

Hostbills bully guests at Forest Park Festival

Brandon Thornberry
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High cross country team literally ran away with the Forest Park XC Festival this past Saturday, dominating top teams from all across Missouri and the Midwest and taking first place by 72 points.

The SLUH cross country team arrived at Central Field in Forest Park to compete in one of the largest and most challenging races of the year. The early morning brought strong winds and cool temperatures to Forest Park, forcing many athletes and observers to bring jackets, long pants, and tent stakes. Yes, tent stakes. Occasionally, the winds became so strong that cross country team tents could be seen rolling across the grass fields with crowds of people desperately chasing behind. Fortunately, the SLUH tents remained sturdy and poised against the winds, much like the SLUH cross country squad's focus in the hours leading up to the races.

The junior varsity squad led off the day of competition in the Forest Park Festival. The Jr. Bills were aggressive from the sound of the gun to the finish. SLUH had five run-

ners in the lead pack at the first mile, which came through at a blazing 5:25.

As the race continued, the Anyweather is-goodweather bills pushed through the strong winds. All of the athletes fought through the last miles, competing with Rockhurst High School for the first-place finish. Despite the outstanding effort given by the Jr. Bills, Rockhurst junior varsity clinched first by two points. The loss was devastating, but the Jr. Bills, exemplifying their class and sportsmanship, congratulated the Rockhurst athletes for a hard-fought race.

After cheering on the junior varsity squad, the SLUH varsity squads went right into "race mode" and began their preparation for the varsity race. This year, SLUH decided to enter two varsity teams in the varsity division. The "St. Louis University High" team was the top nine runners, while

the "SLUH B" team was the second nine runners. The reason for the change was to give the second nine runners experience at varsity level competition.

The varsity race began as if the race was only 100 meters. The race leaders came through the first mile at a ridiculous 4:46.

PHOTO BY PETER MACKOWIAK



Coach Jim Linhares (right) spurs on junior Tony Minnick.

Meanwhile, SLUH runners assembled into packs, with the first group coming through around 5:00 and SLUH B runners coming through at 5:25.

The winds that the junior varsity runners fought through during the second and third

miles earlier were gone. The cool weather that brought jackets and sweatpants out of backpacks was also nowhere to be seen. The varsity squads were left with hot and terribly humid conditions. The varsity race no longer belonged to the quickest team. The

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Four fumbles bury football, 35-0

Adam Cruz
Reporter

"Every team is beatable, you know," said Tom Coughlin, head coach of the New York Giants. The previously unbeaten Jr. Bills were blanked by the DeSmet Spartans Friday night, 35-0 — just the third time in the last 21 years St. Louis U. High has lost to its Jesuit brethren. The loss drops the previously No. 6 Chinkint-



PHOTO BY ZAC BOESCH

The SLUH defense jumps to defend its goal line against DeSmet in its 35-0 loss last Friday. The loss dropped the Jr. Bills to 2-1.

hearmorbills to 2-1 (0-1) and marks the third straight year SLUH has lost its Metro Catholic Conference opener.

The first quarter did not indicate the outcome. The Jr. Bill defense, led by line-

backers senior Morgan "The Dog Catcher" Cole and junior Collum Magee, who each had nine solo tackles for the game, fought off an aggressive Spartan offense and stopped three DeSmet drives, one of which ended when Magee dove to block senior Spartan kicker Chris Boldt's field goal attempt.

DeSmet's complex defensive schemes held the Jr. Bill offense in check, and a 48-yard field goal miss by senior kicker Joe Shrick was

the closest the Louiebills came to scoring. Despite senior running back Ronnie Wingo gaining almost 5 yards a carry in the first quarter (and the game), the Jr. Bill offense

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PROFILE: Forest Park XC Festival

Peter Mackowiak
Sports Editor

St. Louis U. High hosted its largest-ever sporting event last weekend when about 2200 athletes—more than twice SLUH's student body—from 69 high schools across the Midwest flocked to Forest Park Saturday to race the in third annual Forest Park XC Festival (presented by National City).

The squally all-day affair had the air of a medieval fair, as each school pitched its own tent on the wooded hillside down from the hub of activity on Central Fields that surrounded the starting line (a few feet in front of a rugby goalpost) and finish lines and included a concession stand, the popular t-shirt booth (the line stretched 89 deep at one point), a Brooks running apparel stand,

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race became an "all-out guts race," where any team could have clinched the victory. Despite the tough weather, senior Austin Cookson and junior Caleb Ford led the Jr. Bills all the way to the finish line on their way to clinching medal after medal.

SLUH clinched the first-place victory with a 72-point margin of victory over Kickapoo. Varsity medalists included seniors Austin Cookson and Cliff David, who took eighth and 22nd place, respectively, and juniors Caleb Ford and Tony Minnick, who took 14th and 25th, respectively.

The "SLUH B" squad, led by sophomore Dan Raterman and senior Ben Carron, clinched 10th place in the field of 25 strong teams. "SLUH B" managed to beat the top varsities from area teams DeSmet, CBC, and Chaminade.

Even with the four medalists and the 72-point margin of victory, the SLUH varsity

BALL

(from 5)

could not sustain drives and the first quarter ended scoreless.

The first half of the second quarter showed much of the same as the teams traded punts and hard-nosed tackles. However, a botched snap and heavily rushed punt set up the Spartan offense deep in Diffbill territory. A week removed from being shut out by Hazlewood East, the Spartans put together a long drive and scored for the first time in six quarters, as running back Ray Agnew powered it in from one yard out, giving the Spartans a 6-0 lead after Boldt's extra point try went wide left.

Eager to respond, the Beyondtheglory-bills regained possession with 6:45 left in the first half. But the response never came. DeSmet blitzed and gang-tackled Wingo, forcing the ball to pop loose. This was the first symptom of a quarter-long epidemic of "fumbilitis."

The SLUH defense mustered heroics to keep the Spartans from scoring, as Cole gave the Boogerjonesbills the ball back by recovering a third-down fumble.

But the turnover bug bit the Bills hard once again, as senior quarterback John Swanston fumbled the snap to give the Spartans the ball right back. This time SLUH West capitalized, as Ray Agnew again bullied his

squad did not have a premiere day in terms of health. "Many of the varsity athletes were battling the flu this past week," said coach Joe Porter. "Battling through that illness and still coming through with such a strong victory really shows how tough we are."

Senior captain Austin Cookson also had this to say about the race in terms of the illness and humidity: "Despite the weather and health problems, we still won by a very large margin. I think that is a testament to how strong of a program SLUH cross country really is. Not many other teams in Missouri can face what we did and still perform as we did."

After witnessing some of best runners in the state battle for the win in the varsity race, the SLUH freshman team was ready to kick off its season. The Futureofsluhxcbills inserted themselves into perfect position through the first mile, showing racing strategy

way in from one yard out. On the two-point conversion attempt, quarterback Steve Kaiser hit a wide-open Brett Strawhun, making the scoreboard flash 14-0 and quieting the SLUH blue-painted faithful.

"The turnovers really hurt our morale and the morale of the crowd," said senior lineman and captain Matt Storey. "(DeSmet) really capitalized, and bad luck dug us into a huge hole."

Desperate to get something going, the Jr. Bill offense took the field with only one thing on their mind: seven points. Swanston hit junior wide receiver Michael Mayberger on one of the first plays with a laser strike. Mayberger fought off Spartan tacklers and tried to fight his way past a pile of DeSmet tacklers to the first down marker. But the ball squirted away, and DeSmet recovered. This time, with the Roughriderbills' defense keying in on the ground attack, the Spartans struck through the air. Kaiser hit fellow junior Kenny McClendon from 26 yards out, and DeSmet led 21-0 at half.

Down three scores, SLUH needed a big defensive stop to start the half, and the Spartans were looking to bury the Jr. Bills with a scoring drive. Senior kicker Joe Shrick put the kickoff into the end zone, but DeSmet drove 80 yards in seven minutes thanks to a

comparable to that of well-experienced runners. Each freshman raced extremely well, exemplifying the hard work and discipline they have put into running these past five weeks. The SLUH freshman squad, led by Nathan Rubbelke, captured the first-place victory with a 20-point margin over second-place Rockhurst.

The top seven varsity runners will not compete this week in preparation for the Rim Rock Invitational Saturday, Sept. 27, in Lawrence, Kan. However, this week and next week's other varsity races will feature SLUH's second and third seven runners, who will showcase SLUH's depth of talent to other area teams. SLUH cross country's next meet takes place tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at Sioux Passage Park in the Paul Enke Invitational. The meet will feature SLUH's third seven in varsity blue jerseys, SLUH's junior varsity, and SLUH's freshman squad.

tough running game. Backup running back Quintero Bell made it 28-0 with his two-yard run, and the Beachbills looked deflated.

The next offensive series was a short one for the Jr. Bills, and Shrick again punted the ball to the suddenly potent DeSmet attack. This time it was Kaiser himself who finished a run-oriented Spartan drive, his two-yard touchdown run putting DeSmet up 35-0 and starting the running clock.

The Jr. Bill defense tightened in the final quarter and forced multiple DeSmet punts, but the offense remained inept. The Three-yearstarterbills had a scoring chance midway through the fourth after a good drive fueled by Swanston, but DeSmet safety E.J. Clark's interception and 26-yard return solidified the Spartans' 35-0 win.

While many were upset after the game, head coach Gary Kornfeld stressed that the players should move on to their next game (Vashon, 2 p.m. tomorrow) and not lose sight of their ultimate goal.

"We need to just learn from this, put it behind us, and not let it happen again," said Kornfeld. "We need to duplicate how DeSmet responded to their (28-0) loss to (Hazelwood) East and play well Saturday afternoon against Vashon."