

Dell Orco's 299.95 sets record

Pat Nugent
Reporter

The St. Louis University High swimming and diving team faced off against three teams this past week and came away with two losses and a win. The team lost to Lafayette 115-71, barely fell behind Chaminade 95-90, and finally pulled out a win yesterday against CBC at Forest Park Community College in the team's last home meet.

Last night the Speedobills met at FoPoCoCo for their last home meet, which included a tribute event and presentation of flowers to the seniors and their parents at the competition's end. The Injury-pronebills beat CBC with several strong swims.

The medley relay, consisting of seniors Trent Going, Matt Hohenberger, Andrew Howe, and Charles Gerber won the first event. In the 200 freestyle, senior John Savio finished in 1:56.99, while junior Dan Schmidt raced the 200 individual medley in a time of 2:12.19.

Later in the meet, senior Will Derdeyn was able to qualify for State in the 100 backstroke with a time of 57.99, while Going narrowly missed the cut in the 100 freestyle with a time of 51.51. Howe swam the 100 fly in an impressive 1:00.37 and sophomore Steve Hoerr won the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:08.08. The 200 freestyle relay, consisting of sophomore Bill Luhman, Gerber, senior Mike O'Neill and Schmidt, see **PLUNGE, 8**

PHOTO BY ZAC BOESCH



Senior Andy Howe returns for air while racing the 200 butterfly in Monday's swim meet against DeSmet.

H-e-doublebills start preseason

Tony Billmeyer
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High hockey team dropped the puck by going 1-3 in its first four preseason games.

Though the Bergerbills have been short-handed for all four of the games, they have looked promising. Senior Kevin Corby hasn't touched the ice, as he plays goalie for the soccer team. Other notable absences include seniors Jack Berger and Connor Quinn, who have each missed two games while playing for their club team.

The Busiebills fell in their first game to Oakville 5-3. Senior Colin FitzGerald looked impressive, scoring two goals in the first game.

The U. High bounced back with a win over Lindbergh. FitzGerald once again led the offensive onslaught with one of the Jr. Bills four goals. Berger added two goals of

his own, and freshman goalie Nick Breunig kept the shutout.

The Fitzbills tried to keep the success going the following game when they took on CBC. The Cadets dominated the game, winning 7-1, with SLUH's only goal coming from Berger.

The last and most entertaining of the four games was a shootout loss to Chaminade. The game remained 1-1 through overtime, and went to a shootout, which the Fuhrbills lost.

The preseason has been productive in giving youngsters playing time and building team chemistry, according to Berger.

FitzGerald commented, "We want to see what lines work and what freshmen will make the team. (The preseason) gives us a chance to work together outside of practice."

Sunday night the Courtnallbills will take on Lafayette at Affton at 8:30.

Cross country dusts field in district win

Brandon Thornberry
Reporter

St. Louis University High School cross country reinforced its reputation as one of the deeper and more dangerous cross country programs in the Midwest this past week. SLUH entered seven seniors outside the team's top seven in the Clayton Invitational varsity meet last Friday, and placed second to a strong Class 3 team, O'Fallon. The following morning, SLUH raced a strong district squad without top seven runners Cliff David and 2007 All-State runner John Clohisy, but still managed a 60-point victory over Webster Groves to win Districts.

On Friday afternoon, the Jr. Bills left the Issues Day debate early to arrive at Shaw Park before the afternoon's race. After a week of hard rain, the course was muddy, damp, and extremely slick around its sharp turns.

"The course was really sloppy with all of the mud and rain," said senior Ben Carron. "The cold weather and wet ground really make the conditions difficult."

With a squad of seven seniors, most of whom had rarely raced on the varsity level, the team went to the start line ready to compete. Through the first mile, Carron flew towards the front with the other top five runners: senior teammates Neil Backer, Max Ottenlips, Mike Cannady, Matt Kocisak, and Matt Kliethermes.

Into the final miles, the Jr. Bills fought to hold places, but ultimately fell 26 points short of first place. Carron was first for the team with a fifth place finish, followed by medalist Backer at 14th place. Ottenlips and Cannady finished well and captured the last few medals at 27th and 29th, respectively. Kocisak and Kliethermes also finished in the top 45 of the varsity race, placing 37th and 44th, respectively.

"The purpose of this meet was to create a chance for seniors who are outside our top seven to have a chance to compete in a varsity meet," said head coach Jim Linhares.

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four medalists and a second place finish, they proved they were varsity caliber athletes.”

Perhaps the highlight of the meet was the return of senior John Clohisy to competition. In order for an athlete to compete at the state meet in November, the athlete must race at least one MSHSAA-approved varsity race. With his eyes focused on the State meet, Clohisy entered, treating the race as an “aerobic” run in order to receive his certification. After the race, he and his teammates celebrated his return to competition.

“It’s really great to see John back and competing,” said Linhares. “He really brings a lot of dedication and support to the team.”

After a successful day at Clayton, the team arrived at McCluer North High School to compete in the district meet. Previously held at Parkway Central High School, the new district course had its share of hills and turns. Still wet from the week’s rain, mud pits and slick turns were a common sight on

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speedily completed their race in 1:35.08.

Dell’Orco and Berger flipped and spun their way to another diving victory, scoring 288.65 and 211.15.

Despite the two losses, the team still had some very impressive performances. On Monday, the Jr. Bills traveled to Chaminade and swam several good races. Senior Trent Going was able to qualify for state championships in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:09.49 and also win the backstroke with a time of 58.86. Junior Dan Schmidt also swam very well, swimming state times in both the 100 and 200 freestyle events with a time of 51.26 and 1:53.32, respectively.

“Despite the loss, I think we did pretty well,” commented senior John Savio. “Some of the faster guys were really able to show what they could do.”

At Lafayette last Friday, senior captain Matt Hohenberger was able to win the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:06.90 while the diving team rocked the pool. Senior Ryan Berger was able to score a personal best of 230, and senior captain Mick Dell’Orco captured SLUH’s oldest swimming record from Tom Tretter, who set the record in 1991, with an awe-inspiring score of 299.95.

the course.

Chaminade, Webster Groves, and McCluer North were the only teams that could realistically hope to challenge the State-bound bills for a district victory. Despite no anticipated competition on the team level, Chaminade’s Matt Estlund and Hazelwood East’s Charles Johnson were determined to capture the individual district title.

At the start of the race, Johnson took the race out fast. Through the first mile, SLUH had senior Austin Cookson and junior Caleb Ford in the front pack, hanging on to Chaminade’s Estlund. As the race progressed, Estlund began to break away; Cookson and Ford responded, leaving Johnson to fight for fourth.

SLUH’s pack behind the leaders was fronted by junior Emmett Cookson, who worked to close the gap on Johnson.

Into the final half mile, Austin Cookson charged after Estlund but was unable to reach him before the finish line. Cookson

“It was good to get it out of the way,” said Dell’Orco. “It was one of my goals at the beginning of this season and I knew I could do it. Now that I made it I’m trying to get eleven good dives ready for state championships.”

Dell’Orco hopes to improve upon his fifth place finish last year and achieve a new personal best with his reverse 2 1/2 tuck. The diving team as a whole looks very strong coming into the final meets of the season.

Now the Nohairbills are preparing for the final meets of the season, including MICDS and JV Metro Catholic Conference championships tomorrow, varsity MCCs on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, and finally state championships two weeks from now.

“We look good and I feel that we have a real chance to win both MCC meets,” commented O’Neill.

Senior captain John Heafner added that “although JV lost a meet to DeSmet earlier in the season and varsity lost to Chaminade, I think that, after we shave down and get pumped up, we’ll be ready to go out there and possibly win these MCC meets.”

placed second overall, followed by Ford in third, Emmett Cookson in fifth, senior David Kuciejczyk-Kernan in sixth, junior Bill Gabler in eighth, junior Tim McLaughlin in ninth, and junior Tony Minnick in eleventh. The team captured a decisive first place by sixty points without top runners Clohisy and David.

The team also celebrated Emmett Cookson’s incredible performance. Cookson, the team’s tenth man, placed third on the team for the day.

“He completely ignored the pecking order,” said Linhares. “His race earned him a spot on the state racing squad.”

With both Cooksons on board, a healthy John Clohisy, and a strong supporting set of seniors and juniors, the Jr. Bills have their eyes on the state title. On the final stretch toward state, the SLUH Jr. Billkens will compete at the state qualifying sectional meet at 9 a.m. at the Central Fields in Forest Park.

Thank You, Seniors CROSS COUNTRY

Neil Backer
Mike Cannady
Ben Carron
John Clohisy
Austin Cookson
Chris Cowlen
Cliff David
Connor Hagan
Alex Hall
Drew Jablonski
Matt Kliethermes
Matt Kocisak
David Kuciejczyk-Kernan
Pat Linhares
Peter McNulty
Max Ottenlips
Nevin Peoples
John Schlesinger
Zach Stauder
Brandon Thornberry