Cross Country runs away with second at first Jesuit Invitational

Tom O'Brien
Core Staff

On Saturday at Chaminade the SLUH cross country team ran in the first Midwest Jesuit Invitational. The event was a celebration of Jesuit identity and cross country running.

Coach Tom Sothers of DeSmet gave birth to the idea, which was first intended to be a tri-meet comprised of SLUH, DeSmet, and Rockhurst. However, with just a few phone calls the meet soon grew in size.

The festivities got underway at 4:00 with the varsity race. SLUH did well in a field of eight teams that included DeSmet, Marquette, Rockhurst, Dallas Jesuit, Houston Straake, Denver Regis, and New Orleans Jesuit.

In the varsity race, SLUH was led by Dave Godar through two miles, after which he reluctantly relinquished his lead to Tom O'Brien and Ryan Hatch. The varsity squad had five medalists in the race: Tom O'Brien (8th, 17:11), Ryan Hatch (10th, 17:14), Dan Leinaur (13th,17:23), David Godar (14th, 17:26), and Patrick Leinaur (24th, 17:38). Also running in the varsity race were Andy Skosky (34th,18:04) and John Parr (40th, 18:17). These times were good enough for a second place finish behind DeSmet.

by Matt Snively



Dave Godar sprints ahead

The junior varsity race got underway after the varsity race was finished. In the JV race, the field included the same eight teams and finished with much of the same result. Led by Kyle Gonnerman, SLUH's JV finished second only to DeSmet in a stacked field.

Rounding out the scoring five were Pat Kim (7th,18:15), Geoff Stewart (10th, 18:20), Chris Crews (12th,18:30), and Peter Schaefer (14th, 18:34).

The final race of the afternoon was the crosstown match between the SLUH and DeSmet freshman. SLUH soundly defeated DeSmet with a near perfect score of nineteen points. Led once again by Andrew Linhares (1st, 18:48) and John Oliver (2nd, 18:49) the freshmen squad turned in a huge race as a whole with eight runners under the 20-minute barrier. Rounding out the top five for SLUH were Brennan Connor (4th, 19:09), Joe Marincel (5th, 19:32), and Greg Kohler (7th, 19:46).

The day ended with a Mass at DeSmet, followed by an awards banquet in the DeSmet cafeteria.

Jim Becker of Rockhurst summed up the evening quite well, saying, "This is the coolest meet ever—and the food is great too."

During the awards ceremony there was a slide show followed by a speech by Sothers. He expressed his happiness with the proceedings of the night and said that he plans to hold the meet again next year.

Polobills defeat DeSmet, improve to 10-2

Jeff Dueker
Core Staff

Ah, DeSmet. That "other" all-male Jesuit high school. SLUH had the privilege of playing its Jesuit brothers in water polo last Saturday, and DeSmet had the distinguished honor of being beaten badly by their "more equal" Jesuit brothers. It was in this spirit of love that SLUH spanked DeSmet 9-6, and any spectator could easily see the friendship in all of the holding, pushing, grabbing and sinking that the teams freely and frequently exchanged with each other. Needless to say, it was a rough game. No matter: SLUH won.

The Polobills' play in the first quarter was especially notable. The passes were on target, the shots were well placed, and the drivers actually got the ball when they were open. After all was said and done in the first seven minutes, SLUH was on top 4-0. Senior Zach Hartwig put it best when he bellowed "Yeah, we played like a team!" shortly after the end of the first quarter.

Unfortunately, the varsity team's play slowly deteriorated after that, so much so that they allowed DeSmet to outscore them 6-5 in the rest of the game. Take away the first quarter, SLUH loses. And that's not good.

SLUH did not improve their level of play during the John Buroughs game last Monday. Fortunately, John Burroughs wasn't good enough to capitalize on SLUH's sloppiness, and the Jr. Bills ended up winning 10-2.

"Everything was sloppy: the passing, the shooting and the defense" said Coach Busenhart. The Polobills did win, but that kind of play will not cut it against quality teams like Country Day. So even in the midst of victory, the SLUH team is worried.

"This was not our best week," quipped Coach Baudendistel. The entire team seemed to feel the same way about the past week.

But it's not all bad, because the team has shown that they are capable of playing excellent polo.

"If we played like we did in the first quarter of the DeSmet game, nobody could beat us," prophesied Coach Busenhart. We shall see.