

Harriers take MCC conference at all levels

Mike Jonagan
Reporter

For many people, October means hollowed out gourds with mildly intimidating faces, candy that tastes like corn, and an annual encounter with an eccentric neighbor made easier by the custom of trick-or-treating. But for the St. Louis U. High cross country team, such frivolity is not an option, because October means the start of meets which will narrow the field for the State competition. The first of these was the Conference meet on Saturday at Chaminade, where all three divisions of the SLUH team bested the field.

On the varsity level, the team scored 37 points, narrowly besting DeSmet for the Conference title. Once again leading the charge was captain Ben Murphy-Baum, who barely lost the bout for individual champion to CBC's Dan Quigley, but in the process set the SLUH 5K record at the astounding time of 15:54.

Aquabills sink John Burroughs, 17-7

Greg Mantych
Reporter

As the season begins to wrap up and dreams of postseason glory begin to materialize, confidence is building in and out of the water for the St. Louis U. High water polo team. After their colossal victory last Thursday against Chaminade, the Jr. Bills have now moved into the front-running for the top seed in the area.

While the Polobills, with a 4-0 record in the Suburban Central League (13-1 overall), are placed at the head of their conference, Chaminade is clawing at their heels in second place. However, bets should not be placed yet. SLUH still plays four more conference games, and the records of the top teams are close enough that a win or loss can mean the difference between first and second place.

Regardless, the H2Obills continue to swim past the competition. Last Tuesday, the Jr. Bills defeated John Burroughs, 17-7.

Although Burroughs is behind in the standings, their games are characteristically high scoring, and many of their matches have ended with totals in the high teens. Peter Sauerhoff leads Burroughs with 88 goals.

"We knew he likes to shoot a lot,"

Showing every week that he is the kind of athlete who can run with the best in the state, junior Matt Lawder was second for SLUH and fourth overall with a 16:31.

Breaking his PR and a horizontal asymptote set at 17 minutes, Drew Kaiser cruised to a 16:44 and sixth overall.

Here it should be noted that were it not for tree stumps, the fourth team finisher would have been Shane Lawless. Lawless was running an extremely competitive race with Kaiser and Lawder before he tripped over a stump and injured his ankle. As it was, he pulled himself out of the race, and senior Mike Jonagan filled in as fourth finisher, running to tenth place overall at 17:11.

The fifth of the scoring five on the day was junior Dan Viox, who captured fifteenth place with a 17:27.

Also fighting through adversity in the race was Andy Bonner, who finished sixth on the team, after he lost his shoe late in the race and received a vicious spike wound.

commented Mark Abram, "so going into the game we figured that if we kept him from shooting, the rest would follow."

In the first period, goals from junior Jake Roeckle and Abram gave the Jr. Bills a three-goal advantage. However, Burroughs answered typically by managing to get three shots in to tie the game.

Consequently, the Speedobills turned their defense up a notch and from then on, silenced the opposing offense while continuing to score at will. SLUH scored seven goals in the second quarter while Burroughs could only muster one among numerous missed attempts.

Because of the extra defensive effort, many Burroughs possessions consisted of the goalie's handling the ball for lack of an open swimmer, and then a wasted shot on goal.

Going into the second half, SLUH kept up their momentum by scoring five more against two from the struggling John Burroughs.

Among the game's offensive leaders, Abram had five goals (he leads the team with 51 overall), and senior Ben Favier had three.

The progress of the fourth period was like that of the entire game. With SLUH

In the JV race, the SLUH juggernaut continued its inexorable advance, sweeping the race with 15 points and producing some outstanding individual performances. Coming from early season obscurity and notorious for his long black running socks was JV champion Chris Murphy, who ran an amazing sophomore time of 17:06 and led the race from the gun.

As one of many youngsters to disregard team hierarchy this season, Murphy still gave credit to his elders, saying that "(Junior) Nate Banet and (Senior) Dave Rhoads kept me on my toes."

Currently on the card for the state meet, Murphy said optimistically of the competition, "I don't want the team to think that Liberty or Zumwalt South are out of reach."

Managing to push himself while "keeping Chris on his toes" was Banet, second overall and on the team with a time of 17:16.

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adding even more to their total, Burroughs was almost completely shut down and the Jr. Bills captured another win, 17-7.

This weekend, the Hydrobills face old rivals MICDS as well as recurring threat Chaminade on Saturday at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, at MICDS. Although the season is almost over, games like these pack intensity into the final weeks of regular play. All supporters are encouraged to come.

NIGHT BEAT: WATER POLO

The Jr. Bills faced DeSmet in the water last night, crushing them, 20-5.

From the beginning of the first period, SLUH came out firing offensively and maintained their steady scoring throughout the entirety of the game. Overall, the Jr. Bills averaged five goals per quarter while Spartan shots were few and far between, leading to an unusually high-scoring game.

Ben Favier led the offense with five goals while Mark Abram followed with four overall. Favier also manned the goal in the fourth quarter while Tony Kruse notched a goal to add to SLUH's immense total.

FOOTBILLS

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Both teams relied on defense and special teams throughout the game. DeSmet scored first in the middle of the second quarter on a blocked punt that they recovered in the end zone. The first half ended with DeSmet ahead, 7-0.

But the Footbills came to play in the second half and scored in four plays. Beginning the drive on their own 29-yard line, quarterback Paul Chaney willed his team to DeSmet's 4-yard line with a 17-yard run, a 20-yard pass to Hunt, a 25-yard run, and finally an offside penalty on DeSmet. From there, running back Stephen Simmons powered his way up the middle and dove across the goal line for a touchdown. Guenther tied the game at seven after the extra point.

The defense continued to dominate DeSmet's offense, but DeSmet got lucky once again by blocking another punt and running it in for another touchdown with 2:02 left in the third quarter. SLUH West took the lead once again, 14-7, as the third quarter came to an end.

"We've got to go to work and fix our punt team," said Kornfeld. "We can't give them two scores on our punt team, and we went to work on that ... and changed a few things, and hopefully that will never occur again."

But the real SLUH battled back once again. Sansone intercepted a pass in the red zone to save another possible DeSmet scoring opportunity with 7:27 left in the game. About four minutes later, Chaney took the snap from center Andrew Miller and handed off to Simmons, who Simmons'd his way to the 1-yard line, a gain of 32. Chaney punched it in from there, and Guenther tied it at 14.

The Jr. Bills gained 337 yards of total offense while holding the Spartans to a meager 191. Simmons gained 107 yards on 23 carries while Chaney had 156 yards on 22 carries. With good pressure up field, the defense held DeSmet's high-powered offense to 12 of 37 passing for 164 yards. Defensive end Scott Rice had eight tackles and three sacks.

Announcement

This year's Grandparents Mass will be Sunday, Oct. 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the gym.

"(DeSmet quarterback Tommy) Corwin didn't get off very many good passes because the D-line was up in his face the entire game," said Leek.

The secondary, led by Sansone, who collected five tackles, one assist, one fumble recovery and one interception, also contributed by pounding the DeSmet receivers, something the players like to call "hammer-time."

"Big hits on the receivers helped out because then they were kind of afraid to catch the ball," commented Sansone.

SLUH also brought strong fan support with the help of SLUHMO, whose return brought some life back into the cheering section. Despite the cold weather, SLUH fans filled the stands and definitely got their money's worth.

Dan Finucane, a blue crew regular and STUCO pastoral rep who cheats at baseball, commented, "Yeah, I'm pretty sure I might have contracted some form of pneumonia, but that was probably the best game I have been to all year."

SLUH will play MCC rival CBC tonight at 7 p.m. in the SLUH stadium. Tickets on sale now!

ExcRUTIATING

(from 6)

Next in a long line of SLUH finishers was senior Dave Rhoads, running a PR of 17:20 to third place.

Wrapping up the top five in the race and scoring five on the team were sophomore Steve Schumacher and senior Tim Schmidt in fourth and fifth place with a 17:54 and an 18:04, respectively.

The freshman team, also achieving a sweep with 15 points, put forth several shining individual races. One woman was heard uttering in shock "Do they feed them something different at SLUH?" Ma'am, we feed them miles.

Cliff David and John Clohissy, battling to the last yard, ran 17:22 and 17:23 respectively; respectable times even in the context of the varsity race.

Although there will be no "playoff" (as I have been told they call it in other sports) competition this weekend, elements of the team will race in the Borgia Invitational at Big Driver Golf Center in Washington, Missouri on Saturday at 10 a.m. Everyone would love to see some SLUH fans cheering on our boys.

SLUH vs. CBC RIVALRY: BY THE NUMBERS

78 games in 80 years

52 SLUH wins

24 SLUH losses

2 ties

1208-795 Points for - Points against (Difference of 413 points)

32 games decided by 7 points or less

8 different venues: CBC, SLUH, Walsh Stadium, Oakland Stadium, Public Schools Stadium, Washington University's Francis Field, Busch Stadium (Last football game ever played at Busch Stadium), new CBC