

Football upsets Hazelwood Central

24-23 victory sets up showdown with McCluer North

Justin Scott
Reporter

Ahead only by a score of 24-23 late in the fourth quarter, the Jr. Bill defense had to play perfectly in order to keep the lead last Friday against the raging Hazelwood Central offense.

Just minutes earlier, senior defensive back Chris Keevan batted down a crucial Central pass, giving the ball back to the Jr. Bills with only a few minutes remaining. Yet the SLUH offense was unable to make a first down and thus punted back to the Hawks, allowing the Hazelwood offense one final drive to retake the lead.

Hazelwood drove downfield, and with only eleven seconds remaining, the Hawk quarterback lofted a pass toward the endzone. The fate of that pass would decide SLUH's chances of winning its district.

Keevan came through once again with one of the biggest plays of his career. He intercepted the pass at the SLUH 15 yard line, ending any hope of a Hazelwood comeback. SLUH fans rushed the field following the closing seconds of the game.

Throughout the week prior to the game, head coach Gary Kornfeld emphasized to his team that "everyone must step

up and play better than they have played all season," something which Keevan and the rest of the Jr. Bills were able to do against one of the area's highest ranked teams.

The foundations for the Jr. Bill win came from a respectable first half. After a scoreless first quarter, the Hawks put points on the scoreboard first by way of a 35-yard touchdown pass. On the next possession, the Jr. Bills returned the favor as junior Mark Kornfeld connected with sophomore Dan Chik on a 38-yard scoring pass to tie the score at 7-7; the score was Chik's first of the season.

On the following possession, Hazelwood Central once again found the end zone, this time on a 59-yard run. However, senior Colin Rohlffing was able to come off the corner and block the ensuing point-after attempt, making the score 13-7. The block was one of several key plays that helped the Jr. Bills win.

Following the Hawks touchdown, the Bills returned with their own drive that culminated in a 53-yard touchdown pass from Mark Kornfeld to senior fullback Jordan Rouff.

Central later scored a field goal late in the second quarter, making the score 16-14 in favor of Central at the half.

Although the Bills began the second half with the ball, an impressive stand by the Hawk defense forced SLUH to punt for only the second time in the game. On the ensuing possession, the Hawks found the endzone for the final time of the night on a three-yard run. That touchdown made the score 23-14.

On their next possession the Jr. Bills faced fourth down, but a crucial defensive pass interference call was made on the Hawk defensive back covering junior running back Evan Noetzel. This penalty gave the Jr. Bills excellent field position and a first down. Jordan Rouff finished the drive with a six-yard touchdown reception from Kornfeld.

In the fourth quarter, SLUH again gained possession of the ball when Colin Rohlffing recovered a Hawk fumble. With possession of the ball, the Jr. Bills were able to drive down the field, but Noetzel was stopped on the one yard line.

Facing fourth down with eight minutes remaining in the game, Kornfeld decided to go for the field goal rather than risk trying to score a touchdown. With the game on the line, junior Justin Scott kicked a high ball, splitting the uprights, and scoring what would be the game-winning
see VICTORY DANCE, 6

Sectionals: merely a warmup

Dan Graesser
Reporter

Going in to the state sectional meet, the St. Louis University High School cross country team had to decide what type of strategy to employ on the difficult course at Sioux Passage Park.

The team knew that it would be facing conference rivals CBC and DeSmet as its main competition for the third week in a row. Also, it would be striving to win a third consecutive sectional title.

Taking all the factors into consideration and carefully considering its goals

for the rest of the season, the team decided on a more conservative race plan. The main pack of the team would run a well-controlled, but competitive first mile and then try to move up through the pack for the rest of the race.

Through this plan, the Jr. Bills hoped to avoid injuries and stay strong in preparation for a peak effort the next week at the state meet.

Even after holding back for most of the first mile, junior Ted Snodgrass was

still able to earn a very impressive fourth place overall finish. Finishing next for the team, earning all-sectional honors and a trip to the hospital, was junior Dan Westlund (in eighth place).

As Westlund neared the end of the steep downhill finish, he appeared to have been outspurred by a CBC opponent. The runner from CBC, assuming he had beaten Westlund, began to raise his arms in celebration. However, this celebration proved to be premature, as

see ENDURANCE, 4



Junior Murphy O'Brien

Polobills sail into semis

John Penilla and Ryan Keefe
Reporters

The water polo team has entered the final stages of its season. After hard work and tough competition, the team is ready to win the state championship.

After a tough loss two Mondays ago to the Oakville Tigers in a close 12-11 game, the team traveled to the unfriendly confines of the Parkway South Patriot's pool.

After the loss to Oakville, the team had very little chance of gaining the number one seed in the state tournament that Saturday.

The game, however, turned out to be the team's best defensive effort of the year. The team ended the first quarter with a narrow 3-2 lead but lost that advantage by the end of the second quarter.

At halftime, the score was 5-5. At this point the team's defense began to step up.

Less than two minutes into the second half, senior Ryan Keefe connected with fellow senior John Penilla to give the Jr. Bills a 6-5 lead. The Bills then held the Patriots scoreless until they tied the game on a weak shot with less than two minutes remaining in regulation.

The teams headed to overtime, which consists of two three-minute periods. The first period went scoreless, but the second turned out to be the last, as senior Jack

Wideman scored the game-winner half-way into period.

The defense shut the Patriots down and the Jr. Bills won 7-6. The goal scoring was spread out among the team members more than it had been in most SLUH victories.

Keefe and Penilla each scored two goals, complemented by goals from Wideman, senior captain Aaron Christoff, and junior Mike Murphy.

Wideman said, "The team played well as a whole unit, instead of relying on John [Penilla] and Ryan [Keefe]. I just happened to get the game winner."

The team entered the state tournament, seeded number two, to face the upstart team from Eureka. The game proved to be relatively easy for the Bills.

Once again, Keefe led the scoring with six goals, complemented by scoring by Penilla, Wideman, sophomore Zach Hartwig, seniors Pat Mullen and Paul Brockland, and junior Anthony Casalone.

Adding to the scoring was junior netminder Nick Bellon, who showed his swimming ability and rainbow-shot talent in his short time in the pool.

Bellon scored on a rainbow shot shortly before Keefe took over for Dave Nahm, who played spectacularly between the pipes. Keefe made two saves to preserve the lead and the Bills won 14-2.

The team faced the Ladue Rams on Wednesday. A victory in this game would

guarantee two more tournament games.

The Bills knew that a victory would be difficult, but they proved why they are arguably the best team in the state.

A great first quarter included goals by Penilla, Christoff and Wideman, which gave the team a quick 3-0 lead. At halftime, the Turbobills held a 6-1 lead and would never be challenged in the game. The second half featured seven more SLUH goals, and the Bills pulled out a 13-3 victory.

Keefe had another strong game with a hat trick. Juniors Pierson Stocklein and Murphy scored two goals apiece, and senior Geoff Ziegler and sophomore Kevin Rose and junior Steve Luebbert each added a goal. Bellon played well in goal, making nine saves on 15 shots.

Mullen said, "We're two wins away from our goal: the state championship. All we have to do is stay focused and it's ours."

The victory puts the Bills into a rematch with rival MICDS tonight at 8:30 at the Rec-Plex.

A win will propel the team into the championships at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, while a loss would mean a slot in the third place game at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

In addition to the games this week, the Conference Team announcements were released this week. Senior Aaron Christoff and junior Nick Bellon both made the Central Conference second team, while Ryan Keefe and John Penilla were both unanimous first team selections.

ENDURANCE

(from 3)

Westlund closed the gap in the last twenty meters of the race. At this point, the CBC runner inadvertently bumped into Westlund, causing him to fall and slide into one of the supports of the chute. Westlund lay on the ground as the rest of the runners finished the race and then was taken by ambulance to the hospital with what appeared to be a broken leg.

Fortunately, the leg was not broken, and it is very possible that Westlund will be able to run in the state meet.

The next two runners to finish for

SLUH were junior Tim Huegerich and senior captain Matt Schaefer, in eleventh and thirteenth places, respectively. The SLUH pack was rounded out by a trio of juniors all within three seconds of each other—Nathan Tower, Murphy O'Brien, and Mark Monda.

The team easily qualified for the state meet but was denied its third consecutive sectional title. CBC beat out SLUH by a score of 27 to 47.

The team is optimistic about its chances at state on Saturday at Oak Hills Golf Center in Jefferson City. Many think that the squad will be able to equal or

better last year's third place finish.

Many junior varsity runners and freshmen also competed in the sectional open race. The junior varsity team was led by a freshman, Tipper O'Brien, who finished in third place overall. Following next was junior Bill Freeman, who secured himself a place on the traveling team for state with a second place finish among the SLUH group. Junior David Nischwitz led the race for the first mile before finishing in sixth place overall.

The race put an exemplary cap on a very impressive season for both the junior varsity and freshman teams.