

Baumbills take second at Hancock Invitational

Mike Jonagan
Reporter

In cloying heat that brought to mind certain French penal colonies off the coast of South America, the SLUH varsity team stepped to the front at the venerable Hancock Invitational on Saturday and ran to a second-place finish.

Whatever the team scores turned out to be when the tallies had been counted, SLUH can boast the individual champion of the contest, Ben Murphy-Baum. After a short-lived duel with formidable opponent Nathan Young of Fort Zumwalt South, Murphy-Baum broke the race wide open, winning on a slow day with a commanding 16:27.

Next for SLUH was a runner who has been tortured by the 17-minute barrier for three years, and who, if not for the tropical heat, would have easily broken right through it, finishing instead at 17:15. Known for his

distinctive voice and myrmidon-like determination, this runner, Drew Kaiser, tied down a solid 10th place finish for SLUH and will be expected to lead the team at this Saturday's Midwest Jesuit Invitational.



PHOTO BY JOHN MARINCEL

Varsity XC members roll out last Saturday at the Hancock Invitational. Winner Ben Murphy-Baum is front center.

Traditionally the mediator between Murphy-Baum and the pack, Kaiser said of his 5:09 first mile at Saturday's race, "I looked

back to see if the pack was on my (posterior) and realized they were all in front of me".

The next two SLUH finishers, Mike Jonagan and junior Matt Lawder, came in at 17:40 and 17:41 and in 18th and 19th place, respectively.

The spirited Shane Lawless finished in 23rd place with a 17:48 and pushed both Jonagan and Lawder throughout the race. Completing the varsity seven were Andy Bonner and junior Nathan Banet, who both struggled through heat and fatigue.

Despite heroic efforts from all involved, the SLUH team lost to Zumwalt South by the narrow margin of 71-60. Heart-breaking as this loss was, it taught the varsity a valuable lesson about finishing the race.

"They ran from the gun ... they showed spirit and ambition, but the third mile showed us that we still have work to do," said head coach Jim Linhares.

Though he is going to be pressing the varsity harder than ever in this segment of the season, it may be difficult for Linhares to find any task that his JV team can not accomplish. The second seven *swept* (yes, swept) the Hancock Invitational, winning with a perfect 15 points, miles away from the nearest competitor, with 49. Nine of the top ten runners wore the blue and white, and seven of them have earned themselves a varsity race at the Ladue Invitational tonight.

Said Linhares of the weekly osmosis between the varsity and JV teams, "We want to see clearly by Conference who we're taking to State." Tough decisions will have to be made.

In the meantime, come enjoy the races this weekend: 4:00 p.m. at Ladue Middle School tonight and 2:30 p.m. at DeSmet tomorrow. A hearty welcome to our guests from Regis as well.

Simmons leads undefeated Gridbills over Beaumont, 27-6

Tim Glaser
Reporter

The Footbills coasted to a 27-6 victory over Beaumont last Friday on the shoulders of running back Stephen Simmons, who racked up 250 yards on 40 carries and scored all four U. High touchdowns.

In the first quarter, the offense struggled with two turnovers and failed to get a first down until the last minute of the first quarter.

"We went into that turnover phase again. ... We had a hard time getting things going," head coach Gary Kornfeld said.

Simmons scored his first touchdown of the night on a 22-yard run with 9:32 left to play in the second quarter. Junior kicker Max Wheeler punched in the extra point, and SLUH took the lead, 7-0.

The score remained until the third quarter, when Simmons dashed to the right side from eight yards out for the score. Wheeler's extra point made it 14-0.

Simmons' third touchdown came early in the fourth quarter from the 9-yard line behind a sensational lead block from junior

tackle Niko Mafuli. Mafuli lined up in the backfield and bulldozed a hole on the right side of the line for Simmons to tiptoe through for the score.

The offense set up the same play with 9:15 left to play for another Simmons touchdown from six yards out. Backup kicker Andrew Guenther booted in the point after and put the Simmonsbills up 27-0.

"We had all our troubles right out of the gate and then we got things rollin'," said Kornfeld. "I can't say enough for Stephen Simmons."

The defense also had an impressive showing, allowing only six points and collecting five sacks and three interceptions. Linebacker Isaiah Cole led the way with ten tackles, two assists, and a gravity-defying interception in the red zone late in the first half.

"I don't think [the defense] could've played any better," coach Kornfeld said of the defense. "Boy, they got us out of a lot of jams."

The Footbills will square off against Cape Central tonight for the fourth home game in a row at 7 p.m.

Alumnus Richard Carr, a recent evacuee from New Orleans, will be playing piano for a benefit concert at SLUH's Joe Schulte Theater on Saturday, Oct. 8. The cost will be a \$10 donation, to benefit Jesuit High New Orleans.