

# 7 runners on all 7 cylinders: XC to State '07

**Stephen Kuehner**  
Reporter

Legendary distance runner Steve Prefontaine had a simple approach to racing: run faster than you can. He summed up his philosophy pretty well when he said, "The best pace is a suicide pace, and today is a good day to die."

The St. Louis U. High cross country team got a taste of Prefontaine-style racing on its way to winning the class 4A, section 2 championship at Forest Park last Saturday. With several of the top runners in the state competing, it was bound to be a fast race, but the pace still seemed to surprise the Jr. Bills.

"Man, we ran fast," said team captain Dan Warner.

Another team captain, Chris Murphy, elaborated: "It went out really fast. None of our pack thought it was fast, though. We felt like it was slow."

Regardless of how the team felt, there is nothing slow about running the first mile between 4:58 and 5:08. Moving that fast is

indeed a "suicide pace."

With Darwin Price (Normandy), Connor Callahan (DeSmet), and Matt Estlund (Chaminade) pushing the pace at the front, SLUH continued this season's strategy of running as a pack, helping each other deal with the tempo of the race. With only 24 seconds separating their first and seventh runners at the 2-mile mark, it was apparent that SLUH was not going to allow the fast pace to prevent them from making yet another impressive finish.

In the end, the U. High placed all seven of its runners in the top 16 of the 68-man race. No team's third man finished in front of SLUH's number seven man, and only

DeSmet and Parkway Central were able to put two runners in front of SLUH's seventh.

Junior John Clohisy led the way for the

U. High boys, finishing in 5th place with a time of 16:28. Warner was only steps behind him, taking 6th place in 16:33. Murphy finished third for SLUH, his 16:40 time good for 9th place.

Junior David Kuciejczyk-Kernan (11th, 16:49) and sophomore Caleb Ford (13th, 16:54) rounded out the team's scoring five, with sophomores Bill Gabler (14th, 16:55) and Tony Minnick (16th, 17:06) right on their heels.

"And Blue Crew was amazing," added Murphy and Warner, simultaneously. Yes, SLUH's beloved cheerleaders, in all their splendor, made an appearance at the race as well.

Perhaps their unusual skin tone, wild antics, and often gender-confused apparel

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Junior John Clohisy en route to his fifth place finish at the sectional meet.

## Football smacks Ritenour, now 2-0 in district *Jr. Bills reach quarterfinal with win tonight*

**Brendan Akos**  
Reporter

The Saint Louis U. High Footballbills continued play against the Ritenour Wolverines at home to celebrate Senior Night last Friday. Though the crowd remained undersized, when the Blue Crew arrived the students were sparked with enthusiasm. However, the football team did not need any game-changing ignition in their district duel against Ritenour.

After the SLUH captains won the coin toss and elected to receive to open the game, the offense took the field at their own 39-yard line. After three rushing plays, Ronnie Wingo found the end zone on a 3-yard touchdown with 9:42 remaining in the first quarter. Wingo was the catalyst of the drive, accounting for all 61 yards. After a missed extra point, the Jr. Bills led 6-0.

As the offense dominated in their first series, the defense proved that it was just as powerful on their first opportunity. On third

and long, the Wolverines tried a screen play. As their running back waited for the pass, Matt Rice tracked him down and brought him to the ground just as he caught the ball for a loss of eight yards.

The offense was not as potent on their next drive. On second and 9, as junior John Swanston lined up in a shotgun formation, a bad snap from the center resulted in a loss of 17 yards. The Jr. Bills came close to a first down on a streak pass from Swanston to Drew Blackmon, but came up 5 yards short.

The defense returned to the field fired up and ready to stop the Wolverines. The defense stripped the ball from the Ritenour offense, and sophomore middle linebacker Collum Magee recovered the fumble to give the offense a short field from the Ritenour 39. Dan James finished off the drive and the first quarter with a 36-yard field goal to extend the lead to 9-0.

As Ritenour's offense took the field in

the second quarter, the Jr. Billiken defense again looked stout and determined. Ritenour, desperately needing a long completion, attempted a deep pass. Blackmon was there for the coverage, grabbing the Ritenour receiver by the shoulders and throwing him down to break up a first down conversion.

After the SLUH offense was held to three and out, James sent a beautifully spiraling punt that bounced to the Ritenour one-yard line, forcing the Wolverines into the shadow of their own goal post.

The offense returned to the field after the Ritenour offense stalled again. Signal caller Swanston led the SLUH passing attack, connecting on a long pass to Blackmon to put Jr. Bills on the Ritenour 20-yard line followed by a slant to Eric Devlin, good for first and goal on the Ritenour one.

Swanston then scored on a quarterback sneak with 12 seconds remaining in the half. The Jr. Bills led Ritenour 16-0 at halftime.

see **RITT-NERR, 12**

**CHILD'S PLAY**

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workshop as well as the SLUH Shakespeare contest. Because of his work with Shakespeare, Hussung was presented with the opportunity to go to the Globe Theater in England in the summer of 2004. In a perspective piece he wrote for the *Prep News* about the trip (see Volume 69, Issue 8), he even expressed his newfound respect for actors by comparing their qualities to the "eminent flexibility" in the emotions of Jesus.

Hussung's intimacy with plays increased over the next years as his son John, '07, began acting with the Dauphin Players while at SLUH. While supporting his son's endeavors, Hussung gained the added bonus of familiarity with the works the players were presenting.

When it came time for Hussung's second cycle through the PDP, drama came into his mind and couldn't get out. He decided to take a position as mostly an observer, but also a commentator.

He signed up to help with the play only knowing when during the year it would be, not which work would be chosen. The decision ended up working out perfectly for Hussung, however, as he found he could relate to *Child's Play* on many different levels.

"The intensity of my interest in this play is beyond my interest in most plays," said Hussung. He found that a play about teachers at an all-boys school was meaningful to him, and that the religious themes of the play resonated because he is "also a pretty religious guy."

Whitaker said that it's normally hard letting people from the outside into the world of drama, so this has been "quite an experiment." The experiment has gone well so far.

"He brings succinct and insightful analysis of situation and character to the table, as well as the experience of 20 years of teaching in an all-boys school," Whitaker said in a statement.

With positive results like this, Hussung said that he will approach Whitaker after the play is over and ask if she would have him back to help with another play. Hussung added, however, that he finds it challenging to balance his work with the play and his work in the classroom.

With this experience in mind, Hussung looks amazedly at the "rich life of a school" and the wonderful opportunities his choice of career brings.

"When the PDP is working at its best, it gives you an excuse to do something you would love to do," he said.

**LUCKY 7'S**

(from 5)

were just what the SLUH runners needed to cope with the intensity of the race.

"We wanted to have the kind of day that would set us up for State, and we did," said head coach Jim Linhares. "We feel confident." And that is where the team has turned its focus, the state championship.

Every high school sports team, regardless of which sport, dreams of winning a state championship. The SLUH cross country team has been striving for that goal for a long time, finishing 4th in 2005 and 2nd (behind Fort Zumwalt South) in 2006. Having won the title only once, back in 1999, SLUH intends to add another state championship to their collection.

The team's approach to the State race is similar to that of Olympian Danny Harris, who said, "No negative thoughts cross my mind on race day. When I look into their eyes, I know I'm going to beat them." The team is excited about its bid for a state championship this Saturday, and they know that they are quite capable of winning. However, they also know that their victory is not guaranteed.

"We're kind of in the position of Fort Zumwalt South last year," said Ford. "We're the favorites, but we'll still need to have a great day to pull it off." The Jr. Bills know that there are some very good teams who will be gunning for them this weekend, including Parkway West and Lee's Summit West, but the Pheidippidesbills refuse to be daunted.

"It's a little nerve-wracking, having the target on your back, but we think we can handle it," said Linhares. "The buzz is that we have a good pack of runners but are missing the speed up front. That's just not true."

Murphy likes the team's chances. He thinks that SLUH can still shock the running world one more time this year.

"We haven't gotten the chance to run on all seven cylinders yet," said Murphy, referring to the injuries and health problems the team has had to battle this year.

Clohisy immediately agreed, exclaiming, "We're going all out, baby!"

The SLUH runners know that they are going up against a tough field in Jefferson City this Saturday and that nothing is guaranteed when they step up to the line at 11:30 a.m., but that just adds to the excitement of an already exhilarating day.

"I know I'm personally excited," said Gabler. "I think the entire team is stoked for it."

As for the race tempo, it is sure to be another suicide pace sort of day. Runners from every team, not just SLUH, will be pushing themselves to run a little faster than they can. Some will collapse as they cross the finish line. Others will think they have finished before they actually have. One runner might lose a shoe during the first mile and have to run the next 2.1 with one bare foot. Many will kick down their opponent in the last 100 meters. Twenty-five runners will leave as all-state athletes. Many teams will have crowds of fans, while another might have only a few. Some teams will have historic days; others will be disappointed.

And one team, only one team, will leave as state champions.

**STANDINGS UPDATE**

**MCC Soccer Final Standings**

SCHOOL	MCC W-L-T	OVER-ALL	GD
CBC	3-1-0	22-5-1	+58
CCP	2-2-0	21-3-1	+40
SLUH	2-2-0	22-3-2	+86
Vianney	2-2-0	16-8-2	+15
DeSmet	1-3-0	16-3-4	+43

**Football Class 6, District 2**

SCHOOL	WIN	LOSS	PD
SLUH	2	0	+20
Lindbergh	1	1	+6
Vianney	1	1	-2
Ritenour	0	2	-24

\*PD = Point Differential  
 Tonight's Games  
 SLUH @ Vianney  
 Lindbergh @ Ritenour

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