

XC takes a disappointing second at JV Invitational

O'Brien places 14th in return from leg injury

Brian Gilmore
Reporter

Last Saturday, the second annual Midwest Jesuit Invitational took place at Chaminade. Teams from Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, New Orleans, and Wisconsin joined SLUH and DeSmet at Chaminade to participate in a day celebrating their Jesuit brotherhood. After the afternoon races ended, all the athletes went to DeSmet for Mass and a subsequent banquet. SLUH families housed runners from Regis High School in Denver for the weekend, and as John Parr noted, "It was pretty neat for everybody to be around runners from around the region."

As far as the races went, SLUH placed second in all three divisions. The varsity team, highlighted by the return of Tipper O'Brien, scored 60 points and placed second behind DeSmet's low score of 31. Pat Leinauer (6th, 16:57) and Pete Schaefer (7th, 16:59) ran 1-2 for SLUH, both setting personal record times. O'Brien (14th, 17:23), Kyle Gonnerman (16th, 17:30), and Kevin Crean (17th, 17:32) rounded out the scoring five. Parr did not run.

About the results, Leinauer said, "It's disappointing to get second, but one by one, it seems like the pieces are beginning to fall into place."

Parr concurred, saying, "Now is when it matters. Since we're finally at full strength with Tip back, I think the other teams are going to be in a world of hurt. I can't wait to race at Conference."

On the JV level, the Harrierbills were entirely focused on beating conference rival DeSmet. However, nobody knew how strong Marquette (WI) would be. SLUH's JV destroyed DeSmet, but the team wasn't able to top a dominating performance from Marquette, scoring 44 points to Marquette's 25.

Junior Matt Killiany led the charge for the Jr. Bills, blazing through the course in a time of 17:43, a personal best by nearly 30 seconds, and a top seven time on

the day. Killiany was winning the race for the majority of it, but a strong finishing kick by Marquette's Andy Van Sumeren crushed Matt's chance at the victory.

About his performance, Killiany said, "It was weird to be in front of a race. I kept wondering whether I made a wrong turn. I tried to break the Marquette kid on the flat before the final hill because I knew I couldn't hold him off on the hill. Nonetheless, it felt really good, and I'm quite happy about my race."

Once again, the freshmen had to settle for second place, despite having personal best races from nearly everyone. Led by Charlie Samson (2nd, 18:45), SLUH

placed five in the top 13, but that was not enough. Their 39 points couldn't match Desmet's 30, but they were closer than

they were to the Spartans in previous meets.

Everybody on the freshman team is tired of losing to DeSmet, and they look towards Conference as a time to finally prove what they can do.

Yesterday, the team participated in the Metro Invitational at Parkway Central. The top seven had the race off to prepare for MCCs next Saturday, so the second seven ran in the varsity race. The rest of the JV team and the entire freshman team ran in their respective races. Look for results on the SLUH cross-country website, www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm.



Andrew Linhares tries to move up in Saturday's Midwest Jesuit Invitational.

PN Nightbeat

Last night the Polobills took on rival MICDS at Forest Park Community College. The Jr. Bills had already lost to the Rams two weeks ago, and last night's outcome was no better. In front of the largest crowd support of the year, Donny DesPain scored the team's lone goal in the fourth quarter. However, the strong MICDS team prevailed 5-1, and the Polobills' record dropped to 7-2. The team's next game is Tuesday at Chaminade.



Kevin Price grabs the ball as an MICDS defender puts on the pressure.