

# XC Bills finish season with fifth place at State

**Patrick Meek**  
**Core Staff**

When the Jr. Bills cross country team left Oakland Avenue last Friday for the State cross country meet following a series of strong races, many had hoped that they would be able to either upset perennial powers Liberty or West Plains or come away with a trophy. Unfortunately for the Jr. Bills, they were unable to do either, ending up one away from a trophy, in fifth place.

Going into the state meet, the Jr. Bills planned to run the race in the way that they have raced all year: in tight small packs, while Peter Schaefer went for the wins. This way of running, which leads to low scores, has been successful throughout the year for the Harrierbills.

Schaefer, who had hoped to achieve a top ten finish, led the Jr. Bills right from the gun, crossing the first mile mark in an impressive time. However, gradually the strong wind hurt many of the runners,

including Schaefer, who were chasing Liberty's Adam Perkins.

"Coming in after the mile mark, the wind forced me to tuck in instead of closing in on Perkins and the rest of those guys," said Schaefer.

Luckily, Schaefer was able to keep up pace in the second and third miles, including on the infamous Heartbreak Hill. His second effort enabled him to cross the line with an impressive time of 16:56, in the process allowing him to gain all-state honors with 16th place.

"Peter ran a very specific race plan," said coach Jim Linhares. "Even though he

got very tired in the middle of Heartbreak Hill, he was able to put the hammer down in the last 200 meters."

However, for the other Jr. Bills, who included seniors Kevin Crean, Drew

Noblot, Kyle Gonne rman, Matt Killiany, junior Andrew Lihares, and Sophmore Alex Muntges, the large size of the race caused many of the prearranged packs to be broken up. Because of this, the team gradually began to string



Senior Kevin Crean (right) kicks in the last 100 meters.

out at the mile and two-mile marks.

"A Marquette guy tripped in the first mile right in front of us, causing us to break up from one another," said Crean.

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# Footbills fall to Mehlville 19-9, finish 3-7

**Dan Sinnott**  
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The SLUH football season ended last Friday night as the Jr. Bills fell to the Mehlville Panthers 19-9 at home. Despite the loss, the Jr. Bill defense dominated Mehlville, holding them to nineteen points. The Panthers had previously averaged 26 points a game, a whole touchdown more than the Jr. Bills allowed them.

The Jr. Bills' defense forced six turnovers to give the team a chance to win the game. Safety Joe Azar led the defense with a fumble recovery, an interception, and a safety off of a blocked punt in the end zone.

Azar explained the team's solid defensive play: "Some of the seniors got it in their heads that this could actually be our last game, so let's go out there and play as hard as we can."

The Jr. Bill offense, however, did not take off as it normally has this year. The

Jr. Bills managed only 184 yards for the night, with 142 coming from a typically dangerous passing game. The Panthers defensive line made it a night full of harrassing the Jr. Bills, sacking quarterback Dossie Jennings nine times. The Jr. Bills managed to punch the ball into the pot of gold at the end of a 100-yard rainbow with a two-yard Jennings touchdown run. The score put the Jr. Bills up 7-0, a lead they held until the Panthers scored to tie the game with 4:43 remaining in the first half.

The Jr. Bills punted the ball away and the defense took the scoring game into their own hands. Joe Moellering's punt smothered the Panthers on their own six-yard line. Mehlville ran for one yard and then threw an incomplete pass. The defense then got into the Panther backfield and tackled the runner for a three-yard loss. Mehlville hoped to punt safely, but the Jr. Bills had other ideas. Azar, along with a host of Dontkicktheballbills, ar-

rived at the punter before he was able to get rid of the ball. The safety made the score 9-7 and it stayed that way until the second half.

Azar defered all the credit to John Niehoff, saying, "He opened up a great hole for me."

The Jr. Bills offense started off the second half with mistakes. Punting for the second time of the half with 2:06 left in the third quarter, the Jr. Bills appeared to recover a fumble by the Panther return man. The referee signaled for Jr. Bills possession and the offense began to set up for another scoring opportunity. Before the Jr. Bills could run a play, however, the referee changed his mind and gave the ball back to Mehlville. This hurt the Lowonluckbills because Mehlville scored quickly to go ahead 13-9.

Junior long-snapper Matt Green, who allegedly recovered the punt, said, "That play was the turning point of the game. It

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## QUARTERFINALS

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son) slip away.”

With a district title in their collective back pocket, the Cornerkickbills traveled south to Cape Girardeau where they faced off against the Cape Girardeau Central Tigers on a field that was wide, long, flat, astroturf, and windless.

The Jr. Bills started off slowly, trying to get used to the fast surface, and gave up a few early chances. Tyler Faulstich proved up to the challenge of high-flying goalie acrobatics, making the early save while buying time for the team to catch up to the pace of the field.

“If they would have scored first, we would have had our hands full for eighty minutes,” Martel said.

In a mediocre first half the Jr. Bills struggled to earn chances, but when they did, the squad finished. The first goal came when captain Matt Kreikemeier found streaking junior defenseman David Mueller, who received the ball and burned his marker on the end line. After receiving the ball, Mueller crossed the ball to the foot of goalscorer Adam Twellman, who,

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“From there our race plan kind of got shot to hell.”

Nonetheless, the Jr. Bills were able to keep pace behind the tireless work of Crean, who was able to kick in for 17:17 and 33rd place. Following right behind Crean were Gonnerman (17:27, 44th), Noblot (17:29, 46th), Killiany (17:46, 71st) and Linhares (18:09, 99th).

“I was looking for Kevin to have a breakout race,” said Linhares. “Luckily he had it at the state meet.”

Unfortunately, during the race not all was well for newcomer Muntges. Muntges, who has been a dominant force for the Jr. Bills since the first race of the season, lost consciousness on notorious Heartbreak Hill, which is less than a half mile from the finish.

“I don’t think we could have asked any more of Alex,” said Schaefer. “He ran to the point that your body just shuts down from exhaustion.”

as assistant coach Charlie Clark said, “kept his stick on the ice” and nutmegged the Tiger netminder.

After the goal the Tigers brought more ferocity to the field but were denied any opportunities by the Jr. Bill defense.

“The back four were patient, calm, and communicating,” Martel said “(The Tigers) couldn’t do anything because the defense kept their shape.”

The Jr. Bills solidified their lead when, just before the half, sophomore wingback Brent Zang crossed a precarious deadball to the far post where, amongst all the runners, Mueller found a way to knock the ball into the net, giving the Adidasbills a 2-0 lead going into the second half.

Martel commented on the half, saying, “We weren’t really playing well at the time, but we got the goals.”

In the second half, it was pure domi-

Even with these results, many of the team members were not satisfied with their final place.

“It would have been nice to cheer for someone other than one guy, like we have done for the past three years,” said Crean.

“To win a race like this everyone needs to be clicking,” said Noblot. “We didn’t have that.”

Nevertheless, the Jr. Bills’ score of 144 was not a failure by any means. The

nation as the Jr. Bills used the bumpy surface to their advantage by playing the ball shortly on the ground to work the Tigers, and then long, over the defense, to put them in an uncomfortable situation.

“Playing long balls to the corners really helped (in the second half),” Martel said.

With the majority of the half played in Tiger territory, the Jr. Bills found the net twice more. Goals came from Saturday’s hero, Joe Germanese, from a super strike on a volley from sophomore

Timmy Weir off of another cross from Zang.

The Jr. Bills continue their playoff run Saturday.

“I cannot imagine us being in a better position right now,” Martel said, “Everyone is contributing, the chemistry is there. It is a good sign to see.”

four teams, who were in front of the Harrierbills, West Plains, Liberty, Blue’s Spring, and St. Joseph’s Central, were all either from the Kansas City area or rural Missouri, thus proving to all that the Jr. Bills are still the dominant force in the St. Louis area.

“The further from the day I get, the better I feel about our overall performance,” said Linhares. “Fourth place was in our grasp, but no other team beat us.”



John Kornfeld and Brent Zang converge on a CBC striker.

### PIGSKIN

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was huge.”

If the Jr. Bills had retained possession of the ball and scored, they would have been a mere field goal away from the playoffs. Unfortunately, the call gave Mehlville the ball back, since the referee ruled that the ball hit the returner’s leg. According to the rules, a ball that hits the leg of a returner is not considered an intentional touch and is therefore not a

fumble. When the dust cleared, Mehlville had possession on its own 42-yard line.

After the questionable call, the Jr. Bills could do little to stop the Panthers. The offense could not score and the Panthers put in one more touchdown to stretch the lead to ten. The Jr. Bill season ended with a 19-9 loss two minutes after Mehlville scored. The Jr. Bills finished with a record of 3-7.