

Pelebills snap St. Mary's in opener

David Mueller
Reporter

The Soccerbills wiped off most of the offseason rust last Tuesday and showed they deserve the number two pre-season ranking from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in an impressive 6-1 victory over the St. Mary's Dragons. The Jr. Bills, with an overall dominating performance, scored early and kept coming. The victory came from a blend of ingenuity, skill, and the composure to finish plays.

The Jr. Bills scored in the first six minutes when senior captain Matt Kreikemeier tapped an inspirational back heel to junior John Kornfeld, who kept his nerves at bay to slot the ball past the diving keeper into the side netting.

The squad went on to score three more goals in the first half, including an as-close-to-perfect-as-it-gets deadball struck by Kreikemeier to the head of senior forward Adam Twellman, who expertly placed the ball inside the far post.

XCers look for redemption in '02

Patrick Meek and Brian Fallon
Core Staff

When most students at SLUH think about what they did during this past summer, they probably think back to relaxing vacations and hours of leisure time. However, for the members of St. Louis U. High's cross country team, summer was all about getting down to business. After a disappointing eighth place finish at last year's State cross country meet, the Harrierbills felt the need for redemption, and that could begin in no other place than summer.

The offseason began after the first week of school with a team camp, which focused the Jr. Bills on the long summer ahead and the important work that needed to be done.

After several weeks of training by themselves, coach Jim Linhares reconvened with the team for a second week of practice in order to get them ready for the team's trip to Winter Park, Colorado for a

"We were really good at finishing," assistant coach Charlie Clark said regarding the offensive explosion.

"The highlight of the evening," said head coach Charlie Martel, "was our individual improvisations." Most of the goals came from the creativity of the mid-fielders and forwards.

"I was pleased with our thought process," said Martel. He went on to stress that "we need to become more consistent...and possess the ball more."

Clark added, "We don't have to be so direct...to be a good team we have to be patient."

Monday, along with solid play starting from the backfield and continuing up to the top, there were standout senior performances. Defender Pat Ferrell shut down St. Mary's top scorer. Utility man Eddie Davis came off the bench to spark the BeckhamBills with multiple scoring opportunities, including a goal. Twellman, along with a two-goal performance, "did

week of high intensity training and team building at high altitude.

"(The trip out to Colorado) definitely helped bring the team together," Drew Noblot, one of this year's captains, said, "When you are together for a week, week and a half, you definitely build a lot of team unity."

On Aug. 12, the Singlebills began their formal summer training with two weeks of intense off-speed running.

This year the SLUH cross country team, which will be led by senior captains Kevin Crean, Kyle Gonnerman, Noblot, and Peter Schaefer, looks for its hard work in the summer to pay off in the long run.

Linhares feels confident in this year's squad but acknowledged that "there are some teams that are ahead of us right now."

Despite that, Crean asserted his confidence in the team: "We are out there to win every time."

The Linharesbills hope to do just that

a great job of holding the ball up top," and made it easy to run the offense, Martel said.

With all the good things that can be expected of this year's team, Martel said, "I am worried (about our high ranking). I do not want the guys to get inflated." This is an understandable concern since the team is ranked number two in the city, and also has a number seventeen ranking in the national polls. "There are some other teams that could be number two," said Martel, "and Chaminade should be first, but we will have something to say about that later."

Tomorrow the Jr. Bills will take on Gibault at Oerter Park where Martel hopes "we can move the ball with pace... and possess the ball (more)." The Soccerbills look to continue a season which junior Kornfeld thought "started off with a confidence builder, but we need to keep working in practice because we can get a lot better."

today at the First Capitol Invitational in St. Charles. The top seven will consist of Crean, Noblot, Schaeffer, Matt Killany, juniors Brennan Connor and Andrew Linhares, and stand-out sophomore Alex Muntges. They hope to conquer a tough field consisting of DeSmet, Parkway South, and Fort Zumwalt South.

Please come out and support your Jr. Bills at McNair Park at 4:30 for the varsity race and 5:30 for the junior varsity race. For information about the SLUH cross country team check out their website www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm.

Quote of the Week

"He's either alive and in Afghanistan or somewhere else, or he's dead."

—Donald Rumsfeld on
Osama bin Laden