

Soccer loses MCC championship, wins Districts

BY PATRICK HART
REPORTER

Every game counts now for the Jr. Bills, as they began district play this week. SLUH beat Webster and faced Chaminade for the district championship last night. Last Thursday, the Bills were handed a shocking loss in the 19th minute of overtime by a talented CBC team. SLUH's attack was led by the inspiring play of junior midfielder Ryan Merrifield, who was named ESPN RISE Player of the Week on October 20.

The first half went back and forth with both teams attacking hard. The Bills were able to draw first blood with a goal in the 49th minute of the second half. Junior midfielder Paul Buehler set up to take a free kick from about 32 yards out. CBC set up a four-man wall, but it wasn't enough to stop Buehler's nasty kick. The ball went over the wall and deflected off a CBC defender and into the goal. A near-capacity SLUH cheering section celebrated with Buehler.

CBC responded with a goal of their own in the 59th minute. Crisp passing gave a Cadet forward a clear shot from inside the box and he buried it.

With the score even, play became rough. The referees were obviously losing control of the game, especially evident when Merrifield was tackled again and again by CBC defenders.

The rest of regulation was played out in a fashion more similar to a rugby match than a soccer game. Attacks came from both teams, but neither was able to finish. Both teams were awarded yellow cards for overly physical play.

Overtime seemed to be only a continuation of the second half. Merrifield was again harassed by Cadet defenders, at one point being laid out by a knee in the back in front of the Bills' bench. With 54 seconds left in the second overtime, a Cadet forward got inside SLUH's backline. This time, he scored

the game-winning goal top corner, leaving the Jr. Bill team and fans in shock.

Junior defender Sam Steurer said after the game. "The game was even throughout the whole 100 minutes. ... If we're given

PHOTO BY TED WIGHT



Junior Ryan Merrifield lines up for a shot in last week's 2-1 loss to CBC.

another chance at them during playoffs, we can beat them without a doubt."

In their first game on the road to State, the Bills faced off against Webster Groves in the District semifinals at SLUH. It was a chilly Tuesday night, but the Bills' offense was anything but cold. Despite coming out a bit slow, the Bills scored their first goal in the 30th minute of the first half.

The scoring play started with senior captain and spark plug Richie Hoffman, who passed the ball to fellow senior captain Ben Emmett. Emmett dished the ball off to senior captain Brian Bement, who slid the ball past the diving Webster goalie, a play demonstrating amazing teamwork and unselfishness.

Just a minute and a half later, Bement struck again. Bement chested a ball from Merrifield down to his feet and ripped a shot

past the Statesman goalie. It was an incredible play by both Bement and Merrifield to put the Bills up 2-0.

After the two goals, SLUH took over the first half with attack after attack that could have easily resulted in another goal.

Four minutes into the second half, Merrifield showed off some amazing footwork to score his first goal of the night. Coming in from the wide position, Merrifield weaved through three Webster defenders to put himself one-on-one with the goalie. He then slowed himself for half a second to set up a powerful shot that went into the far side of the net.

Despite a minor fluke in the 23rd minute of the second half that ruined a deserved clean sheet for senior captain and goalie Andrew Evola, the Bills controlled the rest of the game. Evola had an awesome game, breaking up Webster crosses and some desperate last-minute attacks at the end.

The dominating 3-1 win against Webster was an impressive rebound for an extremely resilient Jr. Billiken team. From here on out, all of the games are must-wins for the team.

When asked about the pressure to win, Steurer said, "There is a little pressure, but I am definitely more excited than scared or nervous."

Senior captain Rob Carr, one of the mainstays of both the Jr. Bill backline and attacking effort, earned his stripes with truly impressive play in both the Webster and CBC games. Carr fulfilled his job as defender and was also the starting point for the SLUH attacks. He played balls forward through the air and also on the ground. Look for Carr to be the backbone of this SLUH squad in the playoffs.

SLUH played Chaminade last night for the District championship. A win will give the Jr. Bills a chance to avenge their most recent loss against CBC in the round of 16 Tuesday.

XC rolls to State, Rackers poised to lead

BY GREG FISTER
REPORTER

Time is speeding by almost as fast as Tim Rackers as the 2010 State cross country meet draws nearer. St. Louis University High School's varsity team continues to show incredible talent, finishing first out of eight teams from St. Louis and St. Charles in last Saturday's Sectional meet at McNair Park in St. Charles.

Coming off the win in the Class 4, district 3 meet, all of SLUH's top seven finished within the top 20 at Sectionals. Senior Tim Rackers was the race champion, crossing the line for the 5K at 15:54, 23 seconds ahead of District 3 champion Nicolas Stewart from McCluer North. In 4th, 6th and 7th places were senior Joe Meier, junior Michael McLaughlin, and senior Dan Ratermann, respectively. They all had times lower than 16:40. Junior Nathan Rubbelke, fighting a tough hip injury, finished in 12th place, and sophomore Tom Laughlin came in 14th, just after him. Senior Alan Ratermann, brought up the rear for SLUH (but by no means the rear of the race), placing 19th.

Right after the starting gun sounded, Rackers strode ahead to lead the race, while his teammates supported him from behind, gaining spots that would help SLUH win the race.

"I felt really good coming out off the gun, and I knew I wanted to have about five-flat mile-times, so I just went out there and executed my race plan," said Rackers, who had not raced for three weeks. He stayed in the first-place position until he finished, well before any other runner.

Right from the start, the rest of the

SLUH team employed its pack strategy, led by the swift-footed shepherd Joe "The Champ" Meier, passing other runners and gaining spots all the while. After they had run mostly together for about a mile and a half, it became "every man for himself," said Meier, as each runner pushed himself to the place he wanted to be.

"I think it's good to stay as a pack for at least part of the race, but then comes a time when there will be separation among the group, because not everyone is at the same fitness level; not every guy feels the same on a given day," said Meier, who found out just how fit he really is, finishing fourth with a stunning time of 16:23.

Senior Dan Ratermann, who finished seventh, ran the entire race with McLaughlin, even after most of the others split up. He mentioned Meier as a shepherd, praising his leadership of the rest of the top seven.

"I think that's a goal for me and Mike (McLaughlin): to continue to run with Joe (Meier) throughout the whole race, because he didn't gain any ground on us in the third mile," said Ratermann.

Laughlin and Alan Ratermann both had a successful day at Sectionals, and are both excited about running at the State meet.

SLUH's score of 26 beat second-place Francis Howell by a resounding 42 points.

Though the Sectional meet is important, the peak of the team's focus is always the State meet, held tomorrow in Jefferson City. SLUH is currently ranked second in the state of Missouri, behind only West Plains according to Big River Running Company's rankings. SLUH will run the same top seven as they did at Sectionals.

Rackers is ranked third out of all high

school-age runners in Missouri and tomorrow he will get a chance to show off his immense talent, though he was unknown two years ago because he did not run as a sophomore.

"Any one of us top five (ranked) runners could win it, but I hope to," said Rackers. "There's a lot of pressure around the State meet, so the key is to stay focused, stay calm, and know that I will have a good day."

Dan Ratermann is wrapping up an eight-year cross-country career; he trained for four years before coming to SLUH and has high hopes for State, among them to run with Meier for the whole race, to place in the top 25, and of course for the team to win the meet.

All these stories and more will unfold tomorrow at the State meet—but why go? Here's why: it's a great way to show school spirit, and you can have fun cheering on your friends, classmates and Senior Advisors. Cross country is truly one of the most entertaining and exciting sports to watch, and what could be more fun than a road trip to Jeff City on a Saturday morning? SLUH is paying for buses to drive to the meet and back.

SLUH has an excellent chance of winning, though it is not entirely a chance; it is a reflection of hard workouts in 90 degree weather, grueling practices early Saturday morning, and a bond of brotherhood forged by hours of Core workouts and Porter90-X.

"And if you don't, (junior) Adam Boehm will come after you with the synergy sword," said Rackers.

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require fewer students to give tours, some students worry that it will be harder on the students who have to work all day.

"They could be tired. If they have been working awhile, they might be not be as enthusiastic at five o'clock as they were at eleven o'clock," said senior Stephen Deves.

There will also be some minor alterations in the tour route. The Danis Field House, which had been one of the last parts of the tour last year, will be shown earlier this year. Department tables will be moving out of the Commons and back into the library, as they have been in the past.

After getting out of their cars in the SLUH/Science Center parking lot, families will be directed by members of the Fathers Club to the south theater entrance.

A third change is that Schmelter and Farley will be open to combining two families together with one tour guide. That option may be exercised during peak times throughout the day in order to increase efficiency.

"My suggestion is that if you have a student with a single parent, pair him up with another student and single parent," said Schmelter.

However, Schmelter said that the majority of tours will just be one family to one tour guide.

"Our intent is to keep the tour experience very personalized," said Schmelter, mentioning that many people said that the individual tours positively influenced their opinion of SLUH.

Finally, there may be a difference in the type of students who are expected to attend. According to Schmelter, SLUH expects to have in excess of 550 elementary school students visit SLUH, which is about even with past years. However Schmelter believes the percentage of eighth graders attending will be lower than the 2009 attendance, when 233 8th graders came. As Schmelter has provided the option of tours during the school day this year, she speculates that many who would normally come to Open House have already toured SLUH.

"They may still come because they can talk to faculty, students, and coaches. Open House is really the only opportunity to meet some of those people and ask some of those questions," said Schmelter.

GEORGE

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directors debuting their work at the Toronto festival. The documentary was shown on AMC in October.

Hickenlooper's next film, *How to Date an Englishman*, was to star Pierce Brosnan and be filmed in St. Louis.

At the time of his death, Hickenlooper was campaigning with his cousin John Hickenlooper, the mayor of Denver who was running for governor of Colorado. John Hickenlooper was the subject of his cousin's 2009 documentary "Hick Town." He was elected governor Tuesday night.

Away from filmmaking, Hickenlooper was a huge baseball fan. He and Beugg attended a Dodgers game together just a month or so before his death. According to Beugg, Hickenlooper loved taking his son to games.

He is survived by his father, his wife Suzanne and his nine-year-old son Charles. Hickenlooper Jr. raised Hickenlooper by himself, struggling to make ends meet and provide for his son throughout the year. "I miss those times—eating Hamburger Helper and just scraping by," he said.

Hickenlooper's film *Casino Jack* was to premier at SLIFF next Thursday, Nov. 11. While in town, Hickenlooper had agreed to visit film teacher Cummings' film classes. SLIFF has planned a tribute to Hickenlooper before the screening of *Casino Jack* on Thursday. According to Cliff Froehlich, '80, Schulte, Beugg, and St. Louis director Bill Boll will be speaking at the event. Anyone with tickets to the 8 p.m. screening is invited to the tribute.