

Varsity And JV Harriers Turn In Strong Performances at Hancock Invitational

by Jeff Merlo
Co-Editor

The performance turned in by the Jr. Bills' cross country team at the Hancock Invitational—a meet rivaled in size and competition only by the State meet in Jefferson City—was declared by head coach Jim Linhares as “the single greatest achievement since the 1961 state meet.” The varsity Harriers finished second only to the West Plains Zissors in the field of thirty-five teams. The Jr. Bills were led by senior tri-captain Pat Hamel who finished tenth by completing the newly redesigned Jefferson Barracks course in a time of 17:02. On his race, Linhares commented, “Hamel really stuck his neck out after returning from his recent injury.”

The top five finishers for SLUH broke 17:30 and finished in the top twenty-five. These finishers were Hamel, Tim Denny (17:19), seventeenth place, Kevin Myers

(17:20), eighteenth place, Eric Monda (17:27), twenty-third, and Tim Chik (17:28), twenty-fifth. Rounding out the top seven were finishers Joel Brown (17:39) in thirtieth place and Ben Fanson (17:50) in thirty-eighth place. The top six SLUH finishers medaled by placing among the top thirty overall.

Linhares was amazed that the “pack was so solid” and said he has “never had that much talent that close in a race [before].”

The final varsity team scores for the top five teams were West Plains (37), SLUH (93), Kirkwood (147), Lafayette (180), and Hazelwood West (221).

SLUH continued to show the depth of its team on the JV level by out-distancing the field of twenty-eight, including West Plains, with a meet low of 53 points. Junior John Flynn won the individual JV title with a time of 17:52. Following

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Polobills Capture *Suburban Journal* Tourney Title For Seventh Straight Year

by Mike Sampson
Prep News Sports Reporter

St. Louis U. High varsity water polo has the distinction of being sole owner of the *Suburban Journal* Water Polo Tournament title since 1988. Some of the years had hard-fought wins and even the word “upset” could describe some performances of the Jr. Bills—but not this year.

The highly-touted Busenbills plowed over three respectable teams. Mehlville was SLUH's first prey, losing convincingly, 20-2. “Mehlville planned on playing a physical game against us, but we just powered through them,” commented senior captain Kevin O'Sullivan.

Unfortunately for the Polobills, the

Daisy Water Polo Club isn't just reserved for SLUH players. It sharpens talent from other schools, including Parkway South who was also the Busenbills' next opponent. Every member of Parkway South's starting line-up had summer experience.

On Friday's semi-final game, Parkway South came out strong with multiple defensive stances, keeping the Jr. Bills scoreless for the longest time this year. But as the first quarter progressed, SLUH found ways to exploit South's weaker

players. Three minutes and 43 seconds into the first quarter, O'Sullivan wounded South's morale, scoring the Aquabills' first goal. Seniors Chris Leahy and Mike

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Last Minute Decision Results in First MCC Victory for Footbills

by Brent Coleman
of the Prep News Staff

A gutsy call by the Jr. Bill coaching staff in overtime earned the Heart-stopbills their first conference victory last Friday when they defeated MCC rival Vianney by a score of 29-28.

Throughout the game, Vianney's defense performed superbly giving the Bills fits in their attempts to advance the ball. Although the Bills totaled 270 yards on offense, the advances came in spurts. Over half of SLUH's yards were the result of two separate plays: a pass and a run.

Sophomore running back Renato Fitzpatrick led the SLUH backfield with eighty-seven of SLUH's 106 total rushing yards including a seventy-three yard touchdown run on the first drive of the game. Junior Brad Pennington led receivers with a seventy-six yard reception in the second quarter.

The game started off well for the Bills with the touchdown by Fitzpatrick, but things quickly began to slip away from SLUH control. Vianney scored on a thirteen-yard pass with no time remaining in the first quarter and, after a SLUH turnover, proceeded to score on a quarterback sneak from a yard out with 8:07 remaining in the half.

The Bills redeemed themselves before the end of the half on a seventy-six yard pass to Pennington just two minutes after the Vianney score. The half expired with a discouraged Jr. Bill squad struggling for control against an opponent they felt they should be dominating. However, despite what should have been, the score remained deadlocked at fourteen points apiece.

After a rousing halftime talk by Coach Gary Kornfeld, the Jr. Bills came out fired up and ready to redeem themselves. But difficulties continued to plague the Gridbills. SLUH began the

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Runningmen

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Flynn were John Weller (18:25), Keith Myers (18:36), Mark Bonk (19:01), John Sauter (19:08), Phil Kopf (19:34), and Shannon Yates (19:38).

The top seven freshmen and sophomores also turned in a fine performance in the B division. Sophomore Joe Donnelly finished fifth in 17:44 and will race on the varsity level tomorrow at the Parkway West Invitational. Seven places later Tim Blessing finished with a time of 18:10. The rest of the top seven B finishers included Dan Range (18:54), Ben Rosario (18:58), John Ramsey (19:18), Matt Nischwitz (19:22), and Tim Lescher (19:38). The B team finished fourth overall behind teams such as West Plains and Fort Zumwalt South.

Linhares was excited by the JV and B performances because he believes "more people under 18:00 will make the varsity more competitive." He added, "We are the toughest team through 20 [runners] in the state."

The Harriers are off to the races again tomorrow in the Parkway West Invitational at Parkway Central, at the DuBourg Invitational on Tuesday, and back at Jefferson Barracks for the Metro Invitational next Friday.

May's World

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with running back Andre Long scoring the only SLUH touchdown. Andy Weidmann summed up the feelings of the team after the 13-9 loss, saying, "After beating them by a lot last year and losing this year, we obviously need to work harder in practice than we have been."

May agrees that the team needs to work harder, saying, "We have not progressed as we should." Although the offense has sputtered in the last two games, May acknowledges that the defense has remained solid. He noted that the goal for the next few games will be to eliminate penalties on offense. Lineman Jason Zakibe believes that the team must reach a higher level of concentration.

Water Boys

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Zimmerman also scored in the first, increasing the Jr. Bill lead to 3-0.

In the second quarter, South played hard and made a goal of its own but not without letting in three SLUH goals. In the second half, as the Patriots tired out, the game became much more like what SLUH has been used to. SLUH scored four in the third quarter, while South failed to score. South sneaked in a fourth-quarter goal, but SLUH slipped in four for a final score of 14-2. It was not until the final period before many of the second string players saw playing time because of fear of a South comeback.

In the championship round, SLUH met the Rams of Ladue, whom they had played earlier in the year. Ladue did not improve noticeably from its last performance, as SLUH jumped out to a huge first quarter lead of 7 to 0. Even though a single quarter had gone by, Coach Busenhart felt he had the game well in hand. He subbed from his bench, slowing down SLUH's offensive production but not endangering its victory. After three quarters of play, SLUH was leading 15-1 so Coach Busenhart decided to pull the SLUH starters from the game. Ladue had some fourth quarter success but not nearly enough to dampen SLUH's good spirits about its 15-5 championship victory.

This week SLUH played Mehlville again with similar results as last week: a 19-2 win. O'Sullivan put on a scoring clinic with a team high eight goals.

PN Nightbeat

Last night in sports action, SLUH's freshmen football team soundly defeated DeSmet's Spartans by the score of 27-6.

"Our skills were enough to win in the first two games, but we just weren't mentally focused in our last two," he said.

The B-team's next game is Saturday morning at DeSmet.

Heartstopbills

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second half on the defensive, and could not take control of the ball. The Bills finally ended the defensive marathon when senior Micah Taylor, on a beautifully executed play, intercepted a Vianney pass which he returned twenty-five yards to give the Bills a 21-14 lead. However, the Bills' difficulty controlling the ball continued well into the fourth quarter. Vianney capitalized on that difficulty with a mere 1:16 remaining in the game. The thirty-four yard run deadlocked the game at twenty-one points apiece which is how it remained as regulation time came to a close.

For the first time since 1992, SLUH was forced into overtime, and like 1992, the Bills emerged victorious. Vianney immediately scored on it's first possession, putting the pressure on the Bills to score. Taylor powered for nine of the ten yards necessary and quarterback Rob Jenkins finished it off on a sneak. Now a decision was required of the SLUH coaching staff. Should the Jr. Bills kick the extra point and tie the game, thus forcing a second overtime or should SLUH put it all on the line with a two-point attempt?

The coaching staff made the right choice. The decision called for Jenkins to toss the ball to senior John Klevorn. Klevorn faked the run and thus, drew defenders away from SLUH receivers. At the last second Klevorn lobbed a pass into the waiting arms of senior Tim Cuneo.

Also of note: senior standout John McArthur, who was to be out for up to three weeks recovering from foot surgery, is expected to return within a couple of weeks. In an interview with the *Post Dispatch*, Kornfeld said, "We want to give him as much playing time as possible, but we want to bring him back slowly."

The Bills, now 3-1, remained ninth in the *Post Dispatch* area poll. The Bills will continue conference play this week when they take on the DeSmet Spartans in our Stadium tonight at 7:30 pm.