

No. 3 soccer reaches CYC semi XC sweeps up at Jesuit Invitational

Kevin Gier
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High soccer team, ranked No. 3 nationally, improved to 12-0 this week, defeating Howell North 3-2, St. Dominic twice, 10-0 and 5-1, Lindbergh 3-0, and getting their biggest shock of the year against Rockwood Summit, whom they managed to beat 1-0.

Playing in St. Charles on a windy Thursday night, the Umbro bills faced the Howell North Knights expecting an easy victory.

However, Howell came out strong, man-marking and trying to win ball after ball on a very fast pitch. The boys from across the Missouri River struck first, putting a misfired cross under junior Zane Reifsteck 19 minutes in to mark the first time SLUH has trailed all year.

SLUH came roaring back, though, when four minutes later, junior

Chris Haffner was leveled inside the area. The referees had no choice but to point to the spot, and Tom Meyer calmly struck the ball into the left side to draw level. However, Howell still controlled the half, almost scoring twice late due to several defensive lapses.

Nine minutes after a fiery halftime speech from Charlie Martel who (due to sickness) was unavailable for comment this issue, the Jr. Bills took a lead they would keep for the remainder of the game courtesy of a Jack Twellman shot from 6 yards out after a nice through ball from Andy Weis. The junior would add a brace in the 65th minute, on the receiving end of a Matt Leinauer cross.

Howell pulled one back later, but the game ended shortly after junior David Ziegler went down after being spiked in the back of the head. The midfielder laid prostrate on the pitch for about 10 minutes before being

taken to a hospital, where he was given three staples. He will miss the next week, in addition to missing all games this past week.

Returning home on Saturday, the Good-stuffbills took on highly regarded small school St. Dominic. Only a few minutes into the match, however, the Crusaders were easily overwhelmed by a SLUH side with a chip on its shoulder, having been given a close call from another St. Charles team two days before. The Jr. Bills took out their aggression in a massive way, beating St.



Cole Grossman displays his sheer confidence in Tuesday's game versus Lindbergh.

Dominic 10-0 in a game ended at the hour mark by a junior Kevin Moore goal that invoked the slaughter rule. Leinauer and sophomore Brian Schultz each got hat tricks. Man of the Match Haffner got two goals and set up two more, and Meyer got his second goal of the year.

SLUH faced St. Dominic again two days later, this time in the CYC Tournament at the Soccer Park in Fenton, playing on the Astro turf, described by midfielder Brett Simek as "just like playing on asphalt." The Crusaders were determined not to have the match end early on them again. They played five at the back and their offense consisted mostly of sending long balls to star forward Ryan DeGrendele.

However, barely 30 minutes went by before SLUH got two goals, one a rebound from a Leinauer shot that bounced right to Haffner, and the other goal a Meyer header off of a corner. DeGrendele was able to put a tough-angle shot in, though, which gave St. Dominic a brief hope for a comeback until Haffner went on a run and put a ball into the lower right-hand corner to give the Shaktarbills a 3-1 lead going into the interval. Two more goals—one from Simek, the other from Schultz—gave SLUH their first

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John Clohisy
Reporter

After a huge success at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival, the Junior Bills once again stepped up to the line in the Midwest Jesuit Invitational at DeSmet last Saturday. Even with a shortened roster, the team continued to display their ability to produce solid races as varsity captured first, JV second, and the freshmen first, as well.

The unusually sweltering heat and difficult course resulted in times that were not as fast as usual, but this did not prevent the varsity from getting it done and finishing 36 points ahead of the second place team. They executed their plan perfectly, forming two packs that kept moving up through the runners of four other Jesuit teams from the Midwest.

Junior Mike McCafferty led the squad with a solid performance, cruising to fourth place in 17:25. McCafferty was closely followed by Dan Viox, who put forth a breakthrough performance, crossing the line in fifth with a 17:28. Next was Nathan Banet, who claimed a solid sixth place in 17:32. Sophomore David Kuciejczyk-Kernan blazed down the final stretch to cross the line in eighth with a 17:52, and standout freshman Caleb Ford rounded out the top five with a tenth place finish in 18:01.

Sophomore Austin Cookson and junior Steve Schumacher came in just after Ford, finishing in eleventh and twelfth, respectively.

Junior Chris Murphy gapped the field early in the JV race and cruised to a big win in 18:20, leading JV to second.

The future continued to look bright as freshman Ben Ford took first in the freshman race with a time of 18:23, followed by some other very solid performances. The freshmen dominated, winning by 80 points.

Come cheer the team on this Saturday at the Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks. The gun for the varsity race goes off at 11:30 a.m., with JV at 12:30 p.m.