean Garrison got a face on the punt, knocking it backwards into the end zone. Garrison quickly pounced on the loose ball and scored the TD for a 21-14 Billiken lead.

The game ended with the Billiken defense providing the lift. After missing one stray throw, SLUH cornerback Nick Azar made an amazing interception, snagging a McCluer duck and sealing the district victory for the Bills.

"That first throw was nice, but I liked the second one. I thought it was better to end the game on that one," commented Nick Azar.

The Billikens take on Hazelwood Central tomorrow at Hazelwood at 1 p.m. in their second District matchup.

"We've got a lot of guys out with injuries, but if we play hard, it will be a good game," noted Matt Haywood.