

XCbills win Districts over DeSmet and CBC

Michael Jonagan
Reporter

As can be learned from everyone's favorite Nigerian author, Chinua Achebe, sometimes things fall apart. At first glance, that might appear to have been what was happening to the St. Louis U. High cross-country team at the Class 4A, District 3 race at Notre Dame High School on Saturday morning. Even with multiple runners suffering from various ailments and dropping back in the race, the team managed to piece things together for a convincing 39-52 win over second place DeSmet.

On a course with more jagged edges than a great white shark tooth, SLUH's formidable front runner Ben Murphy-Baum twisted and turned in a grounded version of a World War I dog-fight with CBC's Dan Quigley. Giving chase valiantly on a course far slower than anticipated, Murphy-Baum took second with a time of 16:21.

In what was perhaps the most outstanding individual performance of the day, junior Matt Lawder took third for SLUH, beating long time DeSmet rival Tom Albes to the tape and closing the gap on Murphy-Baum with a 16:44.

Next for SLUH, and maintaining his conference finish place as the field grew larger, senior Drew Kaiser finished in sixth place with a 17:16. Getting out in a slow first mile

but kicking home was senior Mike Jonagan for fourth on the team in 17:45. Sophomore Chris Murphy wrapped up the scoring five, running through a stomach malady to finish in sixteenth place with a 17:56. Senior and first year runner Shane Lawless, who has been a stalwart of the team this season, succumbed to race-crippling breathing troubles but finished and plans to race again this Saturday at sectionals.

The down time between districts and sectionals has not been quiet for cross-country runners or fans, as the JV and freshman squads rose for a last hurrah on Wednesday evening in Forest Park. Junior Andy Bonner and freshman David Kuciejczyk-Kernan won the JV and freshman races, respectively. Running a PR-shattering 16:49 and raising more

than a few eyebrows, Bonner showed strength from the gun, while his freshman counterpart Kujo continued the amazing first season that he and his classmates have had with a 17:14.

For those of you willing to brave the drive, the cold, and the profusion of ankle-busting walnuts, the sectional meet will be this Saturday at Sioux Passage Park at 9:45. Directions will be posted on the website. Get ready to cheer from what will inevitably be chapped lips.



Drew Kaiser, Dan Viox, and Shane Lawless defy human nature at cross country districts last Saturday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN MARINCEL

STAT O' THE WEEK
Senior speedster Ben Murphy-Baum, in the district cross country meet last Saturday, ran the 5K course in 16:21, the equivalent of 11.47 miles per hour.

Undefeated Garybills tackle CBC, Lindbergh

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The St. Louis U. High football team collected two victories in its last two games, conquering the CBC Cadets and flooring the Lindbergh Flyers on the shoulders of its stingy defense. The U. High defense allowed only 14 points and 363 yards of total offense in those two games.

The defense shut out the Cadets in the first half. The SLUH offense scored with 1:28 left on a beautiful 26-yard pass from quarterback Paul Chaney to all-purpose player Eric Hunt. Hunt, covered by two CBC defenders, dove to the left corner of the end zone to make the grab. After a missed PAT, SLUH entered the locker room on top, 6-0.

As always, the Jr. Bills put their first-half jitters behind them and dominated the second half. With 3:46 left in the third quarter, Chaney dropped back on one of his signature QB draw plays and dashed up the middle of the field, cutting and stiff-arming his way 27 yards to the end zone. After a failed two-point conversion, the third quarter ended with SLUH ahead 12-0.

The offense came out firing again in the fourth quarter. Running back Stephen Simmons busted a 32-yard run to the outside, breaking tackles along the way, and was brought down at the 8-yard line. After an illegal formation penalty on CBC and two more short runs by Simmons, Chaney pounded it in the end zone on a QB keeper; kicker Andrew Guenther put in the extra

point to put the Reallyfastbills up 19-0. Then the defense decided to put some points on the board. With 5:19 left to play, safety Jim Sansone snagged an interception at the 27-yard line and raced up the right sideline for a touchdown. After another Guenther PAT, the Footbills led 26-0. Head coach Gary Kornfeld commented, "(The interception) shored up the win for us. I think that was (Sansone's) first score ... in his three years, so we were pretty happy about that."

The U. High defense could taste a shut-out. But on the ensuing kickoff, the CBC kick returner busted through SLUH's kickoff team to the SLUH 27-yard line. On their first play, the Cadets passed their way to the 9-yard line,

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