

Harrierbills dominate McCluer North Invite

Henry Samson
Reporter

Last Saturday, fresh off a blowout opening race at First Capitol, the cross country team gained momentum by emerging victorious from a field that consisted of well over 30 schools. A win is a win, but it is even better when it shows a team's strength. St. Louis U. High finished with 52 points, 40 points better than Parkway South's second place of 92.

Competing against a strong field that contained not only state cross country champion Tim Cornell, but also the 3200-meter track champion from Marquette, Garret Jeffries, SLUH ran smart and finished hard.

Interestingly, this race allowed for nine varsity competitors from each team, which worked out to SLUH's advantage. As coach Tim Chik said, "We're deep. I'm excited because this team has the best chance to win a race like state that we've had in a long time. I'm also glad to see our numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6 men

Ronaldobills

Andrew Schroeder
Reporter

Coming off a tough loss to CBC last Thursday, the Jr. Bill soccer team looked to get back into the win column in both its final game of the CBC tournament against "the other Jesuit school" last Saturday and the match with Fort Zumwalt South on Tuesday. The games proved to be two tough matches as the Soccerbills tied DeSmet and lost to Fort Zumwalt South.

The team's misfortune continued Tuesday night when a freak accident resulted in sophomore forward Rusty Brooks breaking his leg at practice. The team was playing a five-on-five game when another player fell on top of Brooks' shin, which cracked under the weight. Brooks was taken to Children's Hospital by ambulance and underwent surgery on Wednesday to put a metal rod in his leg.

Although Brooks is out for the sea-

already show they are capable of reaching the 17 minute barrier."

Once again junior Ben Murphy-Baum and senior Charlie Samson, along with spotlight returnee senior Alex Muntges, covered the leaders through the first mile. Although Samson eventually fell off the pace, Muntges and Murphy-Baum each provided strong finishes for the Bills, placing 5th and 6th with times of 16:42 and 16:45, respectively.

Said Muntges, "I was just happy to be out in competition. This was really my first race in about a year, and it was good to get the feel of anaerobic running for a change."

Murphy-Baum echoed those words and added, "I'm hoping to go out fast next week again at Rim Rock. Hopefully, I'll be able to run a 16:30, give or take a few seconds."

These two have already shown enormous potential early in the season and will provide the foundation of the team's strength come post season.

Junior Mike Jonagan and senior Dan Meier finished with admirable times as well. Jonagan's 17:06 earned 12th place

go 0-1-1 in scoreless week

son, the doctors said that his leg will be stronger than it was before for next season.

Along with Brooks' absence, Brent Zang will be out for the next two games due to a groin injury. However, it doesn't appear to be too serious, and he should be back on the field sometime next week.

Last Saturday at the CBC tournament, DeSmet came out firing in the first half with a couple of quick shots on their first possession. However, the Jr. Bills retaliated by working the ball downfield and keeping it in DeSmet's end of the field for the better part of the next ten minutes. They took some rips at the net, but DeSmet's tough defense and goalkeeping kept the Jr. Bills out of the net.

With about ten minutes left to play in the first half, the tide began to turn. DeSmet carried the ball into Jr. Bill territory and began to work on the U. High defense. Senior goalkeeper Wyatt Woods showed off his agility with an amazing kick-save, stopping a DeSmet forward streaking down

and Meier's 17:07 captured 13th. "I'm kicking it home," said a bewildered Meier, "and suddenly I look to my left and barely see this huge head leaning me out at the line. But I knew it was Jonagan, so it was all right."

Junior Drew Kaiser also ran a superb race, chopping 13 seconds off his previous race to finish in 17:15 for 15th place overall. Seniors Joe Carlson and Matt Dirnbeck ran together at 17:21 and 17:23, finishing sixth and seventh on the team, respectively, and in 17th and 20th place overall. Samson, who had run with the leaders early, learned the price of a risk the hard way: "My legs felt heavier than a junkyard vista cruiser."

The varsity team was not the only group from SLUH that had a "spectacular day," said head coach Jim Linhares. The JV squad showed how tough they were by sweeping the race through seven positions. A CBC runner edged his way into 8th place, but otherwise, SLUH packed 10 runners in the top 12 spots in the race—a feat which, up until that point, had been
see **GO X-CRAZY, 7**

the field on a breakaway. The Jr. Bill faithful praised the effort with chants of "Holy moly, we love our goalie!"

Woods led the defense with a couple more clutch saves, refusing to yield a goal. Time expired in the first half, and the match was scoreless going into the break.

Picking up in the second half right where they left off, the Spartans resumed assaulting the SLUH backfield. Fortunately, the Jr. Bills did not skip a beat coming out of the half, and they were ready for everything DeSmet had to bring. The impenetrable forest of Woods stopped a two-on-one attack, then followed that up by punching a Spartan shot up and over the goal with authority.

Much like the first half, SLUH gradually moved the ball out of their zone and took their shots at the Spartan defense. But they, like the Spartan offense, could not find the back of the net, and the defensively-dominated match ended in a 0-0

see **SOC 'EM, 7**

SOC 'EM

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tie.

Head coach Charlie Martel noted after the game that it was "tough to get past (the DeSmet defense)." He believed the team played pretty well and that they got "the result they expected" going into the game.

With the CBC tournament behind them, the Fifabills got back to their regular season schedule with a game at home against Fort Zumwalt South on Monday night. The Bulldogs were 4-0 coming into the game and proved to be quite a test for the Soccerbills.

The Jr. Bills dominated almost the entire first half, led by senior midfielder Paul Eschen's barrage of shots directed at the Bulldog goalie who, according to Martel, was "by far the best we've seen this year." The star Zumwalt South goalkeeper held SLUH scoreless and seemed to be a step ahead of the Jr. Bill forwards as he sucked in almost every cross, corner

TREADS

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one."

Also notable were the outstanding defensive efforts made by the team.

"Holding a team like Parkway South to so few goals is quite an accomplishment," said Szewczyk, "and a lot of that can be attributed to Rick's goalkeeping."

Bettger, playing the entire game, had an amazing 18 saves in front of the net while only allowing two shots past him.

In the next round of tournament play, the Jr. Bills faced the competent Chaminade team.

Chaminade took an early lead, scoring three unanswered goals in the second quarter to take a 5-2 lead into halftime.

Throughout the second half, the two teams steadily exchanged goals, as any Chaminade goal would be quickly answered with a SLUH shot.

With one minute left in the fourth quarter and Chaminade leading 7-6, the

kick, and junior Tom Irvin throw-in (which serves as well as any corner kick.)

The only goal of the game was scored by Fort Zumwalt South on one of their few trips to the SLUH end of the field. With about 5:30 left in the first half, a put-back after a corner kick from the near side of the field was unfortunately punched right to the feet of a Bulldog forward by Woods. The goal seemed to deflate the Jr. Bills, as they never recovered from the deficit. They appeared sluggish throughout the second half and only fired three shots in what became more of a midfield battle. They went on to drop the game, 1-0.

Winless in their last three outings with an overall record of 4-2-1, Martel promised that "(The team) will work through it."

Come out and support the Soccerbills as they look to get back on track this Saturday against St. Dominic at 7:00 p.m. in the SLUH Stadium.

Red Devils snuck in two quick goals.

Unfortunately, the game ended before the Jr. Bills had a chance to avenge these points and dropped the game, 9-6.

"We really needed to play more aggressive," claimed Baudendistel. "We didn't have enough patience on offense."

The loss could be contributed to both offensive and defensive failures.

"I just don't think we came ready to play," said Bettger. "The other team started the game all fired up."

However, Szewczyk offered optimistic thoughts towards the future, saying, "We made defensive mistakes and let their good players shoot, but it is still the beginning of the season and we have a lot more to go."

For all those interested in watching an intense match in the water, come see the SLUH water polo team continue its promising season when they face John Burroughs this Saturday at Lafayette.

GO X-CRAZY

(from 6)
inconceivable. They hope to count on this depth this weekend as the second seven make the trip to Lawrence, Kansas, leaving the rest to fight the field in the normal varsity and junior varsity races at Sioux Passage.

The freshmen harriers also opened up their season with a bang at McCluer North. Chris Murphy and Stephen Schummacher placed in the top ten and led the team to victory in the annually competitive race. About the race, Chik commented, "The freshmen were fun. They've reloaded our gun for future years with this win."

This weekend is unique for the cross country team. For the first time, the top 14 runners will be traversing the state of Missouri to run at the Rim Rock Invitational in Lawrence, Kansas. This is a big regional meet with a lot of fierce in-state and out-of-state competition. A good race there will most certainly put the SLUH cross country program on a different level.

Said Chik, "We're all really excited to compete with the best teams in the region. But more importantly, we are ready. There is no reason to make the trip without having the intention to win the race, which I believe is well within our reach."

While the top 14 are racing the flats of Kansas, the rest of the team will be tackling the hills at Sioux Passage, including the infamous Manmaker.

Fr. Marco will address the Sodality of Mary at the beginning of their weekly Rosary on Thursday, September 23, 2004. All are invited to come to this important meeting.