

Soccerbills improve to 10-2-1 with 3-0 week

Dave Mueller
Core Staff

The Jr. Bills had an impressive week, going 3-0 with victories over Edwardsville, Duchesne, and Rockwood Summit.

The team began the week last Saturday, trekking across the Mississippi River into the home of the Edwardsville Tigers.

Unfazed by the journey, the Jr. Bills started off with tireless pressure and containing possession, letting the Tigers run themselves down.

"That was, to this point, our best half of soccer," said assistant coach Charlie Clark. "We tackled hard and possessed the ball well."

Head coach Charlie Martel added, "I was really amazed (at how) fast the ball was moving. This is the kind of half (Clark and I) envision for this team."

The varsity squad relaxed early on, helped by a quick goal from sophomore Brent Zang, who won the second ball

from a corner kick and one-timed a knuckling shot far post from the top corner of the eighteen-yard box.

The first goal has been important to the Jr. Bills, considering they are 10-0-1 when they score first and 0-2 when they give up the first goal.

The game had a bizarre feel at the beginning, as the referee had a less-than-flattering discussion with Martel prior to the match. This feel continued later in the first when the referee made a questionable handball call in the box to give the Tigers a penalty kick.

"At the beginning of the game there was a disagreement about the starting time," said Clark, "and the handball seemed to be the result of that disagreement."

Martel had another view saying, "I think he called it as he saw it... That is the thing about handballs, they are judgment calls."

Whatever the truth is, the Scorefirstaskquestionslaterbills re-

sponded well, scoring again on a great individual effort from junior Joe Germanese to end the half with the Davidsbills up 2-1.

However, the team's second half woes continued as they came out flat, giving the Tigers the majority of their scoring opportunities in the first ten minutes of the second half.

"We have to learn not to play with too much emotion," noticed Martel. "Sometimes we let teams that play hard disrupt our focus."

Clark also addressed the issue, saying, "We expended a lot of energy in the first half and it is hard to keep that energy level throughout the game."

Martel added, "We did take the game back in the (last twenty minutes)."

The team took control of the game for good when senior Adam Twellman capped off the scoring to give the Jr. Bills a 3-1 victory.

The squad came back home to play a fast Duchesne team on Monday. "They

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XC places second at Hancock Invitational

Pat Meek
Core Staff

This past Saturday, the Saint Louis U. High cross country top seven and JV teams put together a strong showing at the Hancock Invitational, one of the marquee meets in the state and nation. The varsity team members were able to pull themselves across the line for a second-place overall finish, while the JV team dominated their race.

The varsity team, composed of Peter Schaefer, Drew Noblot, Kevin Crean, Matt Killany, Andrew Linhares, Brennan Connor, and Alex Muntges, ran against a field that included nationally-ranked Liberty and some of the top programs in the area, namely Lee's Summit and Fort Zumwalt South. Going into the meet, the varsity had hoped that this race would finally pull them ahead of some of these programs and put them on par with Liberty; however, even with six of the top

seven running a solid race, the Harrierbills were still unable to accomplish their goal.

The varsity squad was led by Schaefer, who ran most of the race right behind the leaders, who included Adam Perkins, the returning state champion from Liberty, and Nate Smith of Hickman.

Linhares followed right behind Schaefer's all-state caliber time of 16:47 with a time of 17:03. Following Linhares were Muntges (17:14, 21st place), Connor (17:29, 32), Crean (17:31, 33), and Killiany (17:43, 42).

"I didn't think we performed to the level that we are capable of. The people we beat, we always beat," Schaefer said. "We got blown out by Liberty."

Unfortunately for the Jr. Bills, Noblot, who has consistently been one of the Jr. Bills' top runners, developed a severe side stitch midway through the race and could not shake the stitch until the last mile, but by that time he was out of the race.

Liberty finished in first, with an impressive 25 points, followed by the Jr. Bills with 105 and Lee's Summit North with 108.

"The team did not fail," said head coach Jim Linhares, "but I think our guys know they didn't run the race they could."

The JV, who also ran at the Hancock Invitational, put together their most impressive race of the season by dominating every other team at the meet.

The JV was once again led by captain Kyle Gonnerman, who won the race over his year-long foe, senior Geoff Stewart, by 40 yards. Gonnerman and Stewart, who had times of 17:46 and 17:57, respectively, were followed right behind by Joe Carlson.

One of the standout races this week was by Ben Murphy-Baum, who as a freshman in his first 5K race ran himself into the second seven with a time of 18:43.

"The JV team was awesome," stated

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were one of the toughest teams we've played," said Martel. "Their quickness was exceptional."

The Ronaldobills took the pitch with vigor once again, tackling hard and making crisp passes. Alas, the Pioneers' defense left few holes to expose, and their keeper was big, strong, and fast, which allowed him to cover the entire box. The first half concluded 0-0.

"It is extremely satisfying to see how high a level a team can play," Clark said, "yet frustrating when they cannot reward themselves."

The game seemed as if it were going to end in a stalemate until, with less than a minute left, Twellman received the ball on his chest near the box and then deli-

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flicked a pass to him just before the defenders crawled all over him. Heafner snatched the ball out of the air and whipped it past the goalie's head.

At the end of the third quarter, four goals from Tim Heafner and one from junior Nick Konczak helped erase the four goal deficit, and the Jr. Bills emerged with a 6-5 lead.

Charged with energy from the phenomenal third quarter comeback, Jr. Bills' fans rallied loudly at the start of the final quarter. Undaunted by cheers, MICDS attacked, notching a goal at 5:42 to tie the game. Pulling ahead on a four-meter penalty shot, MICDS briefly held a lead, but Dahlmann blasted a shot from the hole into the goal, flexing his muscles like a madman and intimidating the MICDS players. Yet MICDS managed to take the Jr. Bills by surprise, scoring on a quick shot from half immediately following the restart play after Dahlmann's goal.

The Jr. Bills worked valiantly to generate offensive momentum to tie up the game, but couldn't finish their offensive drives, and ultimately lost the game 8-7.

Baud asserted that the mistake that cost the game was a freshman mistake of not matching up at half, which allowed MICDS to score a half-pool shot.

cately flicked the ball over the defender's head while rolling off the mark to strike a full volley top shelf past a helpless Pioneer goaltender.

Twellman has been giving the back of the net a workout this season, scoring eleven goals in thirteen games thus far.

"Adam has been absolutely amazing," Martel said. "He has incredible touch and vision. I think that is what gets him open."

Junior defender John Reagan added, "(Adam) works hard and puts the ball away when he is given the chance."

The week ended on an off-game against the Falcons of Rockwood Summit. The team did not have a bad game, but it certainly was not up to the level at which it had been playing since the loss to

Baudendistel also noted that the team didn't play as well, only scoring in two of seven power plays, and that MICDS knew SLUH's game plan from the last game. However, Baudendistel believes the outcome will be different when MICDS cannot stand on the bottom and throw easy cross goal passes.

Determined to rebound from their loss to MICDS, SLUH launched a forceful attack against Parkway Central last Monday. SLUH ruled over the Colts like a despot, tyrannizing their measly defense with seven goals in the first half. With Tom Heafner guarding their main hole man tenaciously, the Polobills nullified any threat from their offense, forcing turnovers. Although starting to aggressively battle in hole, the Parkway Central players discovered the futility of playing against the prowess of the Turbobills, and star performances from Dahlmann (3 goals, 1 assist), Tim Heafner (4 goals), and Phil Abram (1 goal, 3 assists) demoralized Parkway Central even further. The Jr. Bills easily batted Central away with a 14-4 victory.

Last Tuesday, SLUH reigned supreme against DeSmet. Although the Spartans notched an early goal, the Polobills answered back in force, slamming four first quarter goals into the DeSmet net.

Sprinting down the pool for a pass,

DeSmet two Saturdays ago.

The squad scored in the first half this time, rather than waiting until the closing minutes. This time Senior captain Matt Kreikemeier finished off a great run started by senior Pat Ferrell, then calmly slotted the ball past a diving Falcon goalkeeper. The first half ended 1-0.

The second half proved nearly identical, with okay-but-not-good play from the Jr. Bills. This time it was senior Tom Winkler who slipped the ball into the net, giving the Jr. Bills a 2-0 victory to close out a good week.

"We have been playing at a really high level the last week and half," explained Martel, "but (sometimes) you just get a little flat and you have to gut it out and get the win."

senior Mike Leuchtmann grabbed the ball right before the DeSmet goalie sprung for it, shot a backhand into the goal as the goalie tried in vain to deflect his shot.

During the second quarter, SLUH scored two more goals, ending the half 6-1. Although Reynolds allowed a goalie shot to slip past him, SLUH ended the game 12-2, with Leuchtmann and Tim Heafner scoring three goals apiece.

Although the first loss of the season was disappointing, it was an aberration, and the Polobills quickly recovered from their stumble, aware of the improvements needed in their game play. In reference to the past three games, Baud laconically stated, "We need to play better."

3.1 MILES

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Linhares. "It was fun to see the determination that we had had in the race."

This week the Prefontainebills will be competing against other Jesuit schools in the Midwest at Chaminade if the 3rd annual Jesuit Invitational. The team encourages you to come out and support the Jr. Bills at this meet.

For more information about the SLUH cross country team please visit www.sluh.org/xs/xs.htm.