

Harrierbills crush competition at First Capitol

Henry Samson
Reporter

Think back to last spring. Head coach Jim Linhares was buzzing around the school putting up flyers about “not staying under the radar” this cross country season. Well, after a day dubbed “historic, even folkloric” by Linhares, the U. High cross country team’s secret is out, much to the dismay of a cross-town rival Jesuit school. SLUH finished first at the First Capitol Invitational, outdistancing a second place DeSmet team by an amazing score of 36-96. First Capitol holds a bit of tradition for the Jr. Bills: this marked the fourth win in four appearances in the meet for the Harrierbills.

It was a day that will be inscribed in the history books for a long time. The

Soccer tops Gibault, Jeff City, Vianney

Tim Malecek
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High soccer team went into Friday night looking for a win against the east side Gibault squad. The Jr. Bills entered hostile territory as the opposing team’s mascot wooed the crowd with chants of “We are rednecks” and “We grow corn.”

Midfield play dominated the first twenty minutes, until junior Billy Ferris stuffed in a rebound off senior Connor Finnegan’s original shot.

The Jr. Bills had another opportunity when a beautiful pass by Brian Odem off the back of his foot led to a shot off the post by Zach Weiss. The half ended with the Jr. Bills up 1-0.

The Jr. Bills came out of halftime with a renewed intensity. Senior Tim Weir fired a shot from outside the box, scoring with less than a minute gone. The Jr. Bills then began accumulating yellow cards. Head coach Charlie Martel said, “It got a little too physical—some youthful exuberance.” The Bills had multiple scoring opportunities but couldn’t finish, until Weiss finally scored on a cross from Billy Ferris with ten minutes left in the game. Finnegan scored the clincher with under two minutes to play.

varsity team of seniors Charlie Samson, Joe Carlson, juniors Ben Murphy-Baum, Danny Meier, and newcomers Matt Dirnbeck, Drew Kaiser, and John Kelly was definitely ready to come out of the blocks swinging, but no one expected the race to be as amazing as it was for the varsity team.

Even with summer training background, captain Joe Carlson thought “that no one really knew what to expect, but the good performances just happened.”

The plan was simple: cover the lead positions in miles one and two, and then, in mile three, finish fast.

If there ever was a picturesque race, this was it. Murphy-Baum and Samson covered the lead pack early in the race and finished strong: Murphy-Baum at 16:43 for 3rd place overall and Samson at 17:17

for 7th place overall. Carlson bore down on the field in the second and third miles with a spectacular finish at 17:08 for 6th place, right in front of Samson.

However, the varsity rookies had the big story of this remarkable day. Although in his first varsity race, junior Drew Kaiser ran like a veteran with a 17:27, capturing 9th place. Senior Matt Dirnbeck, who is known as the eternal smiler on the team, came home kicking with a 17:31.

Said Dirnbeck, “The race was sweet! It made me low on glucose but high on life!”

Senior John Kelly rounded out the group of newbies with an equally impressive 17:39, earning a 13th place medal. Kelly said, “It was definitely a rush,” adding, “Varsity races get out so fast.”

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Waking up early from their Friday match, the Slidetacklebills hopped on the bus for the haul to Jefferson City to play the Jeff City Jays. The Jr. Bills put many shots on goal but couldn’t put one in the net, until junior Tom Irvin finally scored 23 minutes in after the goalie attempted to kick away a long ball that Irvin neatly intercepted and buried in the empty goal.

The strict ref continually upset SLUH’s fast play. He yellow carded Ferris, making it the fourth yellow card in two games for the team. The half ended with excitement as sophomore Matt Leinauer scored off a huge Irvin throw-in.

The second half continued with numerous SLUH scoring opportunities. Weir scored his second goal of the year off a direct kick from the top of the box which sailed over the wall and into the top corner of the goal. The defense shut down any Jeff City comebacks, allowing just 4 shots as senior Wyatt Woods clinched his second shutout of the year.

Coming off their two weekend victories, the Jr. Bills hoped to be 4-0 after Vianney going into Thursday’s match against CBC. The Championsleaguebills dominated the game and possession during the first minutes, but could not seem to find a goal. Meanwhile, with 19:18 left in

the first half, a great ball led to a breakaway and goal by the Vianney forward after it deflected off goalie Joe Guntli’s foot.

SLUH quickly retaliated. Ferris struck four minutes later after chasing down a long ball and beating the goalkeeper to tie the score. The half ended 1-1.

The FreddyAdubills came out ready to play once again and generally dominating the game, aside from a few Vianney long balls. With 20 minutes left in the game, Finnegan’s shot ricocheted off the side post and sailed across the goal line before being cleared by the defender. Vianney launched a counter-attack, but Ferris stifled the Griffin hopes with his third game-winning goal.

Said Ferris, “We’ve really come together. The team is playing very well.”

As expected, the defense has been great, allowing only eight shots through four games. Brent Zang and Tom Meier have stopped any potential threats.

“I’m proud of all my guys. They practice hard and make us a better team,” said Martel.

The Jr. Bills face the DeSmet Spartans Saturday to finish up the CBC tourney. The game is at 5:00 at CBC.

Check the *Nightbeat* (page 6) for results of last night’s game vs. CBC.

Footbills jump to No. 4 after win

Bryan Glaenzer
Reporter

In a 20-17 come-from-behind victory against Parkway South last Thursday night, the Jr. Bills showed the type of play they would exhibit this year. This win was meaningful not only because it was the season-opener, but also because it was against the previously sixth-ranked and highly-touted Patriots. The win moved the Jr. Bills up in the *Post-Dispatch* rankings from eighth to fourth.

The Jr. Bills scored first on a 76-yard sprint by junior running back Stephen Simmons, but missed the extra point.

Later, junior free safety Eric Hunt made SLUH's first interception of the year. The celebration was short-lived, however, as quarterback Matt Behr was sacked from behind and fumbled on the second play after receiving the ball. Parkway South capitalized on the turnover with a field goal on the ensuing possession.

In the second quarter, Behr threw a clutch third down pass to wide receiver Curtis Hoette, but, with only seven seconds left in the half, Parkway South snuck a touchdown in, cutting SLUH's lead to 13-10.

Working on momentum generated

by their just-before-the-buzzer touchdown, the Patriots scored another touchdown, giving them the lead. But while Parkway South celebrated, SLUH worked on refusing to give up. After only three minutes had passed in the fourth quarter, Simmons struck again. With the help of blocking tight end Matt "The Pancaker" Herzberg, Simmons streaked 47 yards for what would be the game-winning touchdown. The defense held against the Parkway South offense, and then the SLUH offense burned off the rest of the time.

Simmons had an impressive game, rushing for 245 yards total. John Warner also showed that he was a force to be reckoned with, averaging 17 yards per reception.

The Gladiatorbills' new offensive line did a "fine job" and "showed a lot of promise," according to offensive line coach Mark Tychonievich.

Tonight's game looks to be a challenge for the Turfbills as they are going up against an Althoff team which has not lost in 28 consecutive conference games. The Footbills are ready, as they have made some adjustments in their defense to account for two of Althoff's starting linemen who weigh in at 260 lbs. a slab. The Warriorbills' readiness, combined with a lack of senior experience on Althoff's part, makes for what should be a clash of Titans.

X-CALIBUR

(from 4)

Captain Danny Meier rounded out the varsity team with a 16th place finish in 17:46.

After seeing all the varsity members finish in the top 16, Linhares said, "This (team) had as much depth in the top seven as we have had in the history of the program."

"This race answered all of our team's pre-season race questions," remarked Samson.

Destiny did not favor the varsity alone, however. The annual powerhouse JV team opened up its season last Friday with a decisive win over DeSmet and an extremely low score of 25 points. Mike Jonagan was the highlight of the group, finishing ahead of two varsity runners in 17:36. "It was kind of creepy being all alone. I mean, I wanted to look over my shoulder, but you're not supposed to," said Jonagan.

Even so, sophomores Pete Heagney and Nate Banet, junior Shane Mulligan, and senior Pat Mannhard rounded out the scoring component of the JV unit in 4th, 6th, 7th, and 8th places respectively. If the results from last Saturday foreshadow the future, expect to see blue and white leading the pack often.

For all the success of the varsity team, one figure still remains shadowed in mystery. The McCluer North Invitational will mark the return of Alex Muntges, who will rejoin the varsity team on the line in hopes of winning the race. If you want to get the feel of a fun cross country race, McCluer North is your best chance. The varsity kicks off the day at 9 a.m. sharp, with JV following at 10. The freshmen also will be formally initiated into the cross country world as they open their season tomorrow. Support is greatly appreciated, but if you can't come, feel free to drop by the team's website at www.sluh.org/xc/xc.htm.

The water polo team (1-0) did not play a game this past week. Check next week's *Prep News* for results from their games in the upcoming week.

Soccerbills lose tough game to CBC, 3-0

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Junior midfielder Zach Weiss (22) handles the ball during a physical game last night against CBC. The Statechambills (4-1-0) lost their first game of the season to the Cadets, 3-0. Even play marked the first half, until CBC capitalized on a breakaway with 8:18 left. Inspired by their first goal, the Cadets came out fast and strong in the second half, scoring their second goal only 1:42 into the half. A third CBC goal came with 20 minutes left. SLUH pressured CBC in the last five minutes, as the ball trickled near the goal line multiple times. But in the end, SLUH couldn't make it by the keeper, and lost 3-0.

—Compiled by Tim Malachuk