

Footbills meet heads with Gateway, overcome Panthers of O'Fallon

JUSTIN SCOTT
REPORTER

The varsity Gridbills began their season two weeks ago with a 49-0 thrashing of the Gateway Tech Panthers. The air assault in the game was led by junior Joe Thaman, who scored two touchdowns off receptions, and by senior Sanjay Dwivedy. Senior Pat Finney and juniors Rory Casey, Mark Kornfeld, and Evan Noetzel contributed to the running game by scoring their own touchdowns. The team's next game was last Friday against the Panthers of O'Fallon.

Throughout the week of practice between the two games, Coach Gary Kornfeld stressed one thing: the most improvement is made from game one to game two. And, indeed, the Footbills did improve.

The prediction that the game would be tight, due to O'Fallon's recent wins over Belleville West and Granite City, appeared to hold true throughout the first quarter. With defense playing a big factor, both teams held each other to a touchdown apiece. Thanks to key plays by the defense and special teams, though, the Jr. Bills's offense was able to capitalize on

O'Fallon's mistakes and win the game 46-14.

Kornfeld said, "I was happy we were able to force several turnovers and capitalize on them."

In the first quarter, the Panthers successfully moved the ball on their opening drive, which consisted of 11 plays, but were unable to penetrate the SLUH defense for the score. SLUH's offense was also unable to score on its first series, but Joe Thaman's punt was bobbled by the Panther receiver and recovered by junior Matt Haywood at the Panthers own 15 yard line. Quarterback Mark Kornfeld later scored on the drive with a one yard quarterback sneak.

O'Fallon later equalized the score at seven, but the Jr. Bill offense struck back, with senior running back Jae Philips scoring on a 30 yard touchdown run. The extra point attempt failed, but the varsity football team still lead 13-7.

With SLUH's defense shutting down the O'Fallon attack, the offense was able to complement the defense's hard work with its own plays. The scoring began with Philips receiving the handoff from Kornfeld and running it in for a four yard

score. Kornfeld later scored on another one yard quarterback sneak. Before the half would end, though, Thaman would score his own touchdown on a sevenyard pass from Kornfeld. O'Fallon would then score one more time, making the score 33-14 in favor of SLUH at the end of the half.

The SLUH defense continued to dominate the Panthers's offense, recording a shutout in the second half, while SLUH's offense continued its scoring tirade. Thaman recorded his third touchdown of the night off of a 13 yard pass. Senior teammate Dan Parker also scored on a five yard pass.

"Our offensive line was incredible," said Mark Kornfeld. "I was barely even touched."

Overall, Kornfeld threw for 165 yards and two touchdowns, and Philips rushed for 165 yards and two touchdowns.

Formidable odds face the Footbills this week as they face Chaminade. Chaminade will open and play its first game in its new stadium this Friday, and the game will also be played on Chaminade's Alumni night. Game time is 7:30 p.m. so come on out and support the team.

XC places well in meets and looks ahead

MATT SCHAEFER AND TED SNODGRASS
REPORTERS

Last Friday the varsity and junior varsity cross country squads took on tough competition on Mizzou's course at the A.L. Gustin Golf Club. Competition included Lee's Summit and Jefferson City, the top two teams in the state from last year, as well as conference rival CBC.

Although the team placed sixth, SLUH raced well without junior Nathan Tower, who finished second in the time trial. Juniors Murphy O'Brien and Ted Snodgrass and senior Ken Reichert led the team with finishes of 11th, 14th, and 16th in 16:55, 16:59, and 17:01, respectively. Juniors Tim Huegerich (17:24) and

Mark Monda (17:29) rounded out the scoring, finishing 29th and 37th. Senior Matt Crow was the final finisher on the varsity team with a time of 18:09.

Coach Jim Linhares said, "[I] was satisfied with the team's performance and surprised by CBC's depth." Linhares also noted that the gap between sixth place and fourth place was a mere five points.

SLUH won on the JV level by two points thanks to the stellar pack running of seniors Alex Speiser, Sean Burns, and John Senn, juniors Dan Westlund and Dan Graesser, and sophomore Jason Towers.

Last Saturday, the rest of the junior varsity squad and the freshmen raced at

the McCluer North Invitational. Competing in typical SLUH style, the JV team finished fifth at the race, led by medalists Matt Brice and Nick Hilliard.

Dominating their opponents, the SLUH freshmen ran away with a first place trophy. Led by Tipper O'Brien, Pat Kim, Pat Leinauer, John Parr, and Richie Spicer (1,2,3,4,10, respectively), the team scored an astounding twenty points.

Coach Rob Behm said "Saturday displayed the depth, speed, and competitive spirit of the junior varsity and freshmen racers, as many individuals posted very fast times," alluding to the potential each individual showed.

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Polo wins

MIKE MURPHY
REPORTER

The SLUH Water Polo team has high hopes this season of capturing the state title, and they have begun their season on the right track by winning their first four games. The SLUH water polo team has not failed to reach the state finals in ten years and this season they aspire to continue the tradition of dominance and success that precedes them.

The Polobills began their season with an away game against Parkway North. In this game, which was not expected to be too much of a challenge, the team easily cruised past Parkway North by a score of 18-2. Led by senior captains Ryan Keefe, John Penilla, and Aaron Christoff, and junior Steve Luebbert, who scored four goals, the Waterbills used this game to improve their set offense and to assess their new team.

SLUH next swam off against Mehlville, a team with good speed, but not great talent. SLUH immediately jumped into the lead, and Junior goalie Nick Bellon held the opposition to only 2 goals. The final score was 16-2.

On SLUH's early success, Captain Ryan Keefe says that "we cannot become overconfident, or we won't stand a chance against MICDS or Parkway South." These two teams were ranked with SLUH among the top three in the state.

Anxious to notch their third consecutive win, SLUH played Parkway Central in their first home game of the season. However, either because of their intensity, or SLUH's lack thereof, Parkway Central became a formidable opponent. The game developed into a tight battle in the final quarter, and the opposition came to within three goals with five minutes left. However, SLUH's determined effort enabled them to hold onto an important victory.

This game came as a rude awakening to SLUH. After the game, Captain Aaron Christoff explained, "We need to work harder in practice."

Kickbills improve record with a pair of wins

MARK GREBEL
REPORTER

Since the Jr. Bills' convincing win over Vianney last Thursday, the team has looked solid. It has improved its record to 4-2-1 by beating St. Dominic's and tying DeSmet.

The tie against DeSmet assured the team of a second place finish in the CBC tournament. The finish has been St. Louis U. High's best since 1994. Although the Spartans scored a shocking goal with only fifteen seconds into the second half, this was the only defensive lapse made by SLUH all night. Despite this lapse, the Jr. Bills played well the rest of the game.

Head coach Charlie Martel commented that, "The defensive effort ... was excellent. I have complete confidence in our defense, down to the last guy."

Down by one goal and with less than ten minutes to play, the coaches decided to move senior captain Matt Hicks up to midfield. Only twenty seconds passed before he netted his first goal of the season, which tied the game at one.

Four minutes later, junior David Minges almost put the squad up by one, but his shot narrowly missed the far post.

The team had to play without senior

captain Ryan Ossola, who will be sidelined for two weeks with an injury.

Tuesday night, SLUH hosted St. Dominic's. Not intimidated by the blue and white, St. Dominic's came out looking for the upset.

With under a minute left in the first half, St. Dominic's snuck the ball by senior goalie John Antal to neutralize Minges's goal earlier in the half.

"St. Dominic's put a lot of pressure on the ball and on us, and I guess we were frazzled," Coach Martel said of the 1-1 tie at the end of the first half.

In the second half after a few substitutions, SLUH started to take control of the game. Twenty five minutes into the half, the team pulled ahead by one, and four minutes after that, junior Ricky Vigil scored off of a Dave Minges pass to make the score 3-1.

Junior Dave Allen duplicated St. Dominic's feat by blasting his own last second goal, this one at the end of the second half. The game ended in a 4-1 score in favor of the Jr. Bills.

Last night's game against Mehlville was cancelled. The team's next game is this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. when the team will play DeSmet on SLUH's field. Come paint yourself blue and cheer on the team.

XC

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The next challenge for the Harriers is the Hazelwood East Invitational at Sioux Passage this Saturday. Appearing to be healthy on the varsity level, the team is preparing for an improvement over last week's results.

Coach Pat Hamel stated, "As the team discovers synergy and [the runners] identify themselves as area leaders, SLUH will resume the status they once held during my era and years past. Saturday will answer many of the questions we have about this team."

"The team needs to easily win their games against teams who they are expected to beat early in the season, or they will not get as far in the post-season as they expect," assistant coach Paul Baudendistal remarked.

In their third away game of the season last Tuesday, the Aquabills walked onto Lafayette's pool deck with a new determination taught by the close game against Parkway Central. "Lafayette has faster swimmers, but no outstanding talent," said Coach Charlie Busenhart. Led by John Penilla, the Bills cruised.