

State Bound: Varsity Teams Zero in on State Titles

Cross Country

by Ryan Fagan
of the Prep News Staff

Overcoming freezing temperatures and stiff competition last Saturday morning at Jefferson Barracks, the SLUH varsity cross country team blazed its way to a second-place regional finish and qualified for the Missouri Class 4A state meet this Saturday in Jefferson City.

Despite assaulting the course and Saturday morning's frigid temperatures in nothing but his uniform shorts and jersey, Sean Lock led the charge and handily earned the individual championship with an excellent time of 16:49. Lock said that his time could have been lower, if not for "an arctic fox that ran out in front of me when I was running."

Hopefully, though, the wildlife in Jeff City will stay uninvolved, as Lock is looking to challenge for the individual state championship Saturday.

Also among the top 25 finishers overall, who automatically qualify for the state meet, were Jeff Bierling and Matt Heebner. Bierling followed up excellent performances throughout the last half of the season with a 20th place finish in 17:53.

Heebner and John Miles finished
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Football

by Scott Witte
of the Prep News Staff

With their second convincing district victory over a solid McCluer North team last Friday night, the Jr. Bills varsity football team ran its record to an impressive 8-1 and set up a showdown with the #1-ranked Spartans of Hazelwood East, scheduled for tonight in our stadium, weather permitting.

Led by senior Steve Schnur, who rushed and passed for three touchdowns, the Jr. Bills overcame another gritty Suburban North team as well as a sloppy field and freezing temperatures en route to a 24-14 victory.

After acquiring a 9-7 halftime lead, SLUH soon found the Stars to be on the early second-half offensive. The Stars, after recovering a fumble off the SLUH kickoff return, capitalized with a short drive culminating in a two-yard touchdown run, giving the Stars their first lead of the night, a 14-9 edge.

But the Bills changed the tide and came from behind to win
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Water Polo

by Dave Renard
Prep News Reporter

After closing the regular season with a phenomenal 16-1 record following last Wednesday's 15-11 win over Mehlville, the varsity Polobills went on to defeat the Vikings of Parkway North, advancing to the semifinals of the district tournament. Their next game on the road to the championship will be played tonight at the Country Day Pool, against the winner of the John Burroughs-Parkway South quarter-final contest.

When the AquaJocks traveled to the home pool of the Mehlville Panthers last Wednesday, they met up with a team that had experienced some improvements since their last meeting, which SLUH won 12-8 early in the season. In addition to the fact that the home advantage in this second contest belonged to Mehlville (the first game was at Forest Park Community College), the Panthers played a surprisingly strong game but were beaten 15-11. SLUH prevailed due to their persistence and continued steady offensive production throughout the game.

The day after the last regular season game, all the league's coaches met to decide on the seedings for (and this year, to learn the location of) the district tournament. The tourney's finals
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Soccer

by Jim Cosgrove
of the Prep News Staff

"This is soccer weather." That's what head coach Ebbie Dunn said after his 13-8-2 Varsity Soccerbills played two games in sub-freezing temperatures and outscored their opponents 16-0. The Jr. Bills ended their regular season with a rout of Kennedy High School

and entered district play with an equally impressive victory over University City.

The sub-freezing temperatures of Saturday night's game did anything but cool off the Jr. Bills' offense as the team sailed to a 9-0 victory. The Jr. Bills struck first only four minutes into the game when senior captain Jeremy Moore scored on a penalty kick.

Penalties hurt the Celts of Kennedy again only two minutes later when junior Damon Rensing booted a free kick in for a 2-0 SLUH lead. Three minutes later junior Jim Pool scored on a Moore pass, giving the Jr. Bills a 3-0 lead.

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Skiing?

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Heebner and John Miles finished close behind, placing 25th and 26th in 18:12 and 18:18, respectively.

Although Miles was deprived of a top 25 finish by teammate Heebner, he will have a chance to beat his friendly rival as the two will be looking to run together at state.

Gene Marshall came across the line at 18:36, and earned a 38th place finish as he secured second place in the team standings and state meet qualification for the Harriers. Ryan Fagan also ran a solid race despite cold-induced breathing problems, and finished 51st at 18:54.

With his respiration severely hurt by the freezing air, Tim Probst struggled to an 82nd place finish and an unusually slow time of 19:51. However, Probst will be looking to make up for Saturday's race with a strong performance at state.

This is the second time in three years

Water Polo

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district tournament. The tourney's finals were originally scheduled for Washington University's pool, which is Olympic-sized and has a minimum depth of five feet. Most high school pools have a shallow end of four or three and a half feet in depth.

However, due to Washington University's policy against non-students using its pool, the finals will once again be held at the 8-lane Country Day Pool, as will the rest of the tournament.

Country Day ended up as the first seed; their only loss of the season came to SLUH in the league tournament. SLUH, whose only loss was to CODASCO in regular league play, is seeded second, followed by John Burroughs and Mehlville, respectively.

This Wednesday, the Polobills and a van-load of eager fans, led by Mr. Jeff Putthoff's and sports commissioner Mike

under Head Coach Jim Linhares' leadership and only the third time since 1961, when SLUH won the state championship, that SLUH has advanced a team to the state meet. Of his team's success Saturday, Linhares said "The bottom line is that we had to beat our rivals decisively, and we did that."

In the overall team standings, SLUH was outpaced only by defending state champ Parkway West, and defeated key opponents Fox and Oakville. These teams were the other three qualifiers for the state meet out of the regional.

Especially satisfying for SLUH was a convincing victory over archrival and fifth place finisher Parkway South, a team that kept SLUH from the state meet last year.

SLUH will run at 1:30 p.m. at the Oak Hills Golf Center at Hough Park in Jefferson City.

Daus, traveled to CODASCO to watch SLUH defeat the Parkway North Vikings 8-2. SLUH was not as dominant as the score would indicate. At one point the Vikings led 2-1, and the game was tied 2-2 well into the third period.

However, Coach Busenhart's fiery words roused the Aquajocks out of their "district-tournament jitters," and they finally put it together in the final period to advance themselves to the semifinals, presumably against 3-seed Burroughs. Goals came from Downs (4), Kevin Navarro (1), and Thole (2).

The game tonight will be at 8:30 at CODASCO, and a win will put the Aquajocks into the championship of the tournament for the sixth year straight. The finals, also at CODASCO, will be at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Admission to the game costs \$3.00, and is limited to space in the pool's bleachers.

Weather Ends 10-3-3 C-Soccerbills' Season Abruptly

Sports Wittecisms

by Scott Witte
Prep News Sports Columnist

The fall high school sports season in St. Louis is quickly coming to an exciting climax, and at the U. High things are no exception. A pep rally today at the activity period, and the culmination of regular-season fall sports promises to make this one of the best athletic weekends in SLUH history.

Tonight at 8:00 p.m., the varsity water polo team will play in the semifinal round of the district tournament, and with a win there, will advance to the finals of the district tournament being held at CODASCO Saturday night at 8:00.

The finals, provided that the Polobills make it that far, will probably be against the Rams of CODASCO, whom the Polobills have faced twice this season. In the first game, the Polobills lost a heartbreaker in five overtimes. But the Jr. Bills exacted their revenge in the second meeting of the season between the two schools, beating CODASCO in three overtimes. The tiebreaker of the series, which could well be for the district title, should be a barn-burner.

But Coach Charlie Busenhart, who is no stranger to district tournament games, wasn't taking anything for granted, and couldn't be caught looking past Burroughs to the Rams. "Against John Burroughs, the only fear I have is complacency," said Busenhart.

The Busenbills have defeated Burroughs twice this year and will probably be prone to overconfidence while facing the Bombers. They will have to control one of the area's best in Adam Ward, but if they can do that, waterpolo fans will be treated to yet another classic SLUH/CODASCO district title game.

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Wittemania

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On the soccer front, the varsity soccer team is currently defending its state title while participating in the district tournament. With their 7-0 win Tuesday night over University City, they set up a matchup tomorrow against DuBourg at 1:00 p.m. in our stadium.

A win against DuBourg would propel the Soccerbills into sectional play, which starts November 12th.

The cross country team qualified last Saturday for the state meet by finishing second only to defending state champion Parkway West in the sectional meet, which was held at Jefferson Barracks. The Harriers have been preparing specifically for State all week, and have a shot at the state team title as well as a possible individual state champion in senior stand-out Sean Lock.

With seven inches of snow on the

Snowmen

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the game late in the third quarter.

Immediately after the Stars made it 14-9, the Bills' offense stormed for numerous first downs on a 62-yard drive that featured the arm of Schnur and the running of Will Boland, giving the Gridbills a 17-14 lead after a one-yard run by Schnur and the ensuing Schnur-to-Dulick conversion.

But the turning point came immediately after the Bills had scored. The Bills' defense stopped the Stars on their first series, forcing them to punt and getting the ball back to the hot Jr. Bill offense, which racked up 350 total yards on the night.

The offense again made good use of the possession, taking over at their forty-yard line and driving 60 yards to a touchdown. The drive was highlighted by the receiving of Dulick and senior Scott Pfeiffer and capped off by Schnur's dive into the endzone to give the Bills a 24-14 lead with 10:59 left in the game. The game ended with that score.

The Jr. Bills showed the same offensive power early in the game. After the

ground in Jefferson City, the site of the state meet the Harriers are ready for anything. Senior runner Ryan Fagan commented, "Conditions are such that anything can happen. We've been preparing all season for this meet and hope to run our best race possible."

There won't be any need for tiebreaks or point systems to decide the district title for the varsity Gridbills this Friday night. The Jr. Bills are going to decide the district title the way a district title should be decided, with a battle tonight between themselves and the only other undefeated team in their district, Hazelwood East.

With two of the area's best, SLUH 8-1 and East 9-0, vying for one playoff spot, head coach Gary Kornfeld summed up the situation, "Either team would be an excellent representative in the state playoffs, and it's a shame that only one will ad-

vance."

But even though it isn't really fair, it's the way it is, and the Bills will be pumped for the biggest game of their high school careers. Come out and cheer the Gridbills on in their pursuit of the district title.

The C-soccer team found its season cut short when the final games of the season, the McCluer North Tournament, were rained out. But the team, despite the premature end to its season, laid important groundwork for future seasons by posting a 10-3-3 record and outscoring its opponents 44-19.

Coach Craig Hannick commented on the season, "I really enjoyed the season. I had a great group of players. Unfortunately, with the abrupt ending of the season, I don't feel we were able to play our best games of the season."

Bills stopped a fourth-down conversion attempt by the Stars at the SLUH 12-yard line, the Jr. Bill offense manufactured several big plays, including a 28-yard connection from Schnur to Dulick, and drove inside the Stars' 10-yard line before being stopped by the Stars and settling for a field goal to make the score 3-0 early in the second quarter. The Bills followed up this field goal with a 79-yard touchdown pass from Schnur to Dulick with 4:56 remaining in the first half.

In the first half, the Jr. Bills defense was the key, forcing the Stars to punt twice and stopping them deep in SLUH territory before finally allowing the Stars' Michael Dunn to run the ball in from 24 yards out with 56 seconds left in the first half.

The Gridbill defense allowed only 192 yards on the night, including a mere 15 Star yards through the air.

Coach Gary Kornfeld said he was "very pleased" with the halftime adjustments the Jr. Bills made at the half and praised the offense's ability to mix the run with the pass.

The Bills will need to play every bit as well against the Hazelwood East Spartans to pull out a victory against Missouri's top-ranked team. The Spartans are 9-0 overall and 2-0 in district play, just as the Jr. Bills are 2-0 in district play. "We set the stage for Hazelwood East and are still vying for playoff contention," Kornfeld said.

Commenting on what should be the high school game of the week in St. Louis, Kornfeld commented, "We can't try to shut off one thing against them. They have three major college players in Ward, Spiller, and Cross. These are kids who can be impact players in their freshman years of college."

Kornfeld also explained that the Spartans play a high-pressured defense, and the Bills will need to hit the gaps in this defense to be successful.

But most importantly, Kornfeld is telling his players, "We can win this ballgame." Come out Friday night to our stadium to help the Bills try to pull off the upset and gain a birth in the Missouri 5A playoffs.