

UNDERCLASSMAN SPORTS UPDATES

Freshmen soccer perfect at 12-0

STEPHEN LUMETTA AND MICHAEL DAUGHERTY, REPORTERS

The freshmen soccer team has begun the season so far with a perfect 12-0 record. The team has outscored its opponents 47-5 and has consistently controlled the ball.

The squad reeled off several victories against Metro Catholic Conference opponents, including one against Vianney, three against DeSmet, one against Chaminade, and two against CBC. While crushing most opponents, the team almost lost to DeSmet in the CBC Tournament semifinal. Tied 1-1 after regulation, the game was decided by penalty kicks. Ben Tarter, the starting goalie, came through and did not allow a single goal during the penalty kicks.

"I just decided to dive to a side and stick with it," said Tarter.

"I think we have been slowly making progress ... but there's always room for improvement," said coach Tom Zinselmeyer. "I think what I like (about the team) is the depth."

The whole team has been playing fantastically with a great deal of teamwork and leadership. Team leaders include Andrew Slaughter, John Espenschied, Tommy Hill, Chris Klepfel, Tony Doellefeld, and Ben Tarter. The freshmen have a lot of soccer talent and the ability to work well together as a team.

The team still has a long way to go until the end of the season. The Jr. Bills face MCC rival DeSmet on Oct. 17, and it will also participate in the Parkway Tournament starting on Oct. 25.

Freshmen XC dominates, victorious in all 4 meets

BY GABE MILLER
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High freshman cross country team has dominated the season so far in 2010, having won all four of its races. Beginning with the Forest Park XC Festival and running through last week at the Jorgenson Memorial Invitational, there have been between four and six SLUH freshmen medalists in every race.

"We've practiced hard and haven't given up till the end of the race," said Michael Swan, one of the top freshman runners.

Although the Forest Park XC Festival course was extremely soggy and muddy, the team finished in first and ran some great times. The top five SLUH

runners placed third, fifth, seventh, 10th, and 18th. Swan came in third with a time of 10:50, and not far behind him were freshmen Sean McLaughlin, Peter Rackers, Tom Rubio, and Jerry Amsler. Because it was the first race, the freshman squad ran a 3K rather than a 5K.

The most noticeable thing about Sioux Passage Park, the site of the freshmen's first 5K, is the steep hills. One of the hills has been nicknamed the Manmaker, and rightfully so.

McLaughlin came in second place overall, clocking in at 19:42, the highlight of his season. Swan, Rubio, Rackers, and Amsler were right behind him. Although the

B Soccer stays undefeated

BY JUSTIN SINAY
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High soccer tradition is alive and well on this year's talented B soccer squad. The B team has roared to an 8-0 start and has already won four games against Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) opponents.

The B team started out fast by beating DeSmet 1-0. Nick Kocisak scored off a beautiful cross from Matt Steurer as the Jr. Bills beat their Jesuit rival, and they finished the Chaminade Tournament by beating Oakville and blowing out Vianney.

Even though they won the tournament, the Jr. Bills did not stop there, winning several games and continuing their unbeaten streak into their second game against DeSmet. Although the Jr. Bills started slowly, they scored two goals and the defense held strong to produce their fifth consecutive shutout to start the season.

Despite all of these big victories, the high point in the season was the team's most recent win against MCC rival CBC. The Jr. Bills and CBC were both undefeated heading into the first game and the Jr. Bills did not disappoint, beating CBC 1-0 on a Chris Gys goal. With the victory, SLUH kept their undefeated streak.

hills slowed them down a little, they pushed hard and won handily.

Known as the Pancake Invitational, the Fox Warrior Invitational has next to no hills—there are a few bumps at most. Swan and almost everyone on the freshman team ran a personal best in that race. Swan finished at 18:28, first on SLUH's freshman team and third overall.

"I started out strong and got into the top 15 fairly quickly. About two to two and a half miles into the race, I started to feel a little fatigued, but I managed to fight through it and finish strong," said Swan.

Last Friday, the team competed in the Jorgenson Memorial Invitational at Queeny Park on a moderately hilly

course that ran through fields and forests. Rackers, McLaughlin, and Rubio placed in third, fourth, and fifth, helping the team win the race. Although Swan did not run, Patrick Oster stepped up with a solid race to place him in the top five.

"We're feeling pretty good about the season so far, but we still have a lot of work to do. It's going to take a lot of stepping up if we want an undefeated season," said Rubio.

The Jr. Bills will compete in one of its biggest meets of the season this Saturday as they chase after the Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) Championship at Forest Park.

After the game, sophomore Brendan Bement said, "We were really excited to play (CBC). We saw this as an opportunity to really prove ourselves and we did just that. We beat them."

After the victory, the Jr. Bills moved to the top of the MCC standings and have yet to concede a goal.

"Despite the tough teams we have to play, with our solid defense and our strong offense we can come away with a perfect season," Kocisak said.

Head coach Bob O'Connell said, "This is one of the best groups I've ever coached; I really like the fact that they've gotten better each game. Everybody contributes."

Sophomore Mike Michler said, "The wins are attributed to our solid D and our control of possession. We try to possess the ball as much as possible."

It is clearly showing as the B team is off to its best start in quite a few years.

C Football hopes to win conference

BY PAT LALLY
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High freshman football team entered the season with high hopes.

The team traveled to MICDS for the opener. However, because of a combination of a poor effort on special teams and first-game anxiety, the Jr. Bills dropped game one by a score of 45-29.

The team met a similar fate against Webster, this time by a score of 25-19. The Jr. Bills were unable to handle the speed and athleticism of the Statesmen. Despite a significant effort, the Jr. Bills fell to 0-2.

"It kind of felt that the season wasn't going the way we wanted it to and that we weren't living up to the hype we had coming into the season. We needed to change," said freshman Tim Lally.

And the team did just that in their next game with rival CBC (C) and again with their D squad.

They rolled to five consecutive victories from there. Leading the team on both offense and defense were freshmen Raymond Wingo and Michael Hall. Wingo, who plays both quarterback and free safety and is a crucial player on the team's special teams, noted that the improvement of both the offense and the defense has been significant in the Jr. Bills' success.

"Our ability to score a lot of points in the first two quarters has been huge. But we need to keep it going in the second half," said Wingo.

Hall, who plays both running back and strong safety said, "(It's) our speed and agility (that have kept us in games). We're fast and athletic."

But when asked about goals for the remainder of the season, both listed winning the remaining games and more importantly, the conference.

With the success of the Jr. Billikens, the freshman are just a single game away from winning the Metro Catholic Conference on the freshman level, a feat that has not been completed by a Jr. Billiken team since the class of 2010's freshman year.

The next game and last remaining conference game for the Jr. Billikens is against DeSmet on Tuesday at SLUH.

Underclassman sports updates

JV Football (1-5)

Monday, October 4
Chaminade 28, SLUH 7

One week after SLUH's dominating win over Vianney, the Jr. Bills fell to the Red Devils. On the plus side, FB Charlie Kretschmer scored on a 14-yard reception while defensively Joe Reardon had a nice interception and a 49-yard return and Chris Lynas notched 8 tackles.

—Drew Bruns

C Football (5-2)

Thursday, September 30

SLUH 21, Chaminade 14
SLUH defeated Chaminade to make its record 4-2. The Jr. Bill offense looked great, scoring 21 points. Freshman quarterback Raymond Wingo ran and threw for big plays, and the SLUH defense held Chaminade to two touchdowns as the team won its fourth straight.

—Robert Braddock

Tuesday, October 5

SLUH 42, Normandy 34

The Jr. Bills continued their win streak by defeating Normandy 42-34 on Tuesday, as the SLUH offense kept scoring. The Vikings stayed in the game, though, and forced SLUH to punt the ball away with a minute left. But Mitch Boyer recovered the muffed punt to seal the game.

—Robert Braddock

B Soccer (8-0)

Monday, October 4

SLUH 1, CBC 0

Sophomore Christopher Gys scored the lone goal late in the second half as the Jr. Bills won the battle of the undefeateds. The Bills' defense shut out their eighth consecutive opponent to start the season.

—Justin Sinay

C Soccer (12-0)

Thursday, September 30

SLUH 1, CBC 0

Eddie Howe scored the only goal of the game and SLUH hung on to continue its undefeated season. The defense also managed to make several good stops.

—Stephen Lumetta

Saturday, October 2

SLUH 3, Eureka 1

The freshmen came out hot early and dominated play. They scored in the first 10 minutes, got out to a 3-0 lead, and hung on for the win in the quarterfinal of the CBC Tournament.

—Mike Lumetta

Tuesday, October 5

SLUH 1, DeSmet 1 (SLUH 3-0 in PKs)

The freshman soccer team performed below its usual dominant standard, but it still won in penalties. DeSmet scored the tying goal as the second half wound down. In penalty kicks, freshmen Tony Doellefeld, Tony Abacchi, and Andrew Slaughter scored, but goalie Ben Tarter was the hero. He stopped three consecutive penalties to secure the SLUH win.

—Mike Lumetta

JV Cross Country

Friday, October 1

With a loaded JV team, the harriers outlasted O'Fallon (Ill.), winning by 11 points. Juniors Michael Polihan and Jimmy Griffard led the way with times of 18:16 and 18:17, good for 5th and 6th overall. Senior Riley Konzen placed 7th in the race, only two ticks back.

—Eric Mueth

C Cross Country

Friday, October 1

First place @ Jorgenson Memorial Invitational

The freshmen once again dominated the front of the race as Peter Rackers, Sean McLaughlin and Tom Rubio finished third, fourth and fifth, and all under 19 minutes. Patrick Oster and Jerry Amsler closed out the top five with strong finishes in the absence of Michael Swan.

—Eric Mueth



PHOTO BY MR. MATT SCHULTO
Sophomore Danny Buehler handles the ball against DeSmet.



PHOTO BY MR. MATT SCHULTO
Freshman Tom Rubio at FoPoXC Fest.