

Polobills Face Stiff Competition from MICDS

by Tim Callahan
Prep News Reporter

The 1996 water polo season is underway, but this season is different than the past four. SLUH is not favored to win.

"Country Day is the number one team ranked by most area coaches," stated head coach Mr. Charlie Busenhart. "But would you rather be number one and have everyone trying to knock you down or number two?"

Even though MICDS is the favorite, do not count the Busenbills out. Once again, the strength of the team is the depth.

"Instead of having six players, we have nine solid players, which is the way I like it," says Busenhart. The team is led by arguably the best player in the metro area, senior Tyler Korte. Korte will share leadership with fellow seniors Matt Guerrerio and Neil Asinger. Junior Jeff Maitz also is expected to be a dominant

force on offense. According to Busenhart, seniors Keith Mug, Steve Rose, junior Justin Woodard, and sophomore Ryan Keefe, can all fill the final two starting positions..

The weakness of the team, however, is the lack of experience in goal. Six-foot, four junior Tim O'Connell steps up to varsity level to fill the position vacated by the graduation of one of the area's best goal keepers, Tony Paster. Rounding out the team are juniors Matt Arnoldy, Tony Erker, Brendan Gates, Jon Navarro, Mark Schrewe, Colin Smith, and Sean Zuckerman.

This talented team is definitely ready for the challenge. "We are a lot more focused at practice, probably because the Jr. Billikens' 64-game winning streak was broken and they lost the championship to the same team who broke their record, MICDS."

The Aquajocks are on the right path

to revenge those incidents of last year. They opened the season last Tuesday against University City. Like the days of old, the Bills beat their foe by the score of 20-3.

Tri-captain Guerrerio led the attack by scoring six goals. Maitz netted eight while Korte scored with three. Sophomore Keefe had two, and Asinger, Gates, Smith, and Schrewe each had one. The Polobills went on to defeat their next opponent, Parkway South. A powerhouse last year, South was no match for the '96 squad which overpowered them with 15 goals to their three.

Steve Rose led the offense this game with three goals. Asinger, Korte, Guerrerio, Keefe, and Mug each put away two while Woodard and Smith rounded out the offensive attack with one goal each.

So far, SLUH is proving themselves a definite force to be reckoned with. New streak: 2 games and counting.

Spring Season Sports Wrap-Up

Mixed Reviews for Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Volleyball, Tennis

by Matt Bumb
Prep News Core Staff

Spring sports at the U. High—yet another memorable mark has been made by a fleet of seven teams who helped cap off last year in a more than solid fashion.

Immediately coming to mind is Mr. Steve Nicollerat's Diamondbills, who finished the season in the quarterfinals at McCluer, following a previous season of unexpected success at Columbia on Simmons field in the semi-finals of state. Or perhaps, a very mentionable Volleybill squad, who, under the guidance of Mr. Don Maurer and Mr. Paul Scovill, finished the first state-sanctioned volleyball season in stellar fashion, losing narrowly in the semi-finals at Lafayette. The list goes on, as track, tennis, golf, lacrosse, and rifle also provided remarkable stories for the 1996 spring sports season.

After amassing a 12-2 record in the regular season, Nicollerat's Basebills entered post-season play against Cleveland NJROTC in the district final, a game in which the Bills won handily 7-2. They then moved on to the

sectional game, facing rival CBC. In a game in which now-grad pitcher Mike Pagan provided much of the firepower, the Jr. Bills overcame the Cadets by a score of 4-1.

A formidable McCluer team was the next opponent for the Diamondbills in the quarterfinals of the state tourney. The well-played game progressed into extra innings, with the score tied 6-6. In the top of the eighth, McCluer scored the winning run off a base hit, edging the Basebills, 7-6. Coach Nicollerat stated simply that "it was a great game to watch and play."

The Bills ended their season ranked tenth in the area and with an excellent record of 15-5.

The Jr. Bill golf team wrapped up their season with a respectable 6-5-1 record, qualifying for the state tourney for the fifth year in a row, while also claiming their fourth district title in the last five years under the supervision of Mrs. Bonnie Vega. Powered by four-time

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V-Harriers Strain; JV Jumps Ahead

by Greg Leuchtman
Prep News Core Staff

With the accolades of a successful 1995 season behind them, SLUH cross-country runners were greeted with stiff competition in this season's opener. On Wednesday, September 4th, the Harrierbills ran against an excellent Parkway South team. Although SLUH lost by 3 points, Head Coach Mr. Jim Linhares was encouraged by the varsity team's performance.

"We were much stronger this year than we were last. Last year we had no one under 18 minutes. This year we had four under 18. They are significantly better and much improved," commented Linhares on the cross-country team's recent meet.

"I got what we expected. There were see HOW THEY RUN, page 10

And Then Some

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state competitor and now alum Tim Powers, the Jr. Bill golf squad settled with a 13th place finish after just one round of play in the state tournament, which was shortened due to inclement weather.

SLUH's showing in the tournament was led by junior Kevin Knapp's 78, senior Gary Pohrer's 79, and Tim Power's 80. The Golfbills team total of 324 placed them 25 strokes behind State Champion Popular Bluff. At the conclusion of the season, Pohrer stated, "This year is over, but we'll be back."

With a 23-0 record, the Jr. Bill volleyball team was undoubtedly confident entering the post-season, previously winning both the MCC tournament and the DeSmet Classic Tournament. The Bills met a fiery Parkway West team in the district final and overwhelmed the Longhorns, winning the games 15-5 and 15-1, respectively.

Next up was Parkway North, a team that was seemingly underestimated by the Volleybills in the first game of the match. After beginning slowly, the Bills bounced back and won the match by scores of 15-12 and 15-5, respectively. This victory advanced the SLUH squad to the semifinals of the state tourney against a top-notch Rosary team. The Volleybills lost to Rosary narrowly, thereby ending their nearly flawless season. But with four returning seniors and a junior varsity team with only one loss last season, another run at the coveted state title appears more than probable.

Steered by Mr. Charlie Martel, the tennis squad, while concluding the MCC tournament with a second place finish and winning their district for the third straight year, beat MCC champion Chaminade for the sectional championship. They subsequently traveled to Springfield for the state tournament, losing to eventual champion Rockhurst in the first round, and were thusly forced to settle on a third place finish.

The Baggetawaybills, or Lacrossebills to those not so familiar with Native American language, qualified for the Missouri State Lacrosse Association's playoffs. They lost their first-round match to the Lancers of Lafayette.

Also in the mix was the '96 edition of the track team, who gave a strong showing at the MCC meet earlier on in the season, as they were edged by the CBC Cadets, 99-98. The All-Catholic meet proved worthwhile also,

with the Jr. Bills finishing second in a field of seventeen teams. Following the sixth place finish in their district, the Trackbills placed Senior Jerry Fitzgerald (800 meter run) and now-grad Francis Shen (110 and 300 meter hurdles), in the sectional meet. Shen then extended his stay on the Bill track program and placed second in the 110-meter hurdles at the state meet.

The rifle club completed a record-breaking season, as six freshmen achieved the rank of Expert Riflemen, accomplishing this ranking by hitting a dime fifty feet away in a standing position. The old record was set in 1966. The experts are Tim Bull, Vic Melenbrink, Tony Scharf, Greg Miller, John Senn, and Mike Shaughnessy.

With the spring season this year still lingering several months away, spring sports aficionados must simply wait for more of the same successes that were produced last year by the Jr. Billiken spring teams.

STUCO Speaks

by David Breslin
STUCO President

The focus for this year's STUCO and Senior Class, around which we will center all of our activities, is spirit. This spirit is not limited to the playing fields, but permeates the classrooms, the chapel, and the activities which take place at St. Louis U. High.

If the beginning of this year is a harbinger for things to come, we are in terrific shape. So far this year we have seen the return of the Belly Brigades; we have had a pep rally to galvanize the already strong-spirited students of SLUH; we have seen the energy and the enthusiasm of the Blue Crew at the TWA Dome; and we have had the the Running of the Bills.

I hope to impress on you that this year's STUCO is working diligently to insure that what you have seen so far continues throughout the year. We hope to continue old traditions and pass on new ones, such as the senior parking privilege. We hope to change the notion that mixers are only for underclassmen, and plan to offer an upperclassmen discount beginning at tonight's mixer. Finally, I hope that everyone will become involved this year in as many ways as possible. I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions. Remember, you only get out of SLUH what you put into it.

How They Run

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some disappointments like [senior] Joe Donnelly being sick and other varsity members not having their best days. We were just getting started," added Linhares.

Varsity results were as follows: senior Jerry Fitzgerald came in second at 17:30; juniors John Christie at 17:45; Chris Graesser at 17:49; Ben Rosario at 17:50; John Ramsey at 18:08; Luke Schulte at 18:14; and Scott Lauer at 18:30. By comparison, 18:08 was the fastest varsity time at last year's dual meet versus Parkway South.

On the JV level, SLUH shutout the competition by taking the top six places. In his first year of running cross-country, sophomore Ken Reichert was the winner with a time of 18:26.

The freshman team cruised to victory as well, with six runners finishing the two-mile run under 14 minutes.

The cross-country team will travel to the Mt. Vernon Invitational tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., where they will square off with rival Desmet.

When asked how the team will fare on Saturday, Linhares said, "It's a real question mark because Illinois has a good cross-country reputation around the nation."

Commenting on the team's seasonal goals, Linhares said, "We are ambitious to reach 4th or better in the State Meet." Senior captains Tim Blessing, Joe Donnelly, and Eric Monda also like what they see. "This is the mentally and physically toughest team I've ever seen here," concluded Blessing. "And if we keep working hard, we can be the best team in SLUH history."

SLUH by the Numbers

Enrollment by class:

Freshmen	265
Sophomores	256
Juniors	259
Seniors	229