

Gridbills Squeak By Kirkwood With Impressive Offense

by Brent Coleman
of the Prep News Staff

The SLUH Gridbills barely escaped disaster last Friday when they topped the Pioneers of Kirkwood in the final minute of play.

Kirkwood came into the game hoping for its first victory against SLUH since 1990. Rookie coach Mike Wade breathed new life into the talent-rich Pioneers and nearly upset the highly favored Footbills.

However, come game night, the Pioneers were short a key starter in standout receiver Javon Dixon. The Pioneers' luck didn't change as senior tailback Kent Layman was lost to a fractured vertebrae.

The SLUH offense, quick to take advantage of Kirkwood's personnel problems, scored virtually at will in the first half. The first seven points to light up the board were the result of a three-yard run by senior Jason Williams, followed by a Chris Calsyn extra point. Less than three minutes later, senior Rob Jenkin's offense struck again—this time on an eleven-yard pass to senior David Ries.

On the other side of the ball, the defense completely shut down all Kirkwood offensive endeavors. However, with a minute remaining in the first half, Kirkwood finally answered SLUH's fourteen point advantage. Senior quarterback Sean Macon tossed a long pass which found its way to the waiting hands of sophomore tight-end Alvin Morrow, who reached the endzone to complete the twenty-nine yard play. The defense took some solace in a blocked kick by senior linebacker Paul Herzberg, denying the Pioneers a seventh point.

The Bills were able to pull off one more drive before the end of the half, which can be attributed in large part to the excellent speed of senior Tim Cuneo. Cuneo caught a Jenkins pass and ran it fifty-nine yards to the goal line to increase the Bills' see EIGHTY-YARD RUN, page 10

Cross Country Pack Pounds Powerful Patriots

by Jeff Merlo
Co-Editor

The Harriers opened their season last Wednesday by soundly defeating the traditionally strong Parkway South team on the varsity and junior varsity levels. A narrow defeat in the freshman race, however, prevented a clean sweep by the team.

To win a strong position in the tricky and narrow layout of the first quarter mile, the varsity team broke from the start with a burst of speed. Despite the toll of that fast first mile, the Harriers maintained pace and finished strong. South sophomore standout Adam McDowell won the race in 16:49, but the Jr. Bills took the next five places before another Patriot runner finished.

SLUH was led by junior Tim Chik see EXPRESSBILLS, page 9

Polobills' Success Built on Years of Tradition

by Mike Sampson
Prep News Sports Reporter

Every year, members of the water polo team are asked whether or not the team is going to be great and if SLUH will again have a chance for the district title. To many people's astonishment, the answer is repeatedly, "Yes."

What are they feeding these guys? Are they breeding them? Is genetic engineering a factor in their success? Why are they winning so much? Some of the answers to these questions are obvious, while others are more subtle.

Like many activities at SLUH, the water polo team carries a tradition. This tradition consists of more than just winning, however; the team is steeped in family heritage—great players are followed by great siblings. Today's SLUH water polo

see WINNING WAYS, page 10

Soccerbills Remain Undefeated With Wins Over Rockwood Summit and Vianney

by Dan Ehlman
Co-Editor

Led by rough-and-tough defense, the Soccerbills put two more marks in the win column as SLUH defeated the Rockwood Summit Falcons and the Vianney Griffins this past week.

The Jr. Bills set the pace of the game against Rockwood Summit from the onset. With the ball in their opponent's half most of the game, the Martelbills frequently challenged the Falcons' inexperienced defense. Six minutes into the game, SLUH produced its best scoring chance of the half. The play began with a shot by senior co-captain Brian Haddock that sent the Falcon goalie to the ground. Junior Matt Powers rebounded, but again the goalie put his body in front of the ball. The opportunity ended when senior Paul Jost sent the ball over the crossbar from a difficult angle.

Finally, after numerous scoring threats by Jost and senior Greg King, there looked to be a goal. In the 34th minute, Jost weaved his way to the goal, dribbling past four defenders. The opportunity ended in disappointment when the Falcon goalie successfully protected his domain.

The half ended with the frustrated Jr. Bills deadlocked against Rockwood Summit, 0-0.

The Soccerbills resumed the second half where they had left off, maintaining possession of the ball most of the time against this first-year varsity team.

The Martelbills eventually took advantage of their situation at 59:47 on a play orchestrated by underclassmen. Sophomore Mike Amann directed a pass to freshman Taylor Twellman at the edge of the penalty box. Twellman settled the ball and sent a low shot toward the goal. The ball hit the inside of the post and see NOT-SO-UPSETTING, page 9

Not-So-Upsetting

(continued from page 8)

bounced out just inches, where it hit the goalie's back and went in.

Spectators gawked as senior Mark Fesler, masked by the Billiken head and blue paint, celebrated the goal by taking a victory lap around the track.

Although the score indicated a win by one goal, the Soccerbills defeated Rockwood Summit decisively, out-shooting their opponent 31-8.

"We definitely dominated on 50/50 [loose] balls," stated senior Matt Balossi, "but we didn't finish a lot of the opportunities that we should have."

Coach Charlie Martel concurred, "The opportunities are there, but now we'll have to convert more of them."

The Soccerbills fulfilled Martel's hope when they took the field on Tuesday against the Vianney Golden Griffins.

The offensively pumped-up Jr. Bill squad hit quick and early. SLUH took Vianney out of the game psychologically as the Ballbills pounded in shots and converted on two attempts in the first nine minutes of play.

Expressbills

(continued from page 8)

in second place with a time of 17:35 and followed closely by senior tri-captain Kevin Myers at 17:36. Rounding out the varsity finishers were Joel Brown (17:47) in fourth place, Eric Monda (17:53) in fifth place, John Flynn (17:55) in sixth place, Tim Denny (18:13) in eighth place, and Keith Myers (19:41) in eleventh place.

With two of their varsity runners out because of illness, the Patriots fielded only five runners. However, the Bills were missing two varsity stalwarts in the persons of Ben Fanson and Pat Hamel.

Head Coach Jim Linhares was ecstatic with the results of the race, saying he "had never seen a group this fast, this deep, this early in the season." Linhares feels this is the "best group" he has coached at SLUH, yet he believes the team has to go down "a long, long road" in order to be successful.

During the seventh minute, senior Pat Feagan, SLUH's primary corner kicker, let a cross-pass fly from the flag. After a Jost head-ball, junior Craig Standley directed the ball from Jost past the ill-positioned goal keeper and into the net.

Vianney Coach Mike Villa reacted by substituting his whole starting line-up. But less than two minutes later, the Griffin replacements allowed a goal. A pass from near half-field landed in Twellman's vicinity. After trapping the ball just inside the eighteen yard line, Twellman unselfishly surrendered the ball to teammate Standley. Standley one-timed the ball precisely into the lower left corner for his second goal of the night.

After the second goal, SLUH followed a natural inclination and placed less pressure on the Griffins' defense. The first forty minutes ended with a 2-0 Jr. Billiken lead.

The second half continued in the same style as the end of the first with SLUH putting more emphasis on defense. Forming a virtually impenetrable barrier, the defense obliterated all Vianney scoring

threats. Their concentration on defense, however, gave the Soccerbills few scoring opportunities.

The second half came to a conclusion with the same score as the first; the game ended in a 2-0 SLUH win.

"I've been pleased with the ability of the forwards to communicate and get back on defense," stated senior co-captain Brian Haddock; "The transition from offense to defense has given us counter-attacks because of man-to-man marking in the midfield and defense." Commenting on SLUH's scoring display in the first half, Martel said, "What these guys did out there for fifteen minutes, we have been working on all year." Looking to Saturday's match-up, Martel added, "Our offense fits in pretty well against CBC." The Martelbills' offense works on spreading the field out by "knocking the ball to the corner flags," as opposed to carrying the ball down the middle.

The varsity Soccerbills continue soccer action tomorrow in the CBC Tournament. SLUH will play CBC at CBC at 8:00 p.m.

Unlike most team sports, in cross country the team with the lowest score wins. The final varsity scores were SLUH 20, Parkway South 39, with team scores being determined by adding the places of each team's top five runners.

The depth of the squad continued to show in the JV race as the Bills nearly had a perfect score of fifteen. Tim Blessing won the race with a time of 18:20 and broke onto the varsity for the next race by beating out the number seven varsity runner. The rest of the second seven were Joe Donnelly (18:24) in second place, John Weller (18:40) in third place, Shannon Yates (19:10) in fourth place, Mark Bonk (19:12) in sixth place, Matt Nischwitz (19:33) in eighth place, and Tim Leshner (19:58) in twelfth place. The final score was SLUH 18 and South 40.

The freshmen ran a competitive race, but were defeated by the talented South

team. Ben Rosario led the way for SLUH with a second place finish on the 2.1 mile course in 12:43. Within striking distance of Rosario were John Christie (12:55) and John Ramsey (12:58) who finished fifth and sixth, respectively. The remaining top seven freshmen were Scott Lauer (14:12), Chris Graesser (14:15), Mark Fingerhut (14:23), and Noah Ruddy (14:37).

Linhares said the freshmen ran "really well, but were defeated by a tough team." He then added that the freshmen "need to get into a tighter pack in order to be successful."

Commenting on the whole team, Linhares stated, "This meet dispelled any doubts about [the team] being a contender."

The Harriers are in action on all three levels tomorrow at the Northwest House Springs Invitational at 10:00.