

XC makes a killing out West

Dan Graesser
Reporter

Though three of its strongest runners were injured, the St. Louis U. High cross country team traveled to Parkway Central High School last Saturday with high expectations for the Parkway West Invitational.

The varsity anticipated success even though it would be competing without juniors Murphy O'Brien and Ted Snodgrass and senior captain Ken Reichert.

Taking advantage of the cool weather and fast course, the Junior Bills surged to the front of the pack from the very beginning of the race. This strategy enabled the team to maintain a good position even as the course narrowed upon entering the woods.

Using a very strong third mile, junior Nathan Tower led the procession of SLUH runners to the end, with a third place overall finish.

He was followed by senior captain Matt Schaefer, who displayed an extraordinary finishing kick and passed numerous runners to finish in fifth place. The top five were rounded out by junior Tim Huegerich in seventh, junior Mark Monda in eighth, and senior Matt Crowe in fourteenth place.

Also participating and medaling in the varsity race were juniors Dan Westlund and Matt Brice, in eighteenth and twenty-fifth places, respectively.

These strong performances allowed the team to defeat handily the field with a score of 37 points. This score is especially impressive considering that the field contained the sixth and ninth ranked teams in the area.

The members of the varsity team will train through the next week in order to prepare for the Metro Catholic Conference meet, at which SLUH hopes to maintain its hold on the conference title.

The JV team displayed complete dominance of the field at the Parkway West meet, taking the first nine places in

the race, and 17 of the 25 medals.

The top five, who scored a perfect fifteen points, included junior Dan Graesser in first place overall, seniors Sean Burns and Alex Speiser in second and third places, sophomore Ryan Hatch in fourth place, and senior Chris Abbot in fifth place.

The JV squad will also be preparing for the conference meet, where it expects a challenge from rival DeSmet.

The freshman team also competed at Parkway West and proved that it is definitely one of the best freshman teams in the area. Leading the way for the freshmen was Dan Leinauer in third place overall. He was followed by Ken Chik, Pat Kim, and John Parr.

These results were important for the team because many of the members of the team were running only their second 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) race ever.

The freshman team's next competition is at the large freshman race at the Metro Invitational in Jefferson Barracks Park.

Kickbills improve record; Martel reaches 100 wins

Mark Grebel
Reporter

This past week, the Jr. Bill soccer team trooped through three games, despite being plagued by injuries.

All three captains were out with various ailments: Matt Hicks with a groin injury, Ryan Ossola with a leg injury, and newly appointed captain Blake Schaefering with mononucleosis.

In addition, senior Tim Vogelgesang was recovering from a knee injury.

Playing at home, but backed by only a few fans despite the significance of the game, SLUH was defeated by the Vianney Griffins. It was Vianney's first victory against SLUH this year.

Vianney struck first with a goal eight minutes into the game. The Griffins would later score two more goals. Junior Ricky Vigil scored the lone goal for the Jr. Bills, bringing the final score to 3-1 in favor of

Vianney.

Senior Kyle Warwick put the game into perspective, claiming that "every once in a while you just lose."

This Saturday SLUH has the possibility of playing the Griffins in the semi-finals of the Hudson Memorial tournament.

Entering the Hudson Memorial Tournament as defending champions, the team has high expectations. So far it has responded well under the pressure, handily defeating Lafayette and Parkway South.

Senior goalkeeper Doug Kerr, facing the fewest number of shots this season, recorded the shutout in coach Charlie Martel's 100th career victory.

"Lafayette's forwards were no match for our defenders," said Kerr.

With key players out due to injuries, the team is experimenting with man-to-man defense instead of the heralded Italian zone system for this tournament.

Juniors John Barringer and Ricky Vigil

scored goals for the Jr. Bills, while Warwick added two goals of his own.

The 4-0 win against Lafayette propelled the team into its next match, against Parkway South with high spirits.

SLUH jumped ahead early in the game with a goal from Steve Elias. Elias blasted a shot off a rebound into the back of the net.

Fellow junior Matt Sebek added another goal to the tally ten minutes later. Not long after Sebek's goal, Warwick added one more, his third goal in two games.

Despite its continued dominance in the game, the team was unable to score another goal in the second half and the Jr. Bills won by a score of 3-0. Senior John Antal recorded the shutout, the second in a row for the team.

Last night SLUH played Kennedy at the Anheuser-Busch Sports Complex. Check the *PN* Nightbeat for highlights and the score.