

Football beats Ritenour Racquetball prepares for upcoming season

Nick Calcaterra
Reporter

The Jr. Bills traveled to Ritenour High seeking to win their second district game last Friday. Despite cold and windy conditions on a muddy field, the Bills defeated the Ritenour Huskies 26-18.

Just 19 seconds into the game, sophomore Ronnie Wingo ran in a three-yard touchdown after an incredible first carry. Because of the poor field conditions, however, the snap for the extra point was high and slipped onto the ground. Surprised kicker Max Wheeler picked up the ball but failed to run it in for a two-point conversion.

For the rest of the game, slick footballs and muddy ground were a problem.

"We needed to learn how to handle the field," said head coach Gary Kornfeld. "Ritenour knew how to handle the field better than us. It's very hard to play on a sloppy



Muddy sophomore Ronnie Wingo stiff-arms a Ritenour player on one of Wingo's long runs.

field, but they knew how to handle it."

For the rest of the first quarter, the Jr. Bills dominated the Huskies, shutting their offense down and topping off the quarter with another touchdown. Freshman Griffin Lowry ran 19 yards into the end zone with 3:59 on the clock. Although another high

snap prevented Wheeler from converting the extra point, the Bills led 12-0 after the first quarter.

However, as much as the Bills dominated in the first, the Huskies did so in the second. The Jr. Bills were unable to cover much ground, while Ritenour High scored a touchdown of their own, bringing the score to 12-7. The Ritenour defense tightened up and didn't allow the Jr. Bills to even get

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XC takes districts, prepares for state

Matt Lawder
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High cross country team returned to its home turf last weekend in Forest Park to battle their sectional foes. After qualifying through District 3 last week, SLUH's district combined with District 4 for the sectional race. In sectionals, the top four teams and 30 individuals qualify for the state meet next weekend. SLUH had no problem qualifying and winning the meet.

Head coach Jim Linhares decided that some of the top runners could use a little rest before the state meet, so varsity mainstays Nathan Banet and Dan Viox sat out to rest their legs. This allowed for some less experienced runners to get valuable varsity race time. Also, it allowed those runners battling

for the last two spots on the varsity squad for state to have one final chance to prove themselves.

After the race, however, no one could tell that SLUH had not been running their full varsity squad, because the team still dominated the meet with one of the best sectional showings in recent memory. Scoring only 27 points, the Jr. Bills trounced the field, besting second place DeSmet by 42 points.

"We took it easy and qualified," said assistant coach Joe Porter. "It was a great day to see so many young guys step up and have great races. ... But the real challenge will be next week in Jeff City. That's what we're focused on."

With the course packed with fans, excitement built quickly, even before the race

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Drew Burkemper
Reporter

The prospects are bright and the expectations are high for the '06-'07 St. Louis U. High racquetball team. The varsity lineup features four returning players who are eager to avenge last year's second place finish in the state tournament.

Captain Ben Brooks leads the Wilsonbills and brings his complete game and great intensity to the team. Brooks played as the No. 4 seed last year and looks to take on tough competition as the top seed. "I've been (training) hard," said Brooks, "Just like everyone on the team has. We have a desire to be a notch higher than every other team."

Drew Burkemper will hold down the No. 2 seed this year. Burkemper played at No. 6 last year and wants to forget about performances at the State tournament (2nd place) and nationals (lost in round of 16). "I'm going to play hard," said Burkemper. "But I also want to make this season fun. I'll supply the lightness and comedy when I can, but that will not get in the way of my individual win (at state) and team championship." Burkemper lost in the finals of state the past two years due to trouble finishing tournaments.

Junior Ray Godefroid will play at No. 3 for the DocJPKbills and supply the team with entertainment in the form of mad yo-yo skills. Godefroid, who was on JV-1 last year, leapfrogged four players to obtain the third seed. Godefroid plays with a kill-first mentality that, if he's playing well, makes him extremely tough to beat. For several weeks during fall racquetball, he was the top seed.

Another junior, Joe Hoffman, makes his debut as a varsity singles player after playing doubles last season. Hoffman prefers singles play to doubles and finished the fall

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FRIDAY NIGHT

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near their end zone, and the slick conditions ruined a couple of possible completions for sophomore quarterback John Swanston.

Nonetheless, the Jr. Bills came back in the third quarter, adding a touchdown while shutting out Ritenour. The U. High offense crept into Husky territory after a short punt and a series of runs. Junior Drew Blackmon finished off the possession with an 18-yard run and Wheeler made a successful extra-point attempt to put the score at 19-6.

With only one quarter to go, the Jr. Bills stayed on the attack and raced up the gridiron. The fantastic freshman Lowry scored another touchdown, this one on a 12-yard run.

"No one has ever done that before. He was outstanding," commented Kornfeld. "It was outstanding of him to step up in his first day like that."

Only one freshman had ever scored a touchdown on the SLUH varsity level prior to Lowry. In 1936, Paul Saey scored on a three-yard run versus Maplewood.

Although victory was in sight, there was still plenty of time on the clock, and the Huskies didn't give up. They scored two more touchdowns but failed both of their extra point attempts. The Jr. Bills' defense drew the line there, and the game ended 26-18 in favor of SLUH.

Ronnie Wingo ran for 96 yards on 23 carries for the game, but SLUH only had a combined 11 yards receiving. Kaelan Mayfield picked up yet another interception, and Willie Shipp and David Eagleton led the team with 9 tackles apiece. Eagleton also had a fumble recovery.

With two district wins down and a new star on the team, the Isaac Bruce Bills take on district opponent Vianney today, continuing their journey to state.

COMMENTARY

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such a meeting would have been more effective in both educating the students of their errors, and informing the administration of every student's involvement in the group.

The students' errors were not an either-or situation, but rather a spectrum, from joining the group without thinking about the actual meaning of such a group, to posting sexist jokes on the message board showing active participation in the terrible "joke." The

NASCAR

(from 5)

started. Music coming from the Red Bull Soap Box Derby (taking place across the street in the Muny parking lot) pumped up the crowd, and got some teams overly anxious for the race. SLUH's team, however, kept their heads cool and stayed relaxed before the start, ready to capture another sectional title.

The race got off to a very slow start, with no one wanting to take the lead. With the course in a somewhat sloppy condition after the rainstorms that pelted Forest Park all week, SLUH didn't want to go out fast and get in over their heads. Everyone on the team put the plan to work and, after a slow first mile, moved through the field in miles two and three and captured the win.

Matt Lawder led the team with a third place finish in a time of 16:23. He was followed by sophomore John Clohisy, who has improved in every race since he returned from his hip injury earlier in the season. Clohisy finished 5th in 16:37, solidifying him as a leading contender for the top sophomore spot in Missouri at next week's state meet.

SLUH's pack, even without senior studs Banet and Viox, had a wonderful showing. Led by junior Mike McCafferty, the pack took 8th, 9th, and 10th places and solidified a SLUH victory. McCafferty had a time of 17:00 and was followed by freshman Caleb Ford at 17:06 and junior Chris Murphy in 17:07. Rounding out the squad was sophomore David Kuciejczyk-Kernan in 17:16 (13th) and junior Steve Schumacher in 17:29 (20th).

Ford not only scored for the varsity squad (a very rare feat for a first-year runner) with his stellar performance, but also broke the 5-kilometer freshman record. The record, set last year by Kuciejczyk-Kernan, was 17:17.

administration should not have punished a student who had looked at the content in the group the same as one who clicked "accept" and never thought about the group again.

We suggest that the school partner with both the students and the parents rather than ignore them in any future infraction that requires disciplinary action and involves not only the administration but also the students and their parents.

Ford said after the race, "I wasn't too nervous going into the race because I knew that we had a strong team and the team would pick me up if I had an off race. ... I had actually forgotten about the record until someone reminded me about it right before the start. I was more focused on just racing my best. The front pack got out slow in front of me, but I ran my race plan and hit my splits. I stuck close to Chris Murphy and then hammered the third mile. It was a great feeling after the race to hear my time."

At the state meet this weekend, 16 teams and more than 150 individuals will be grinding through 5000 meters of fairways and roughs at the Oak Hills Golf Course in Jefferson City. All will be striving for the coveted team title. Many a foolish and inexperienced runner will go out too fast, egged on by a crowd rivaling in size and rowdiness to that of last Sunday's World Series Championship Parade (author's note: the state meet does not quite expect 500,000 people). Alas, these poseurs will find themselves at the mercy of Firehouse (formerly Heartbreak) Hill in the last mile and being passed by a flurry of Fleur de Lis emblazoned blue uniforms. The team is looking for its first championship since 1999. Most of the squad will also be racing for a rare All-State medal. If the Jr. Bills can hold together and run a solid race, they may very well find themselves hoisting a trophy at Shakespeare's Pizza Saturday afternoon.

Any fans are welcome to attend the race at Oak Hills Golf Course in Jefferson City. The 4A boys' race will be at 9:40. You should allow for three hours of travel time because of large crowds and lack of parking. Blue paint will be readily available for any who wish to paint themselves in the time-honored SLUH tradition. Come see SLUH finally show off the hard work they have put in over the past year.

Own a Piece of SLUH History

Many old trophies, mainly from the '70s-'90s and from various sports and levels, have been removed from the trophy cases in an effort to clear out space. If anyone is interested in owning one of the trophies, contact Mr. Wehner. All trophies are free of charge and are open to anyone.