

Cross Country paces into second

Will Bufo
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High cross country squad gave its second seven runners a chance to shine last Friday in Queeny Park at the Ron Jorgenson Invitational. The team fared well, taking second place overall in the meet on a cool and cloudy October afternoon.

Perhaps the main goal of Friday's race was to find a seventh man to represent the team at the Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) Championships tomorrow at Chaminade.

Junior standout Joe Meier led the way for SLUH, finishing seventh overall with a time of 16:58. Meier was just barely able to hold off senior Tony Minnick, who finished four tenths of a second behind him.

"I ran in honor of Nathan Rubbelke," said Meier, paying tribute to the injured sophomore.

Notable performances from medalists Alan Ratemann (17:11), Charlie Stoltze (17:17), Mike McLaughlin (17:30), and Tyler Gardner (17:39) helped to secure the second place finish.

Stoltze saw the course as a preparation for State. "Some of the hills were not nearly

as big, but the rolling in certain parts and the uphill finish and start were designed to look like the State course," Stoltze said.

Despite his impressive time, factoring in the difficulty of the course, Stoltze believes he still can improve. "I did not have the mental toughness to get after it like I had wanted. I wanted to go with Joe Meier and Tony Minnick, but I wasn't able to tell myself to do it," said Stoltze, who looks forward to the opportunity he has in the JV race at the MCC's tomorrow. "I aspire to be in that top group and would really like to get after it," concluded Stoltze.

Great things are expected from the SLUH squad tomorrow as they face rivals CBC, DeSmet, Chaminade, and Vianney. Said Meier, "It's a big race for the team. We're going to try to sweep one through seven, and it should be an exciting race."

Saturday will also feature the return of senior captain Caleb Ford, who has not raced since his strong performance at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival on Sept. 12. During that time, Ford says that over the past few weeks he has been doing "push-ups, core, weights, biking, and swimming ... I want to get toned," said Ford.

Ford looks to his own teammates as

his main source of competition tomorrow. "There are about ten really fast guys from SLUH.... Luckily only seven of those guys can race. I would be so scared if all ten were in. I'm going to be watching for them, because they're going to be right up there for the win," Ford remarked. So, will it be a SLUH-dominated race? "It would be fair to say 'yes,'" said Ford.

"SLUH needs to come out in this race like China in the Olympics. It's our coming-out party. We're going to have our first top seven race in about a month. The state doesn't know what's coming," Ford said.

Senior Tim McLaughlin has spent the last few weeks getting prepared in a different way for tomorrow's race. "It's basically all mental. You really have just got to keep focused. Sometimes it can be a struggle, but in the end, you really feel like you took something from it."

McLaughlin gets his inspiration from Leo Tolstoy, who once said, "All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love." McLaughlin and the rest of the Jr. Bills will look for a deeper understanding of themselves in tomorrow's varsity race at Chaminade, which starts at 9 a.m.

B Soccer shows bright future

Tommy Behr
Reporter

This year's B soccer squad, led by coach Bob O'Connell, has started the season 4-1-1. Ryan Merrifield and David Trieschmann return from last year's B squad.

The Jr. Bills began their season with a preseason tournament held by Chaminade, where SLUH beat Oakville 3-1 to open the tournament.

The next game was against Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) rival Vianney. Last season the Griffins lost only one game, to the Jr. Bills. Both squads played with high intensity. Freshman Zach Hoffman scored a header with under three minutes to go. Vianney countered with a goal off a low corner kick. The game ended in a 1-1 stalemate, leaving both teams with something to prove the next time they meet.

In the third game of the tournament, the Jr. Bills then fell 1-0 to a strong DeSmet team. The team rebounded with a three-goal win against Francis Howell North, and a 4-0 shutout against the St. Dominic Crusaders. The last game played was a 1-0 win against Duchesne.

Merrifield and Hoffman lead the team with 3 goals apiece.

Midfielder Joseph Jedlicka said of the season, "I can't wait to play DeSmet again to make up for the early loss we suffered this season."

The Spartans are the only MCC team that is undefeated. Jedlicka added, "It would be good for the team if we could pull off a win against them."

Freshman Joe Grady also offered his opinion on the matter, stating, "We should have beat DeSmet, but I think we rebounded well." Grady said that he felt confident with his team and is looking forward to the end-of-season tournament at CBC.

Up next for the Ronaldobills is a big game on Oct. 13 at Vianney at 4 p.m.



The Jr. Bills have drilled their way to four wins.

JV Football competes despite multiple callups

Tim Coleman
Reporter

The JV football team is off to a 2-3-1

start. The team defeated Parkway South their first game, and won their most recent game against Vianney.

Parkway South was no problem for the Jr. Bills, as they beat them 31-7 in the opener.

Vianney kept the score much closer. After the first half, the What's left from varsity bills were down by

one touchdown, but during the second half they managed to score two touchdowns.

One touchdown, a pass play, was taken in

by sophomore Jamil Irvin-Muhammad. The winning touchdown was run in by sophomore Aiden Kelly, who was filling in for sophomore Darion Baker, who was sick.

The Jr. Bills' three losses have come against Parkway Central (21-19 in overtime), Webster Groves (21-0), and rival CBC (25-14).

"We seem to dig ourselves in holes too

often early, and for awhile we couldn't get out of it," said junior tackle and Notre Dame enthusiast Pat Lally.

The Jr. Bills also tied DeSmet in an evenly fought game, where a penalty sunk a potential game-winning field goal by sophomore kicker Dan Tlappek.

Key players so far this season include sophomore cornerback and "Wildcat" quarterback Cameron Stubbs, sophomore right guard and middle linebacker Pat Boyle, and Irvin-Muhammad, who plays defensive end in addition to receiver. The JV team hopes to add a couple more wins to their record in the four games that they have left. The Buhabills will play Chaminade, Ritenour, Mehlville, and Lindbergh.

"When we're on our game, we're very tough to beat," said Lally.

Adam Cruz contributed to reporting.

JV Cross Country continues dominating path

Eric Mueth
Staff

This year's JV cross country squad yet again possesses one of the deepest squads in the country. Twenty-six runners have reached the varsity benchmark of 18:15 thus far, with many running substantially faster. With this depth comes more rest for top seven runners and more varsity action for the other runners. The remaining JV runners have also fared well in their races.

Junior Daniel Hoefel said, "I like how there is a better emphasis on going above." He added that serious hard work has translated into better performances in races for everyone.

The season began for the top JV at the First Capital Invitational in St. Charles. The race saw a dominating show from the boys in blue as they recorded a shutout with 12 out of 15 runners coming through at the front of the race in first through twelfth place. Newcomer junior Tim Rackers was the champion posting an astounding 16:40 for his first 5k.

Next up was the fourth annual Forest Park Cross Country Festival. Only three of the previous top JV racers saw action as the rest moved to varsity. This marked

the beginning of the season for the rest of the team. The team stepped up despite the

competition and emerged victorious over second place Rockhurst.

At the Enke Invitational, the runners even further down the depth chart became important to the team. The top five runners all placed in the top 25, giving them enough to snag a four-point victory over Belleville East.

While the lower JV competed at the Ed White Warrior Invitational, the top JV runners headed to Kansas to compete in the Rim Rock Classic. Once again the top JV runners swept, but the other squad fell to Marquette only three points short undefeated season alive.

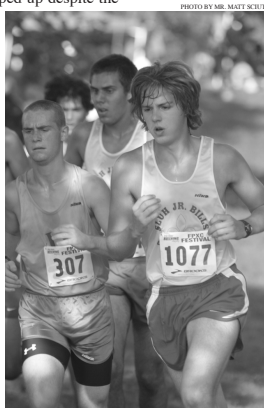
Senior Charlie Stoltze was the JV champion at Rim Rock with a time of 17:19, and was closely followed by junior Alan Ratemann who was just five ticks back.

Last Friday, nearly the same JV team

as the one that raced at Forest Park headed to Queeny Park for the Jorgenson Memorial Invitational. They were able to take first by a large margin over O'Fallon with sophomore Joe Esswein leading the pack at 18:05 and finishing second overall.

"I really feel that our team is unified, and the fact that the JV squad has encouraged each other and the freshman, really shows how dedicated we are to this sport," senior Andrew Brady said.

Tomorrow, the Kenyanbills will head to Chaminade for the Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) Championship, entering all non-freshman and non-top seven in the JV race for the only time this season.



Sophomore Paul Bossung pushes for the lead at the Forest Park Invitational.

THIS WEEK IN SLUH SPORTS HISTORY

Greg Mantych: PN Volume 69, Issue 7.

It is hard to deny the St. Louis U. High water polo team's drive and potential for excellence. They silenced any doubts this past week when they displayed consistently intense and dominating play in the water, annihilating Parkway West, Lafayette, Ladue, and, most notably, archrival MICDS...In the climax of the game, Heafner emerged from the water and buried a shot to end the game with a dramatic 11-10 win.

Editor's Note: Down 3, the U. High fought back to tie the game. Heafner's goal was at the end of the second overtime.

-Compiled by Adam Cruz