

# XC makes stand at Sioux Passage

DAN GRAESSER  
REPORTER

Last Saturday, the St. Louis U. High cross country team ventured far to the north for the Hazelwood Central Invitational at Sioux Passage Park.

The course, famous for its "Man-maker" hill, was made especially difficult by a combination of heat, humidity, and high grass. In addition to the physical conditions that awaited SLUH, a very deep field of nineteen teams was also on hand.

This week, the varsity squad chose a pack strategy led by senior captain Ken Reichert. Reichert took the team through the first mile, comfortably holding about thirtieth place. Steadily moving up throughout the second and third miles, the pack separated and tried to catch the team from Columbia Hickman, which had taken an early lead. Displaying an amazing finishing kick, junior Ted Snodgrass was

able to pass several runners on the final stretch to finish in fourth place at 17:46.

Snodgrass was followed to the finish line by junior Murphy O'Brien in seventh place and Reichert in twelfth. The next pack of SLUH runners was led by senior Matt Schaefer in seventeenth place. Following him were juniors Mark Monda, Tim Huegerich, and Nathan Tower in eighteenth, twenty-first, and twenty-sixth places, respectively.

Tower's effort was especially commendable considering the fact that he was running his first race since returning from an injury that caused him to miss about a week and a half of practice. The strong efforts of these runners led to an impressive second place finish for the Jr. Bills, behind Columbia Hickman. An important footnote to this second place finish was SLUH's ability to defeat perennial state power Jefferson City.

The junior varsity also competed at Sioux Passage and once again served notice that they are among the very best JV

squads in the state. The JV pack surged to the front from the start of the race. This pack of front-runners was able to hold the lead positions for the entire race, with junior Dan Westlund winning the individual title. Rounding out the JV top seven were seniors Matt Crow, Alex Speiser, and John Senn, in second, third, and ninth places respectively, and juniors Matt Brice, Dan Graesser, and Bill Freeman, in sixth, seventh, and twelfth places.

The B-team also ran at the Hazelwood Invitational and finished in an extremely respectable third place. The top sophomore runner for SLUH at the race was Jason Roehr in fifteenth place, followed by Ryan Oldani, Raj Joseph, and Dan Leinauer.

The cross-country team will continue its season this week at the very competitive and prestigious Hancock Invitational. This meet will provide an excellent opportunity for the varsity to see how it stacks up with the top two ranked schools in St. Louis—CBC and DeSmet.

## Speedobills pull off conference wins

RYAN KEEFE AND JOHN PENILLA  
REPORTERS

The water polo team headed into the Suburban Central Conference tournament looking to avenge last year's loss to MICDS in the finals. On Tuesday the Polobills battled the Clayton Greyhounds in the confines of the MICDS pool.

The Jr. Bills got off to a slow start, leading 2-0 after the first period with goals from senior captains John Penilla and Ryan Keefe. The offense quickly picked up the pace, though, in the second and third quarters, scoring seven more goals while holding the Greyhounds to only one. As the buzzer sounded to end the game, the Polobills found themselves with a 12-1 victory over Clayton.

Keefe led the scoring with five goals and received support from fellow senior captains Aaron Christoff (1) and Penilla (1). The other Jr. Bill scorers were juniors Steve Lubbert (1), Pierson Stoecklein (1),

Anthony Casalone (1), Mike Murphy (1), and Kevin Gates (1).

Senior tri-captain Aaron Christoff said, "Offensively, the game was a struggle [scoring only 12 goals on 35 shots], but our defense was good enough to create so many opportunities that we eventually put the game away."

After Tuesday's victory, the polo team had to quickly recover and play again on Wednesday night. This battle was also played at MICDS, but this time it was the Ladue Rams' turn to challenge the Jr. Billikens. The Polobills knew this game was going to be one of the hardest games in the early season, and they came out ready to play. SLUH jumped out to an early 2-0 lead and never relinquished control. At the half the score stood 7-1 in favor of the Jr. Bills, and after a few quick goals, the game was out of reach for Ladue. When the buzzer sounded, the final score was 13-2 in favor of the Jr. Billikens.

The tri-captains led the way, scoring seven of the team's goals. Penilla scored one and Christoff added two, while Keefe led the team with four goals and three assists. Other scorers included seniors Jack Wideman (2) and Geoff Ziegler (1) and juniors Casalone (1) and Stoecklein (2). Assists were earned by Lubbert (2), Wideman (1), Christoff (1), Penilla (1), and Ziegler (1).

Junior goalie Nick Bellon managed to stop eight of the Rams' ten shots.

The team will travel to the Rec-Plex in St. Peters Saturday night to battle the defending state champion MICDS Rams at 8:30 p.m.

Keefe commented on the upcoming contest, "If we continue to play like we did against Ladue, we will beat them by at least three goals."

Senior Pat Mullen added, "We really want to prove that we're the team to beat this year, and the only way to convince people is by beating MICDS."