

Targetbills place 9th at Hancock Invitational

Henry Samson
Reporter

A wise man once said failure can be more educational than victory. It seems that sometimes struggle and defeat are necessary for the true understanding of a sport. The varsity Harrierbills experienced just that last Saturday. On a day that they had hoped to establish themselves as a powerful opponent to teams from all over the state, the XCBills finished a disappointing ninth place.

"We certainly didn't accomplish anywhere near what we had wanted to achieve," said head coach Jim Linhares.

One of the fastest 4A varsity races of the year took place amidst a sea of runners and spectators. The varsity team, which welcomed back Andrew Linhares, looked for nothing less than a midseason

peak day on Saturday. However, the challenging course at Jefferson Barracks kept that goal from happening.

Early in the race, Linhares, sopho-

more Ben Murphy-Baum, and junior Charlie Samson were right where they wanted to be: in serious medal contention.

However, Murphy-Baum was the only team member who walked away with a medal on Saturday, finishing 24th with a solid time of 17:09. All by itself, 24th place does not seem so spectacular considering the history of SLUH, but when also considering that Murphy-Baum's time would have placed him 13th overall two years ago, his time is a testimony to how the level of competition in the sport has risen.

The remainder of the varsity team struggled in the competitive varsity race. Most were somewhat disappointed with their finishing times, but they are looking to the

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Junior Matt Dirnbeck leads a pack last Saturday.

PHOTO BY WILLIS SAMSON

Polobills shocked by loss to Lindbergh

Dave Marek
Reporter

It was an upset in every sense of the word. No one at the well-attended home game last Friday expected the colossal St. Louis U. High School water polo team to be dealt their second loss by the Lindbergh Flyers. Thus, the 11-10 loss to Lindbergh was all the more tragic, as the Polobills' record dropped to 8-2.

From the start of the first quarter, it was obvious that SLUH was not playing up to their ability. In the first few minutes of the game, the Polobills' defense let Lindbergh lob in three goals from the perimeter of their offense. These deceptively simple-looking shots are a goalie's nightmare and could have been prevented with more defensive pressure from the Polobills. SLUH's initial lackluster defense was recognized by the entire team. "Defense isn't 'Let the guy shoot the ball and hope that he misses,'" said head coach Paul Baudendistel. "Defense is preventing shots."

Despite the slow start, the Polobills

regained their composure and got back in the game. SLUH's offensive resurgence was in part due to the communication between Paul Guest and junior Tim Heafner. Guest connected with Heafner two consecutive times for nearly identical far side goals. The Baudbills' offense controlled the latter half of the first quarter but often couldn't make their efforts count. The Polobills blundered two open shots in front of the goal. By the end of the first quarter, Nick Konczak had tied the game 3-3.

The Polobills' defensive troubles and missed opportunities continued in the second quarter, as Lindbergh took a two-goal lead early in the quarter. Andy Withington brought the Polobills within one goal of the Flyers with a powerful shot that whizzed past the goalie. Other offensive efforts by the Baudenbills were stifled. Throughout the quarter the squad's man-advantage offense was unable to convert on the many penalties that were called on the Lindbergh team.

Undoubtedly motivated by a lively pep talk by coach Baudendistel, the Polobills plunged into the third quarter and wrangled

the control over the pace of the game from Lindbergh. The Polobills scored as many goals in this quarter as they did in the other three quarters combined.

The new life of the Polobills was led by Heafner, who scored four of his six goals in the third quarter. Heafner opened the half with a goal that mimicked the Lindbergh lob that had given Lindbergh their early 3-0 lead. Momentum clearly turned in favor of SLUH after senior Brad Witbrodt provided Heafner with a perfect cross-goal pass for an easy SLUH goal.

The third quarter also marked a resurgence of the Baudenbills' notorious set offense and blistering counter-attacks. Captain Colin Tyrrell demonstrated why the team's 2-meters are feared throughout the league as he manhandled helpless a Lindbergh defenseman who could only watch as Tyrrell pounded the ball into the corner of the Lindbergh net. SLUH ended the third quarter with a 9-7 lead and seemed poised to pull a comeback win.

But the fourth period proved to be a heartbreaker for everyone who was root

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PN NIGHTBEAT

ICEBILLS OPEN PRE-SEASON WITH A TIE TO LAFAYETTE

In the year's first pre-season tournament, SLUH's varsity hockey opened the year with a 4-4 tie against Lafayette. The team was down 4-1 going into the third period, and the Jr. Bills came from behind, scoring three goals.

WATER POLO TOPS JOHN BURROUGHS, 9-7

The water polo team defeated John Burroughs last night, 9-7. The Speedobills were led by junior Tim Heafner, who scored all four of his goals in the second half. Heafner's effort allowed the Jr. Bills to pull away for the win after a close two quarters.

HERBIE

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Jesuit Invitational tomorrow as a whole new race, one that could possibly hold the fastest race of the season yet for some of the varsity athletes.

Although witnessing the plight of the team after its first race, the JV Lightningbills towed the line, eager to secure their spot as the top JV team in the area, if not the entire state. A group of about 70 Jr. Billikens raced JV that day, and many parents and fans from other teams were caught gawking, wide-eyed at the sheer numbers of this team.

"We just about had a small army," said junior Kevin Turkcan. "And even better, we were all equipped with half-inch spikes as weapons!"

Linhares was once again happy to see "line after line of blue," following each other, especially in the front of the race.

The JV team won by probably the slimmest margin possible this year, defeating state superpower West Plains by seven points and cementing their claim of depth. Solid performances from Matt Dirnbeck (fourth place), Mike Jonagan

(fifth place), Joe Marincel (eighth place), Drew Kaiser (ninth place), and Andy Bonner (15th place) enabled SLUH to take the team title.

A very sincere thanks from all the members of the SLUH XC family goes out to all the teachers, students, Blue Crew, and Jesuits who came to watch the meet.

Tomorrow, the team will be running in the 4th Annual Midwest Jesuit Invitational at Chaminade. SLUH runners will be hosting runners from Regis Jesuit in Denver and Marquette in Wisconsin. Promising to be a very fun day of racing, the race will culminate in a the Mass and banquet for all runners afterwards at DeSmet. The varsity race begins the day at 2:30 p.m. Directions to Chaminade can be found at www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm under the schedule icon.

UPSET

(from 6)
ing for the Baudenbills' come-from-behind win. The Polobills valiantly struggled on defense.

The scoring leaders of the game were Nick Konczak, who had a hat trick, and Nick Berndsen and Heafner, who each scored two goals. Even more impressive was the fact that all but three field players scored in the Marquette game, a feat seldom accomplished by a water polo team as big as the Polobills.

The next week promises to be another exciting week as the Polobills take on Oakville at Melville at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and their arch-rivals, MICDS at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday at MICDS. All students are encouraged to come and cheer on the Baudenbills to victory.

Picture of the Week



PHOTO BY CHARLIE HALL

While St. Ignatius (not pictured) plays a mean first base, Tom Lampe pitches a nasty curveball to Matt Huhmann during lunch on Thursday. Huhmann missed.

Quote o' the

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use
-Galileo Galilei