

Football wins district, loses to Riverview in sectional

Rob Hutchison and Justin Scott
Sports Editor / Reporter

The Varsity Footballs accomplished something last Saturday that many people outside the team thought impossible—winning district seven of the Missouri Class 5A playoffs.

The Bills finished the regular season Saturday against McCluer North, defeating the Stars 35-14 to go 3-0 in district play. The win propelled the Bills into the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

SLUH started the scoring early in the first quarter and never relented. Junior Joe Thaman found the end zone first after catching a six-yard pass from junior quarterback Mark Kornfeld.

On the ensuing possession, the Stars fumbled and the SLUH defense pounced on the loose ball. Five yards later, junior running back Evan Noetzel scored his only touchdown of the game, making the score 14-0.

In the second quarter, senior fullback Jordan Rouff rumbled 12 yards into the endzone to put the Bills up by three touchdowns. However, the Stars struck back late in the second on a 15-yard pass. They were unable to convert on their extra point attempt, however, as senior Colin Rohlfing blocked his second kick in as many games.

The second half began the same as the first, with the Jr. Bills beginning the scoring. Kornfeld sprinted 30 yards downfield to improve the Jr. Billiken lead to 28-6.

Once again, McCluer North struck back to make the score 28-14 after converting the two point conversion, but that was as close as the Stars would come.

Later, in the fourth quarter, Kornfeld found Sanjay "Dutch" Dwivedy in the back of the endzone from 16 yards out.

Head coach Gary Kornfeld noted that the team's excellent start was important.

He said, "We were able to come out and set the tone early, and thankfully we see RAMS WIN, 6

Productive XC season culminates in 12th at state

Dan Graesser
Reporter

Heading into this year's state cross country meet at Oak Hills Golf Center, the St. Louis U. High cross country team looked optimistically upon its chances to repeat last year's trophy-winning season.

The team knew that the competition was very strong this year, with as many as ten teams who believed they were trophy hopefuls. However, the Junior Billikens believed they were improving and racing better each week in preparation for what they thought would be a peak performance at the state meet.

Departing for the meet before school on Friday, the team arrived in Jefferson

City around noon, and later that day it toured the state course. Upon inspection, the course appeared to have gone through noticeable changes, including significantly tighter turns, and several sections that had been narrowed drastically.

The Class 4A Boys race was the third race of the day, scheduled to begin around noon. By that time, the grounds of the Oak Hills course were covered with blue-painted SLUH supporters who were prepared to enthusiastically cheer on the team.

From the starting gun, the race took off at a very fast pace that would continue for the first mile. The lead runner came through the first mile mark in a blistering 4:40, which in turn caused the rest of the field to come through quickly.

see BLUE STREAK, 6

Soccer falls to #2 Cadets

Mark Grebel
Reporter

Yet another grueling soccer season has come to an end.

The CBC Cadets dashed the Jr. Bills' hopes of revenge and their first trip to the finals of the state tournament since 1995 last Friday.

The Cadets won 3-0, but the game was much closer than the score indicated.

"[We] played great and we had a chance to win. I was very disappointed with the referee," head coach Charles Martel commented, referring to a number of controversial calls made throughout the game.

Even though the last game of the season ended on a down note, the season as a whole was very productive and rewarding. The Soccerbills recorded the lowest number of losses in three years with a record of 15-6-7.

Senior Dave Sanders summed up the season, saying, "We won a lot of games, but, more importantly, we came out and played our whole heart every single night, and that's what really matters."

Junior Ricky Vigil led the team in goals with 17, and fellow junior David Minges followed closely with 16. Minges also led in points and assists. Senior goalie John Antal was first in save percentage with a .750. Goalie Doug Kerr, who split time with Antal, had a slightly better goals against average—1.078.

The stamina and endurance of this year's squad was consistently at a very high level, which could be attributed to their work ethic in practices.

"Our practices were very intense. The first practice was as intense as the last practice. Everybody came out like it was the first day again," said assistant coach Terry Murray.

see SOCCER, 6

RAMS WIN

(from 5)

were able to keep them down; I'm very proud of what we were able to do against a very fine McCluer North ball club."

The Jr. Bills then travelled to Riverview to play the Rams in their sectional game.

SLUH had held the ball for almost all of the third quarter, quelling any threat from the potent Rams offense. Penalties plagued Riverview throughout the night, but a penalty for roughing punter Joe Thaman really threatened the Rams by putting SLUH's offense on the 10 yard line with a first down. Another subsequent penalty put SLUH on the Rams' five yard line facing second down. The Rams denied the Jr. Bills access to the end zone twice before SLUH called a time out. On fourth down, fullback Jordan Rouff was stopped short of the goal line and the momentum swung in favor of Riverview.

On the ensuing drive, Riverview marched downfield before scoring on a nine-yard run by running back Jermarsh Robinson. On the extra point attempt, Rohlfing streaked in from the and forced the kick wide.

The spirit appeared to be revived in the SLUH offensive players as they marched back onto the field, but Kornfeld's pass on first down was intercepted by a Rams' defensive back. This lead to another touchdown run by Robinson for five yards, making the final score 20-7.

Earlier in the game, Riverview scored first with a 23-yard run in the first quarter by running back Damien Nash.

SLUH's lone touchdown of the night came in the second quarter as Kornfeld broke through the line, stumbled, and then ran downfield for 52 yards and a SLUH score.

Defensive coach Mark Tychonievich commented on the team saying, "Everybody played hard as a team and improved. They played within the traditions of SLUH football."

Coach Rob Chura added, "It was a season in which we had a lot to start off with and we got even more out of it than we expected. At Riverview we played really well and we did our best."

Kornfeld also offered his thoughts on the season, saying, "I was extremely pleased with the season. We played with great heart and character. Also, we are thankful for the support of the student body, faculty, and teachers throughout the year, especially last night."

Speaking for each of his fellow captains, Matt Graves, Dan Parker, Jordan Rouff, and Dan Weidle, Matt Harrison said, "I was happy with the team's effort. We all had a lot of fun and I wouldn't have it any other way."

SOCCKER

(from 5)

Our expectations for the team are always high and it's hard, but I think they really stepped up," he continued.

The defense and goalies were stellar throughout the year.

"They did awesome. We had ten serious defenders . . . and I really saw no weaknesses," concluded Murray

Martel agreed with Murray, "It was by far the hardest working team. They made a lot of promises at the beginning of the year and they did all of it."

Even though teams in the past have relied on every player to contribute, Martel said that, "This was the most closely knit team . . . I have ever had."

These sentiments were echoed by Kerr who said, "This year was a lot of fun."

The atmosphere within the team was always positive, perhaps due to the upbeat attitudes of the players and coaches.

Friday marked the end of the high school soccer careers of Matt Hicks, Blake Schaefering, and Ryan Ossola.

This season may be over, but next year's team looks to take the reins and start where this year's team left off. With fifteen returners and a promising crop of players coming up from the B-team, next year could be very exciting.

BLUE STREAK

(from 5)

This proved disastrous for the Junior Bills, because they were not able to position themselves as high in the race as they had wished. From this point on, the team found it very difficult to move up throughout the field and improve its position.

One runner who was able to find an improved position was SLUH's number-one runner, Ted Snodgrass. He was among the top thirty runners through the first mile, and moved up to a finish in eighteenth place. This finish earned him all-state honors and means that he will be one of the top returning runners for next season.

Next for the team, on the strength of an incredible third mile in which he passed fifty-four runners, came junior Nathan Tower in sixty-sixth place.

Senior captains Matt Shaefer and Ken Reichert followed in the eighty-ninth and ninety-fifth spots, respectively. Although both of these runners were unhappy with their results on this particular day, they will be remembered for their leadership and for their results on other, better days.

Reichert also joined an elite group of SLUH runners who have competed in the state meet three times.

Rounding out the SLUH pack and giving the team hope for a better result at state next year were juniors Dan Westlund, Murphy O'Brien and Mark Monda.

The team ultimately finished in twelfth place out of sixteen teams.

The one positive aspect the team can take out of the state meet is the experience that was gained among the juniors on the varsity squad.

Hopefully the team will eventually be able to look back on the season and realize that they were clearly a better team than their last race seemed to indicate.

Now the team turns its eyes to next year when five of its top seven runners return, along with nine of its top twelve competitors.