

Cross country takes 8th at state meet

Henry Samson
Reporter

After lacing their spikes and donning their skimpy blue singlets for the final time last Saturday, the varsity cross country team headed towards the starting line of the Missouri 4A state meet with their sights set on winning one of the four trophies. But to their dismay, the Jr. Bills finished eighth after "one of the fastest races in my history," according to head coach Jim Linhares. "Of course we're all disappointed, but along with the day's gray spots, I saw a lot of bright pictures."

Success was relative for the Jr. Bills. "If you look at the box score, we didn't get it done. But if you compare the times from last Saturday to last year's fifth place team, or even to the state winning team from '99, this year's kids were running

faster races," said Linhares.

The competition was definitely faster this year. Andrew Linhares, who finished

16:50 was the cut-off for the last All-State position.

SLUH finished in 8th place, second among schools from the St. Louis area behind a talented Fort Zumwalt South. Linhares commented, "I walk away extremely happy that we took 8th rather than very disheartened at 12th." Between 8th place SLUH and 12th place Chaminade, five St. Louis teams were spread over a minuscule 15 points. These local rankings were marked by slim margins considering that, overall, the first place team scored 51 points while the 16th place team scored 339 points.

"It was the little things that helped our performance," said Linhares, "like John Oliver running with one shoe almost the entire race." Some time shortly

after the surge off the starting line, Oliver's shoe came off causing him to race about

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John Oliver takes the downhill 2.5 miles into the race without a shoe.

first for the team, ran a 16:56 for 33rd place. Most years, this time would merit an All-State performance, but last Saturday,

Football ends season with 41-19 loss to Mehlville

Greg Fox
Core Staff

Hope, according to popular belief, springs eternal. The Jr. Bills entered last Friday night's football game against Mehlville with a glimmer of hope for making the playoffs: if they won and Roosevelt defeated CBC, the Jr. Bills were in. Neither team, however, held up its end, as the Jr. Bills valiantly fell 41-19 to the number four team in the *Post-Dispatch* metro area top ten large schools.

Kicker Tim Simon opened the scoring midway through the first quarter with a 24-yard field goal. Mehlville retaliated less than three minutes later, pounding the ball into the end zone from five yards out. On Mehlville's next possession, junior defensive back Ryan Morgan jumped a Mehlville pass route, intercepting the throw and returning the pick 13 yards.

The Jr. Bills dominated the second quarter. On their second possession, the Jr. Bills drove out from their own territory behind an aerial attack led by junior quarterback Matt Behr and junior receivers



Matt Behr prepares to pass amidst charging Panthers.

John Warner and Curtis Hoette. Behr connected with Warner from 13 yards out to take the lead 10-7 halfway through the second quarter. Warner finished with 91

yards on five catches, while Hoette had 51 on two.

Behr added a rushing touchdown from two yards out, and Simon kicked another field goal, this time from the 22. Simon ended the night with seven points (2 FG, XP).

The Jr. Bills looked to make it to halftime with a 19-7 lead and huge momentum, but the Panthers had other plans.

Sophomore defensive back Jim Sansone was in coverage with little over a minute left in the half when the Panthers quarterback dropped back to pass. Sansone jumped the route and tipped the pass, but was unable to make the pick. Unfortunately, the Mehlville receiver caught the pass and ran 53 yards for a touchdown. The play seemed to ruin the momentum the Jr. Bills had worked so hard for, though they were still up 19-14 at halftime.

Speaking on the defense's relative see **TUNDRA, 8**

SHOELESS

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three miles without a shoe on his right foot. "It hurt so bad," said Oliver. "It was awful, especially on the gravel." Oliver eventually finished as the team's fifth man, putting on a spectacular finishing kick for a time of 17:46 and 103rd place.

"Maybe we wouldn't have finished 4 points ahead of DeSmet if John had packed it in," remarked Linhares.

Strangely, the race did not start fast. The lead pack ran an abnormally slow 5:06 first mile, which caused the rest of the field to remain tightly grouped through much of the first mile and a half. This presented the Jr. Bills with a problem: they had decided to pace themselves according to their place in the race. Without anyone forcing the field to spread out, runners either fell down, slowed, or faced the enormous challenge of moving up

through the throng of runners.

Still, sophomore Ben Murphy-Baum ran a solid 17:01 for 40th place, perhaps one of the best sophomore performances in SLUH history. Junior Danny Meier, who had been stuck in the back of the thick pack throughout the entire first mile, ran an equally impressive race, finishing in 52nd place with a 17:13. Chris Arb, although struggling with a knee problem, finished with 17:34 and 82nd place as SLUH's fourth man. Joe Carlson finished 106th with a respectable 17:48; and Dan Flanagan wrapped up the team's day with an 18:09 for 134th place.

Linhares remarked, "The way I look at it, we finished eighth in state, second in the area, and first in our conference without a full varsity squad, mainly Alex Muntges, during a highly competitive year."

TUNDRA

(from 6)

dominance in the first half, assistant coach Rob Chura said, "We felt like we had a good idea at times what was coming."

The second half was the yin to the first half's yang. Mehlville's first possession yielded a touchdown, and on the Jr. Bills' second possession of the half, Behr went down with a knee injury. He did not return, and junior Gabe Gassner took his spot.

According to Chura, Behr sustained a gash to his knee that went down almost to the bone. "He was done once that happened," Chura said.

"Anytime (an) offense is successful, your quarterback's a big part of it," said Chura. "You have to give (Behr) a lot of the credit."

Behr finished the night with 190 yards in little over one half of play. As of half-time, he was on pace to break the SLUH single-game passing record.

With the starting quarterback out, the game plan remained the same. "We still were capable of moving the ball... All the stuff that we were doing before (Behr's) injury we planned on doing after."

On Gassner's second drive as quarterback, he and sophomore Stephen Simmons failed to complete the exchange on a handoff, and the ball fell to the ground. The Mehlville defender picked the ball up and ran it back for a touchdown to make the score 27-19.

"We had an unfortunate turn of events," said Gassner. "You do the best you can with what you have and don't look back."

Mehlville added two touchdowns to make the final score 41-19. They won the district and advanced to the state playoffs.

"Mehlville's a 9-1 football team for a reason. They came out and made some plays," Chura commented. "Defensively, (Mehlville) came out with a pretty good plan, they made some adjustments."

The Jr. Bills ended their season 6-4.

ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENTATION



On Monday during activity period, faculty and students attended the SLUH archaeology meeting. Pictured are a sample of the artifacts students uncovered last summer. Anyone interested in next summer's course should see social studies teacher Tim O'Neil.