

Football wins first game against P. South

Kevin McBrearty
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High Jr. Bills kicked off the season last Thursday with their home opener against the Parkway South Patriots. The Jr. Bills' running game led the way as they put up three touchdowns in the first half, and a stubborn, strong defensive effort shut down the Patriots' offensive. The Jr. Bills proved too much for Parkway and posted a 26-12 victory.

The Jr. Bills established an early lead with an 89-yard touchdown run by running back Ronnie Wingo. Following a missed extra point attempt, the Jr. Bills led, 6-0.

After several successful defensive stops, Parkway South got on the board with 11:30 left in the second quarter, taking the lead 7-6.

But following a 76-yard kickoff return to the Parkway South 23-yard line by senior defensive back Kaelan Mayfield, the Jr. Bills scored with an 11-yard touchdown run by Wingo but failed to complete a two-point

conversion following the touchdown for a 12-7 lead.

The Jr. Bills added another score following a Parkway South fumble on the Jr. Bills 13-yard line.

Quarterback Mike Quinlan marched the team down the field and scored with a 2-yard run on a quarterback keeper on first and goal to extend the lead with 7:20 left in the half.

The Jr. Bills' defense held Parkway South scoreless for the remainder of the first half, giving them a comfortable lead of 19-7.

The defense continued their dominance in the second half, forcing two fumbles and holding South to a scoreless third quarter.

In the second half, wide receiver Peter Kidd left the game with an injury to his knee. During a kickoff return he suffered a tear to his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). He will miss the rest of the season.

Defensive tackle Niko Mafuli commented on the defensive effort, saying, "There's always the shock of the first game back, (but) we played all see **MONDAY NIGHT, 11**



Mike Quinlan throws while Niko Mafuli blocks in the game versus Parkway South.

XC takes second place at McNair Park *Looks forward to new event hosted by SLUH*

Matt Lawder
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High Cross Country team opened the 2006 season last Friday at McNair Park. SLUH took home second place in the varsity division and a good feeling about the season to come.

The racing squad left school after sixth period so they would have time to drive out to St. Charles and still have time to warm up for the 4:30 race. The weather for the meet was uncharacteristically nice with temperatures in the mid 70s and nice cloud cover.

SLUH's pack started the race in good position, sticking together through mile one. Matt Lawder came through the mile in 5:12 followed closely by the rest of the pack at 5:20.

Lawder would finish the race as the team's number one man and in second place overall with a 16:22. Junior Mike McCafferty was SLUH's number two man. In his first ever varsity race he had a huge

performance, running 16:55 for first place, a personal record by over a minute.

"I was a little nervous before the race and had trouble concentrating at school on Friday," McCafferty stated after the race, "but I was also really excited. ... I knew I just needed to stay on pace. The magic number (for breaking 17 minutes) was to (have a two mile) split at 10:50." McCafferty came through mile two right on pace at 10:50. In the last mile, recalled McCafferty, "I started passing all these runners that I had heard of before and knew were good. So I knew I was going fast."

SLUH wanted the two through seven runners to stay in a pack for the beginning of the race and then try to place in the last mile. The pack stuck together for the first mile and then began to separate when sophomore David Kuciejczyk-Kernan surged in mile two. Kuciejczyk-Kernan dropped back in mile three, but held on for 24th place overall and sixth on varsity.

Nate Banet and sophomore John Clo-

his stuck together until the two mile mark when Banet quickened the pace and moved into the third position for SLUH's team. Banet finished in 14th place running a 17:04, with Clohisy on his heels in 17:16 and 21st place.

Dan Viox rounded out SLUH's scoring five by moving up in mile three to take 23rd place in 17:20. Junior Chris Murphy had a rough day, but hung together for a time of 18:05.

All of SLUH's scoring five ran personal bests for the opening meet, showing great improvement from how they finished last year. But while SLUH ran great, they fell short of the team title (won by last year's state champs Fort Zumwalt South) and took second place. But it was a solid second place and the team hopes to build off of it this weekend when they race in the First Annual Forest Park Cross Country Festival hosted by SLUH. The race will be Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Be there to see what will probably be St. Louis's biggest meet of the year.