

Soccerbills extend winning streak to 5 Defeat Mehlville, McCluer, and Rosary

The Soccerbills journeyed southward for the first time this season to face the Panthers of Mehlville last Thursday. The Panthers, ranked number 10 in the Post Dispatch Soccer Poll, provided the Jr. Bills with less competition than expected. The toughest competition came from misfortune, which refused to allow the Bills to win the game in regulation time.

The team took an early lead against the Panthers as the tandem of Jeff Bannister and Tony Ribaudo continued to lead the scoring. Bannister has seen a lot of playing time this season and has made the most of it, pulling off a familiar play by bringing the ball to the endline and crossing to the front of the goal for a Tony Ribaudo execution.

The Panthers threatened goalkeeper John Eisele only a few times, and he proved equal to the test. Although the Soccerbills had many shots on goal, they too came up empty and carried a 1-0 lead to the second half.

The teams played tight soccer through most of the second half until with 20 minutes remaining, Brian Tierney, pressured by a Mehlville forward, hit a hard pass back to John Eisele which took a bad bounce over John's shoulder and rolled into the Jr. Bills' goal.

This error may have taken some of the spirit away from the Soccerbills' bench, but it fortunately fired up the players on the field. They pressured the Panthers' goal continually. This tenacity paid off for the team when, with about eight minutes remaining, junior Keven Cobb crossed a ball from outside the penalty area to Tony Ribaudo. Ribaudo headed a beautiful shot just above the oncoming keeper's hands.

With this goal the Soccerbills felt confident that the victory was theirs, but it would not come that easily. With under 2 minutes left in the game, Chris Schroeder chipped a ball back to John Eisele which floated over the stunned goalkeeper and into the far corner. Regulation ended with the teams tied at 2 goals each.

When not in tournament action, tie games go to an overtime period of 20 minutes, with each team defending each goal for ten minutes. The Soccerbills continued their attack, coming close to scoring on many opportunities, and finally broke through when Brian Leahy crossed a ball to the middle of the goal where a Panther defender deflected the ball into the goal. The goal gave the Soccerbills a 3-2 lead over the Panthers which proved to be all they would need to win, as Mehlville failed to threaten again. Tony Ribaudo added an in-

surance goal late in the second 10 minute period on a little flick-on pass from Jeff Bannister to wrap up the scoring and the victory. Although the score indicated a close game, the Soccerbills dominated most of the match and played some exemplary soccer.

On Saturday, the Soccerbills went up against number 5 ranked McCluer North. The team was fired up for the game and was appreciative of the extra support provided by the sophomores who remained after the B-Team's game, dressed in their blue-and-white class shirts.

Early on, the teams played very tight soccer, pushing back and forth on offensive threats, but the Soccerbills were the first to break the pattern as Jeff Bannister scored the first goal with about 10 minutes left in the half. The play started with Bannister heading the ball towards the goal to Pat Madigan. Madigan then returned the head ball and Bannister ripped a shot passed the Stars keeper. The Jr.

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Soccerbills assist Special Olympians

The Varsity soccer team scored big, not in a soccer game, but by helping brighten people's days last Sunday. Twenty-three of the 26 varsity members of the Junior Billiken Soccer team, along with coach Ebbie Dunn and assistant coaches Mr. Tom McCarthy and Mr. Mark Lopez, voluntarily showed up at St. Louis Soccer Park to assist developmentally disabled children in training for the Special Olympics.

Mr. Dan Leahy, father of junior Brian Leahy, organized the event with the cooperation of Maureen Walsh, who is in charge of the St. Louis branch of the Special Olympics. McDonnell Douglas sponsored the activity, and Anheiser-Busch granted use of Soccerpark. This year is the third for this soccer clinic.

Over 300 participants aged between approximately 5 and 40 showed up. Each year attendance has increased by roughly

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Harriers surmount "ManMaker," run well in Hazelwood Invitational

The varsity, JV, and B Cross Country teams entered last Saturday's Hazelwood Invitational at Sioux Passage Park with high expectations after the impressive team performance at the Eureka Invitational.

Despite uncomfortably humid weather, stiff competition, and a course many runners consider to be among the most grueling in the St. Louis Area, the Harriers were able to weather Sioux Passage's tough terrain and "ManMaker" Hill and demonstrate why SLUH's Cross Country program is one of the most improved ones in the area.

Jerry Kester commented the course "is very intimidating, but everyone has to run it, and I think we were well prepared because of Coach Linhares' hill workouts."

The varsity squad placed sixth in a field of eighteen teams, an astounding improvement from its twentieth place (in twenty-eight teams) finish in 1987. Mickey Luna, who led the team with an eighth place finish (17:13), and fellow junior Jerry Kester, whose 17:39 was good for twentieth place, earned individual medals.

Senior Brian Lawler barely missed a medal by one place as he finished thirty-first. Nevertheless, his time of 17:54 now gives the Jr. Bills three sub-18 minute runners. Angelo

Directo and Tim Vatterott rounded out the top five finishers, crossing the line with impressive times of 18:50 and 18:53, respectively.

The Junior Varsity team followed its victories over Parkway West and in the Eureka Invitational by placing third in its race. Greg Linhares topped the list by finishing tenth with a time of 19:35, good enough to qualify for the seventh man on varsity level. On his heels was Charlie Lottes with a time of 19:40. Linhares, Lottes, and Todd Glass (20:21), who finished 20th, each earned medals.

The sophomores made SLUH's success three-fold as the B-team nearly dominated the race en route to a second place finish. Kurt Moellering returned from injury to re-qualify for varsity by running 19:30 and received a medal for thirteenth place. A swarm of SLUH jerseys finished together just seconds later: Chris Boyd (19:50), who generated a blazing 200 yard kick to pass five other runners, Pete Leuchmann (19:51), Shawn Halley (19:52), and Jim Spies (19:56), all received medals.

Tomorrow, the cross country team will participate in the Hancock Invitational, one of the most important invitationals before State competition.

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