

Lock Paces Cross Country to Second-Place Metro Finish

Sports Wittecisms

by Scott Witte
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The varsity cross country team is currently ranked third in the area by the *Suburban Journals*, and is looking strong after its second-place finish in the Metro Invitational last Friday.

Senior Sean Lock won the varsity race with a time of 16:36, while senior Ryan Fagan won the JV race with a time of 18:11.

Coach Jim Linhares commented of the promising performance, "[Metro is] a crucial meet. We beat the teams that can keep us from state and we beat them soundly for a day when we were not at 100%."

Last Saturday morning, SLUH's Ebbie Dunn eclipsed the national record for coaching victories in SLUH's semifinal victory over Granite City in the Granite City Tournament of Champions.

The record-breaking win should take a lot of pressure off the Jr. Bills as they look at the final stretch of the season and the state tournament. The victory propelled the Soccerbills into the finals of the Granite City tournament.

The Soccerbills nearly won the Tournament, making it to the finals as a dark horse before losing to the #1 ranked Griffins of Vianney 3-2. Notably, the Jr. Bills were ahead 2-0 before surrendering to the powerful Griffins.

The Jr. Bills, who are ranked #3 in the latest *Suburban Journal* poll, placed seniors Jeremy Moore and Todd Bruemer on the all-tournament team.

Senior Matt Casey commented, "Nobody will remember that Vianney beat us in this tournament when we beat them in state."

Congratulations, Coach Dunn, on
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The Jr. Bills trekked east again Saturday morning to face Granite City in the semifinals.

The Jr. Bills' play against Granite City was, like their play against Sedalia, characterized by strong defense and an inability to put the ball in the net despite numerous opportunities.

The Jr. Bills were able to strike first, however, as senior Rob Funke one-timed a pass from Damon Rensing into the goal from the top of the penalty box.

Throughout the rest of the game, the Jr. Bills continued to play well defensively and move the ball adeptly. Again SLUH was unable to add another score, but the strong defense of the Bills made it a moot point as the team sailed to another 1-0 victory, Coach Dunn's 572nd victory, and a national coaching record.

Coach Dunn said of the game, "We played exceptionally well. Granite City is a very good team that hasn't been scored on in three games, and we broke their 13 game winning streak."

Senior Rob Funke commented, "It was real exciting to get the victory [for Coach Dunn]."

Dunn said, "I feel very good about getting the record. It's good to get it over with; the kids have enough to worry about."

The victory over Granite City allowed the Jr. Bills to advance to the finals of the tournament to face the Griffins of Vianney (17-1), ranked #1 by the *Post-Dispatch*, Saturday night.

The action started off well for the Jr. Bills as they were able to move the ball well and do the things that Vianney had not allowed them to do in an earlier loss to the Griffins.

Late in the first half, the Jr. Bills struck the Griffins hard. Senior captain Jeremy Moore blasted the ball into the net off a Rensing pass for a 1-0 SLUH lead. Rensing aided the Jr. Bills again a few minutes later when he passed to senior captain Brian Flanagan, who put the ball in the net for a 2-0 Jr. Bill lead.

The Jr. Bills went into halftime retaining their two goal lead and enthusiastic about the possible tournament championship.

However, the Griffins had not given

up and came into the second half hoping to put a damper on Coach Dunn's big day. The Griffins struck quickly as a Griffin player beat two SLUH defenders on the endline and passed to his teammate for a Griffin goal, cutting the SLUH lead to 2-1.

The Jr. Bills continued to play a strong game, but ten minutes later a Griffin player was taken down in the penalty area, allowing the Griffins to tie the game on a penalty kick.

The Griffins scored again, five minutes later, taking a 3-2 lead.

The Jr. Bills had a few chances to tie the game but were unable to do so as they lost 3-2, and took home second place in the tournament.

"I thought we outplayed Vianney; it's just one of those things where they happened to score more than us," said Hertel.

Coach Dunn added, "We played very well. Vianney is a very good team. They just had a better third quarter than our second quarter."

Also of note was the selection of senior captains Moore and Todd Bruemer to the all-tournament team. Moore commented on his selection, "I'm just glad I could play. It's a great honor."

The strong play of the Jr. Bills in the tournament allowed them to advance to the #3 spot in the *Suburban Journals' Coaches' Poll*.

The toll of playing five games in a short period of time seemed evident Tuesday as the Jr. Bills suffered a 4-0 loss in a make-up game against DeSmet, a team the Soccerbills had previously beaten in the C.B.C. Tournament.

The team played sluggishly throughout the first half, giving DeSmet numerous opportunities and three goals. The half ended with the Spartans firmly in control with a 3-0 lead.

The second half saw the entrance of the junior players for the Jr. Bills. The juniors were able to control the ball more in the second half and had many shot opportunities, including a shot off the crossbar by Powers, but the Spartans were able to get one more goal as they sailed to a 4-0 victory.