



Harriers Take Tenth In State Meet, Luna Places Tenth Individually

While the SLUH Cross Country team was riding the bus to the Missouri Boys Class 4A State Meet last Saturday, senior Mickey Luna posed an unexpected question to Coach Jim Linhares.

"Coach, what do you do for nerves?"

Luna, normally relaxed and calculated on meet days, had realized how important this, his last meet, would be. He and his six teammates had plenty of reason to be nervous. SLUH hadn't sent a full team to the State Meet in twenty-one years, and none of the runners knew what to expect out of their team performance.

Luna was experiencing added pressure because this race would mark the end of his three years of competition in the State Meet, competition that would be more fierce than ever when he stepped to the line to make his bid for one of the coveted fifteen All-State spots.

However, both Luna and the rest of the team were able to overcome their

prerace jitters. The team finished a strong tenth overall, and Luna earned All-State honors with his tenth-place individual



finish.

As the Jr. Bills and fifteen other teams gathered at the starting line along with the forty-one individual qualifiers, the excitement of the competitors and the crowd became increasingly evident. "At that point, the gun's almost a welcome sound," remarked Coach Linhares while remembering his days as a cross-country runner.

The gun's sound was indeed welcome to all the runners, whose pent-up energy could finally be released on the 5000 meter course. The Jr. Bills' pre-race nervousness became extremely evident over the course of the first mile as almost every SLUH runner had his fastest first mile split ever. However, it wasn't only the Jr. Bills who appeared to be going out too fast. In fact, Mickey Luna, whose strategy was simply to get out with the lead pack and to try to stay with it, commented

See CROSS COUNTRY, page 7

Soccerbills Fall To CBC 3-1 In Sectional Championship

The Soccerbills ended a brilliant season in a 3-1 loss to CBC this past Tuesday after defeating St. Marys 2-0 the previous Saturday.

St. Marys traveled to St. Louis U. High last Saturday night to vie for the district title against the number one ranked Jr. Bills. From the sound of the whistle, St. Marys made it clear they were ready to play, but the Bills responded that it did not matter as they went on to defeat the dragons 2-0. The Soccerbills started calmly against a pumped up St. Marys team, who played tenacious defense, while the Bills took control of the game. This control was apparent throughout the game as the Bills developed numerous scoring chances, but were unable to capitalize.

This failure to capitalize ended with three minutes left in the first half when Jeff Krekemeier was flagrantly fouled in the goal area. This foul resulted in a Jr. Bill penalty kick that Brian Leahy pounded into the lower right corner past a Dragon goalie. This goal sent the Soccerbills to the bench up 1-0.

The second half opened up with a flurry of St. Marys activity that was quickly quieted by the Bills. After quieting the Dragons, the Soccerbills began to play some of their most beautiful soccer of the year. They moved the ball smoothly and attacked with patience. This led to a textbook goal that was passed through the middle to a breaking John Anderson. Anderson took the ball into the area rip-

pling the back of the net with a shot into the upper corner. The Soccerbills continued to play well throughout the duration of regulation time and advanced to the sectionals with a 2-0 victory.

The Soccerbill's season ended in a disappointing 3-1 loss against CBC Tuesday night in the state sectionals. In this game the tables were turned as the Soccerbills came out very fired up and found themselves chasing the Cadets who had control of the game. The Bills never were able to get into their style of play and only pressured the CBC net late in the second half. CBC took advantage of their control by creating scoring chances and capitalizing on them.

See SOCCER page 7

Cross Country

(continued from page 5)

that the first mile was fast, even for him.

"I wanted to make All-State, but I didn't realize how hard it would be. I didn't think I'd have to go out any harder than I usually do (Luna's 'usual' is around 5:10). My first mile was clocked at 5:04, but it looked to me like when I passed the clock at the one mile that I was under 5 minutes."

In fact, the Harriers had six runners around or below the 5:20's at the one mile, but all of them except Luna were around 30th to 80th place overall. After the Harriers passed the one mile, a hazardous sharp turn and a quick downhill led to the first major uphill of the race. The pack gradually began to thin out along this hill and the long flat that followed it. While giving his team some strategy tips that morning, Coach Linhares commented, "That flat is the only major place in the race where you tend to go to sleep mentally. Don't let this happen to you. Ideally, this is where we start to move up."

Luna did just that; he got himself into a position where he would make the All-State team if he maintained his pace. SLUH's other runners were still trapped in huge packs, baffled by the fact that the race still hadn't slowed down at all. However, they didn't let their position in the race discourage them because they knew they were all running decent times.

Running together, Jim Spies, Shawn Halley, and Greg Linhares slowly began gaining ground on this portion of the course, while trying to get up into the top 100. Because most runners were unwilling to let anyone pass them on the second mile, any efforts to do so proved virtually fruitless. The Jr. Bills didn't allow themselves to get discouraged by the intense competition of the race, though, and most of their two mile splits turned out as expected. Luna remained strong through the two mile, still running solidly in tenth place. Jerry Kester followed Luna, while Spies, Halley, and Linhares remained in a tight pack.

Unfortunately, the most physically testing part of the race, a long gradual hill that lasted until about the 2.5 mile mark, was still to come. Despite the tough hill and its significance on the race, most of

the Harriers remained strong. Luna, Spies, and Halley managed to perform particularly well on this hill, gaining places while others felt the fatigue of the course.

"I don't know; the hills didn't seem to affect me today," commented Halley.

But the race wasn't over yet. The final 400 yards were also uphill; the knowledge that this was the final kick of the final race of the year made the Harriers sprint despite their fatigue.

"I saw the finish line, and I knew I had to go. I heard the crowd cheering on the people behind me, and I heard them saying the names of people I hadn't beaten all year. I knew they'd be trying to get me," noted a tired Luna after experiencing the urgency of a finishing kick at State.

This determination marked the finishes of all of SLUH's runners. Luna managed to hold off those runners he heard behind him. Luna's tenth place finish, time of 16:59, and his outstanding overall career put him among the best runners in SLUH history.

"In terms of career, Luna's the best I've ever coached," commented Coach Linhares.

Senior Jerry Kester finished an illustrious three-year varsity career as well. Despite a slowdown on the hill past the two mile, Kester managed to finish with a time of 18:05. Linhares, Halley, and Spies crossed the line within twenty seconds of each other, finishing in the same tight pack that they were running with for most of the race. Spies led with an 18:22, while Halley(18:31) and Greg Linhares(18:41) finished close behind.

Although the Harriers felt they had run relatively well, the team received a surprise when the final results were tallied. They had come in a surprising tenth overall and an even more surprising fourth among St. Louis area teams, beating both McCluer North and Francis Howell North for the first time this year. The State Meet put an excellent cap on a fine cross country season, and with Juniors Jim Spies and Shawn Halley and Sophomores John Brooks and Jeff Bierling returning next year with State Meet experience, the team should return to Jefferson City again next year.

Greg Linhares

Soccer

(continued from page 5)

CBC's first goal was scored by Kevin Brown on a pass from Tom Edgar who recorded the assist. As the half progressed the Bills resorted to individual efforts to try to get back into the game. On one of these efforts, Steve Held made a run down the line and crossed to Jamie Posnanski who headed the ball just wide of the net. CBC came back to score within the next minute when Ryan DeGrand received a pass from Edgar and shot the ball past goalie Chris Schroeder. On this note the first half ended with CBC leading 2-0.

The second half was characterized by the Jr. Bill's frantic attempts to overcome impending defeat. In the midst of this effort, Cadet Chris Guzman stole the ball from the SLUH defense and scored on the resulting breakaway.

Despite being down by three goals, the Soccerbills refused to give up and continued to play hard. This effort was exemplified late in the game when the Soccerbills received a penalty kick while they hounded the CBC goal. Leahy had the honors and went to the lower right corner as he did in the St. Mary's game. This goal caused pandemonium in the SLUH stands, but was too late to make a difference in the outcome. So the game ended 3-1.

About the Bills' frustrating performance player Andy Raterman said, "We saved our worst game for last." Jr. Bill coach Ebbie Dunn added, "CBC probably played their best game of the season and they deserved to win."

Scott Franklin

The Junior Varsity Polo-bills took second place in the Sophomore Division of the 1989 State Waterpolo Tourney. In the Championship Game they fell to the Rams of Country Day by the score of 3-1.