

Clear eyes, full hearts lead football to successful 7-3 record

BY MARTY JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The lights might have gone out on the St. Louis U. High football team's season, but the 7-3 Jr. Bills have nothing to hang their heads about. In a season that featured games against three undefeated teams and five teams that eventually played for district championships, the young team not only survived its gauntlet of a schedule, it thrived.

Longtime head coach Gary Kornfeld largely credited the team's success to the players themselves.

"Our kids really worked hard in the offseason, especially our linemen," Kornfeld said.

During the offseason, the Jr. Bills' offensive and defensive linemen would meet Saturday mornings for the Strong Man program that is led by three of SLUH's assistant coaches. The workout, which sometimes lasted as long as four hours, helped make the trenches a place where the Jr. Bills found great success throughout the season.

The offensive line constantly opened huge running lanes for SLUH's explosive running back tandem of senior Andre Colvin and sophomore Andrew Clair. As a team, the Jr. Bills rushed for 1,827 yards and gained an average of 5.5 yards per carry.

"I knew our line would be good because of its experience," senior offensive tackle Max Kavy said. "We had four returning starters."

A predominantly run-first team, the Jr. Bills also got great production from first year starting quarterback sophomore Mitch Batschelett. Batschelett started every game for the Jr. Bills, throwing for 1,377 yards and 12 TDs while completing 60 percent of his passes. His go-to receiver was junior David Jackson, who led the team with 520 receiving yards.

The dual-pronged offensive approach paid off for SLUH, as it averaged 32 points a game and scored more than 40 points five times.

The defense was equally dominant. Led by seniors Spencer Chipley and Bryan Edwards, the defense allowed just 15 points a game. A huge factor was SLUH's ability to play take-away and whack-a-quarterback. The Jr. Bills forced 19 turnovers and sacked opposing quarterbacks 15 times.

Edwards believes that it was their approach that led to their success.

"We (took) things week by week and (didn't look) continued on page 7

XC falls short, takes second place to Lafayette

photo | Nolen Doorack



Senior Matthew Hennessey leads a pack of SLUH runners after the first mile mark at last Saturday's state cross country meet.

BY KEVIN MURPHY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Missouri State cross country race last Saturday marked the end of an era for the Jr. Bills, who, after winning the race for the past two years, fell to rival Lafayette by 45 points, despite scoring one of the lowest point totals in SLUH history and running the fastest average time in SLUH history.

"I could tell by the mile mark we were going to be second—Lafayette looked too strong," said head coach Joe Porter. "Our focus was on our own race, and we ran well."

The runners went into the race hoping for their best race, and couldn't control how

the other teams ran. Lafayette had one of the best races in state history, scoring 41 points and putting four runners in the top ten.

Despite the second place finish, SLUH was happy with the performance and congratulated Lafayette on their phenomenal performance.

"I think the team ran well," said Porter. "We ran into a better team."

Leading the team as he has all season was senior Matthew Hennessey, who ran the best race of his career on the most important day. He finished with a time of 15:50 and took sixth place on the day.

Following Hennessey was senior Thomas Hogan,

who also ran a strong race, finishing in an all-State position of 19th place with a time of 16:19.

The next group of SLUH runners came in close to each other. The group consisted of junior Dustan Davidson (16:28; 30th) and seniors Shayn Jackson (16:34; 33rd) and Jack Sullivan (16:46; 41st). Jackson ran his season-best at State.

The last two SLUH runners were junior Joe Butler (16:47; 43rd) and senior Jack Gallagher (17:34; 126th). Gallagher spent the beginning of the race pushing the front pack, but was unable to continue at the fast pace.

As a team, SLUH per-

formed well, scoring only 86 points, which is this group's record point total. The average time for the runners was 16:24, the fastest ever in the history of SLUH cross country. The second place finish marks nine out of the last 10 meets in which SLUH has garnered a trophy.

"I think all the work we put in was still worth it, and I'm glad I did it and so blessed to have been a part of this team," said Hogan.

"This was a group that really cared about each other," said Porter. "It showed in how they acted all weekend, and I'm proud to work with such a great group of guys."

Finding gold: swimming finishes 4th at State

BY PATRICK SCHULER
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High swim and dive team ended its season with a fourth place finish at the MSHSAA State Championship meet held Saturday at St. Peter's Rec Plex.

Prelims were held Friday to trim the field to the top 16 seeds in each race for Saturday's finals. Each race has two heats.

Last year, the Jr. Bills took eighth overall out of 44 schools.

The diving portion of the meet took place Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

SLUH entered two senior divers this year: Ike Simmon and Kier Vierhoff. Both came into the meet hoping to get points for the team in the top 16, but were unable to do so.

"We could have done better overall, but I am still really happy with how we finished out our SLUH career," said Simmon. "It was really exciting to make it to State as a senior."

Going into the season, coach Joe Esposito said his goal was to improve on last year's State result by finishing in the top five.

Senior captain Colin Derdeyn said before the meet, "My original goal for the season was to be a top five team at State, but I have no doubt we can finish top two."

After the Jr. Billikens dominated prelims Friday, they were in a position to place second overall Saturday.

To open the finals, SLUH's 200 Medley Relay, seeded No. 2, placed second behind Rockhurst, who broke the state record in the process of winning the race. Overall, this was a big start for the Jr. Bills, as each relay counts for double the points of an individual race.

Next for the Jr. Bills were four very important individual races from two of SLUH's top swimmers all year: junior Justin Andrews and senior Colin Derdeyn.

Seeded second in the 200 Freestyle, Andrews swam a 1:41.13, beating the school record he already held to finish second overall.

Andrews also placed second in the 500 Freestyle. Despite leading the pack for most of the 20-lap race though, he was unable to hold the pace until the end.

"I am sick of second place finishes," Andrews said after the race to a reporter from the Post Dispatch. "I was very happy with my time. It was a .17 drop from my best time. The 500, I was very disappointed. I added four seconds to my best time ever."

Andrews won three sil-

continued on page 7

Onslaught of goals lead hockey to a 3-0 record

BY TIM NILE
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High hockey team moved to 3-0 on the season with a 9-1 win over the Francis Howell Central Spartans and a 6-0 shutout against the Kirkwood Pioneers last week.

Senior captain Tommy Espenschied scored the first goal against Howell. In the following minute, junior captain Patrick Pence had a huge hit, leveling a Spartan in open ice. With 6:17 left, freshman Matthew Hohl added to the Jr. Bills' lead as he scored the team's second goal.

Twenty seconds after a tripping penalty on Howell, Espenschied scored the team's third goal off an assist from sophomore Luke Gassett.

The period ended with the Jr. Bills outshooting the Spartans 16-1; Howell didn't record its first shot on goal until there were 45 seconds

left. "The defense is pretty solid right now. All of our guys are playing really well right now, and we have (junior) Joey Pinkowski coming back later in the season, who'll be a really good addition, so we have a really solid defense this year," said junior defender Scotty Berger.

The second period felt something like the sophomore John Sieckhaus show. Sieckhaus started things off early in the second period with wraparound goal to make the score 4-0.

After the Spartans scored, Sieckhaus struck again with 3.8 seconds left in the period to make the score 5-1.

In the third period, goalie Joe Warnecke was relieved of his duties and senior Ben Keaven took over. Sophomore Chaz Palumbo, senior Ryan Krippene, sophomore Blake Riley, and sophomore Liam Knobbe all scored in the third

as SLUH piled on for the 9-1 win.

The Jr. Bills outshot the Spartans 53-17 for the game.

"We played pretty well, we were all pretty happy about how we played. We came together as a team and really took it to them in that game," said Berger.

The game against the Pioneers looked a lot like the game against Howell, full of goals.

It didn't take long for the Jr. Bills' first goal, a cross goal pass from senior Brendan Walters to Gassett and into the back of the net to make it 1-0. With 4:34 left in the first period, Knobbe scored his first of the night off an assist from Palumbo.

Pence scored the team's third goal off his skate with 9:28 left in the second period, deflecting senior captain Danny Tarlas's shot. Berger's impeccable shot-blocking abilities helped preserve the

shutout.

Knobbe scored his second and third goals within 15 seconds of each other in the third.

"I was actually going for the rebound to the other winger and it just happened to go in so that was exciting," said Knobbe about his third goal.

Palumbo scored the sixth goal unassisted.

The shutout was Warnecke's first of the season.

"We played well, we're a pretty good team and we can compete with everybody so we should have a pretty good season," said Knobbe.

The Jr. Bills' next game is Saturday against the Vianey Griffins. The game is set to play at the Grindhouse on Gravois, more commonly known as Affton, and will start at 7:30.

2014-2015 Water Polo Captains

Colin Derdeyn

Franklin Rosario

Michael Kennedy

Rifle prepares for season opener at Iroquois meet

BY ALEX WANG
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High rifle team will open the season against Iroquois West High School in Gilman, Ill. on Dec. 6 in the annual Raider Classic.

Despite winning State nearly every year, this is the last chance for seniors Matthew Bates, Brendan McFarland, and captain Thomas Lally to win Nationals. The team missed its chance last year to be nominated as one of the 42 teams competing in Nationals; this year, the team hopes things will be different.

Last year, the rifle team was overwhelmed by the

teams at the Raider Classic, coming in third place.

This year, the squad hopes to feel much more prepared entering the season.

"I am committed to going to every practice that is available to me. Team members are only required to go to four practices a week because two of the five are freshman days. I am going to go to all of the practices to become the best shooter I can be," Bates said.

Bates is part of the elite varsity team, led by Lally. The other members include McFarland and junior Sean Wohlstaedter.

McFarland, a member of the rifle team since freshman

year, is highly regarded for his consistent performances.

"I believe what ultimately it comes down to is practice, practice, practice. I believe it is what will help differentiate us," said McFarland. "I think our practices will be more consistent with more commitment from the team. We may not be at our goal yet, but at this point in the season we have shown significant improvement."

Wohlstaedter, the only junior on the varsity squad, agreed with McFarland.

Wohlstaedter said, "With another year under my belt, I have a lot more direction from the coaches and I have a much

better understanding on each position. No longer do I have to start learning from scratch."

Lally believes the team will do a lot better in his second year as captain.

Lally said, "I am extremely optimistic about this upcoming season and I believe that the team has gained an experience, talent, and determination to do better this season than the last. We have been training harder than we have in the past, and although we are not shooting as well as we hope to, we have seen major improvement and hope to reflect that in the upcoming match."

Racquetball begins season, eyes fifth straight national title

BY JOSEPH REZNIKOV
REPORTER

After four consecutive national championships, SLUH's varsity racquetball team looks continue its dominance and capture another national title. With three returning varsity players and lots of young talent, the team is excited to begin this new season.

This year's varsity squad consists of six seniors—Kevin Schneider, Brian Kissel, Ben Buescher, Mike Warfield, Ike Simmon, and Andy Warfield—junior Charlie Mueth, and sophomore Chris Schulze.

Schulze is the first sophomore since Schneider to start out a season on varsity.

"It's kinda strange (being on varsity) since all of the kids my age are on different teams. But it's still a really cool experience," Schulze said.

Head coach Joe Koestner, along with racquetball program director Patrick Zarrick, are excited about the potential Schulze has shown so far in his SLUH racquetball career.

"It's very unusual to have a sophomore on varsity. We usually reserve those spots for juniors and seniors. But because of the consistency Chris has shown, we think he definitely deserves to be there," Koestner said.

Zarrick added, "We noticed freshman year that he had very good natural ability as well as a strong work ethic."

Though a large number of players from last year's national championship team graduated, the two coaches think that with the leadership of the three returning varsity players, the team has state and national championship potential.

"We always start the year off curious how good we'll be compared to the competition," Koestner said. "But I

think this team is pretty darn strong. Lots of guys have stepped up and worked hard on their game."

Zarrick added, "Some of the older guys gained lots of experience from the national tournament, which I think will really help us this year."

If the team were to capture the state title this season, it would be the fifth year in a row, which has never happened in SLUH racquetball history.

"The 5-peat would be an extremely impressive feat," Koestner said.

Koestner added, "We already hold the record for the most national titles in a row in the history of the high school racquetball league at four, and if we were to win our fifth this year, it would be simply unheard of."

When asked about goals for the year, Schulze said, "I hope to go undefeated as an individual during the season, as well as win state and nationals. That's always the goal."

The team had its first match of the year last Tuesday, against SLUH's Varsity 2. Varsity 1 won the match handily 6-1, with the only loss coming from a forfeit.

The team's next match will be against one of its rivals and one of the better teams in the league, Parkway West. The match will be at Vetta Concord next Tuesday, Nov. 2, at 3:30 pm.



artwork | Hap Burke

Running game, defense shine for Jr. Bills

(continued from page 6)
ahead to big games," Edwards said.

But it was not only skill and hard work that got the Jr. Bills a win away from a spot in the district championships against CBC. It was the bond that they created before the season.

"From this summer, we stressed faith, family, football, with an emphasis on family," Colvin, who led the team in rushing with 884 yards, said. "We took a few days as captains to spend the night with each other and we spent the night as a whole team at (Anthony) Sansone's house. We just tried to stay tight and keep everyone involved."

This bond would help the Jr. Bills overcome adversity. After a disappointing 13-6 loss to Chaminade, the Jr. Bills were 2-1, with crucial MCC games against De Smet and CBC remaining.

"The Chaminade game was one that we thought that we didn't play well," Kornfeld said. "I told the kids we have to own these things, that we're better than that. From that point forward, I thought



photo | Dominik Skroska

No. 19 Daniel Isom takes a handoff from quarterback Mitch Batschelt on Nov. 1 against Hazelwood Central. SLUH lost the game 23-14, ending its season with a 7-3 record.

we played well every Friday night, including the loss to CBC."

SLUH finished its remaining schedule 5-1, including a 38-35 upset of then-unbeaten Kirkwood.

"It was huge," Kornfeld said. "I think our kids knew that we could play with the great teams, but this game

showed them."

The team would carry this momentum to rout Hazelwood West 42-0 before falling to Hazelwood Central 23-14.

"Even at the end against Hazelwood Central, I thought we played tough, that we played physical," Kornfeld. "That was a heck of a club."

The season, while over, is viewed fondly instead of negatively.

"I didn't think we would be as good as we were, but a lot of young kids stepped up," Kavy said.

"We were playing the best that St. Louis had to offer, and for the most part, we beat them," Kornfeld said.

Best season finish for swimming since 2003

(continued from page 6)

ver medals total.

Derdeyn swam the 50 and 100 Freestyle, coming into the season, his goal was to win the 50. Seeded second in the field on Saturday, Derdeyn took third with a time of 21.43.

Derdeyn placed seventh overall in the 100 Freestyle with a time of 48.03.

The last individual swimmer for the Jr. Bills was junior Mark Franz. Franz came in seeded 24th in the 100 Breaststroke, but after prelims had moved up to the 14th seed.

In the finals, Franz finished the season with a 16th place finish with a time of 1:01.87.

"Going into my second state meet, I had some great experience from last year," Franz said afterward. "I feel like all my hard work and dedication during practice this

year really helped me drop two seconds from last year."

SLUH still had two other relays to swim, the 200 and 400 Freestyle Relays. Overall the Jr. Bills finished 13th in the 200 and fifth in the 400.

"We placed way better than we were seeded going into prelims, which we knew we could," junior Michael Krause said about the 200 Free Relay. "We all had work to do going into the finals, but overall we swam about the same time."

"The four of us (in the 400 Free Relay) were overall happy with the relay," Andrews said. "I swam a little slower than I wanted, but Michael Kennedy swam really fast and made up for it. Colin and Mark did what they had to do and swam great."

Overall, the Jr. Bills finished the meet in fourth place



photos | Nolen Doorack



Top: Varsity runners hug after State race. It was the last time four of the seven raced for SLUH.
Below: Racers were cheered on by the biggest spirit section of the XC season.

O'Connell is #1

St. Louis U. High history chair and teacher Bob O'Connell was named the AAA coach of the year after leading John F. Kennedy High School to a 10-10-1 record and a trip to the Class 2 District 4 title game against John Burroughs. It was O'Connell's first season as head coach.

out of 47 schools, a tremendous accomplishment and improvement from last year's eighth place finish, and the best result the Jr. Bills had seen since 2003, when they won the meet.

SLUH also was the only St. Louis area school to take home a trophy, given to the top four finishers.

"We swam very well," Andrews said. "Coming into the meet, we knew Rockhurst was going to have multiple guys that swim year-round and are super fast that our non-year-

round swimmers wouldn't be able to keep up with. Our goal was to be the best St. Louis team. It was a great ending to a very successful season."

"Fantastic" was the note Esposito sounded about the meet: "Colin Derdeyn, fantastic. Peter Brooks, fantastic. Arthur Larson, fantastic. Michael Kennedy, fantastic. Mathias Hostetler, fantastic. Mark Franz, fantastic. Michael Krause, fantastic. Justin Andrews, priceless."