

# XC nabs 3rd at Jesuit, hopeful for postseason

**Henry Samson**  
Reporter

On a day that the St. Louis U. High cross country team was joined by fellow Jesuit schools from across the Midwest and the sun was shining so brightly it almost burned, the varsity Runnerbills walked away with a third-place finish.

Though the race numbers seem disappointing, head coach Jim Linhares remarked, "We shouldn't walk away with our heads hung in shame. I don't want to make excuses, but we didn't run a few key varsity contributors." Despite missing its number one and two men, the varsity team raced fierce and competitively.

Finishing behind Rockhurst from Kansas City (44 points), and DeSmet (70 points), the varsity cross country team scored 81 points. Still, the team is confident as it marches down to the premier races of the season: conference, district, sectionals, and state. Finishing 11 points

behind DeSmet without a full varsity squad, the team showed how ready it is for the postseason.

After getting out to a blistering first mile of 5:16, Danny Meier came through as SLUH's top finisher for the second time this season with a 17:08 eighth-place finish. Right on his heels was Chris Arb, finishing three seconds afterwards in 17:11 for 11th place. Meier and Arb have earned reliable scores for the top seven ever since they were called up after the first race of the season.

Sophomore Mike Jonagan has been getting exponentially better each week since racing in his first varsity race. Setting a personal best for the fifth race in a row, he ran a 17:23 for 18th place. Jonagan has not let all this sudden success get to his head, though. He still is rather easygoing at practice but a fierce competitor during the races.

The remaining varsity team followed with sophomore Ben Murphy-Baum (17:25), junior Joe Carlson (17:33), junior Matt Dirnbeck (17:41), and John Oliver (17:52). The last few spots on the varsity

team are still up for grabs and will be decided at the Metro Invitational and the MCC Championship in the next two weeks, both of which promise to be as exciting as ever.

The JV team was handed its first second-place team finish of the season. It finished a slim eight points behind Marquette, a Wisconsin team, in an unusually fast JV race. Even though Joe Marincel had a truly superb race, winning the individual title with a time of 17:39, the numbers just didn't add up for the team.

Not intending to make any excuses, coach Linhares pointed out to the team that, "If you look at Marquette's top five JV runners' times, and compare them with Marquette's bottom five varsity times, the athletes running in the JV race's times were about 40 seconds better."

With the dust settling from the explosive JV race, all 32 freshman XCbills joined at the line, eager to battle for first place. Pete Heagney was again SLUH's

see **JESUIT XC, 7**

# Polobills rammed by MICDS, 11-2

**Dave Marek**  
Reporter

For the St. Louis U. High water polo team, it was a week of great contrasts. After trouncing Oakville 17-0 on Tuesday, the Polobills suffered a gut-wrenching 11-2 loss on Wednesday to their arch-rivals MICDS.

Tuesday's game proved to be an opportunity for the majority of the Speedobills to shine. Andy Withington and junior Tim Heafner led the team in scoring with four goals each. Contributing to the win, Nick Konczak showed his prowess with three goals and three assists. The lopsided score allowed the Baudenbills to experiment with players at atypical positions. Heafner and Kevin Lane made their goalkeeping debuts against Oakville, and as the score demonstrated, they lived up to the challenge of one of the hardest positions in the

sport. In the end, the Oakville team was badly outnumbered and was soundly defeated.

In a drastic contrast from Tuesday's win, the Polobills suffered their second defeat of the season to MICDS. Lacking their usual aggressiveness and energy, the Polobills' offense was unable to capitalize on their many opportunities to score. Throughout the game their shots came close but often failed to hit the mark. "We played well; the shots just didn't hit the goal," commented Brad Witbrodt.

In fact, SLUH and MICDS had nearly the same amount of shots, but the Polobills' shot accuracy was low while MICDS scored more often.

From the start of the first quarter, it was apparent that chaos would dominate the game. On the first swim-off, there was some confusion as to whether the Polobills had false started. After this initial setback, SLUH's set offense was unable to gain

enough momentum to turn the game in their favor. At times, the MICDS defense prevented any passes from goalie Paul Guest to his teammates on offense.

MICDS launched a counterattack and scored the first goal of the game off a missed shot by the Polobills. The Speedobills' offense was motivated after the first MICDS goal, but despite their many chances, the offense failed to capitalize on many of their opportunities.

Scoring on most of their chances, MICDS widened their lead to four goals. Despite the widening margin, the Polobills fought for a goal as junior Tim Szweczyk freed himself from his guard and gave Kevin Vincent a perfect scoring setup. The quarter ended with MICDS leading 4-1.

In the next two quarters, the Speedobills' offense was uncharacteristically shut out. Due to unusually lax foul

see **SINKING, 7**

# Hockey ties Lafayette 4-4

**Bradley Naert**  
**Reporter**

The St. Louis U. High Busiebills laced up their skates for the first time this year against the Lafayette Lancers at the annual Webster Top Hat Tournament last Thursday night at the Webster ice rink. Many new faces appeared in the varsity squad, including sophomore Alex Primo starting in net and classmate Evan Boff at winger.

The Cujobills got off to a slow start, allowing the Lancers to get ahead of them by one, until forward Brad Naert put the puck in the net on a power play goal, which evened the score, 1-1.

The score wouldn't stay tied for long,

## JESUIT XC

(from 6)

first freshman finisher with a very fast time of 18:35, followed by Nate Banet, who was also under 19 minutes. These two and many other freshmen ran outstanding races, but it wasn't enough to match strong teams from Dallas and Houston.

However, the JV and freshman teams have no need to feel down about the day, as 33 runners set new personal records and walked away from Saturday with a well-deserved sense of accomplishment.

## SINKING

(from 6)

enforcement and a lackluster Polobill offense, MICDS was able to score a total of four unanswered goals.

In contrast to previous games, the Polobills' defense was too aggressive at times. After the game, Baudendistel commented that the defensive players were playing too close to their opponents, which allowed MICDS to grab and pull by the SLUH defensemen. By the end of the third period, MICDS had increased their lead to 8-1.

During the fourth quarter, Konczak successfully increased the SLUH tally with a shot from the perimeter, but the team was otherwise unable to rally.

as the second period turned out to be an ineffective one for the Puckbills, who let in three unanswered goals.

Going into the third period down 4-1 proved to be no problem, for within the first minute, Matt Pijut scored to shorten the Lancers' lead to two. The early goal gave the Jr. Bills the momentum needed to even the game with two more goals, one from Tom Fucoloro and another from Pijut, his second of the night.

Adam Shalapin commented, "We had a few breakdowns in the second period, but overall, I think we played pretty well."

The team's next game is tonight at 11:00 p.m. at Webster against Parkway South.

After a long-awaited Saturday without a race, the team will be ready to battle with their MCC rivals next weekend at Chaminade. The entire team is ready to make a statement next weekend by trouncing DeSmet, CBC, Chaminade, and Vianney in what should be one of the most unique races of the year, and is possibly the best race to attend because it is a spectator-friendly course. Mark your calendars for the 18th, because it will be a day to remember. Feel free to check the team's site at [www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm](http://www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm).

MICDS extended their lead with three more goals and finished on top 11-2.

Overall, the offense could be characterized as lacking liveliness and speed. "I just think we didn't play with any energy today," commented junior Eric Appelbaum. The illness and resulting absence of brothers Nathan and Brendan Harris may have been a contributing factor to this problem.

Despite this loss, the Baudenbills remain optimistic about winning their upcoming games: Ladue on Friday and Parkway South on Monday, both at Forest Park Community College. These games are a perfect chance to again encourage and cheer the Polobills on to victory.

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Senior Kevin Gentsch participates in the Monday Madness homeroom competition this week by placing 70 clothespins on his face.



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