

Footbills fall to Lindbergh in quadruple overtime

Seth Clampett
Staff

Friday night was a night of missed opportunities against Lindbergh for the Jr. Billiken football team. The Secondhalfbills played similarly to previous games, starting slowly and making a comeback after halftime. Despite their record, the damp conditions and five turnovers created problems for the team in a heartbreaking game that ended after four overtimes with Lindbergh on top, 24-21.

Senior captain LB/TE Matt Herzberg said, "We weren't ready to play. I think we came in there and underestimated what we had to do. We didn't prepare ourselves for what we had to do. I think they took care of the ball and we didn't capitalize on opportunities that we had. We had a couple of chances to block a punt or get an interception. We just didn't do the things we

needed to do."

Throughout the first half, the Jr. Bills failed to score, ending their first four drives with three punts and an interception. Lindbergh capitalized on a fourth down conversion to put themselves ahead

momentum with a fourth-down conversion. However, two penalties for 10 yards halted the drive.

The Jr. Bill defense held Lindbergh to only one first down in the first quarter, forcing them to punt. However, on the final drive of the quarter, the Flyers gained enough yards for a fourth-down conversion close to the Jr. Bills goal line. Lindbergh ran in a touchdown in two plays as time ran out for the quarter, leaving the score at 7-0.

The second quarter began with a Jr. Bills drive. Senior quarterback Matt Behr threw an 11-yard pass to senior Curtis Hoette for a first down. Junior running back Stephen Simmons tried to get another first down, but Lindbergh's defense held him back. Behr then completed a 5-yard pass to Herzberg for a first down with 10:58

left in the half. Two unsuccessful runs and an incomplete pass by Behr forced SLUH



A SLUH defensive lineman prepares for the snap last Friday.

7-0 at the end of the half.

On SLUH's first drive, they made a few gains down the field, building mo-

Harrierbills saunter through districts, take first

Henry Samson
Reporter

A muggy, muddy course at Parkway Central awaited the Jr. Billiken cross country team last weekend. Demanding extra effort from the runners, the course proved to be difficult, but could not stop St. Louis U. High in the class 4A District #3 field. The Harriers continued their post-season march to state with an authoritative win over DeSmet (26-66) and the rest of the district.

"We set a high standard for ourselves. Basically, it was mission accomplished," head coach Jim Linhares said.

For the first time since Peter Schaefer, '03, won the sectional race, SLUH took the individual title, with a win by junior Ben Murphy-Baum. "He's a machine," junior David Rhoads said. "I seriously don't think he's had a bad race. Ever."

After a smoldering first mile around the 5-minute range, Murphy-Baum and senior Alex Muntges extended their lead until a little before the two-mile mark, when Muntges stumbled at a treacherous

downhill hairpin turn, but Murphy-Baum never looked back. He was the only runner in the day to break 17 minutes, turning in a well-earned time of 16:43.

"It felt exhilarating," a jubilant Murphy-Baum said. "Especially when you look in front of you in the chute and see no one."

Muntges picked himself up and narrowly missed catching DeSmet's Ben Famous, but still finished in 4th place at 17:11.

Even more impressive was senior Dan Meier's race. "Danny's been struggling a bit. I'm glad he didn't wait around this week," Linhares said. Truthfully, he didn't wait at all; keeping the leaders in sight for most of the race, he then overcame everyone but Murphy-Baum with his monstrous third-mile antics for a 2nd place finish in 17:05.

After a 1-2-4 finish for SLUH's top three runners, the remaining scoring members placed in the top ten, qualifying SLUH's entire team for all-district. The pack stuck to its strategy, which was to beat DeSmet's second man and cover

CBC's first man.

Seniors Joe Carlson and Matt Dimbeck executed the brutal plan by running together in 9th and 10th place, with times of 17:35 and 17:40, respectively, on a course which was noticeably slower than normal.

Juniors Mike Jonagan and Drew Kaiser, each struggling with injuries, ran a bit slower than normal, but are both back in the hunt. They ran together at 17:56 and 18:03 for 16th and 18th place overall, each placing in front of DeSmet's 4th finisher and CBC's 3rd finisher.

Shortly after the varsity race, the JV team dominated the open race by taking positions 1 through 9 overall among high school students. Junior Andy Bonner came on hard in the last stages of the race to lead the team to victory with an 18:13 on a legitimately slow course. Waves of blue and white followed, a recurring theme for the JV races this season.

With conference and districts existing only in the rearview mirrors of the XC bus, the varsity team has one more pre-

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VARSITY BLUES

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to punt though.

On the Jr. Bills' next drive, Behr completed several passes, including an 18-yard pass to senior wide receiver John Warner and one to Herzberg on a fourth-down conversion. Once again, a penalty hindered the offense, and on the next down Behr threw an interception. As time ran out in the first half, the Jr. Bills left the field losing 7-0.

The Gridironbills started the second half with a long drive toward Lindbergh's goal line. Behr saved the push by running 4 yards for a fourth down conversion. He then completed a 23-yard pass to Hoette with 9:53 left in the quarter. Lindbergh's defense ended the drive and forced a 41-yard field goal attempt; Behr's kick went wide and the Jr. Bills were still scoreless.

Junior defensive back Paul Cheney sacked the Flyer quarterback with 6:16 left in the third quarter, forcing a punt to give SLUH's offense the ball. The Churabills built off their momentum when Behr passed to Warner for a gain of 35 yards. The Jr. Bills capitalized on the drive with a touchdown pass from Behr to Hoette, tying the score at 7.

Sophomore kicker Max Wheeler punted back the ball over 50 yards for the second time in the game to hold the Flyers at the 20-yard line. Juniors Mark Sharp and Cliff Leek sacked Lindbergh's quarterback to end their drive. The two teams exchanged the ball two more times until the end of the third quarter with the score tied 7-7.

On the first drive of the fourth quarter, Behr threw a 39-yard pass to Cheney, who ran the ball the rest of the way for the Jr. Bills second touchdown. The extra point attempt by Behr was good, putting the Footbills up 14-7 with 9:43 left in the game.

Lindbergh answered back, though, completing three of their seven total passes to retie the game again with only 5:53 remaining.

Defensive back Willie Shipp ran the ball 33 yards on the return to start the offense. Behr completed two passes, but a

10-yard penalty forced them to punt. On their final drive of the game, Cheney attempted to score, running across the field for a first down with 18.2 seconds left. However, another 10-yard penalty pushed the Jr. Bills back to the 50-yard line. Behr attempted a touchdown pass with 10.2 seconds left, but it was intercepted, forcing the game into overtime.

The Jr. Bills began overtime at the 25-yard line, using the college overtime system, and, after Warner caught a pass for a first down, Simmons ran in the touchdown to give them a 21-14 lead. But Lindbergh answered back by throwing in a touchdown on their drive to send the game into its second overtime.

Lindbergh started with the ball in the second overtime. SLUH's defense stopped this drive, with senior Will Holleman and junior Isaiah Cole breaking up two plays. The Flyers threw an incomplete pass and then attempted a field goal on their fourth down. The field goal was no good, giving an opportunity for the Jr. Bills to win. On the first play, Simmons broke through the line but fumbled the ball on the goal line. A Lindbergh defender jumped on the ball, but it sprang out from under him. The ball bobbed through two more sets of hands until Lindbergh finally controlled the ball to end SLUH's drive.

On the Jr. Bills' attempt in the third overtime, Behr threw an incomplete pass to Herzberg and followed it with an interception on third down. Will Holleman and Willie Shipp broke up both Lindbergh's running and passing plays, forcing them to kick another field goal. A penalty pushed the Flyers back and their 32-yard field goal attempt was no good.

SLUH's defense again stepped up their game to allow Lindbergh no gain. Lindbergh then tried a 42-yard field goal, and this attempt was good, making the score 24-21. The Jr. Bills started their drive. Behr threw an incomplete pass followed by an interception to end the game, with the final score 24-21.

Throughout the game, SLUH amassed 135 yards in penalties. Head coach Gary Kornfeld said, "We had a

rough game. I don't think there's any doubt with all the penalties we had and five turnovers that it wasn't a rough ball game. It's definitely not our best outing of the year."

Simmons was limited to 38 yards rushing during the game, his lowest for the season. Kornfeld said of the amount, "I think you (have to) hand it to Lindbergh on that. I think they did a nice job of setting 8 or 9 guys down in the box and trying to limit the amount of success he was going to have rushing the football. I think you have to give them credit but it probably wasn't our best blocking day."

SLUH was also unable to force any turnovers against Lindbergh last Friday. Kornfeld attributed this to the fact that, "they didn't do anything wrong. What's hurt them in the past actually (has been) turnovers. We were so close on four attempts on blocking their punt and just came up an inch or two from having four blocked punts. You block one of those and you maybe knock the game wide open. That's where their turnovers have been and they haven't really turned the ball over offensively."

The Jr. Bills look to force turnovers and capitalize on mistakes, as well as move the ball down the field through passing or rushing in their next game here tonight at 7 p.m. versus Kirkwood.

X TO THE C

(from 7)
state tune-up race at the sectional championships, with the meet being held in North County at hilly Sioux Passage Park, a spectacular venue for a cross country meet, the day promises to be bright.

"We should win, but we still have work to do to compete with Liberty at state. We have to close the gap between our first and fifth runners," said a determined Linhares. Race times are a bit later this weekend, and the usual chilly forecast should stay intact until the Jr. Bills' race at 10:40. If the hills and the promise of girl races beforehand don't get you excited for a race frenzy morning, not much will. Directions can be found on the website.