

Oakville upsets SLUH in CYC semifinal

BY PATRICK HART
REPORTER

The varsity soccer team took the field at Soccer Park last Thursday for the semifinals of the CYC Tournament. Its opponent, Oakville, was hot off an impressive victory against Chaminade, and Oakville pulled off a 3-2 upset over the Jr. Bills. SLUH rebounded with a 5-0 win over Duchesne Monday.

SLUH came out with a potent attack that looked sure to lead to a goal. But, in the 9th minute, Oakville countered a Jr. Bill attack with impressive speed. Senior goalie Andrew Evola came out to challenge the Oakville defender who had slipped behind the Bills' back line, but in an uncharacteristic mistake, Evola came too far out of the box and was left defenseless against the striker's shot, which found its mark.

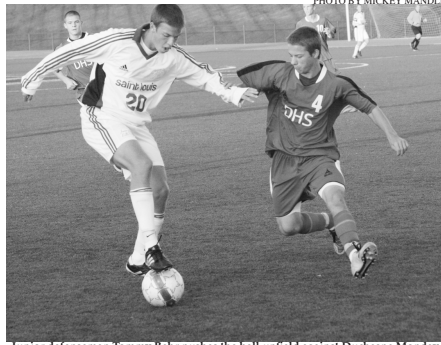
Oakville scored again on a similar counterattack 11 minutes later. Evola, who had been lights out until that night, was having a difficult game.

SLUH began to play with more intensity though. Both Jr. Bill coaches were so frustrated that they seemed ready to quit. Their passion finally made its way to the players after the second goal, and the SLUH offense finally started to heat up. At the end of the first half the Bills kept up attack after attack, and if it hadn't been for some impressive play by Oakville's goalie, the scoring line would have been much different.

The Billikens kept up their intensity coming out of halftime, and their first goal of the night finally came in the 15th minute of the second half. Junior defenseman Tommy Behr (playing for injured junior Joe Jedlicka) played a great ball to junior midfielder Ryan Merrifield, who was stationed in the corner of Oakville's attacking half. Merrifield charged along the inline before passing it off to open senior Ben Emmett, who placed a shot around the charging goalie.

For the next 12 minutes, the game went back and forth, with SLUH playing far bet-

ter than in the first half. Senior captain and midfielder Richie Hoffman led the Bills back. He was all over the field as he seemed to lead every SLUH attack and harass every Oakville player with the ball. Finally, in the 27th minute of the second half, Hoffman ripped a shot from the top of the box, which Oakville's goalie was lucky to get a hand



Junior defenseman Tommy Behr pushes the ball upfield against Duchesne Monday.

on. Junior midfielder Paul Buehler took the rebound and buried it into the net.

Unfortunately, Oakville wasn't ready to roll over. In the 29th minute Oakville put together an impressive attack. An unmarked Oakville midfielder blasted a shot from the far side of the box. Evola made a play on the ball but was a second too late.

SLUH was unable to come up with another goal despite inspiring play by two of its captains, Rob Carr and Hoffman. With this loss the Bills were knocked out of the CYC Tournament.

"Second half we definitely fought back and showed that we were willing to do what it took," said senior forward Brian Bement. "We have to score first and take every (opponent) seriously."

Back at SLUH field on Monday night, the Bills suited up to take on the Duchesne Pioneers. Freshman goalie Guillaume Delabar got the chance to show off his highly touted skills between the pipes in a game that was not built up to be a challenge for the Jr. Bills.

SLUH scored in this contest with astonishing speed and precision, notching four goals in an 18-minute stretch.

The first came in the 10th minute when Buehler lofted a pass to Bement, who headed it into the net.

Eight minutes later, Bement was again attacking. This time he played a cross to Emmett, who beat the goalie to make the score 2-0. Shortly after coming off the bench, senior forward Dylan Gardner made a great run behind the Duchesne defense and received a precise pass from Bement. Gardner outran the defense and buried an amazing shot in the bottom right corner of the net.

Sporting a new Ronaldo-esque haircut, senior Zach Manuel scored his first goal of the year in the 28th minute when he beat a defender one on one and then notched a shot past the goalie. Two minutes later Gardner struck again for his second goal of the game.

Although all of SLUH's attack looked to be on fire Monday night, the most impressive goal of the night was saved for last. In an unassisted effort, senior Mike Kiesewetter weaved around all of the Pioneer defenders. The goalie came to attention in an attempt to stop the attack. Kiesewetter slowed himself momentarily to set up for a glorious strike that blew past the diving Duchesne goalkeeper. The smoothness of the goal rivaled that of Landon Donavon in this past summer's World Cup.

The game was a great rebound for the Bills after the tough loss to Oakville. The defense tightened back up and looked to be back in good form. Delabar, in his first start as a goalie in a SLUH uniform, notched a shutout.

Tonight SLUH will take on Jesuit rival Rockhurst, ranked No. 7 in the nation, in the Gateway Classic. The game is at SLUH at 6:45.

"Hopefully we'll have a big home crowd and get momentum and build off of it," said Bement.

XC 6th at Palatine, Rackers sets record

BY GREG FISTER
REPORTER

After a long period of intense training and mental preparation, the St. Louis U. High varsity cross country team traveled to Palatine, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, and placed sixth among teams from all over the region at the Palatine Invitational. Although the course was less than five kilometers in length, senior Tim Rackers' converted finishing time of 15:22 smashes SLUH's previous 5K record held by the legendary Caleb Ford, '10.

Because the course was flat and grassy and measured just over three miles, nearly every SLUH runner came away with a personal record even after coach Tom Flanagan converted the times to what they would have been times on an actual 5K race. The conditions were near perfect, and the slight chill added a refreshing edge to the competition.

At the beginning of the race, Rackers got out to a fast start, and remained in the top 20 runners for the entire race. Near the middle of the second mile, Rackers began passing up runners left and right until, with about 200 meters to go, Rackers was in 10th place. Then, he finished third place overall, higher than Midwest running star Sam Telfer (who has the third best three-mile PR of Illinois runners, at 14:42) and only 22 seconds behind Jack Driggs (the top runner in Illinois this year, third in the State meet last year). Rackers' finishing time was 14:55 but was converted to 15:22, beating Caleb Ford's SLUH record of 15:48.

Rackers, however, denies any claims that he broke Ford's record.

"Caleb's record was a pure 5K, and I think how we're going to deal with that, because the course was a little short, is that I now hold the 3-mile record for SLUH. But leave the 5K for Caleb," said Rackers. He also added that Ford's record is "something I want to beat, especially in these upcoming races. But on a course that is flat and short, I really don't want to have that record unless I run a true 5K."

Rackers believes that he is where he needs to be physically to maybe win at the State meet.

"I've got a good base of endurance down, so now we're working mainly on speed from here on out," said Rackers. "State is just a whole different mental atmosphere. Going into the race in perfect physical shape doesn't guarantee anything. State is very much mental; you have to go in believing you can win it," he said.

SLUH's next four runners, seniors Joe Meier and Alan Ratermann and juniors Nathan Rubbelke and Michael McLaughlin—all finished within 12 seconds of each other, between 41st and 62nd place. Meier led the tight pack of these four talented and determined runners throughout the entire race, although the crowded atmosphere of the finish spread out the runners by 21 places.

Freshman John Esswein added another astounding performance by a SLUH runner last Saturday, turning in a 16:20 3-mile time (converted to 16:49 for a 5K), good for a personal record and an all-time SLUH freshman record, beating another one of Caleb Ford's records.

"It feels really good that I can accom-

plish that sort of time, that I can hang up there with the top group," said Esswein of his outstanding achievement.

Esswein ran in the SLUH varsity top seven on Saturday, and hopes to do the same at the State meet in November. Looking towards the State meet, Esswein says he is "aiming for a 16:40 time, and I'll take anything under that. Place-wise, I'm not sure what I'm aiming for... I'll just try to not be the last-place SLUH varsity runner," he said with a laugh.

Head coach Joseph Porter was very pleased with the team's performance at Palatine.

"Our guys performed extremely well, and Tim (Rackers) actually placed himself among the top 50 runners in the country after that performance, and the rest of the team definitely established us as a force to be reckoned with, and a favorite for the State meet," said Porter.

Porter believes that a State championship is now more within SLUH's reach than it has been all season long.

"Now we're in the hunt, (with) about four or five other teams, and we are happy to be among them," said Porter.

Tomorrow, SLUH races at the Ron Jorgensen Memorial Invitational at Queeny Park, holding back only the top five runners and giving the rest of the team a chance to shine. After that, the top seven will prepare for the Metro Catholic Conference Championship, a very important meet on SLUH's road to State.

Underclassman sports updates

JV Football (1-4)

Monday, September 27

SLUH 27, Vianney 0

In SLUH's first win, running backs Colin Barrett and Jermell Hundley scored rushing touchdowns, and wide receiver Reid Marshall added a receiving touchdown. The SLUH D was phenomenal against the Griffins with six total sacks, including a safety by Nsilo Berry and two interceptions, with Joe Kusky returning one for a touchdown in the first quarter.

—Drew Bruntz

C Football (2-2)

Thursday, September 23

SLUH 34, Vianney 27

The Jr. Bill offense got on a roll early. Freshman quarterback Ramon Wingo looked great, throwing and running for big gains and accounting for three total touchdowns. Late in the game, the Jr. Bills recovered an important outside kick from the Griffins to run out the clock.

—Robert Braddock

JV Soccer (5-0-3)

Wednesday, September 29

SLUH 0, CBC 0

The SLUH JV soccer team had a rematch against rival CBC last night. Unfortunately, the game ended in a tie once again. Both teams had many chances to score, but couldn't quite pull the trigger as the game ended 0-0.

—Evan Becton

B Soccer (7-0)

Monday, September 27

SLUH 3, Duchesne 0

Sophomore Nick Kocisak scored the first two goals of the game, and sophomore Mike Michler scored the clincher for the Bills, a left-foot missile into the back of the net. The Bills extended their win streak to seven games.

—Justin Sinay

C Soccer (9-0)

Friday, September 24

SLUH 5, Granite City 1

The Jr. Bills caught fire at the start of the game with a goal by freshman Tony Doellefeld. Also leading the charge were freshmen Brian Fletcher and Chris Berutti, who both scored. The Jr. Bills won 5-1 to keep their undefeated record.

—Michael Daugherty

Monday, September 27

SLUH 9, Duchesne 0

Freshmen Andrew Slaughter and Chris Klipfel had early goals against the Duchesne defense to set the tone for the rest of the game. SLUH controlled the ball for the rest of the game and continued its undefeated season.

—Stephen Lumetta

JV Swimming

Thursday, September 23

Jackson at SLUH

Freshman Victor Castro swam a leg of the 200 freestyle relay. The relay placed third with a time of 1:49.74, beating both Jackson teams.

—David Greaves

Tuesday, September 28

SLUH at MICDS

Two JV swimmers did exceptionally well at MICDS on Tuesday. Peter Myers dropped two seconds on his 100 butterfly with a time of 1:15.33, and Ryan Bub dropped an incredible six seconds on his 100 breast with a time of 1:28.76.

—David Greaves

JV XC

Saturday, September 25

Fifth at Palatine Invitational

The top seven JV traveled to Palatine, Ill to compete against some of the top cross country teams in Illinois. Sophomore Tom Laughlin was the team's only medalist, finishing 15th. Sophomore Joe Archer and junior Joe Esswein finished strong as well, both finishing just over 16:30 for the three mile race to help the team to a strong 5th place finish.

—Eric Mueth