

H2O polobills finish 3rd in State

Team follows up semifinal loss with commanding victory

Greg Mantych
Reporter

This past weekend, the St. Louis U. High water polo team finished 3rd in the Missouri District Tournament after losing to Chaminade 6-5 in the semifinals and rebounding with an 8-4 win against John Burroughs in the consolation game.

The loss to Chaminade was disappointing to all, including the many fans present, as everyone hoped to compete in the finals. Matched up against the Red Devils, SLUH knew that the game would be close and the loss was by no means an upset. Chaminade had a better record against SLUH, but every player knew that they were fully capable of dominating the Red Devils.

As expected, the beginning of the game started off with the Polobills and Chaminade playing evenly.

Senior Kevin O'Neill tapped in a missed shot by junior Mark Abram to start SLUH off to an early lead. However, two consecutive Chaminade goals kept the

Speedobills on their toes. Nevertheless, senior Tim Heafner kept up, tying the game, 2-2.

Unfortunately, Chaminade would sneak in the final goal of the period to finish off the first quarter ahead, 3-2.

Red Devils squeezed in a quick goal with less than one second remaining in the second quarter to end the first half up 4-2.

SLUH, refusing to go gently into that good night, kicked back at the start of the second half as Heafner powered in a goal with a defender trailing on his legs. Adding to the comeback, Heafner scored yet again during a 4-meter penalty shot to tie the game once more.

However, as they always seem to do, Chaminade scored again before the end of the period to keep a one-point lead over SLUH, 5-4.

But Chaminade began to tire as the game went on, giving SLUH a chance to take advantage of the team's weakness.

"We began to outplay them," commented head coach Paul Baudendistel, "and our depth really showed that they were the more tired team."

At the start of the final period, senior Tim Szewczyk kept the Jr. Bills going with a goal that tied the game for the third time that night.

Much to the dismay of the SLUH
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Staminabills take disappointing 8th in State

Henry Samson
Reporter

Poised to cap off a heroic season with a high state finish, and favored to place second as a team on Saturday, the St. Louis U. High Harriers had high hopes for glory and victory. But unfortunately, the bitter kiss of reality pressed up against the Jr. Billikens, as they fell to a very disappointing eighth-place team finish behind a flurry of out-of-town teams, Parkway South, and Fort Zumwalt South.

"Nine out of ten times we'd run better than that," said head coach Jim Linhares, "We just did not perform or get any luck."

The feeling among the coaches and runners to this day is still one of shock. "It's almost like it never even happened," said senior captain Charlie Samson.

The second quarter contained many opportunities for the Jr. Bills, but with missed shots, they had to rely on their defense to contain Chaminade.

Amidst tight defensive efforts, the

Though no one ever wants a season to end in this way, it did. On the records, SLUH finished eighth place with 192 points, behind two St. Louis schools and 112 points behind team champion Liberty.

But the day was not a total black hole for the Billikens. Junior juggernaut Ben Murphy-Baum, who has been SLUH's front-runner all year, fought through the hills and crowds to emerge with a tenth-place all-state finish. This is the highest all-state finish since 1994, when former coach Pat Hamel placed 14th. Murphy-Baum covered the difficult course in 16:52, a testimony to the degree of difficulty of the day.

"It was really cool to be able to stand on the all-state podium," said Murphy-Baum, who added, "It was also an honor

PHOTO BY GREG FOX



A SLUH water polo player (white cap) fights for the ball during last Saturday's third place game.

to be with the 24 other best runners in the state."

Murphy-Baum, along with senior captain Alex Muntges, ran with the leaders through the first mile and were in excellent position. But tragedy struck Muntges in the middle mile on the "Bunny Ears" stretch of the course. The hip and leg problems Muntges had been dealing with all year long flared up again and forced him to slow his pace down considerably to a jog and then to a walk tempo.

Consequently, he fell back to where he eventually finished, in 157th place with a time 11 minutes higher than normal. But in a testimony to his dedication and a true show of class, he struggled up the last hill with the 50 members of the Blue Crew cheering for him every step of
see SIZZLER, 10

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fans, however, Chaminade answered with a goal to keep their crucial lead.

As the end of the fourth quarter approached, SLUH had several chances to tie the game or possibly take the lead, including Chaminade kick-outs and open players in the final seconds of the game. Nevertheless, Chaminade held on for the 6-5 win.

"We played solidly defensively," remarked junior Mark Abram, "and that was a very winnable game, but we should've capitalized on more opportunities."

With their chances of a game in the finals gone, SLUH played John Burroughs, a team which took MICDS, the state champions, into quadruple overtime. Although a win did not come easily, SLUH defeated John Burroughs, 8-4.

The first quarter gave SLUH nothing but optimism as they scored five unanswered goals, including three from Heafner.

Although John Burroughs answered back with a goal, Heafner retaliated by scoring again to give the Torpedobills a five-point lead.

Once again, as John Burroughs scored with a bit more than a minute left, SLUH was reluctant to relinquish their lead as Abram juked out his opponent to fire in a shot with the half winding to a close.

With a scoreless third period, the defenses battled continuously as John Burroughs tried desperately to come back.

Regardless, their aspirations would only drown: though they managed two goals in the final quarter, a shot from senior Tim Lonergan secured both

SLUH's lead and a third place title as they took the game, 8-4.

Despite John Burroughs' intense game against MICDS, the Jr. Bills had the aquatic ability to beat them handily.

"Our win against a solid team like John Burroughs," commented Baudendistel, "shows that at our very best, we can dominate any team in the league."

The fact that SLUH finished third in state speaks volumes for the progression of water polo in Missouri, as teams are continuing to add to the intensity and challenge, and the sport is still growing.

"Nobody should be ashamed by the season," remarked Baudendistel, "because we conditioned as hard as we could and played as hard as we could and we didn't give anything away."

SIZZLER

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the way.

Junior Mike Jonagan, who was set back midway through the season with a muscle strain, ran to the best of his ability, finishing in 60th place, with a time of 17:47. He will be returning as SLUH's second highest varsity finisher next year.

Senior captain Dan Meier also faltered on the hills of Oak Hills Golf Course. About his race he said, "I just physically didn't have it. I got out in good position where I could make a move for all-state, but I couldn't make the move." Meier finished his XC career with a 17:51 for 66th place.

Senior captain Joe Carlson fell back in the second mile of the race, recovered a bit in the last mile, but had fallen too far back to make a significant charge. He came home hardest of any of the SLUH

runners, passing over 15 people in the last mile to earn a 63rd place finish in 17:49.

Senior Matt Dirnbeck was "happy that he could run in the race, but disappointed that the team's goals weren't hit." He raced with heart but traversed the course in 18:05, a good deal slower than normal, and finished in 85th place.

Junior Drew Kaiser rounded out the bunch. He finished as the third highest SLUH non-senior in 18:12, good enough for 96th place. He will return to the team next year as a tested varsity athlete.

No one likes to see a dream fizzle any day, but sometimes one has to deal with the luck of the game. In closing, Linhares said, "I don't want state to diminish what the team accomplished this whole season from top to bottom. Not only were they fine racers, but this group was unmatched in spirit and family by any group I've ever seen."

 **π^2 bills to begin
s e a s o n****Brian Hubbard
Reporter**

The Ultimate Frisbee team kicks off the year with its first game this Saturday at CBC at 2:00 p.m.

Despite losing last year's captains Kevin McCarthy and John Weaver to graduation, the team is still expected to be very strong. It is led by many players who helped bring home second place in the state championship tournament in Kansas City.

Although spring is frisbee's main season, the team is looking to play a few games against area teams in preparation for spring tournaments and the state championship near the end of the school year.

This year's team is led by seniors Will Ernst and Brian Hubbard.

Junior Tim Huether is optimistic about the season, saying, "With all the guys returning from last year's second place team and a lot of guys having played in Tower Grove Park's summer league, our team should hopefully challenge for the state title this year."

PN Racquetball Nightbeat

The Racquetball team defeated rival DeSmet 6-1 in their first match last night. Though No. 1 seed Ryan Franklin lost, the other six varsity teammates picked up the slack. No. 2 seed Pat Corcoran won his match 15-12, 15-0, shutting out his opponent in the second game. In the doubles category, Pat Sheehan and Jason Rush won their first match together.