

# FRESHMAN FALL SPORTS WRAPS

## *Football (7-3)*      *Soccer (13-4-1)*      *Cross country*

**Brendan Langford**  
Reporter

The freshman football team ended its season with a 7-3 record, with wins against Parkway South, Parkway Central, DuBourg, DeSmet, CBC, Chaminade, and Mehlville, the losses to Webster Groves, CBC (D), and Vianney.

The Jr. Bills entertained their fans throughout the season with several nail-biting endings. The season's high point was a victory over rival CBC. The MikeLeach-Piratebills began the contest with a C-team record 97-yard touchdown pass from Trevor McDonagh to Mitch Klug. Stingy defenses controlled the rest of the game. In the game's final minutes, SLUH held a 14-6 lead, but the Cadets were driving deep into Jr. Bill territory. With three seconds remaining, CBC lined up inside the SLUH ten-yard line. But the Cadets' quarterback accidentally took a knee instead of spiking the ball, and the Jr. Bills escaped with an eight-point triumph.

On the other hand, the Jr. Bills' loss to the Webster Groves Statesmen was the toughest to take. In the game's final minute, the Jr. Bills trailed the Statesmen, 35-28. The Martzbills drove down the field for a touchdown and tried for the two-point conversion. However, the Webster Groves defense held running back Terek Hawkins out of the end zone, and the Statesmen held on for a one-point victory.

Klug, one of eight freshmen called up to varsity at the C-team season's end, said playing for the freshman team helped him with "getting used to SLUH's system." Klug said he and the seven call-ups will join varsity for preseason two-a-day practices next season. After that, coach Gary Kornfeld will decide where each of them will play.

C-team head coach Tom Wilson gave his words of wisdom about the season: "The team played well and took on the adversity well. The players improved greatly and make a good team. If the players stay together, they will accomplish great things. We have high expectations for them in the future."

Please see freshman football and cross country photographs, pg. 16.

**Kevin Kimes**  
Reporter

This year the Saint Louis U. High freshman soccer team (13-4-1) had an outstanding season. The team's 13 victims ranged from Granite City to rival CBC.

The team started the season with two bangs, 5-0 wins against St. Mary's and St. Dominic. The team entered the CBC tournament with confidence but lost in the semifinals to DeSmet, 1-0. But the Ronal-dobills didn't waver for a minute, and in the third-place game they beat CBC 1-0 in overtime through a great goal by midfielder Luke Gilsinger. The team rebounded by beating previously undefeated Vianney, 2-1. Midfielder Logan Welge burned two Vianney defenders and took it all the way for the first goal of the game, which was Vianney's first conceded goal on the year.

After defeating Eureka 2-0 and Oakville 3-0 in the Parkway Tournament, the highly-skilled freshmen destroyed Parkway West 9-0 in the final game of the season. Forward Joey Gasperoni paved the way with a hat trick.

The team's top scorer, Tommy Behr, said, "We had a great season. I think our high point was our game against Vianney."

Co-captain Dominic Lanari said, "You could see the players melding together as the games went by. Our offense steadily got stronger and our defense became more and more solid."

In fact, of the thirteen wins in the season, twelve of the wins were shut-outs. Also, goalie Geoff Behr let in only ten goals the entire season.

### C-soccer by the numbers

- 4 games, no shots on goal allowed
- 10 goals allowed
- 11 games, two or more players scored
- 12 games, SLUH outshot opponent
- 14 games, 5 or fewer shots allowed
- 44 goals scored
- 45 corner kicks taken
- 199 shots on goal

**Nathan Rubbelke**  
Reporter

For most freshman sports teams, an undefeated season is a true rarity. But for the C XC team, it's just a typical season. Once again, the team had unblemished season and picking up wins at the Forest Park XC Festival and MCC's, as well as at the Enke, Fox, Jorgenson, and Findley Invitational meets.

This year's team, which consisted of 34 runners, was the largest freshman group in history, consisting of 34 Runners. The team's numbers were no fluke either; they had plenty of talent. There were five runners on the team who went under the 18 minute barrier for the 5K. A total of ten went under 19 minutes.

The team was lead by Nathan Rubbelke, who won both the MCC and Findley Invitational freshman races, with times of 17:36 and 17:32. Right on his heels were Joe Esswein, who registered a personal best time of 17:38 this season, Tyler Gardner, who ran a 17:40, and Luke Reichold, who ran a personal best time of 17:50. Mike McLaughlin surpassed the 18:00 barrier by running a 17:59 in the final race of the season.

The Froshbills demolished their opponents all season long. They had the top six runners at MCC's. They finished with a score of 16 at the Findley Invitational, only one point shy of a perfect score. At the Forest Park XC Festivals, one of the biggest meets in the Midwest, they had eight runners in the top 17.

Coach Joe Porter was very pleased with his team's success this year, saying, "They have developed a lot and have become very strong runners." Most runners plan on returning next season. Mark "The Magic Man" Kuehner enjoyed this season. He plans to run again next year, saying, "(Running) is totally worth it, being in shape is awesome, and I've made a lot of friends"

While most runners are finished for the season, Nathan Rubbelke, Joe Esswein, and Mike McLaughlin have continued their training and will toe the line in the Nike Cross Regional meet in Terre Haute, Ind., tomorrow in the Fresh/Soph Race.