

Footbills shut out Chaminade 14-0

Shawn Furey
Reporter

Coming off a strong showing against perennial powerhouse Kirkwood the week before, the Junior Bills hoped to carry the momentum into last Friday's game against the school of a thousand mascots. With the offensive line slightly tweaked, and the same rock-solid defense intact, expectations were high for the game against MCC foe Chaminade.

Riding on a game-high fourteen tackles by a bull named Matt Sinclair, and seven solid tackles from junior Craig Schlapprizi, the Junior Bills allowed no room for the Chaminade offense. Cornerback Ben Purcell, who intercepted

a Chaminade pass for one of the six takeaways by the Billikens, remarked on the stoutness of the defense, saying, "We know the offense is still trying to find the



Zach Schmidt runs against Chaminade

perfect combination, and we just need to let them know we can win games as a defense until they really start to click."

Chaminade tailback Pat Hardin said of the SLUH steel curtain, "They swarm the ball like none other...if you lose forward momentum, you're dead."

The scoring started for the Jr. Bills on their second possession. Junior safety Chris Finney returned a fumble for 53 yards, which set up a 6-yard TD rush for Zach Schmitt. Greg Scott's extra point put the Bills up 7-0. The team had several more opportunities in the first half, but ran into some tough Chaminade defense and went into halftime still leading by 7.

To begin the second half, the Junior Bills had a new quarterback in the game: sophomore Dossie Jennings. His enthusiasm and athletic ability were apparent right away as he danced his way down the sidelines on a sweep play on his second play at quarterback. Fifty-three yards later, Jennings was finally dragged down by the Chammites.

Jennings was very pleased to play against Chaminade and to earn a starting spot against Vianney as well, saying, "I really look forward to being able to start my first game at the varsity level."

Besides the stellar play of the defense, there were two other brilliant aspects to the game. One was the steady rushing of Zach Schmitt, who accumulated 124 yards on 27 carries. The other was an amazing one-handed grab by junior receiver Tim Boyce, who managed to reach behind himself, snag the pass, and somehow accelerate past the Chaminade safeties at the same time. The catch went for a touchdown which ended Chaminade's hopes late in the game. The Bills held on for the 14-0 win and raised their record to 2-1.

Coach Gary Kornfeld feels strongly that "the team, especially the offense, really improves with each game, and as long as we continue to play our kind of football and stick to our game plan, things will keep improving."

With a bye week following the Vianney game, the team should have ample time to rest players and prepare for the second half of the season.

Cross Country Bills take 4th at Sioux Passage

Tom O'Brien
Core Staff

Last Saturday, the cross-country team traveled up to Sioux Passage park to compete in the Paul Enke Invitational. The varsity turned in a fine finish of fourth out of a total of thirty teams.

Ryan Hatch once again turned in a fast third-mile time of 5:25 and came in first for the team in 15th place. Other close finishers included Tom O'Brien at 16th, Dave Godar at 18th, and Patrick Leinaur at 25th. Team captain Dan Leinaur wasn't able to finish the race because he was sick, but SLUH still managed to finish only one point behind Desmet.

DeSmet is supposed to be the powerhouse in the Saint Louis area this year with two returning all-state runners, but the Junior Bills, who have not been totally healthy all year, have competed well as a team, staying dangerously close to the Spartans in the past two meets. The varsity members think that they have a shot at Desmet this weekend at

the Hancock Invitational.

In the JV race, Jason Towers ran away with a time of 18:39 and a race place of third. He led the team to a second place finish among the thirty teams present.

Close behind Towers was Chris Crews, who had a great race with a finish of 4th. Other contributors to the squad were Ghassen Mohsen, Geoff Hadler, and Richard Spicer. Towers summed up his race with these words: "I just ran as hard as I could for as long as I could."

SLUH's B-team turned in a huge race on Saturday. Comprised of all sophomores, the team came in first out of all thirty teams. Led by Drew Noblot, the sophomore squad won the race with a score of 75. Noblot had a huge breakthrough, defeating Peter Schaefer for the first time; Schaefer ran a disappointing 19:23.

Schaefer hopes to improve on his time as he will race along with the rest of SLUH tomorrow at Jefferson Barracks; the second-biggest meet of the year for the team begins at 10:00 a.m.