

Harrierbills win 10th MCC in 13 years

Henry Samson
Reporter

Nearly two weeks ago, the St. Louis U. High cross country team set foot on the Chaminade campus on a chilly Saturday morning with the one desire of sweeping the races at the MCC Championships. They not only won on all three levels, but won with "authority," according to assistant coach Tim Chik.

A dominant day it was indeed for the varsity harriers. For the first time in SLUH history, five runners dipped below the elusive 17-minute mark. Not only did five runners go sub-17, but four finished with first team all-MCC honors.

"It was one of the greatest team performances ever," remarked an excited head coach Jim Linhares.

Outscoring DeSmet 26-47, a noticeable gap in a conference race consisting of five teams, the Jr. Bills captured their 10th MCC crown in the last 13 years.

Once again, junior Ben Murphy-Baum, who has shown his toughness week after week, finished first for the Billikens in 16:22, narrowly missing first place by four seconds.

Senior Alex Muntges got the monkey off his back by running a 16:42, finishing in third place overall and showing that he is finally back on track for the post season. Close on Muntges' heels was senior Dan

Meier, whose 16:48 earned him fourth place overall and first team MCC honors. Joe Carlson ran a gutsy race, qualifying last among the first team all-MCC men in 7th place with a 16:57. Close on his shoulders was senior Matt Dirnbeck, who, although finishing just two seconds behind Carlson at 16:59, took 11th place overall, rounding out a fast scoring five. Junior Drew Kaiser and Senior Pete Heagney both struggled, but finished well at 17:24 and 17:54, respectively.

"Our guys are now focused on staying healthy, and preparing for the big race. Every workout now counts even more. Our guys can win, it's just that they're gonna have to knock a Titan (Liberty) out of the way first," stated Linhares. (Author's note: but as any classics scholar could tell you, the Titans were defeated by the Olympians. And when they fall, they fall hard.)

After a magnanimous varsity race, the JV Runnerbills set out against a determined DeSmet squad, and, under the leadership of senior Charlie Samson, edged out DeSmet 27-35.

Samson, the individual champion of the race, "enjoyed setting the pace, and was relieved to see no one in front of (me) walking through the chute. It was almost relaxing." Although DeSmet placed three runners right after Samson, striking some fear in the hearts of fans, the JV team stormed back at the end by nabbing posi-

tions five through 11 en route to a brilliant team win in which SLUH brought home 15 out of the possible 30 medals.

Not to be outdone, the freshman team once again tested its unbeaten might against a CBC team that was looking to win. Chris Murphy, Steven Schumacher, and Dan Warner placed 1-2-3 in an amazing performance that vaulted the freshmen to a conference championship. The frosh also controlled the hardware by grabbing 11 out of a possible 25 medals in the race.

In the resounding words of Gandalf in *Return of the King*, "The board is set. The pieces are moving," the postseason is in full swing. It is do or die time for cross country runners across the state as the hunt for an elusive all-state medal or team trophy becomes even more fierce.

According to Chik, "The message we want to get across to St. Louis and the state is that we're ready, we're focused, we're loaded, and we're coming for a trophy."

Varsity racers start at 9:45 a.m. at Parkway Central Saturday. Later in the day at 10:45 a.m., the JV open race will be run. Any competitor is welcome. Come and test your skills against a classmate on what should be the beginning of a momentous end for SLUH cross country. Directions are on the XC website.

Weeks in review: Underclassman Sports Wrap

JV Soccer

Season: 8-7-2

Last week: 2-1

Lost to St. Mary's 1-0 on Oct. 6

*Defeated Parkway W. 1-0 last Monday

*Defeated Lindbergh 2-1 last Wednesday

Next Game: vs. Chaminade today*

* Denotes CYC JV Tournament game

B-Soccer

Season: 14-0-1

Last week: 3-0

Defeated DeSmet 3-0 last Saturday

Defeated CBC 2-1 last Wednesday

Defeated Whitfield 4-0 yesterday

Next Game: vs. Lindbergh next Tuesday @ 4 p.m.

Note: For other JV XC results, check the XC article in this issue of the *Prep News*.

C-team Soccer

Season: 12-3-1

Last week: 2-2-1

Defeated Vianney on Oct. 8, 2-0*

Lost to CBC in penalty kicks on Oct. 9*

Tied DeSmet last Saturday, 0-0

Lost to CBC last Wednesday, 3-1

Defeated Vianney 1-0 yesterday

Next game: vs. Vianney today

* Denotes CBC Tournament game

B-Football

Season: 4-4

Last week: 1-1

Defeated CBC 14-7 on Oct. 14th

Lost to Lindbergh 34-14 yesterday

Next game: Thursday at Kirkwood @ 4:30 p.m.

JV Water Polo

Season: 16-0

Last week: 5-0

Defeated Burroughs 11-3 on Oct. 12

Defeated DeSmet 8-5 on Oct. 14

Defeated MICDS 4-3 last Saturday

Defeated Marquette 8-1 last Tuesday

*Defeated Prkwy S. 17-3 last Wednesday

*Denotes last regular season game

C-team Football

Season: 3-4

Last week: 0-1

Lost to Vianney, 28-8 on Friday

Next game: Thursday vs. Parkway Central

—compiled by Scott Mueller, Tim Huether, and Kyle Kloster