

Swimming stays hot, wins three of four

Chad Carson
Reporter

Nearing the end of the season, the Michael Phelps bills took on four meets in the span of ten days, with a fifth last night against CBC. The swim team came away with victories in the Vianney, DeSmet, and Lafayette meets but fell to Chaminade this past Monday. Before the CBC meet last night, the team's MCC record stood at 3-1.

On Friday, Oct. 16, the team defeated Vianney, 140-46. Although no one new qualified for state, junior Michael Hagerty nearly qualified in the 200 freestyle.

"I was happy with such a strong performance against another MCC school," said head coach Fritz Long.

The team next took on DeSmet, defeating them 102-83. With the meet tied going into diving, the Swim bills pulled ahead with

strong performances in the 100 back, 200 free relay, and 100 free.

The team took first, second, and third in the 100 back, in addition to successful first and third place finishes in the 200 free relay.

Senior Dan Schmidt distanced SLUH from DeSmet even more with a time under 50 seconds in the 100 free.

"This meet provided us a great opportunity to see other strong competition in the MCC. It's helpful to know what it will take to have a strong showing at MCC's," said Long.

Strong performances by senior diver Collin McCabe and sophomore diver Michael Barry

contributed to a large amount of points.

"Barry's been pretty close to qualifying for state; he just needs to get it all together in one meet. It's just a matter of putting everything together all six dives," said Long.

Barry scored a 197.15 against the Spartans, edging closer to the state qualification score of 210.

The following day, SLUH upset a competitive Lafayette team 94-91. Strong finishes of first and third in the 200 free relay and a sweep of first, second, and third in the 50 free gave the team an edge up against the Lancers. Even so, the team trailed going into

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PHOTO BY MATT SCUTO

Alistair Vierod swims backstroke against DeSmet in last Thursday's meet.

XC takes MCC, dominates everywhere else

Will Bufo
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High cross country team has fared extremely well over the past few weeks, capturing the Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) and District titles, as well as placing first at the Clayton Invitational.

After about a month without racing, senior captain Caleb Ford made an outstanding return, out-leaning junior Tim Rackers (16:16) to win the individual MCC crown with a time of 16:15.

"The race was never secure until the finish line," said Ford. "Emmett (Cookson) and Tim (Rackers) kept fighting from start to finish. I felt a little rusty, but I'm confident

I'll be ready to go at State."

Several more blue and white jerseys surrounded Ford in pursuit of the conference title. Following Ford and Rackers, Cookson (16:20) and junior Joe Meier (16:30) placed third and fourth, respectively.

Senior Tony Minnick wrapped up the scoring for SLUH, placing seventh with a time of 16:40.

Junior Dan Raterman and senior Bill Gabler also had impressive days, both earning medals in one of the most important meets of the season.

Cookson went into Wednesday feeling a little under the weather, and uncertain if he would even be racing. "Coach Linhares knew I was sick and was leaning toward a

no. However, I woke up on race day feeling amazing. I thought it was most righteous," said Cookson.

After a conversation with Linhares, Cookson came out with the mentality that "I really, really wanted it." He did not disappoint, and ran a fantastic race.

SLUH sent a senior team to Shaw Park last Friday to compete in the Clayton Invitational. The cold, wind, and mud were not enough to stop senior Tim McLaughlin, who pounded his way to a third place finish. McLaughlin described his role as SLUH's top runner in the race as "invigorating ... It was exciting, getting a chance to lead all of those other talented runners."

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JV Sports Updates

JV XC

Last meets: Borgia Inv. 1st place, Clayton Inv. 1st place, Findley Inv. 1st place
Key runners: Borgia—sophomore Luke Reichold 1st, Clayton—senior Ted Varty 1st, Findley—sophomore Mike McLaughlin 1st

JV Football

Record: 5-4-1

Last game: 25-14, win over Lindbergh

Key player: Sophomore Cameron Stubbs
4 TD total

JV Soccer

Record: 8-4-3

Last game: 1-1 tie vs. Marquette

Key player: Junior Alex Sottile, goal

B Soccer

Record: 8-1-4

Last game: 0-0 tie vs. CBC

Key player: Sophomore goalie Geoff Behr

Next game: Vs. Hazelwood Central 10/31

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SPORTS

Luongo carries Jr. Bills, ends preseason

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Sam Bufe
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High hockey team (2-2) capped off the preseason Webster Groves Top-Hat tournament last week with two games against the Spartans: a win over rival DeSmet, and a loss to Francis Howell Central in the quarterfinals.

Junior defenseman Jackson Hoffmann scored his second goal of the preseason to give SLUH a one-goal lead early, against DeSmet. Senior Phil Luongo found the net three times against the Spartans, but DeSmet responded with three goals in the second period, reducing the lead to 4-3. SLUH had a 4-3 lead going into the third period.

DeSmet transferred their momentum to their opponents after a SLUH goal courtesy of freshman superstar Chase Berger, giving the boys in blue a 5-3 lead. Junior netminder Justin Ragland let one goal by before the

final buzzer sounded, and the game ended 5-4 in the Jr. Bills' most solid effort of the preseason.

SLUH came into their next game against Francis Howell Central, whom SLUH defeated in the semifinals last year, with tons of momentum. But the Spartans of FHC, who had a vendetta against the U. High, defeated SLUH by the score of 6-2. SLUH's only goal scorers were Luongo and Hoffmann.

SLUH concluded its preseason with a record of 2-2. Head coach Charlie Busenhart had previously stated that the team needed to get "more shots from the point" from the defense to score more goals.

Leading the defense in scoring, Hoffmann said, "We (knew we) would need more offense from the defense because of all the talent we lost up front." In order to compensate, Hoffmann said he is just "getting the puck to the net to try to make things

happen."

But defense is not this team's only strength. Luongo led the offense through the Top Hat Tournament with five goals in three games.

But the underclassmen of the team, particularly Berger, sophomore Trent Lulow, and sophomore Dan Warnecke have also generated some high-powered offense, and they show nearly unlimited potential.

Some of the team's players, such as sophomore Tim Coleman and freshman Remy Hoffmann, were unable to play in some or all of the games because of fall sports commitments.

So although SLUH ended the tournament in the quarterfinals and was outscored in the tournament 21-16 by some great competition, the team still has the means to return to the Scottrade Center this winter.

Bouncybills ready to defend National title

Brendan Giljum
Reporter

Throughout the fall ladder league and in preparation for the upcoming season, the Racquetbills have been challenging each other for positions on the various teams. Head coach Joe Koestner noted that team selection was extremely difficult this year with so many players who, on any given day, could qualify for the same spot.

So far, senior Mark Kissel has retained his stranglehold on the top seed. Other top seniors selected were Brendan Giljum, Matt

Hencken, Joe Ebel, and Peter Harris. Two talented juniors round out the top team: Nick Schmidt and Joe Murray.

"We are looking forward to another exciting season," said Koestner.

This year's varsity team will have many fresh faces on it, as the only returning player from last season is Kissel. One of the two juniors on the team, singles player Murray, earned his spot through his exceptional performance throughout the fall ladder.

The doubles team for this season consists of two players who played doubles on JV teams last year, senior Michael Meyer and junior Nick Schmidt. Team Schmeier hopes to revamp the doubles dynasty of SLUH.

Apart from the varsity team, SLUH will be sporting four JV teams this year: JV1-1, JV2-1, JV1-2 and JV2-2. All the JV teams are also set to dominate the league this year with several of their opponents having lost their depth.

The varsity this year has massive shoes to fill after the 2008-2009 team won all its games during the regular season, swept the state tournament at all seeds, and ended their season with a national championship team victory.

The Defendingnationalchampsbills begin their season next Tuesday at Vetta Concord versus the Golden Griffins of Vianney at 3:30 pm.

CRISS CROSS

(from 5)

"After thinking the race would be cancelled," McLaughlin said, "I assumed that when a race is barely not cancelled, you're going to be dealing with the worst possible conditions. I approached it lightheartedly. If it was going to hurt me, it was going to hurt everyone else, too. Mud is the great equalizer. It makes race strategy much more important."

Along with McLaughlin, seniors Charlie Stoltze, Bill Franey, Will Bufe, and Tyler Jennings all placed in the top 25, bringing

SLUH's score to 61—low enough to beat out Ladue for the team title.

The U. High also had a spectacular day last Saturday at the District 3 Championships, on a course at McCluer North described by assistant coach Tom Flanagan as "soft and a little slow."

Senior Caleb Ford and junior Tim Rackers had another tight battle that went down to the final few meters. Ford pulled it out in 16:41, with Rackers only a second behind. Junior Joe Meier continued a string of great races, taking third place overall. Junior Alan Ratermann and senior Bill Gabler took fifth

and sixth, respectively, while junior Riley Konzen and sophomore Michael McLaughlin rounded out the top seven out at ninth and eleventh place.

"I think it'd be more than fair to say that SLUH dominated the race—even without superstars Tim McLaughlin, Emmett Cookson, Tyler Jennings, and Tony Minnick," Michael McLaughlin said after the race.

The cross country squad will compete in the Sectional Championships tomorrow for a berth in the State Championships. The Sectional race begins Saturday at 11:30 a.m. on Forest Park's Central Fields.