

Soccerbills topple Duchesne, Rockwood Summit

Pat Steinway
Reporter

The tenacity of the Jr. Bill soccer team has been present all season, with their ability to overcome the loss of star players and injuries to key players. This past week was no different as the Jr. Bills went undefeated against some very tough teams. On Saturday the SoccerBills played nationally ranked Edwardsville. The game ended in a 0-0 tie because of solid efforts from the Edwardsville goalie and SLUH's goalie Steve Howenstein.

Howenstein said, "We played a really good game, but their goalie also made some good saves. We are proving to everyone that we can play with any team. It doesn't matter if they are nationally ranked."

The team did not have much time to rest, though, as they played an equally tough Duchesne team on Monday. Duchesne was ranked number one in the small school poll. Despite Duchesne's



Neil Sanders heads the ball against Rockwood Summit.

ranking, the Jr. Bills went out and beat them 1-0. Junior Eddie Davis scored his first goal of the year. Howenstein was in

goal again for the victory and posted another shutout.

SLUH then had to travel west to play Rockwood Summit on Wednesday night. With the game scoreless at the half, SLUH looked to scoring leader Dan Hartwig for some guidance. Hartwig took the spotlight, scoring a natural hat trick in the second half.

"He was amazing," Howenstein said. Howenstein himself was amazing, posting his third shutout of the week and fifth of the year. He got some help from freshman Brent Zang, who was filling in for captain Ian Mulligan on defense. Howenstein has a .667 win percentage and a .944 save percentage. The Jr. Bills will finally have two days off in a row until Saturday when they will travel to Vianney for an MCC game.

Endurabills set to enjoy Jesuit Invitational

Brian Gilmore
Reporter

At last Saturday's Hancock Invitational, featuring more than 25 teams from the bi-state area and beyond, the Jr. Bills placed 4th, behind winner West Plains, Edwardsville, and DeSmet. All seven varsity runners ran sub-18 minute times.

The JV finished even better, placing second behind West Plains. The top three JV runners posted times that bettered the 18:15 varsity time standard, and the freshman team opened up at the full 5000 kilometers for the first time with some good times.

Pat Leinauer (9th-17:01) and Peter Schaefer (13th-17:09) led the charge for the varsity, with Drew Noblot (23rd-17:29) and Kevin Crean (25th-17:31) close behind. All four medaled, and passed many runners in the final half of the race to secure their lofty finishes.

Kyle Gonnerman locked down the 5th spot (31st-17:42) to round out the JBills' score at 101, good enough for 4th place. Sophomore Andrew Linhares ran in the 6th position, finishing in 32nd place (17:46).

Plagued with a lingering illness, John Parr was unable to run at his usual level, but he ran well enough for 39th place (17:59). With Parr and Tipper O'Brien in the mix, results would have been significantly different, and a 4th place finish without them is very promising.

"Peter and I ran the race plan very well," said Leinauer, "and it felt real good to pass so many runners in the last couple miles. We're disappointed that we didn't finish higher as a team, but we know better things are yet to come."

Led by a 1-2-3 punch of Brennan Connor, Geoff Stewart, and Matt Killiany, the JV team placed 3 runners in the top 7. However, West Plains' pack of runners were able to get in before the Junior Bills 4 & 5 men, so the Harrierbills had to accept a 2nd place trophy.

In previous years, head coach Jim Linhares would have been thrilled by the results of last Saturday. There were years when he could only dream of having such performances. However, this year is different.

"This is the best team I've ever coached," admitted Linhares, "and nobody is happy with our team race Satur-

day. The pieces are there...we just need to finally put them together."

With various injuries and illnesses, this theme has been echoed throughout the year, and everyone on the team is tired of hearing about how good they could be. The time for action is now. With O'Brien and 2000 state runner Andy Skosky back in practice, the team is looking towards conference in two weeks to finally show the state what SLUH can do.

Tomorrow, though, the team is participating in the 2nd annual Jesuit Invitational at Chaminade. Organized by DeSmet coach Tom Sothers, the meet brings in teams from Jesuit high schools around the region to compete in a race against each other. A full day is scheduled, with Mass and a banquet to follow the races, and fun will be the days' order of business.

Festivities at Chaminade start at 2:00 p.m. with the varsity race. They continue with the JV race at 2:30 and the C race at 3:15. With the late starting times, you have an even better chance to pull yourself from bed and show some school spirit. For more, log on to www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm.