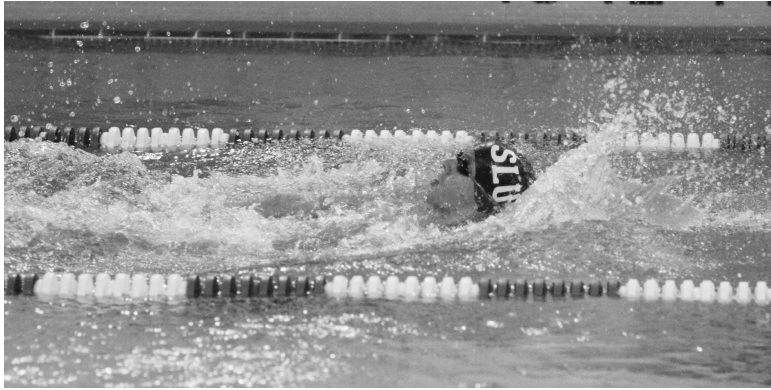


Swimming wins first meet, multiple swimmers qualify for state

photos | Patrick Enderle



Above: Freshman Barkley Dale competes in the backstroke Wednesday.

Below: A SLUH swimmer swims the breaststroke in Wednesday's meet at Forest Park Community College.



BY TIM NILE AND PATRICK SCHULER
REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High swim team started off the season on Wednesday with a home meet at Forest Park against the CBC Cadets. The Jr. Bills showed no mercy, winning the meet 141-43.

The meet started out well for the team as the 200-meter Medley Relay team of junior Michael Krause, and seniors Arthur Larson, Hap Burke, and Colin Derdeyn quali-

fied for state with a time of 1:45.88.

"We had a great swim as a team," said Krause. "It was really cool to make a state time for me. This is my first one."

As the rest of the meet progressed, SLUH showed its dominance in the water, taking first in every single event besides the 200 Individual Medley. SLUH swept the 100 Butterfly, the 100 Backstroke, the 200 Freestyle, and the 100 Freestyle, which included an exact tie for second place between sophomore Sam Grasso and Larson.

"The atmosphere was really great, all the swimmers were really excited," said senior Franklin Rosario. "We posted a lot of great times."

However, the team still has a lot of work left, a point head coach Joe Esposito made by having the team do a workout after the meet was over.

Senior captain Andrew Irvine, who has an inflamed rotator cuff, was unable to compete in this meet.

"I do thirty minutes of therapy, swim and then ice it," said Irvine of his rehab work.

Upon return from his injury, Irvine would like to make State in the 100 and 50

Free.

Looking forward to the weekend, the Jr. Bills have two meets: the Marquette Relays (varsity) and the Ladue Invite (JV). Esposito is hoping to win both meets and is looking forward to seeing more good times.

The dive team also had a strong start to its season. With senior divers Ike Simon, Kier Verhoff, and Evan Schulz this season, the team is expected to be strong.

"Our goals for this year are to place well in the big meets like the Marquette Relays and the Mizzou meet. Our biggest goal would be getting all three divers to make State. That would make for a successful season," said Simon.

Simon dove exceptionally well in the first meet and his score was good enough to qualify for State.

"I was really surprised when I found out I had qualified," said Simon. "I knew my first four dives were strong but I thought I had lost it with the last two. Qualifying for State was huge this early. Now we have the whole season to shape things up."

Cross country takes second to Lafayette; Porter optimistic for future races

photos | Xavier Ludwig



Varsity runners start their first race of the season, the Randy Seagrist Invitational.

BY KEVIN MURPHY
SPORTS EDITOR

After a slow start to their first race, the senior-packed Jr. Bills cross country team surged back to take second, 28 points behind Lafayette.

Head coach Joe Porter sees the race as a good starting point for the team to build from for the season.

"I thought we did fine," said Porter. "We go into the first meet of the year just trying to figure out where we are. For some of the guys it has been about five months since they've really gotten to race, so (right now) it's remembering what racing instincts are like and getting back into that mode."

The team lost to its biggest competition in the race, Lafayette, but finishing second place was well-earned

considering the other teams.

"We beat some very good teams like Parkway West, Timberland, Eureka, Parkway South, Lindbergh, and Washington," said Porter. "So it's a good starting point."

Before the race, Porter knew certain moves that the top Lafayette runners would make during the first mile to try to lose the leading pack, so he told the varsity runners to try their best to stay with that advancement. Juniors Joe Butler (11th overall; 17:42) and Dustan Davidson (15th; 17:54), were both able to stay with the lead pack until falling off toward the end. Butler ended up as SLUH's fourth runner in, and Davidson the fifth.

"I think a lot of us went out too timid, minus (Butler and (Davidson))" said senior Jack Sullivan (9th over-

all; 17:38), who finished as SLUH's third runner. "They were the only ones who went with the front pack from the beginning, all of us hung back."

As for the rest of the team, senior Matthew Hennessey (5th overall; 17:13) was SLUH's first finisher, followed by senior Thomas Hogan (8th; 17:33). Senior Jack Gallagher (17th overall; 18:01) was SLUH's sixth finisher, followed by junior Jake Lepak (35th overall; 19:38).

Going forward, the team is focusing on going out with the front pack from the beginning of the race, with hopes of putting itself in a better position towards the end.

"We need to be aggressive and have confidence in ourselves and our abilities," said Lepak, who ran in his first top-seven race on Sat-

XC Personal Records

Shayn Jackson	16:12	Dustan Davidson	16:24
Jack Sullivan	16:12	Joe Butler	16:41
Thomas Hogan	16:22	Billy Balossi	18:17
Matthew Hennessey	16:22	Jake Lepak	18:30
Garrett Fox	17:08	Joe Laughlin	18:45
Jack Gallagher	17:20	William Kelly	18:45



Junior Dustan Davidson (3637) hangs with Lafayette runners as his teammates follow right behind.

urday. "If we are able to have faith in what we planned, we can definitely run fast times and hold our positions well."

The next opportunity to

Porter, making the Festival a good opportunity to scout out teams that SLUH will run against in the State meet in November.