

# Swimming splashes past Parkway South

**Ray Kreienkamp**  
Reporter

Going into Wednesday's meet against Parkway South, the Jr. Bills knew they looked pretty solid on paper. They had good swimmers up and down the lineup card, but they did not know how they were going to match up against a very respectable Parkway South team, which featured multiple state swimmers. The Jr. Bills knew that they could not just rely on what the lineup looked like to defeat the Patriots. And in the end, it was the intangibles—the touch-outs, the hard swims, and the strong second and third swimmers—that thrust the Jr. Bills to a 102-81 victory.

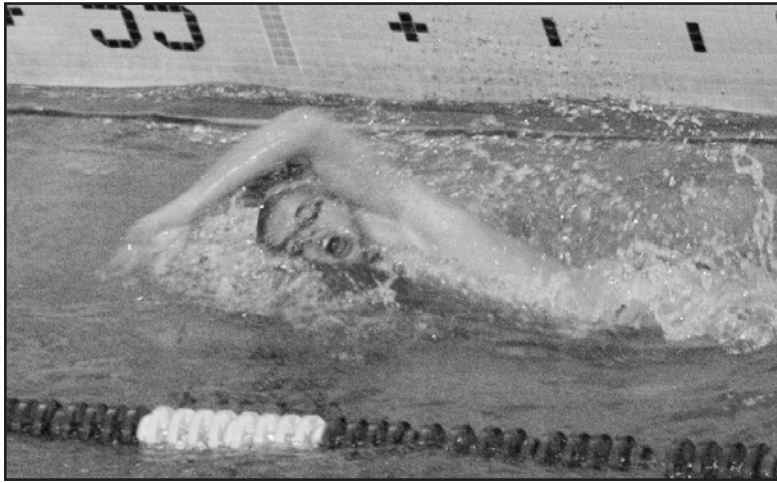
The Jr. Bills began their first event of the season, the 200 medley relay, with the first of four state qualifying times as the quartet of Brendan Mehan, sophomore Pat Nugent, Jake Roeckle, and junior Tim Dale soared past everyone else to the first first-place of the new season.

"There is not a better way to start the

season than with a state-qualifying time," remarked assistant coach Jim Knapp, S.J.

Besides earning the Jr. Bills points, this race was instrumental to the team's success for the rest of the meet for other reasons.

Head coach Fritz Long remarked that the early state qualifying times "got everything off on a good tempo."



Sophomore John Heafner swims in the 500 free. Heafner would go on to win the race in dramatic fashion in the final seconds.

After a strong showing in the 200 free, the Jr. Bills erupted in the 200 IM, one of the better events for the Jr. Bills. The team managed first, second, and fourth, with rising sophomore talent Will Derdeyn taking

first with a time of 2:09.61, a hair under the state-qualifying time of 2:09.69.

"I was not sure if I was going to be able to get this state time in my first meet, but it is really nice to have gotten it," remarked Derdeyn.

In addition to Derdeyn, Alistair Vierod, a strong freshman addition to the team, took second in just his first high school race.

"For him to swim that well in his first ever high school meet and his first race is just fantastic," remarked Long.

By the time the first half of the meet was over, despite many of the good swims, the Jr. Bills were leading the Patriots by just a handful of points.

Diving made the meet even closer. Lone diver sophomore Ryan Berger had a good performance for his first meet, but because of the

Jr. Bills' lack of depth and the experience of the Parkway South divers, Berger was pitted against big odds.

"Ryan was consistent and looked **see POOL, 15**

## XC 2006 ready for opening meet at McNair Park

**Matt Lawder**  
Reporter

Coming off a fourth-place finish in the state last year, St. Louis U. High's cross country team is well prepared for the start of the season. After four weeks of mile upon mile of distance runs, grueling tempo workouts, and tough hill drills, SLUH's team is looking to conquer the course during their first race of the season this afternoon at McNair Park.

The team has already broken one cross country record even before the first race. The squad has 97 members this year, the largest team in SLUH's history, including 39 freshmen. The team, especially the upper echelon of runners, has a large focus on youth, with only four seniors and eight underclassmen on the top fourteen.

SLUH will be returning three runners

from last year's state meet: Matt Lawder, Dan Viox, and junior Chris Murphy. Sophomore Cliff David, who also ran at state last year, will be out most of the year with a stress fracture in his heel.

Nathan Banet, junior Mike McCafferty, and sophomores John Clohisy and David Kuciejczyk-Kernan will round out the top seven for the first race.

Other top runners that will be anchoring the JV squad to start the season and looking to grab a spot in the top seven later in the year include Sam Emery, juniors Matt McBride, Steve Schumacher, and David Linhares, sophomores Austin Cookson, RJ Half, and Matt Kliethermes, and freshmen Caleb Ford, Ben Ford, and Tyler Jennings.

This year's squad has a lot of potential and talent that should really begin to show in late-season and postseason races once the

squad gets a little more varsity experience under its belt, but the top seven has also looked very poised and ready for the first meet of the year.

They will start the season off against some fierce competition in Fort Zumwalt South, last year's state champion, and other top schools in the area. Also SLUH's, early season schedule is stacked with competition, especially next weekend's Forest Park Cross Country Festival. SLUH will host this new meet, which has quite a stacked field, including Potosi and inter-conference rival CBC.

SLUH's season looks bright as they begin competing with the best in the state. All fans are welcome to visit McNair Park in St. Charles this afternoon to cheer on the team. The Varsity race begins at 4:30 and JV begins at 5:30.