

Backup XC takes third in Hancock Inv.

Matt Lawder
Reporter

After several volleys of lightning brightened the granite sky and rain began to dampen Jefferson Barracks Park on Saturday morning, meet officials for the Hancock Invitational called off the meet.

The course conditions began to worsen as runners warming up began to dig deeper into the growing mud with every step. It only seemed logical, considering the forecast of continued thunderstorms, to postpone the meet until Monday.

So that's what the officials did, much to the chagrin of many teams that had made long trips and wouldn't be able to return Monday — such as Emporia, who journeyed all the way from Kansas only to be sent back home without racing. Of course, within a half-hour of canceling the meet, the skies cleared up and the day turned beautiful.

St. Louis U. High then began focusing on how best to run on Monday. The coaches

decided that it was best not to run the top varsity or JV competitors. It had already been decided before Saturday that most of the varsity would not be running, but several prominent JV runners were going to get some rest as well. SLUH still managed to run to third place.

Junior Chris Murphy led the Jr. Bills early Monday as the pack held back in the first mile, waiting until the second mile to move up. Unfortunately, Murphy had stomach problems and had to pull out of the race. Sam Emery stepped up and led the charge of Jr. Bills through the field. Emery finished as SLUH's top runner in tenth place (18:24).

"We started the race nice and easy, staying together in a pack," Emery recalled after the race. "We got out slow, but it felt good. Then (junior) Matt McBride and I pulled away from the pack after the first mile. McBride took the lead for a while, but I caught him before the two mile and really started pushing from there. It was a painful

finish, but I was happy with my race."

McBride took 15th place overall (18:43) and third place for SLUH, getting outkicked by rising freshman Tyler Jennings. Jennings had a great last mile to catch up to McBride and finish second for SLUH in 14th place overall (18:42).

Sophomore Matt Kliethermes and freshmen Tony Minnick and Zach Thomas rounded out the varsity field running together and finishing in 16th (18:57), 17th (18:58), and 18th (18:59), respectively.

SLUH scored 72 points and was barely bested by Chaminade, who had 65 points.

SLUH will be reinstating its full squad this weekend in Lawrence, Kan., at Rim Rock Farm. The meet is one of the largest in the Midwest and will hopefully show SLUH their potential for the state meet. If you wake up early Saturday morning with nothing to do or have a craving to drive through the exciting plains of Kansas, take I-70 West for about five and a half hours to Lawrence and watch SLUH run against a national caliber field.

Football wins despite rain delay

Drew Burkemper
Reporter

Last Friday, the St. Louis U. High football team beat Ft. Zumwalt West 21-14.

The start of the game was delayed because of lightning just before kickoff. This canceled the Running of the Bills, much to the dismay of many freshmen and senior advisors. When the game finally started one hour and 45 minutes later, the devoted Jr. Bill fans quickly became dismayed at what they saw.

Zumwalt West's fourth play from scrimmage was a 60-yard pass-and-run down the right sideline for a touchdown. West's third drive covered 86 yards and ended with a 1-yard run by the quarterback with 19.9 seconds left in the first quarter, the last time West would score.

"We were angry," said junior defensive lineman Matt Rice. "A couple of guys blew up, but then we settled down and guys did their jobs. Every (West) possession after that, we knew we were going to stop them."

"Our defense was keeping us in the game (in the first half)," said quarterback

Mike Quinlan. "(The offense) knew that if we executed the plays we were trying to run, we would score."

The Footbills' offense finally did score late in the second quarter. Junior running back Drew Blackmon scored on a 10-yard run, which featured a sick spin to break free of would-be tacklers, with 2:04 left in the first half.

The Pigskinbills went into the locker room at half down 14-7. They had been out-gained 248-133 in yards from scrimmage but showed signs of life near the end of the half.

"I have a great coaching staff," said head coach Gary Kornfeld, "We made some adjustments at halftime on offense and defense to adapt to what (West) was doing."

The third quarter began with neither team advancing the ball very far on offensive

possessions. Midway through the quarter, however, the Slowandsteadybills used a trick play to tie the score. Quinlan took the snap and threw to Geno McNeil in the left flat, and then hit junior receiver Eric Devlin deep down the left side for a 74-yard touchdown pass.

With the score tied 14-14, the U. High defense and special teams took over the game. West did not threaten to score the rest of the third quarter, and the Jr. Bills' tough play earned them a break midway through the fourth quarter. On fourth down from

their own 23-yard line, Zumwalt West's punt was partially blocked. SLUH recovered and scored on the second play of the resulting possession on a 12-yard run from sophomore Ronnie Wingo.



Ronnie Wingo jumps over a Fort Zumwalt player.