

Footbills Hope Trans World Dome is Home Sweet Dome

BY CHRIS KELLETT
SPORTS REPORTER

The Varsity Gridbills opened their season last Thursday with the traditional Blue/White scrimmage in the SLUH stadium.

The Blue team struck early in the first quarter with a 45-yard halfback pass by junior Jordan Rouff to senior Josh Desfalvy in the end zone.

The White defense was once again unable to stop the Blue offense in the second quarter when sophomore quarterback Joe Thamen scrambled nine yards into the end zone on a broken play.

The two touchdowns combined with two extra points from senior kicker Chris Linck gave the Blue a 14 - 0 lead.



The Jr. Bills received a scare midway through the third quarter when senior defensive lineman Mike Delano was unable to get up after a play.

"It felt like my neck went to sleep," Delano later said.

After being immobilized, Delano was taken off the field into an awaiting ambulance.

Mike was released from the hospital two hours later with a diagnosis of a temporarily pinched nerve and clearance from the doctor to continue playing.

Neither team managed to score in the second half, and the 1997 Blue/White game ended with the Blue shutting out the White 14-0.

The Jr. Bills now look forward to Saturday's opening game against Hazelwood East at 6 p.m. in the Trans World Dome, where the team hopes to avenge last year's defeat to the Spartans.

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Harriers Pound The Pavement, Parkway South

BY SCOTT LAUER AND BEN ROSARIO
SPORTS REPORTERS

The Harrierbills sent a message to the state saying that this might be their year.

Wednesday the SLUH cross country team competed against Parkway South in its first meet of the season at Forest Park, and left no doubt as to its potential to be a contender at the state meet.

Both the varsity and JV teams annihilated the Patriots, who finished third in the state last season. The varsity took five of the top six places and the JV took 13 of the top 14 positions, nearly shutting out the competition.

Head Coach Jim Linhares was thrilled with his team's performance.

"These are end of season times, and it's only the first race," he said.

Nearly every member of the team posted a fast time, led by Ben Rosario's 16:47 on the five kilometer course, easily earning him a first place finish in the

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Aquabills Open Title Defense Against Lions

BY SEAN ZUCKERMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Polobills looked to start their regular season with a win over the University City Lions.

With the starting line up announced, the team ended the pre-season and prepared themselves for the transition into the regular season.

The Jr. Bills are looking for a strong offensive force from not only the starters, but the bench as well.

Senior captain Jeff Maitz is expected to spearhead the Jr. Bill's offense with strong inside play at the crucial 2-meter position.

Juniors Ryan Keefe and John Penilla along with senior captain Justin Woodard

will provide depth on offense and allow Maitz to rest.

Senior drivers Jon Navarro and Colin Smith should provide many scoring opportunities with their strong play.

The Jr. Bills will also have strong defensive play at the other end of the pool.

Senior Tim O'Connell will mind the nets for Busenhart's boys, blocking the goal with his huge arm-span.

"It's going to be tough to get much past Tim, especially in the shallow end," Maitz said.

Head Coach Charlie Busenhart summarized his feelings about his team and the U. City team they will square off against to open the season.

"U. City is not one of the strongest

teams in the conference," Busenhart said. "Therefore we have to try to maintain focus and run our offense.... The game is becoming more physical....so even the weaker teams with one strong 2-meter man are going to be even more competitive."

New rules this season could compound the Aquabills problems.

There will be less fouls, especially in the 2-meter position and on the perimeter of the offense, which may lead to frustration for the Jr. Bills.

"We're just going to have to identify how the ref is calling the game and adjust to it," said O'Connell.

Tonight both the JV and varsity face off against the Patriots of Parkway South.

Kickers Open Year With Tie

BY MARK GREBEL
SPORTS REPORTER

The varsity soccer team opened their season Tuesday with a hard fought tie with St. Charles West.

For the Jr. Bills this looks to be their best team in a number of years. Facing these lofty expectations the team opened its season Tuesday.

The varsity squad tied St. Charles West in a game that most people thought could be an easy win for the Jr. Bills.

The score was 0-0 in a game that featured very physical play.

St. Charles West was much bigger than SLUH and they utilized this to their advantage.

Four yellow cards were given throughout the game, two to each team. Forwards Tim Gibbons and senior Pat Martin recieved cards for the Jr. Bills.

SLUH used its superior skill to control the pace of the game, and the Jr. Bills had several scoring chances.

Martin dove and headed a crossing

pass towards the far post of the goal. The ball appeared to be heading into the net, but the St. Charles West goalie leaped to make the save.

During the second half, a steady downpour of rain hampered the skillful style of play that the SLUH offense favors.

The defense was solid, however, not allowing anyone to penetrate.

Defensman Dan Snodgrass added offense to his solid defensive play by ripping off two shots, but it was not enough.

One shot was stopped while the other missed wide.

With just over one minute remaining on the clock in the second half, Jr. Bill goaltender Brian Missey came up with a remarkable diving save to keep the game tied.

That save basically ended the game, as both teams did not have anymore scoring chances.

The Jr. Bills faced off against Waterloo (Ill.) Gibault last night at Soccer Park at 4:30 p.m.

RUNNERS

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varsity race.

Behind him were seniors John Christie in second place at 17:14, Chris Graesser placed fourth in 17:22, and sophomore Murphy O'Brien with a stunning fifth place finish with a time of 17:24.

Fueled by a hearty breakfast of bagels and cream cheese, Scott Lauer followed close behind in sixth place with a time of 17:28.

Rounding out the top seven was the other super-sophomore, Ted Snodgrass, at 17:47, and senior Luke Schulte in 18:21.

Matt Brice, Mark Monda, and Matt Schaeffer also competed at the varsity level and performed very well contributing to the team's success.

The junior varsity shared in the success that the varsity team found by nearly shutting the Patriots out of all scoring positions.

Although a Parkway South runner won the race, the Junior Bills took the next thirteen places en route to handing the Patriots a demoralizing defeat.

Junior Alex Spieser led the way with a second place finish in a time of 18:43, followed by Matt Crow in 18:53, Sean Burns in 19:07, John McGinnis in 19:12, Chris Abbot in 19:23, Phil Rutterer in 19:29, and Nathan Tower in 19:37.

Assistant coach Rob Behm was extremely pleased with the victories.

"How can you not be excited about these times?" he said.

With the strongest showing the team has had at the beginning of the season since the inception of the Linhares era, the team has high hopes for next week's race at the Mizzou Sportshake Invitational in Columbia. The freshmen will compete next Wednesday at Manchester Park where they will attempt to match the success of the varsity and JV in a dual meet against Parkway South.

PN Nightbeat

Last night in soccer action, the Soccerbills dominated Waterloo (Ill.) Gibault defeating them by a score of 5-0. Contributing to the scoring were seniors Pat Martin (3 goals), Joe Orso (1 goal) and Dave Beck (4 assists) and sophomore Matt Sebek (1 goal).

The soccer team is next in action Tuesday, September 9 versus Vianney in the CBC Tournament.

Last night was the water polo team which decimated the Lions of University City by a score of 21-3. Leading the scoring was senior captain Jeff Maitz (5 goals) followed closely by juniors Ryan Keefe (4 goals) and John Penilla (2 goals). Senior Tim O'Connell was stellar in net allowing only 3 of 10 shots to slip by.

The water polo team next plays the Patriots of Parkway South tonight at Forest Park Community College at 5 p.m.

DOMES

(from 9)

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to play in the dome," said senior cornerback and captain Jim Vreeland. "It's what a lot of kids dream about; it's where the big boys play."

Regardless of location, senior flanker and captain Josh Desfalvy said the team must remain focused on its opponent, Hazelwood East.

"It's going to be a tough game," he said. "We can't take Hazelwood East lightly because they're not going to take us lightly."

Tickets for Saturday night's football game against Hazelwood East at the TWA Dome are on sale for \$5 in Mr. Wehner's office.