

## St. Louis Hall of Fame inducts Pat McBride, '61

PHOTO FROM DAUPHIN '61



McBride (#66) dribbles in for a shot in 1960.

BY ERIC MUETH  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Alumnus Pat McBride, '61, was enshrined in the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame (STLSHOF) on Tuesday at the Millennium Hotel in downtown St. Louis. McBride was a soccer player whose illustrious career included being an All-American twice, playing professionally for 10 years, and coaching the St. Louis Steamers in the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL). McBride was honored with St. Louis greats such as Marshall Faulk, Al MacInnis and Brett Hull at the enshrinement ceremony.

To be nominated for the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, one must be a resident of or have a long association with St. Louis, make an outstanding contribution as a coach or athlete, demonstrate a distinguished sports record, be inactive for three years, and be at least 40 years of age.

An anonymous person nominated McBride, and the nomination was evaluated by the selection

committee of 100 people from all different backgrounds of sports in St. Louis. Greg Marecek, the Hall of Fame founder and president, notified McBride earlier this year that he had been selected to be enshrined as a part of the Hall's second class.

McBride began his trek to soccer greatness at St. Louis U. High, where he was a three-year varsity starter at midfielder and helped lead the team to two runner-up District finishes (which was the equivalent to today's State championship).

McBride was recruited to play for Saint Louis University. McBride sat out his freshman year, but SLU won the national championship in his sophomore season, and then won again his senior season. McBride was selected as a first-team All-American in 1964 and again in 1965.

McBride was then drafted to play in the North American Soccer League (NASL) for the St. Louis Stars. The league was similar to the present-day Major League Soccer (MLS), but included a high level of competition internationally.

"Our team had eight different nationalities when we first got going in 1967. And it was very difficult to come from the college ranks to go play professionally and you're playing with players that are coming from Germany, South America, Yugoslavia, France, you name it," said McBride of his time playing professionally.

McBride earned the honor of being a first team All-Star in 1972 for the NASL.

During his time in the NASL, McBride also got a shot to play for the National team, earning five caps.

In 1994, McBride was inducted into the U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame.

As his playing career neared an end, McBride jumped on coaching opportunities. His college coach at SLU, Bob Guelker, had begun the soccer program at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and asked McBride to be his assistant coach because the college season was in the fall and the professional season was in the spring and summer.

"I was able to kind of jumpstart my coaching career while I was still playing," said McBride.

McBride was the assistant coach for seven years under Guelker before becoming the head coach at Meramec Community College.

"You take a little bit from each and every person you play for. I had the seven years to really put everything together, including my professional coaches, to develop a philosophy," said McBride.

In 1979, McBride coached the St. Louis Steamers when the team was founded as an expansion team in the MISL.

"It was probably my most

memorable coaching job. The first year we had eight sellouts—18,000, 19,000 people at the arena. It just took the city by storm."

The team was only 12-20 the first season, but still the arena was packed for a few seasons straight.

"It was just nuts. You couldn't get a ticket. Games were at 7:30, they had to push the games because there were 3,000, 4,000 people in the lobby of the Arena and they couldn't start the game until 8:15, 8:30," said McBride.

McBride said he very much enjoyed the indoor game even though it was different and may have turned off some of the soccer purists.

"(The indoor game) is very appealing to most people that like soccer because they are the same skills," he said. "And there's not a whole lot of midfield play, you're—boom—down at the other team's goal in a matter of seconds."

In between two coaching periods of two years each for the

Steamers, McBride coached Kansas City in the MISL for four years as well.

But McBride does not really focus on his personal achievements as much as his experiences in sports throughout the years. "What's really lucky from my standpoint is my soccer experiences. I've experienced the growth of the game in America. St. Louis has always had a rich tradition; it has over a 100-year history."

McBride is thrilled by his enshrinement into the STLSHOF in only the second year of its existence.

"It's just an incredible honor," he said. "It really is because I don't know many of the people that I'm going in with personally, but as a sports fan I have followed them in their careers and in their sport. It's an award, (and) when I look at something like this, it's a 100 percent shared award. So many people have helped me along the way."

## XC tradition rolls on in 2010 season

BY GREG FISTER  
AND ERIC MUETH  
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The St. Louis U. High cross country team has just wrapped up its 2010 season with the Nike Cross Nationals regionals race in Indiana. This season was head coach Joe Porter's first at the helm, and the team's tradition of fine racing and unforgettable friendships continued as strong as ever this year. Varsity placed third at the State meet, facing intense challenges but still finishing respectably. And the runners' talent and dedication shone through at Regionals last Sunday as they ran the best race of their careers.

MSHSAA rules forbid school teams from running at Regionals, SLUH's runners changed their team name temporarily to the St. Louis Cross Country Club, and ran under the tutelage of unofficial coach and SLU sophomore Ryan Payonk.

In the championship race, the top seven raced very well. Senior Tim Rackers finished 10th, made second team All-Regional, and broke his own 5K record with a time of 15:26, 19 seconds faster than his time at State.

Rockhurst junior Zach Herriott, who beat Rackers the previous week at the State meet, was the 12th place finisher exactly a second behind him.

Payonk said, "I was very impressed with Tim's race. I was not sure that he would be that high up and was particularly happy that he beat the Missouri State champ."

The team stepped up, showing they could have done much better at State the week before. SLUH placed 11th out of 36 teams in the meet, beating Rock Bridge (which was second at State) by 88 points.

"We went in a little more relaxed attitude than we did (at) State, but we still tried hard and the guys performed very well," said Rackers.

Senior Joe Meier had a great race on the day as well, finishing in

16:09 in 92nd place in the loaded field. Juniors Mike McLaughlin and Nathan Rubbelke helped each other through the race, finishing in times of 16:23 and 16:30 respectively. Senior Alan Ratermann was the team's fifth man, finishing in 16:52.

"I think one of the noteworthy things about the team this year is that they ran faster than any (SLUH) team has in the past, as evidenced by their average time at the State meet which is, I think about nine seconds faster than it has been before," said coach Tom Flanagan.

On the head coaching side, head coach Joe Porter was impressed with the team's performance, despite disappointments.

"The season was a complete success across everything that we wanted to accomplish throughout the year. We were looking to have fun, to compete well at the conference meet and the State meet," said Porter. "And to come away with a conference title and a third place State trophy, you can't call the season anything but a success."

And of the Regional race, Porter was also impressed. "I think the guys ran extremely well, Tim was able to come back and beat the State champion (Herriott), and get a school 5K record, 19 seconds faster than at State," said Porter.

Finishing up years of running for an enterprise like SLUH's cross country team is faced with mixed emotions. Though the workouts can be grueling and disappointments always occur, most runners at SLUH look back on their four years running for SLUH with fondness.

"Being a senior is a bittersweet thing, because you know that all these good times that have been shaping who you are are coming to a close," said senior Riley Konzen. "As a captain, you finally get to put everything that you've learned to use, and it's a great feeling to see the younger guys go out and succeed, and enjoy the sport that you've enjoyed."

see XC, 6

## Despite close matches, racquetball team tops defending champ West

BY FRITZ SIMMON  
REPORTER

The Jr. Billiken racquetball team (2-0) kept its winning streak alive by rolling over defending state champion Parkway West (6-1) last Thursday.

Though the team was not able to pull off another sweep, it only suffered one loss. This loss came from senior captain No. 1 seed Nick Schmidt, who faced the top high school player in St. Louis, Logan Hershenow. As teammate Jack Mohrmann said, "This was possibly the most anticipated match of the season."

The match started off with Schmidt skipping lots of shots and missing many easy passes. Schmidt could not get his game together before losing the first game 15-3.

After Schmidt figured out what he was doing wrong, he made a strong comeback in the second game, pounding the ball to Hershenow's backhand and mix in a variety of serves to keep his opponent guessing. Schmidt said, "The second game was the best I had ever played."

Schmidt turned the match around and pulled off a 15-10 win to send the match to a tiebreaker. Sensing an upset, fans flocked to see the final game. The crowd size increased from a mere 15 fans to well over 40. As the crowd turned up its volume, so did Hershenow,

who immediately took over by keeping Schmidt in the back of the court and allowing very few serves to be returned.

Schmidt said, "Logan really took control of that third game." Hershenow handed Schmidt and SLUH the first loss of the season, winning the tiebreaker 11-4.

Though the No. 1 match was hard to follow, No. 2 junior Joe Koch did not let any fans down. Koch started off with a weak first game, missing many routine kill shots, and allowing Parkway West's sophomore phenom Curtis Smith to win the first game easily, 15-5.

After this embarrassing loss, Koch snapped out of it and turned his game around, switching to the lob serve, which prevented Smith from easy kill shots.

Koch said, "Switching up serves allowed me to get back in the game."

This serve worked great for Koch and allowed him to win the second game, 15-4.

As they headed into the tiebreaker, it seemed that each had figured out the other's game. Each player matched the other shot for shot during the final game, but Koch pulled through with an 11-9 win, as Smith skipped his last shot.

Mohrmann said of the game, "It was a clutch win for SLUH. I am surprised but glad Joe pulled out the win."

After the two big games, the rest of the SLUH team followed up strong. No. 3 seed Joe Murray started out poorly, losing his first game 15-12. Murray snapped out of his funk and turned the match around, winning the final two games 15-11 and 11-2.

SLUH's Nos. 4, 5, and 6 seeds easily shut down their opponents as well. Rob Laurentius recorded a team-low number of points allowed, winning 15-8, 15-7. Junior Fritz Simmon won 15-10, 15-7.

Though Mohrmann had a poor first game, losing 15-12, he bounced back and defeated his opponent 15-8 and 11-3 in the final two games.

All four of these wins were followed by a very close victory from the doubles team of seniors Luke Hellwig and Aaron Heisohn, who kept the match close and barely pulled out a victory. The two worked together well at the end though, winning 15-12, 15-13.

Murray said, "The match against Parkway West showed us some of our weaknesses as a team and gave us a good look at what we need to work on in the future."

The team will be able to fine tune its skills in the upcoming Top Seed Tournament this weekend.

Schmidt said, "As long as we keep playing like we have been, we should be able to keep playing well through the end of the season."

## After graduating seven, basketball team hopes to surprise

BY NATE HEAGNEY  
CORE STAFF

Senior forward Mo Oginni and the rest of the St. Louis U. High basketball team know that they have big shoes to fill after graduating seven players from last year's team. Fortunately, the 6'8" Oginni wears a size 17 sneaker, and he and his teammates hope to stomp their way past expectations to a successful season.

"I know a lot of people won't expect us to be good because of the past. But we're not thinking about the past. It's going to be tough, but we're going to be good competition," said Oginni. "We're going to surprise a lot of teams."

At first glance, that confidence may seem like wishful thinking. After all, the Jr. Bills return only 8.2 points per game, or 14.8 percent of the scoring, from a team that finished just 1-7 in Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) play last season. However, many of those games came down to the wire, and sentiment within the team is that if a couple more bounces go their way this year, the squad could significantly improve its record.

"We lost a couple games by eight or less points and I feel that with a couple better decisions here or there we could have won those games. And hopefully we can do that this year," said junior guard Matt Clark.

In order to make that hope a reality, SLUH will need their four returning players—Oginni, Clark, and seniors Sam Hill and Zak Otten, to step up.

Oginni is the leading returning scorer after posting 3.5 points per game, while adding 2.7 rebounds and just over a block per contest. While Oginni's averages may seem underwhelming for a player expected to be a star, he came on strong at the end of

last season, including a 9 point, 4 rebound performance against Webster Groves. Over the summer, Oginni made big strides in his game, garnering recruiting interest from multiple Division I programs.

Head coach John Ross said that though Oginni will be a focal point of the offense, especially in the post, the Jr. Billikens also have several other weapons in their arsenal.

"With the shooters that I see on our team, I think anybody can step up at any time. But I think Mo will become a focal point of our offense, where we're going to make sure he gets a certain amount of touches," said Ross.

The two primary shooters figure to be the probable starting backcourt, Clark and Hill.

Hill's statistics from last season don't jump off the page either; he averaged only 1.8 points per game. However, like Oginni, his best contributions came at the tail end of the schedule, as Hill averaged 10 points per game in SLUH's two playoff games, including a game-winning half-court buzzer beater to beat Vianney. Hill has been described by teammates as a deadly three-point shooter, and his ability to stretch the defense will be much needed if the Jr. Bills hope to contend this season.

Clark played minimal minutes last year as a sophomore on varsity. However, when he did see the court, he made the time count. The 6'1" guard averaged an efficient 1.8 points per game, only missing two shots from the field all season. His ability to play point guard makes him an invaluable piece to the Jr. Billiken puzzle.

"I hope to create open shots for my teammates and to score for myself. I just hope I can lead the team and that we can win," said Clark.

Otten is out with a leg injury for the

first part of the season. However, the Jr. Bills hope that upon his return, the 6'8" third-year varsity forward will provide size and scoring to a team which lost most of its depth in those categories after graduation.

Last season, SLUH counted on guards like Tim Cooney and Mike Mayberger to carry the scoring load. However, with those players gone, Ross said SLUH fans can expect to see more of an inside-outside identity for the Jr. Bills.

"We're really happy with the development of our post players. We really feel very confident that we're going to get some points in the post. And I think, of the years that I've been here, I don't remember a team that has shot as well as we have shot, at least in the summer and in the preseason. Hopefully that will equate to success in the games," said Ross. "In that sense, we're going to have a nice complement to our post game."

Defensively, the team will look to counter the loss of last year's experience and strength with versatility, looking to mix up a combination of man-to-man and zone defense.

"We're going to mix up a lot of different looks. We can go with a lot of different personnel packages: we can go really big, we can go a little bit smaller. We'll give people different looks and try to figure out what's going to be best for the situation, best for the team that we're playing and best for the guys on the court," said Ross.

Last year's JV team went 22-2, and now many of those players will get a chance to step into new roles and opportunities at the varsity level.

"A lot of guys are going to be getting in there quite a bit and feeling things out, especially in that first tournament, the Southside (Classic). Everybody's going to get a look

and an opportunity. We'll see how things develop in practice and then carry on into games," said Ross.

That process of defining roles will be an interesting subplot in the early part of the season, as players will be forced into roles they may not be used to in order to see which lineups yield the most success.

Some new varsity players expected to contribute early include junior Jeff Mayberger, hoping to reprise his brother's role of sharp shooter, and junior Jack Kelley, a player with size who is not afraid to hoist up shots. Senior guard Austin Head has impressed in practice so far and could see minutes early on. Otten's absence could be filled primarily by junior forward Daniel Schmidt; however junior John Evans and Sophomore Zach Greiner may receive front-court minutes as well.

Rounding out the roster is a bevy of point guards, senior Luke Carden and juniors Alex McNeil and L.J. Hernandez and junior guard/forward Andrew Pitts, who will all look to make an impression in the early going.

Oginni said the team had solid chemistry, on and off the court. "We've bonded all summer," he said.

SLUH faces its first test after Thanksgiving break with the Southside Classic, held this year at Lutheran South. Not long after, the team will face its first MCC opponent in CBC. Ross said the MCC will, as always, be a challenge, but a challenge the team will look forward to.

"Everybody (in the MCC) has gotten better. And with our graduation of so many integral players we might be looked at as a team that hasn't improved from last year. So we'll see how all the parts fit together and hopefully there won't be too much of a drop-off," said Ross.

## Wrestling preps for promising season; Conley, Whitney lead

BY THOMAS GEORGE  
REPORTER

As winter begins, SLUH wrestlers will get into their closets, pull out their headgear—still smelling of sweat—and relace their wrestling shoes. Remembering the victories and defeats of the last season, including senior captain Espen Conley's fourth-place medal at 145 pounds, they begin to work towards the ultimate goal of State.

This season-beginning ritual is taking place now, as the wrestling team has been practicing for nearly three weeks. According to head coach Jon Ott, the wrestlers will now have to set their own team and individual goals for the season.

Conley will be the clear star and leader of the team. He has two State medals in his two years on varsity—sixth as a sophomore and fourth as a junior.

This year, Conley's goal "is to keep working hard and to build off of last season." A State title is definitely a possibility, and Conley aims to seize it. "I want to take State this year," he said.

"Espen should come in probably ranked No. 1 in the State," said head coach Jon Ott, noting that Conley wrestled in several off-season freestyle tournaments, including the state tournament, a few regional tournaments, and the national tournament in Fargo, North Dakota.

Junior captain and two-year varsity starter Will Whitney also looks to tally large numbers of victories and win medals this season. He has taken the lead in the team's rigorous fitness workouts in particular. He will wrestle at 145 or 152 this year and will likely qualify for state.

Ott said, "I would expect Will to make the next step and not only qualify for State but really make a drive at getting on the medal stand."

The team will determine the rest of its lineup with wrestle-offs sometime in the next week. Whitney, senior Hans Brende, and junior Evan Chipley will battle for spots

in the middle weights at 145 and 152.

Juniors Connor Edler and Nick Danter will fall somewhere around 125 and 135, respectively, depending on weight qualification. Both have varsity experience.

"Nick Danter has made a lot of improvements in the off-season, so he might be one to watch," said Ott.

At the upper weights, junior Joe Mungenast, who also has varsity experience, will end up around 160. The spots at 171 and 189 are open. Senior John Brusati, who sat out last season with an injury, and junior Parker Schenk will be in the mix at 215 and 285.

Ott said that, unlike in previous years, the lowest weights—103, 112, and 119—may have wrestlers this year. According to Ott, though, younger wrestlers, including freshman Sean Mulligan, may start.

The team has not set specific team goals yet, but wrestlers and coaches know approximately what they want out of this year. Ott said that improving on the team's 25th place finish in State last year and having two or three guys medal at State this year

are attainable goals.

Assistant coach Sean O'Brien said, "(I want) strong team showings at tournaments and dual matches. And, as far as individuals go, I want a State win out of Espen, a medal from Will Whitney, and several other State qualifiers."

Ott said that the team put in significant work over the off-season, including wrestling freestyle at Nation's Best, the club at which most SLUH wrestlers practice. About 25 or 30 wrestlers came to freestyle practice at some time during the spring and summer.

Now, Ott said, the wrestlers must gain confidence in their abilities to achieve what they want.

"Once you get up to a certain level, it's not so much a difference in strength or technique," said Ott, who won two State titles himself at DeSmet. "It's who has more confidence."

The team hopes the results of that work ethic intensity begin to show soon, as the Jr. Bills work to reach their goals.

—Mike Lumetta contributed reporting.

## XC

(from 5)

Meier echoed the sentiments expressed by many of his teammates, that he will remember the friendships made through cross country, and that an automatic leadership position as a senior is welcome, but not easy.

"In years past, I haven't thought that being a captain would be a very difficult job, but not that I was one, it's a lot more work than I thought it would be, but it was an enjoyable experience," said Meier.

Now, SLUH XC is looking to the future. With many returning varsity runners, especially Rubbelke and McLaughlin and sophomore Tom Laughlin, the team is poised for another successful season in 2011. And the Synergy Sword, that beacon of brotherhood, wielded this year by senior captain Adam Boehm, will stand forever as a symbol of the tradition, class, and pride of the SLUH cross country team.

## CONVERSATION CUBE—THREE TIMS AND A TOM

Compiled by Mike Lumetta	Tim Petty Football	Tim Rackers Cross Country	Tom Dell'Orco Swimming	Tim McCoy Soccer
I'd describe my role on the team as...	"Grinder."	"The dynamic boss."	"As expendable."	"No. 1 teammate/moral support expert."
Underclassman I'd tap to replace me next year	"Big bad Jerry Rodgers."	"Mr. Gilmore."	"Alvaro Gudiswitz."	"G-Baby Delabar."
Word or phrase that sums up my team's season	"Tough."	"Synergetic."	"It floundered."	"Two 'til history."
Highlight of my SLUH athletic career	"Tom Wilson's pump-up talks."	"Winning JV MCC backstroke."	"Beating Michael Hagerty in diving. By two points. At MCCs."	"It's gotta be beating Rockhurst in penalty kicks and the crowd rushing the field."
Favorite other Tim or Tom	"Tim the Toolman."	"Tom Petty."	"Special Tim (Hof)."	"Timmy and Tommy Timmons."