

Footbills prepare for a rowdy '00

Shawn Furey
Reporter

In the waning weeks of the 1999 football season, the Junior Bills pulled out some big wins in key games and seemed headed to play for the state title at the TWA dome. They even went so far as to practice their game on the turf at Rams Park. Sadly, a tough loss to eventual state champs Mehlville in the state semifinal prevented them from competing for the championship. The Junior Bills 2000 football team looks to finish the job this season.

With school starting later than usual this year it may seem as though the season is starting before the boys have had much time to prepare. However, the Gridbills have been working hard for weeks before classes started. Enduring practices in sweltering heat, sometimes more than one per day, the team has gotten its fire back and has managed to stay healthy and focused. The players can hardly wait to get to work in their first game against Parkway South.

In order to get the team some game experience before the season, Coach



Joe Billiken struts his stuff

Kornfeld arranged a Jamboree with Washington and Lindbergh. It served as an opportunity for the team to face some real opponents before the opening game. Kornfeld expressed approval of the arrangement, saying, "I was real happy with

how it went. I am going to look to (have Jamborees) again in future years."

Another game simulation that the players ran was the annual Blue-White Game. The intra-team scrimmage gives the coaches a great opportunity to see the players in a game situation.

So far as the upcoming season goes, the Junior Bills are incredibly optimistic. Resident bruiser Matt Sinclair said, "With Timmy Vreeland at quarterback and our strong defense, I expect nothing less than a state title."

Co-captain Zach Schmitt said "I am just going to try to run the ball hard, which will open up our great passing game."

Younger players, too, displayed confidence in Junior Billiken strength. Junior Adam Siebenmann said, "The season should be fun, especially toward the CBC game."

The attitude of the team should assure the entire student body that we are in for a fun year watching the football team. They will play hard, smart football. Come and see this team show you that for which they have trained so hard.

Harrierbills plan to run opponents down

Matt Snively
Assistant Sports Editor

It is hard to imagine that this year's cross country team would be able to top the level of success achieved by last year's state champion team, especially as last year's team was dominated by seniors, but the HarrierBills have no plans of letting up on the competition this season.

"We plan on picking up right where we left off," asserts Senior captain Dan Leinauer. "I know we have some top-level talent this year and we could do great things."

Along with Leinauer, Seniors Dave Godar and Ryan Hatch lead the team as captains. Chris Cruise, Jason Roehr, and Raj Joseph will also provide senior leadership for this relatively inexperienced team. Only Hatch and Leinauer ran in the

state meet last year, and they will also rely on support from up-and-coming Juniors John Parr, Tom O'Brien, and Pat Leinauer. Sophomores Drew Knobloch and Peter Schaefer are also prepared to step up and carry part of the scoring burden.

The team is not looking for success at solely the top level, however. The freshman and JV teams are not forgotten, as they are the foundation for future teams is laid here every year.

The coaching staff has changed as well. Besides stalwart Head Coach Jim Linhares and his ever-present assistants Pat Hamil, Rob Behm, and Tom Flannigan, an addition to the staff was made this year. Former SLUH student and new teacher Tim Chik returns to the cross country team, only this time as a mentor.

The positive feeling that surrounds the team has reached the coaches as well.

Mr. Flannigan notes, "We're really excited this year to try and match the success of last year's team."

The HarrierBills are not the only ones who feel optimistic about their ability to succeed this year. They were recently featured in the *Suburban Journal* in an article that will draw the attention of other teams. Since SLUH won the state title last year, many of the teams they beat on their amazing run to state will be gunning especially for SLUH.

Captain Dave Godar summarizes this sentiment perfectly, saying, "Even though there is a lot of tough competition this year, we still have enough talent to make another run at the state title."

The team starts on its quest this Tuesday at McNair Park in the First Capital Invitational. Races start at 4:00, and fan support will be appreciated.