Swimming ties Marquette but gets trophy

Mike Sizemore
Reporter

The Marquette relays were quite the marathon of events for the varsity St. Louis U. High swimmers and divers who were chosen to compete in these peculiar relay events this past weekend. This competition consisted of 12 different teams ranging from the deep and practiced teams, such as SLUH and Marquette, to the small, up-and-coming teams such as Vianney and Cape Central.

The 1-meter diving team started the scoring. This three-pronged attack headed by junior diving spectacle Mick Dell'Orco with much-needed help from junior Ryan Berger and sophomore Colin McCabe scored an impressive 529.20. This score edged out the highly touted Marquette diving trio by a miniscule 3.15 points to give the SLUH team an early 6-point lead which later became a key to winning.

Mick Dell'Orco's stellar 236-point performance seemed to impress the judges. After the diving portion of the meet, diving coach Brendan LeBrun said, "I was talking with a couple of the judges after the meet, and although Mick lost to the others (Chaminade's Kyle Shasserre and Kirkwood's Chris Kelly), the judges said that he definitely showed the most control and composure of the three."

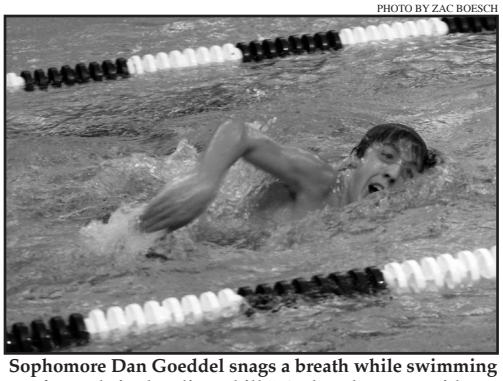
Dell'Orco's third place finish should not be downplayed too much, as he only lost to Shasserre and Kelly by six points.

Although Dell'Orco actually had a state-qualifying score, he did not qualify because he did not have a correct compilation of dives.

The '06 state qualifier said, "After this meet I know that I can qualify. It's just a matter of putting my dives together now."

With a six-point lead, the swimming team was ready to hold up their end and outswim their competition. It wasn't long before the swim team started to blaze. In the first swimming event, a 200-yard freestyle relay, SLUH brought home a first place.

PHOTO BY ZAC BOESCH



Sophomore Dan Goeddel snags a breath while swimming freestyle in the Flipperbills' Wednesday meet with Fort Zumwalt West and Parkway Central.

Tim Dale, who anchored the race, said "coach (Fritz Long) told me to swim really fast so I did."

Long was becoming envious of LeBrun because LeBrun has been getting the chance to hand out medals. "Coach LeBrun has got to do it this year and last, and I haven't handed out any in a couple of

see PHELPS, 9

SLUH sweeps FoPoCroCo Festival

Stephen Kuehner
Reporter

Saturday.

It is the one day of the week that a St. Louis U. High student is allowed to sleep in. There are no automated tones signaling the beginning of classes nor any bells calling him to a pew for Mass.

Unless, of course, that SLUH student is also a cross country runner. In that case, he is awake, dressed, fed, hydrated, and at Forest Park by 7:15 a.m.

But why would anyone sacrifice their one chance to wake up after lunchtime? What could induce the willingness to wake up as early, and in some cases, earlier than he would on a school day?

The SLUH cross country team gathered at the northern end of Central Fields early last Saturday for a good reason: the second annual Forest Park Cross Country Festival. With 1500 runners, some from as far away as Wisconsin, SLUH had an excellent opportunity to showcase its team's abilities and depth, as well as its new varsity uniforms.

In a varsity race where Kickapoo's Rick Elliott, Potosi's Nick Niggemann and Jacob Swearingen, and Luthern South's Adam Behnke really pushed the pace of the first mile, the U. High runners did not falter. While forced to step up their own pace in order to stay competitive, they did not allow themselves to be pulled to a pace they could not hold.

Due to the fast start and large field, SLUH was unable to run as a pack, as they have done the last two weeks, but they still remained relatively tight when compared to the other teams.

In the end, the scoring five consisted of team captain Chris Murphy (14th, 16:43), sophomore Bill Gabler (23rd, 16:55), junior Austin Cookson (25th, 16:57), sophomore Caleb Ford (30th, 17:02), and Dan Warner (36th, 17:13). All five athletes ran terrific races, setting new personal records and coming close to, and even achieving, the elite time of 17:00.

Captain Mike McCafferty (40th, 17:20), junior David Kuciejczyk-Kernan (67th, 17:50), and sophomores Ben Ford (51st, 17:31) and Casey Fitzgerald (61st, 17:43) also contributed to SLUH's victory, as the SLUH team edged out Marquette by only 11 points.

Adding to what head coach Jim Linhares called "a historic day" for SLUH cross country, the junior varsity ran two terrific races. Sophomore Tony Minnick (17:39) won the JV Green division and junior Ben Carron (18:13) was victorious in the JV White division. Astoundingly, SLUH runners won the top 16 places in the JV White division. As a result, SLUH took home team titles from both divisions.

The freshmen also put together an outstanding 3000-meter race. About halfway through, Dan Raterman (10:20) surged to the front and took control of the race, winning by 7 seconds and leading the freshman to their first team title.

With four team victories and three individual champions, Saturday was, in the words of Linhares, "A historic day in SLUH cross country history." With this weekend's Jesuit Invitational not taking place until 1:30 p.m., perhaps SLUH runners will get a chance to sample the luxury of sleeping until after ten o' clock before making their way to DeSmet and attempting to repeat last Saturday's success.