

XC wins districts, prepares for sectionals

Pat Meek
Core Staff

This past weekend, the Jr. Bills' cross country team garnered a victory at the district championship. Not only did the Jr. Bills accomplish this impressive feat, but they were able to do it with authority, which showed that this group of runners will be a significant factor at the state meet next weekend.

The top seven, which once again included Peter Schaefer, Drew Noblot, Kyle Gonnerman, Matt Killiany, Kevin Crean, Geoff Stewart, and sophomore Alex Muntges, used its pack-style running to blow by the competition. From the beginning of the race, Schaefer, who won the MCC championship last week, ran in the lead with Noblot. These two came across the first-mile split at 5:24. Schaefer kept this pace going for the next two miles, allowing him to cross the

finish line in first place, with a blistering 16:02.

Unfortunately, Noblot, who was having a breakthrough race after a series of disappointing finishes, fell onto his back on a short downhill due to the sloppy conditions near the mile and a half mark. Because of his fall, Noblot was never able to regain his cadence and had to settle for third on the team with a time of 16:34, 7th overall.

"I felt strong throughout the race," Noblot said. "I feel if I hadn't fallen, I could have been in 2nd or 3rd."

The rest of the top seven came in as a tight pack with Gonnerman (16:31, 6th place), Muntges (16:39, 8th), Crean (16:39, 10th), Killiany (16:52, 11th), and Stewart (17:01, 15th) all looking strong. SLUH's final score was 32, followed by DeSmet's 78 points.

"The team had an excellent day in otherwise cruddy conditions," coach Tim

Chik said.

The JV team looked equally impressive in the cool weather with junior Dan Flanagan, for the second week in a row, leading the way with a time of 17:21. Following Flanagan was sophomore Charlie Samson. Samson has followed an impressive freshman season with an outstanding year that would have placed him on any other team's top seven. Samson's time of 17:25 was followed by sophomore Danny Meier's time of 17:26.

This weekend, the Harrierbills will race in their final race before the state meet in Columbia. The race, which will be held on a totally revamped Sioux Passage course, will hopefully provide enough momentum for the Prefontainebills to earn a state trophy.

"I expect us to hold our current pace all the way up to state," said Killiany.

Chik echoed this sentiment by saying, "I believe (districts) set up the varsity team for a good run at sectionals."

Polobills advance to districts in quarterfinals

Dave Marek
Reporter

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the Jr. Bills water polo team took its first step towards obtaining the 2002 Missouri water polo state title. The Polobills easily defeated Oakville 15-4 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2002 district tournament.

The matchup between the Jr. Bills and Oakville began without the help of senior sensation Phil Abram, who was busy (in proper Jr. Bill fashion) putting academics before extracurriculars at the ACT.

The first quarter opened with an unassisted goal by junior Nick Konzcak. Soon thereafter, Billy Dahlmann dazzled the Oakville goalie and scored under heavy pressure from the Oakville defense. Dahlmann went on to score another goal in the period, but due to an "illegal substitution," Dahlmann was ejected for the rest of the game.

Even with Dahlmann's ejection, the Polobills maintained momentum as demonstrated by goals from sophomore Tim

Heafner, Tom Heafner, and Patrick Slaughter. The Jr. Bills ended the first period with a 6-1 lead.

The Waterbills began the second period with a display of their mastery of the six-on-five offense, through a goal from junior Andy Withington. The sophomore Heafner was the next to score with a powerful shot from the center of the pool, which left the Oakville goalie confused and stunned. Tom Heafner demonstrated his ability to outsmart his opponents by drawing the defenders off junior Nathan Harris. The elder Heafner then passed the ball to Harris for an easy goal. The period ended with SLUH leading 9-1.

In the third period, Oakville rallied to score two consecutive goals, but the SLUH machine could not be stopped. Slaughter scored his second goal in this period, and juniors Brad Witbrodt and Colin Tyrrell also notched a goal for the Polobills. The Polobills entered the final period with a 12-3 lead.

The fourth quarter began with a surprise for those Jr. Bills fans in atten-

dance, as Phil Abram, after finishing his ACT, arrived ready to dominate the final period of the game. He quickly showed the Oakville team what they had missed in the previous three quarters by winning the swim-off and scoring the first goal of the period. Slaughter also completed his hat-trick after Witbrodt fed him the ball.

The Oakville team had one last gasp. Oakville scored on a play in which all the members of their team gathered in front of the Jr. Bills goal, creating such chaos that the Polobills' defense failed to notice an Oakville player who slipped from the pack to score an easy goal. The Jr. Bills finished the game with a 15-4 win.

After the game, Witbrodt commented, "The game was a good step towards the state title." He quickly added, "We still have a long way to go though."

On Wednesday, the Jr. Bills faced off against John Burroughs. Coach and physics teacher extraordinaire Paul Baudendistel commented that most of John Burroughs' team played with the Jr. Bills' players during the offseason on the Jungle Cat Water Polo club team, and

see **CHAMPIONS**, 7