

Harrierbills Hit Their Stride at All Levels

by Keith Myers
Prep News Sports Reporter

In the past two weeks, the SLUH cross country teams have chalked up two more spectacular meets in their illustrious season. The Harrierbills competed in the MCC conference meet, the District Meet, the Findley JV/C Invitational, and the Hazelwood Central Freshman Invitational.

The varsity Harrierbills enjoyed the sweet rewards of retribution by defeating DeSmet at the MCC Conference Meet by one point. Coach Jim Linhares called the meet "a huge victory. DeSmet had been keying for this meet all season. It was a very satisfying victory [because] we hadn't beaten DeSmet this season."

Leading the Harriers was senior Tim Chik, placing second overall with a time of 17:04. Directly behind Chik was junior Joe Donnelly at third finishing at 17:08. Placing fifth with a time of 17:12 was co-captain senior John Flynn.

Linhares attributes the victory to Ben Fanson out-sprinting DeSmet's #4 runner to place ninth with a time of 17:27. Rounding out the varsity team were Ben Rosario,

12th with a time of 17:39, and Joel Brown, 14th at 17:50.

The JV Harriers had an exceptional two weeks beginning with a second place finish at the MCC Meet. Despite excellent times from the Bills, DeSmet moved up in the last mile to defeat the Harriers. Leading the team was Chris Graesser, crossing the line third with 18:13. Following Graesser was the explosive pack of three containing John Christie, sixth, Shannon Yates, seventh, and John Ramsey, eighth with times of 18:21, 18:22, and 18:24 respectively.

Following them was another pack of three consisting of Scott Lauer, 11th, Ryan Monahan, 12th, and Dan Range, 13th with times of 18:26, 18:27, and 18:40 respectively. The JV also had the chance to compete at the Findley Invitational, one of the largest JV meets in the St. Louis area.

In this meet the JV Linharesbills went head to head with arch-rival DeSmet in an attempt to regain their status as the top JV team in the state. Unfortunately, the Harriers were defeated by the Spartans by a
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Coasting to a 2nd place finish at the MCC Meet is Harrier Captain Tim Chik.

Gridbills Suffer 18-12 Heartbreak in Final Stop at Busch Return to Whip Beaumont 34-0; Sumner up Next

by Chris Pelikan
of the Prep News Staff

"It's the last chance to be in front of the spotlight and everyone wants to be a part of it," said senior defensive lineman Tom Shaner in reference to the fabled mystique of Busch Stadium and the game played there which concludes inter conference play in the MCC. Unlike previous years, not only were warm sentiments and fond memories on the line, but the MCC title remained up for grabs as the Junior Bills faced the unblemished Cadets of CBC.

With clackers in hand, a strong contingency of SLUH students fended off spot rainshowers and low temperatures to attend and witness the final ever Stadium

Game. The fans viewed a first quarter dominated by defense that saw junior safety Tayton Fain pick off a Greg Lake pass one minute and 30 seconds into the game. SLUH failed to capitalize on the early Cadet miscue, and the first quarter ended with no score. As the second quarter neared its conclusion, it appeared as if the score may have remained deadlocked at zero.

However, at the 4:53 mark of the second frame, CBC back Ken Alsop took a small shovel pass from Lake. Momentarily unable to handle Lake's delivery, Alsop fumbled the ball. However, the artificial surface of Busch Stadium provided a favorable bounce for Alsop as it ended right back in his hands. Alsop proceeded to rumble 80 yards down the

sideline past a SLUH defense which had shifted to the fumble recovery mode. Alsop's run concluded first half scoring as the first of four extra points were missed by both CBC and SLUH kickers.

Due to a first half void of points, SLUH head coach Gary Kornfeld dug deep into his playbook on the Bill's opening possession of the second half to create offense. Kornfeld opted to use an unusual formation in which all of his linemen and blockers were pulled to the left. Running back Renato Fitzpatrick took the snap from the center who acted as the blocker farthest to the right. Fitzpatrick then ran to the left side laden with blocking as a result of the unconventional formation, and rambled 49 yards downfield for SLUH's
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Sweet Revenge

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mere seven points. DeSmet won the meet in the last 800 meters of the race.

The freshman Harriers had a phenomenal stretch of three wins in three meets. Their explosive performances began at the MCC race which they decisively won. Leading the Jr. Bills was Matt Schaefer winning the race with an amazing time of 18:49. Following Schaefer was the SLUH juggernaut, where the Harriers captured places 4-8. The pack contained Matt Crow 19:07, John Senn 19:11, John McGinnis 19:16, John Leuchtmann 19:48, and Chris Lewis 19:41.

Coach Linhares commented that this freshman team was "by far the best freshman

team that SLUH has seen. It's amazing to have this many freshmen under twenty minutes."

The freshmen also emerged victorious at the Hazelwood Central Freshman Invitational. The meet is hailed as the "freshman state meet," and it is by far the largest meet on the freshman schedule. SLUH's freshmen won by over 60 points. To round out the freshman winning streak was the victory at the Findley Invitational where they once again arose dominant over all teams present. The freshmen proved that they were the best team in the St. Louis area.

On Saturday the varsity Harriers made the trek to North County in order to defend their district title. The Harriers gelled together as a pack and competed for places to win the title decisively. To lead the team to victory was the lethal combination of Chik, third,

17:08, Donnelly, fifth, 17:17, Fanson, sixth, 17:18, and Eric Monda making his varsity debut by placing seventh with a time of 17:21.

Following this combination came the second wave of the SLUH pack attack consisting of Rosario, 14th, 17:42, team guru John Flynn, 15th, 17:43, and Joel Brown, 16th, at 17:44.

Brown explains that "winning districts was nice, but that's not what this season's about. We've been gearing for State since last year. It's our primary goal."

Although Linhares is optimistic, he realizes that "our times need to be faster in order to accomplish our goals at State."

The Harriers will be in action tomorrow defending their section title at Sioux Passage Park against powerhouses Parkway South and Kirkwood.

Bigger Dogs

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Despite SLUH's stronger balance between the pass and run in the game, Fitzpatrick once again led the offense as he carried the ball 26 times for 177 yards. Winter posted his strongest outing of the year as he went 12-16 for 146 yards. His performance was highlighted by a string of nine consecutive completions to open the game.

Defensively, it was senior linebacker Brad Pennington and senior defensive end Nick Sansone who led the way. Sansone collected three sacks on the evening giving him a season total of ten which leads the metro-area.

"CBC is a passing team; this gave us more opportunities for sacks, and we worked on it all week in practice," commented Sansone in reference to his evening. Pennington finished with a team high 13 tackles in the losing effort.

After posting their first-ever conference loss, the question asked by most was whether or not the sectional play of the Junior Bills would be affected. The first opportunity to test this question occurred last Friday night as the Gridbills kicked off their sectional schedule by kicking the Bluejackets of Beaumont. In front of the smallest home crowd of the season, the Bills attacked early and often on both sides of the ball.

The tempo for the game was set early when Fain intercepted a Keith Boyd pass with 9:50 to play in the first quarter and proceeded to rumble 34 yards, unimpeded to the endzone. "He overthrew it, and I happened to be in the right place. After that it was just great block-

ing which helped me get the touchdown," commented Fain.

SLUH posted another strong night defensively, holding the Bluejackets to a slim 68 yards of total offense and just three first downs. Because of Beaumont's lack of offense, the Bills were provided with numerous chances on offense. With under a minute to play in the first quarter, Winter snuck the ball in from two yards out. This would be the first of his two scores on the evening, the latter coming on the next SLUH scoring drive with 4:38 to play in the half. Despite a botched extra point, the Bills carried a 20-0 lead into the locker room.

Relentlessly, the Jr. Bills continued to tally points on Beaumont. After Fitzpatrick temporarily left the game in the third quarter, senior running back Dan "Rudy" Finney capped off a SLUH drive with a one yard plunge into the endzone, the first touchdown of his career at SLUH. "[The touchdown] was a great experience; the team was happy for me, and I'm thankful I was given the opportunity to get it," said President Finney.

Scoring continued, as senior defensive back Brian Nolan picked off a pass with two minutes to play in the third quarter and rolled 41 yards the other way for the second defensive and final touchdown of the evening as any doubts of SLUH's intensity were answered in this 34-0 victory.

The next district game is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at Gateway Tech against the Sumner Bulldogs who appear to be SLUH's only remaining obstacle between themselves and another trip to the playoffs.

Hogan's Heroes

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Rebels of Rosary. The Jr. Bills jumped on top when Bill Sommer capitalized on a feed from Sprengnether. After the Rebels had tied the score at one, Matt Powers buried a line drive from 18 yards out to put the Bills up for good. Matt Eilerman added an insurance goal late in the second half when he punched home a rebound from a Twellman blast. The 3-1 victory put the Billikens' record at 14-10, which earned them the 10th rank in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

After Thursday night's game at Duchesne, the Martelbills will close out the regular season Saturday at home against undefeated rival CBC.

Stonewall

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Fetter, as well as an unlikely pair of seniors in Doug Maitz and Tucker Korte.

Thursday's game against Parkway South offered a change of pace for SLUH polo fans. The Patriots, last year's staterunner-up, brought a physical style of water polo to FoPoCoCo. Unfortunately for the Pats, it wasn't to their advantage. The Aquajocks jumped out to an early 5-1 lead before South fought back and cut the lead to 6-4.

The two teams exchanged goals until the end of the third quarter, which ended with SLUH leading 10-8. South's fatigue was evident in the fourth quarter, and the Speedobills pulled away with for a 14-8 victory. Tucker Korte led all scorers with six goals, and Matt Guerrero netted four of his own. "They thought they could play us physical," Maitz said. "They were wrong."