

Harriers take 4th in State *Murphy-Baum places second*

Michael Jonagan
Reporter

There are few moments in the practice of an art when a plan is executed with such perfection that the barrier between art and artist is broken, and each becomes an extension of the other. For those lucky enough to witness it, one of those moments occurred on Saturday afternoon at the Oak Hills Country Club in Jefferson City.

The art was a five kilometer race, specifically the boys class 4 state race, and the artists were the seven men of SLUH's varsity cross-country team. Garnering for themselves a fourth place trophy (only the fifth trophy in SLUH cross country history) and the satisfaction of a beautiful effort to cap their season, these seven men, and especially the top four, will go down as one of SLUH's most capable teams.

Leaving school on Friday unannounced and unsung, the team previewed the course later that evening before retiring early in preparation for the next day's struggle.

Footbills fall to Vianney, 28-21

Tim Glaser
Reporter

“That was probably one of the finest Vianney ball clubs I've seen in my 27 years here (at SLUH),” head coach Gary Kornfeld said about the Golden Griffin team the Footbills played last Friday night at Vianney.

The two teams came in with identical 8-1 records, and both teams' losses came from Kirkwood. SLUH hadn't lost to Vianney in 18 seasons, and even though neither team could make the playoffs, the game decided the MCC champion. If nothing else, the teams were playing for pride.

Vianney struck first with 6:38 to play in the first quarter as they drove their way to

Coming into the meet, head coach Jim Linhares said, “I was as calm as I had ever been before the state meet. I knew we were squared away.” When a veteran coach like Linhares can say that his team is squared away in a competitive field of sixteen teams, it speaks greatly of the degree of confidence SLUH's team inspires. It was confidence that would be tested as the team stepped to the line on Saturday afternoon.

In what would be the last 5K race of their high school cross country careers, Ben Murphy-Baum, Drew Kaiser, and Mike Jonagan scouted their opponents in the coming challenge. There was the talent and teamwork of state frontrunners Fort Zumwalt South and Liberty to contend with. There were the often dangerous teams of Blue Springs and Parkway South to watch for, not to mention the local threat that DeSmet had posed with its steady advance through postseason competition.

There were challenges as well. As Murphy-Baum stepped to the line, he had

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the 15-yard line and threw it in from there.

The defense struggled early on against the strong Vianney passing game, but came alive at the end of the first quarter. Linebacker Isaiah Cole snagged his third interception of the year in SLUH territory to stop a second possible Vianney touchdown.

Following the interception, the Footbills pressed their way down the field to the 10-yard line to set up running back Stephen Simmons' first of three touchdowns on the night. He found a huge hole up the middle and exploded through to score and tie the

game at 7.

However, the Griffin passing game quickly carried their offense down the

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All-MCC Football

First team

Isaiah Cole LB
Chris Hoffman LB
Eric Hunt REC/DB
Niko Mafuli OT
Scott Rice DE
Jim Sansone DB
Mark Sharp DT
Stephen Simmons RB

Second Team

Paul Chaney QB
Ben Farley OG
Dan Reynolds OT

Honorable Mention

Anthony Alessi DB
Tyler Caldwell DE
David Eagleton LB
Cliff Leek DT
Andrew Miller C
Jeremy Roehr DT
Willie Shipp DB
Matt Starnes OG
Murphy Troy TE

All-Academic MCC

Brock Affholder K
Anthony Alessi DB
Stephen Azar TE
Alex Brescia REC
Tyler Caldwell DE
Isaiah Cole LB
David Eagleton LB
Ben Farley OG
Phil Fish Snapper
Andrew Guenther K
Chris Hoffman LB
Eric Hunt REC/DB
Peter Kidd DB
Cliff Leek DE
Niko Mafuli OT
Andrew Miller C
Dan Reynolds OT
Scott Rice DE
Jeremy Roehr DT
Jim Sansone DB
Conrad Sansone DB
Mark Sharp DB
Matt Starnes OG
Mark Thies DE
Murphy Troy TE
Max Wheeler K



Senior running back Stephen Simmons punches the ball an extra yard to score a touchdown and add to his record-breaking 4,007 career yards.

EXCELLENT

(from 5)

to worry about not only long time rival Ben Brammeier of Parkway South, but also his nemesis in area postseason races, CBC's Dan Quigley. Junior Matt Lawder was looking to beat DeSmet's Tom Albes. Kaiser had set his sights on a Top 25, All-State finish. Jonagan was looking to close the gap between the team's third and fourth runners. SLUH's fifth, sixth, and seventh runners were expected to compete for a strong fifth finish on the team. All held in their hearts their aspirations in the vacuum before the gun; it was only a question of who would attain them.

The answer, for starters, was Murphy-Baum. Running a first mile that put him in a comfortable position in the lead pack, Murphy-Baum was one of only two runners who covered Brammeier's move late in the race and had what Linhares described as "the strongest finish I had ever seen out of (Murphy-Baum)."

Gaining on Brammeier right to the line, Murphy-Baum narrowly finished in second place at the end of an outstanding career with a time which only a few elite runners can call consistent: 16:03.

Next was SLUH's second All-Stater of the day, Matt Lawder. Lawder, in his first state meet, ran steadily in the mid-20's until the last half mile in which he moved from 26th place to 17th place, where he finished with a 16:38.

Kaiser maintained close touch with Lawder as he had all season. Kaiser came painfully close to All-State at 26th place, but put forth an effort worthy of honor and then some with a 16:50.

Jonagan bridged the gap as he had hoped, running a personal record of 16:58 and finishing 33rd on the difficult course.

After a top four that handily beat Liberty's four there was a gap, however. Dan Viox attempted to fill it, running with Jonagan for two and a quarter miles, but suffered from extreme fatigue near the end of the race and dropped significantly.

Sophomore Chris Murphy, showing zeal and enthusiasm for his team throughout the season and postseason, also suffered physically in the race and dropped back.

In the end, it was freshman Cliff David who did his best to rectify the situation when he saw the plight of his teammates and did so

nobly in 116th place with a time of 18:11.

"Cliff [David] still came through when he could have gotten discouraged and bagged it in the last mile," said Linhares of the youngster's determined performance.

In the end, the team was proud of its performance and mounted the podium for fourth place with their heads held high, even though Jonagan absent-mindedly carried a bag of pretzels up for the picture.

Linhares, also proud of his boys, did not hesitate in praising his opponents, saying of the champions Zumwalt South, "We give them a lot of respect. ... They beat us through four."

For those of you who missed it, the state meet was a satisfying culmination to a wonderful season and a promising sign of what is to come next August when the crops are harvested, the barbecues are lit, and the real men begin to run once again.

OF BLUE

(from 6)

Helfrich.

The defense, consisting of Bosch, Beck, Alex Leubbert, Austin Fitzgerald, junior Drew Nawrocki, and freshman Connor Quinn, played solid the whole game. They prevented any Summit player from getting behind them with an open lane to the goal. Primo faced only 16 shots the whole game—all of which he stopped.

Come see your SLUH hockey team play against the Lindbergh Flyers on Friday at the Affton ice rink at 8:00 p.m. It should be a great game to watch; head coach Charlie Busenhart is calling it a "50-50 game."

Bebop!

Jerome Camal, jazz saxophonist and Wash. U. Ph.D. candidate in American Culture Studies, will discuss and demonstrate the transition from swing to bebop on Monday in the band room at Activity Period. All are welcome!

RACKET

(from 7)

Langan dropped the first game 15-9 and found himself down 12-5 in the second game. The CBC player began to tire, though, and Langan mounted an amazing comeback, winning the second game 15-13.

The match went to a tiebreaker; both players were exhausted but looked to give all they had to get to 11 points first. Langan again found himself down, this time 4-1, but battled back to tie the match 8-8. With a vicious pass and a beautiful kill shot, the Cadet went up 10-8. Langan (0-1) never gave up though, battling for another point before losing 11-9.

The last hope for the Defending-statechampsbills was No. 3 seed Mike Guilfooy. Guilfooy, looking "sluggish" in the court according to Koestner, lost 15-6 in his first game and was down 13-2 in the second game before going on a terrific comeback to tie the match at 14-14. The opponents traded serves several times, but in the end the Cadet won 15-14. After the match, Guilfooy (0-1) immediately began practicing for next week's matchup.

Afterwards, a disappointed but optimistic Koestner stated, "The match could have gone either way. We didn't get blown out of the water. So many games, and they were so close. I was pleased with the play, especially Rusch's, who proved that he could compete."

Koestner called the match a "very exciting start to an interesting season" and reminded his team that last season's state champs began the season with a loss to CBC as well.

The Getitbackbills (0-1) play again next Tuesday against Parkway West at 3:30 at Vetta-Concord.

On the JV-1 level, the Minimebills also played their first match of the season against CBC. Winning their matches handily, juniors Todd Swift (15-0, 15-3), Jake Mueller (15-2, 15-5), Dean Hunter (15-2, 15-0), and Mike Osterman (15-2, 15-0), along with sophomore Ray Godefroid (15-2, 15-1) began the JV-1 season with a strong win.