

XC places 2nd in Rim Rock Classic

Henry Samson
Reporter

The Harriers called upon courage when competing at a big regional meet at Rim Rock Farms last weekend in Kansas.

"The place was like a running Mecca," stated head coach Jim Linhares, who was happy with the team's performance. "It was a legendary course that was specifically made for, and exclusively used for, cross country meets. It even had statues of famous runners!"

Unfortunately, the Jr. Bills placed second in the highly-competitive gold division, behind a fully-loaded Liberty team. The second place finish wasn't a complete wash for the Jr. Billikens, however, as they beat out four other regionally-ranked teams.

Nike is sponsoring a team nationals cross country event in early December, so

throughout the year, different schools from each of the eight regions in the country are ranked according to their accomplishments and potential.

Included in the Heartland region, St. Louis U. High finished in front of the Heartland region's preseason No. 7, No. 9, and No. 1 teams. They also defeated the South region's No. 7. Results pending, a race like this could be the springboard for the SLUH cross country team to get on the map nationally.

Starting things off on the wrong foot, "The weather was tortuous" said senior Charlie Samson. "The heat and humidity zapped energy from us after the freak thunderstorm made the races an hour and a half late and the course mucky, especially on the steep uphill. It was awful."

"To me the race was weird," said coach Tim Chik. "At first, the team huddled after the race in disappointment because

we didn't feel we ran very well, but when I saw the results and our team in second, I was elated." SLUH finished second behind Liberty by almost 100 points, 60-156.

Although there was a gap in the scoring, SLUH placed two runners in the top 15 in the race. Junior Ben Murphy-Baum responded brilliantly to the terrible conditions, which slowed the times down by at least 30 seconds. Murphy-Baum provided the number one spot for the Jr. Billikens at 16:49.9 for 10th place overall in the race.

Said Murphy-Baum, "The competition was really good and a lot more fun because we knew we were running with some of the best."

Alex Muntges, who struggled with some leg problems during the race, finished in 14th place overall in 16:55. It became evident that something was wrong

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Primetimebills shut out Chaminade, 12-0

Greg Fox
Editor in Chief

In the third week of the 2002 football season, St. Louis U. High was beating MCC rival Chaminade 3-0 with less than five seconds left on the clock when Chaminade punched in a touchdown from one yard out to break the Jr. Bills' hearts on a disputed play.

Fast forward to last Friday, a crisp September night at Chaminade. It had been two years since the Jr. Bills lost 6-3 to Chaminade and two years since Chaminade had last scored against SLUH, and the streak continued as the Brickwallbills posted their second straight shutout against the 2-1 Flyers, winning 12-0 and improving their record to 2-1 and their *Post-Dispatch* ranking to #6.

Head coach Gary Kornfeld said of the Jr. Bills' preparation, "We felt pretty good about our game plan going in and what they were looking to do."

No matter how well they prepared, though, the players still had to back up their preparation with performance.

"Our kids rose up, and I was very,

very happy (with how we played) defensively," Kornfeld said.

The StonewallJacksonbills began the scoring early, taking advantage of a Chaminade turnover early in the first quarter. SLUH began their scoring drive from deep inside Chaminade territory before



Senior receiver John Warner catches a pass during SLUH's 12-0 victory against Chaminade. Warner ended the game with two receptions for 22 yards.

taking it down to the 1-yard line. After a Chaminade goal-line stand and SLUH-

recovered fumble, quarterback Matt Behr ran the ball in from the 1-yard line. SLUH kicker Andrew Guenther missed the extra point attempt, leaving the score at 6-0.

"Any time you miss extra points, (you're concerned)," Kornfeld said. Though this is not the first extra point the Jr. Bills have missed this year, Kornfeld does not see the issue as simply as many others may: "When you go to kick an extra point or a field goal, there are four things going on: the snap, the hold, the blocking, and the kick. It's not the kick that we're worried about."

On Chaminade's ensuing drive, linebacker Bob Schuster jumped a Chaminade pass route and intercepted the ball in full stride. Schuster sprinted 46 yards en route to the touchdown. Behr then hooked up with fullback Chris Hoffman for a two-point conversion, but the play was called back on a flag. SLUH was unable to convert on their second shot at two points.

Schuster's return gave the Buccaneerbills an extra cushion. "Anytime you go up by two scores, you feel good," explained Kornfeld. "You feel

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X-COUNTIES

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when Muntges dropped from fifth place in the race to 11th and eventually 14th.

Junior Drew Kaiser stepped up to finish third for the Harriers, running a courageous 17:35 for 40th place. "After seeing Liberty's pack move ahead of me, I realized that if we want to win next week, we're going to have to run more of a pack strategy," stated a hopeful Kaiser.

Senior Joe Carlson and junior Mike Jonagan kicked it home as SLUH's fourth and fifth scoring members, in 45th and 47th place, respectively.

While reminiscing about the day, Carlson said "It was the toughest course I had ever run on. That was the worst I've ever felt after a race, almost like I was going to pass out."

Samson and senior Dan Meier, both of whom struggled, rounded out the varsity team's day in 86th and 94th place but are hopeful for the upcoming Hancock Invitational.

Before varsity toed the line, the second seven tested their unbeaten strength against the region's toughest. The JV team, behind first place finisher Matt Dirnbeck, was handed its first loss of the season by Liberty. SLUH's team lost, 33-39, in a very tough race.

"This race definitely shows our depth," said junior Shane Mulligan, a member of the JV squad. "Even though we lost, the experience has given us incentive to run even faster and better as a team next week at Hancock."

"As I look back on the day," Linhares said "there were really a lot of unnecessary negatives that the team outlasted. And I feel awfully good about that."

Now, all eyes are focused on winning the Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks tomorrow. SLUH has never won the meet but is poised to make a good run at it this year.

Always a momentous sight, the Hancock Invitational will feature thousands of runners tomorrow morning. Also, SLUH will be fielding more than seventy runners in the JV race. If that doesn't get your heart pumping for a cardio-crazy morning, maybe the fact that festivities start late for the Bills and a little sleeping

SPLIT

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Matt Wilson chipped a ball over the defense and buried it top net. With six minutes left, Leinauer completed his first-half hat trick with his fifth goal of the year.

Leinauer said, "We were struggling up top, but we worked hard and the goals are coming."

The Jr. Bills went into half time leading comfortably 4-1.

SLUH continued the goals with Wilson's second of the year after a defensive misplay on a cross led to an easy shot.

Martel commented, "He scored a lot on JV, so we figured we'd give him a chance, and he's been playing really well the last two games."

The scoring died down, and the rest of the half was mainly a midfield battle. Although the Jr. Bills had numerous scoring opportunities, the game ended 5-1.

Near the end of the game, Tim Weir picked up a yellow card, his fourth and SLUH's 10th for the year. By new MSHSAA rules, Weir as well as Martel were forced to sit out the next game against O'Fallon for the team's yellow cards.

The SLUH Jr. Bills entered the "Panther Lair" on Wednesday night taunted by an imitation Blue Crew. The game started off well as a chip by Brown over the defense was nearly finished by Wilson.

PO-PO

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by scoring an early goal, SLUH quickly reminded the opposing team that they were not to be underestimated, as O'Neill and junior Ben Favier pounded shots into the back of the Oakville goal to put the Jr. Bills up 2-1.

As the second quarter unraveled, the slaughter continued, as the Jr. Bills outscored Oakville 5-1 to take a 7-2 lead.

Yet Oakville was not without its strengths, as it gave SLUH some resistance defensively.

"They were faster than me for sure," stated junior Mark Abram on the speed of the opposing players. "They always beat me down the pool."

Their speed wasn't enough, though, as SLUH added 5 more goals in the sec-

The Jr. Bills kept up the intensity and had numerous scoring opportunities, but the O'Fallon Township High School (OTHS) scored with 9:50 left in the half when a shot from the top corner of the box found its way to the far post. The Jr. Bills found themselves down for the fourth game in a row.

The Bills came back with under 2:00 left, when a cross from Leinauer sailed to Chris Schrank at the back post who put it in.

The second half continued with multiple SLUH scoring chances. Around 28:30, the ball was loose in the 6-foot box, but all SLUH's shots were blocked and eventually the ball was cleared.

O'Fallon then scored again on a quick counterattack following a SLUH free kick. The O'Fallon forward made his way to the corner until he crossed and found a streaking OTHS player, who beat Woods.

The Jr. Bills continued to keep up the pressure but couldn't score. With under two minutes left, the Bills mounted a desperate attempt but could not even the score. The Bills fell, going 1-1 on the week.

The Jr. Bills play again today at 4 p.m. against Parkway South in the stadium before the football game at. Admission is free, and people who attend the soccer game can stay for the football game afterwards as well.

ond half, including two by junior Matt Ampleman and one by senior Adam Trafton, to take the game, 12-4.

"Even without two of our key players," recollected junior Jon Dombek, "we came together to get the job done."

For further examples of the water polo team's tenacity, come see them face off against Kirkwood this Friday at 5:00 p.m. at Meramec Community College.

PREP NEWS NIGHTBEATS

B-team football (2-2) lost last night in the stadium to Beaumont, 14-8.

D-team football won in their only game of the year last night, beating DuBourg 17-14 at DuBourg.