

Soccer beats Webster, goes to Districts

Rob Bertucci
Sports Editor

The St. Louis U. High soccer team (17-7-1) carried the momentum from their 2-1 upset of the CBC Cadets (20-4) last Thursday into their first playoff game Tuesday against the Webster Statesmen. The Jr. Bills avenged their previous loss to the Statesmen with a 2-0 win, advancing to the District finals against Chaminade.

SLUH came into Thursday's match in a bit of a scoring slump. Over the past two weeks, the Treemanbills had found scoring opportunities, but were unable to capitalize on them. Going into the match, the coaches and players knew how crucial scoring first was.

The Jr. Bills did strike first on a first half goal by senior captain Pat Macauley, who settled a bouncing ball in front of the goal and blasted it into the net.

However, the Cadets showed resilience coming out of halftime. Senior Matt Odem took down a Cadet in the box, giving him

a penalty kick. He beat senior keeper Dave Kirner early in the second half to tie the game at one goal apiece.

With wind and rain blowing in their faces, the Jr. Bills had to battle both the elements and a good Cadet defense for the rest of the half, making scoring chances scarce. But Odem avenged his blunder. Given a free kick from just outside the box, he recovered the lead for SLUH with his second goal of the season, and the Jr. Bills hung on to win 2-1.

"We did a really good job of rebounding after CBC scored," said senior captain Joe Bettger. "It was tough battling the wind on the last goal."

In the victory, the Jr. Bills seemed to have found their rhythm on offense against a great CBC team, and the DekeABearbills were able to take the momentum from the big win into the start of districts.

"We have had a couple of games where we had trouble scoring the big goal," said head coach Charlie Martel. "We were doing

everything else well but we couldn't get the big goal. We had two big goals and we beat CBC who is a pretty good team."

The Jr. Bills started the playoffs on Tuesday against Webster, to whom they lost 1-0 in the first game of the season. This time around, however, Webster's star goalie Tomas Gomez was moved out of goal and into the front lines because of a hand injury.

"It definitely would have been harder for us to score if he were in goal this time," said Odem.

But the Jr. Bills struggled to find the net in the first half anyway. Baby blue shirts controlled the ball for the majority of the half without success. Once again, they had plenty of opportunities to take an early lead, but could not finish their shots.

"We did a really good job of holding the ball," said senior Matt Reda. "But when Webster puts 11 guys in the box, it's kind of hard to put the ball in the back of the net."

Finally the Jr. Bills broke the stalemate
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Dominance: XC ambles to State yet again

Will Bufe
Reporter

Despite the sloppy, muddy mess on Forest Park's Central Fields last Saturday, the St. Louis U. High cross country squad had a remarkable day, winning their sectional and earning a spot in the Class 4 Missouri State Championship.

After nearly six inches of rain the week before the race, the grass became so saturated that it could not drain any more water. Crews worked all day last Friday in a failed attempt to fix the unfixable course. Nearly every square foot was blanketed by the slimy brown mud and forced racers to run times about two minutes slower than normal.

Senior Caleb Ford enjoyed the challenge and ran away with a first place finish in 17:42.

"There were times when I was trudging along, but I knew other people had to do it, too," said Ford. "I think the mud distracted the second place runner from chasing me down to staring at his feet."

Senior Tim McLaughlin also had an impressive showing, finishing third overall.

"We worked muscles that we as runners

aren't used to working just to keep our balance. The mud was sucking the energy right out of us, but it made running a smart race all the more important," said McLaughlin.

After being barraged by a mud clot that

Ratermann (18:27).

"The mud made my day," Cookson remarked. "It works your body in a very different way than regular dry-land running, so I was much more sore than usual on Sunday."

Senior Tony Minnick closed out the scoring for SLUH at an astonishingly low 22 points, finishing ninth with a time of 18:46. Senior Tyler Jennings and junior Dan Raterman also put together fantastic races, both finishing in the top 25 and earning medals in what was a dominant race for SLUH.

Juniors Tim Rackers and Joe Meier were held out of the race as an opportunity for them to get an extra week of rest. Forums on the popular Missouri Milesplit website were bubbling with talk and rumors about the two juniors.

Today, the team will leave for Jefferson City to prepare for the biggest meet of the year—the State Championship at the hilly Oak Hills Golf Center. A swath of cross country fans are expected to be on hand tomorrow in Jefferson City for the race. The Boys' Class 4 State Championship race
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Varsity cross country with their first place Sectionals plaque.

fell from the sky and hit him in the face, McLaughlin was able to gain a sense of composure. "At one point you have to put the horror of the mud out of your mind and have fun," said McLaughlin.

Not far behind McLaughlin and placing fourth and fifth, respectively, were senior Emmett Cookson (18:17) and junior Alan

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Marquette won the tri-meet following JV MCC's, scoring 151 points to MICDS' 88 and SLUH's 83. Junior Michael Hagerty qualified for state again in the 200 free, bettering his time with a 1:52.81. The 200 free relay also qualified again, composed of Hagerty, Beckerle, Klienschmidt, and Schmidt.

Swimming superstar Dan Schmidt swam a near personal best split of 48:12 in his leg of the 400 free relay, narrowly getting touched out by the Marquette swimmer next to him.

"Given another twenty feet he would have caught the guy. He had the momentum but he just ran out of pool to pass," said Long.

"The MICDS meet is a great opportunity

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with a goal early in the second half by junior Richie Hoffman. Hoffman bicycle-kicked a bouncing ball off senior Dave Burr's head and past the surprised Statesmen goalie.

Hoffman was behind the second Tickle-TheTwinebills' goal as well. He slipped past the Webster defense and put the Jr. Bills up 2-0.

As the match wore on, it became clear that it would end in a SLUH victory, and the game became more and more physical. But the Jr. Bills survived the beating, and the final whistle blew with the score 2-0, putting the Jr. Bills into the District Championship game. Saturday at noon, the Jr. Bills take on Chaminade at Chaminade in the final District game and look to avenge their previous 1-0 loss to the Red Devils.

"They are a team that knows how to win," said Martel. "They have only lost three games and they have only given up nine goals. They are very good defensively, they are athletic and fast. I think it's going to be a one-goal game."

Mike Shannonism of the Week

"I just want to tell everyone Happy Easter and, to our Jewish friends, Happy Hanukkah." (On the day before Easter.)

for seniors get to swim in a fast pool one last time," said Long. "It's one of the fastest pools in the state with great competition. It's a good opportunity to have a strong performance in a great pool to end their swimming career at SLUH."

"It was really fun to have our meet on Halloween night. Not only is it an exciting night, but also it's a great opportunity to end our swim careers in the fastest pool in the state," said Danter.

Following the loss to MICDS and Marquette, SLUH took part in the preliminary heats of the MCC Championship meet on Wednesday. Although the finals take place tonight, all the individual events had to earn a spot to swim tonight during the meet on Wednesday. While SLUH was projected to

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begins at 12:45 p.m.

"I think that if we put our best out there we can win it," Cookson said. "I think that we could get four or five guys to be All-State... that's what we need to do to win."

"It's what we start training for in June," said Ford, who will be representing the Jr. Bills at State for his fourth time tomorrow. "It makes you very thankful. Very few people get to experience State-level competition. I am thankful for the chance and now just want to go after something big."

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opponents," said Kissel.

The SnackPackSmackbills' upcoming game is next Thursday at 3:30 against their biggest rivals, the DeSmet Spartans, in one of the most important games of the year at Vetta Concord.

qualify all but three swimmers for finals, only one swimmer was unable to advance to finals.

Of tonight's meet, Long said, "It's going to be very tough to win this year. Chaminade is seeded ahead of us in almost every event. It will take some really outstanding swims to pull out a win with such a strong Chaminade team."

Although the team is projected to place second, many swimmers are optimistic about the meet. "MCC's are our time to prove that although we lost a lot of talent last year, we can step it up and take home the MCC title," said Danter. The MCC Championship Finals take place tonight at Chaminade starting at 4 p.m.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS HISTORY

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Tony Billmeyer, Reporter

"Chaminade beats 10-man SLUH in PKs"

The St. Louis U. High soccer team looked as if they were going to go home winners as they came up with multiple chances in the final period of extra time. A great chance came as (Senior Nick) Maglasang stood over a free kick just outside the 18-yard upper corner. Maglasang's shot bent just wide of the upper corner. Minutes later (senior John) Merlo was given a similar opportunity as he sent a dangerous free kick into the box, but no SLUH attacker could get on the other end of it. (Senior Joe) Zang cut out countless Chaminade counter attacks, but still (goalie Kevin) Corby was forced to make two late saves to send the game into penalty kicks.

Chaminade buried their first three penalty kicks, keeping the pressure on SLUH. The Chaminade keeper came up big in the end to deny O'Conner, Zang, and Odem, ending the game and the season 1-1 (3-0 PKs).

-Compiled by Adam Cruz, Sports Editor