

Martelbills win tourney, suffer first loss of season to Oakville

Kevin Gier
Reporter

This past week has been quite a Dickensian one for the St. Louis U. High soccer team: it was the best of times (winning the inaugural Jr. Billiken Classic tournament) and it was the worst of times (suffering their first loss of the season, dropping them to No. 10 in the nation and No. 2 in the region, losing their ranking place to Morton H.S. of Chicago).

On Thursday night, the Jr. Bills faced off against the No. 5 Oakville Tigers looking for an important win entering the tough second half of the season. However, a fluke goal from Tiger forward Peter Hwang opened the game on a sour note. Midway through the first half, following a sustained attack, Hwang chipped a ball over junior keeper Zane Reifsteck, who managed to tip it. The ball bounced off, hit the crossbar and went in, provoking surprised celebrations from the Oakville bench and confusion from the SLUH players.

The game that followed could best be described by players, fans and head coach Charlie Martel as frustrating: Oakville pushed all but one center-forward into the penalty area

to bottle up attacks, all-state goalkeeper Ken Cooper made 15 saves, SLUH was denied on three penalty appeals, and essentially, SLUH could not convert.

Martel said "We could have easily scored five or six goals had all these factors not been there."

Some SLUH players thought that in the last ten minutes, when the Jr. Bills got a large number of set-pieces in the area, the team "packed it in" by not having the fire to convert.

Looking to bounce back, the Bocabills played Jefferson City in a game that required SLUH to win and get at least two bonus points for goals or a shutout. They got their first

bonus point from a goal by Jack Twelman early in the first half. The goal came off a Matt



PHOTO BY MATT HUBBARD

Chris Haffner takes the ball against the Oakville Tigers last Thursday.

Leinauer pass that he was able to put past Jays keeper Taylor Webb.

However, Jeff City barely allowed SLUH to get another shot, putting all its men on defense, a strategy of

which Martel said, "They used last year against us, when they held us to a draw. We knew exactly what they were going to do." SLUH held on for 1-0 win, but the margin would have been larger had it not been for Webb's performance in net.

Last night, the Jr. Bills played what
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Cross country sweeps MCC meet

John Clohisy
Reporter

Coming off of a huge meet at the Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence, Kan., the Jr. Bills stepped to the line at the MCC meet Saturday at Chaminade with high expectations. All of the hours of hard work continued to show as the XCBills swept the meet, winning on the varsity, JV, and C levels.

Despite the poorly made (and slightly short) course that had to be changed in the early hours before the races, the team also left the meet with two first-team all-conference runners and three second-team all-conference runners in one of the toughest conferences in the state.

Matt Lawder continued to prove that he

is one of the state's top runners as he led the varsity to victory, crossing the line in second place with a time of 15:33.

Dan Viox ran a breakthrough race, staying strong when others fell back, coming in second for SLUH and sixth overall with a time of 16:14.

Viox recalled, "I didn't know the course had been changed before the race, so I was hoping on sticking with the pack and not getting separated in the woods. After we found out about the changes, I decided to try and stick to the pack and then move on up through the field."

Viox continued, "The pack got out kind of slow... and held together really well. I saw some of the lead runners go past and took off after them."

Junior Mike McCafferty came in eighth in 16:16 and Nate Banet finished tenth in 16:26.

Juniors David Kucieczyk-Kernan, John Clohisy, and Chris Murphy rounded out the top seven.

Junior Steve Schumacher led the JV to a win, winning the race in 17:09, and freshman Caleb Ford won the freshman race in 17:11.

Upcoming races are the Borgia Invitational at Big Driver Golf Center in Washington, Mo. on Saturday at 10 a.m., and the Hazelwood Central B and C meet next Wednesday at the notorious Sioux Passage at 4:00 p.m. Feel free to come and support the team as they set their sights on the biggest races of the year.