

Soccer team has successful trip, ends Xavier's 50-plus game win streak

photo | courtesy of Mr. Bill Slaughter

BY DANNY SCHNELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High soccer team began its season last Friday against St. Xavier High School in Louisville, Ky., who had not lost since August 2011. Despite this daunting statistic, the Soccerbills got off their four-hour bus ride confident that they could snap the Tigers' win streak.

"In the first game, they played like it was the end of the season, and they had been working all year," said head coach Charlie Martel of his team. "(We) were moving the ball and got two quick goals. I was really, really impressed."

Cleanly snapping Xavier's 50-plus game win streak, the Jr. Bills won their season opener 4-1.

Their second game in Louisville put them up against Trinity High School, a Catholic boys' school that typically fields a top-notch soccer team. Of the two teams faced on the trip to Louisville, Martel believes that Trinity was by far the tougher team.

After waiting out an hour and a half game delay, brought about by a fearsome combination of extreme heat and lightning, the team took the field.

SLUH had taken a 2-0 lead by early in the second half. But late in the second half, Trinity scored to creep back within striking distance. Yet, despite a close call on a Trinity corner, SLUH held on to win 2-1.

"Trinity was a little bit sloppier than the first game," said goalie Jack Robinson. "We really started falling apart in the second half, but we ended up pulling it out."

Against Trinity, three starting players were on the bench with injuries. The team had to rely on



Senior Tony Doellefeld charges the net in Saturday's game against the Trinity High School Shamrocks.

support from a few players who have not seen quite as much playing time.

"(The guys who came off the bench) came up huge," said senior captain Luke Nash.

Wednesday night, the Soccerbills traveled to Oerter Soccer Park in Columbia, Ill. to square off against Gibault Catholic. Despite scoring first and, later, jumping out to a 1-0 and a 2-1 lead, the Soccerbills fell 3-2 to Gibault.

"I thought for most of the game we moved the ball pretty well," said Martel. "Especially in the second half, we had tons of

chances, but we just couldn't get it behind the goalie. When you give up three goals, it's tough to win anywhere in St. Louis. That was our demise Wednesday night. We can't be so soft in the penalty area; we have to be better."

Though communication and passing were minor issues at some points during the game on Wednesday night, the Jr. Bills also had a great deal of trouble with the size of Gibault's team.

"Gibault is the biggest team we'll see all year," said Robinson. "They were just enormous. We're taller than our usual teams, but

we seemed so small compared to them. They play big and fast, and all their goals were off big and fast plays. They would just play long balls over the top to their big guys."

Before the road trip last week, Martel decided to practice early in the morning before school in order to dodge the heat of the afternoon. He was amazed at his players' drive, especially when it was still there early in the morning.

"I told them we were going to be on the field the next day at 5:30 (a.m.)," said Martel. "They were all on time, and I didn't have to

tell them to go out and warm up." Much to Martel's delight, this year's varsity soccer team really wants to be a close team.

"They've really emphasized teamwork," said Martel. "A lot of the things that they're doing, we normally have to suggest they do, but they do it on their own. When practice begins, normally we have to tell our teams, 'Okay, let's go.' They go. They're self-starters."

In what seemed to be a team motto of sorts, Nash said, "Play together. Win together. Lose together."

The Soccerbills will face In-

XC promotes team fellowship through mini golf

BY MICHAEL SIT
REPORTER

"Yes! I got a hole in one!" said freshman Joe Schwartz excitedly.

There wasn't a meet this past week for the Saint Louis University High cross country team. Instead, the XC-Bills held their first annual miniature golf tournament last Saturday.

Head coach Joe Porter, with the help of the cross country captains, came up with the idea. The tournament's purpose was to increase fellowship between the upperclassmen and the underclassmen.

With the promise of food and prizes at the tournament, freshmen did not need much convincing to sign-up.

The coaches also emphasized the optional crazy and classy dress code for the tournament, which resulted in athletes wearing a wide range of clothing options, from suspenders to sports jackets.

"The putt-putt tournament was a great way for the team to bond and get to know the new runners, especially the freshmen," said senior Greg Murphy.

Several contests took place

simultaneously throughout the tournament. Best mini-golf stance, best dressed, best overall scorecard, worst overall scorecard, and lowest team score were just some of the many contests that the coaches were judging.

Despite the lots thrown for SLUH's varsity golf athlete and senior veteran Brendan Keuss, newbie Dustan Davidson (sophomore), went four under par to beat Keuss by five.

"I was confident in my game plan and mindset going into the tournament last Saturday, but the problem was that the grounds crew cut the course that morning and I was unprepared for the change of pace on the greens," said Keuss. "The Statue of Liberty got to me, too; thankfully there was no windmill. Bottom line: not enough circles on the card." (Circles on the card = birdies.)

"I thought the putt-putt tournament was an excellent idea because it gave the younger guys time to hang out and get to know the older guys and vice versa," said coach Tom Flanagan. "It was really hot too, though. It was hot asphalt out there."

Conversation Cube: Fall Sports Captains

-compiled by Will Smith	Alex Peraud, XC	Andrew Slaughter, soccer	Sam Sykora, football	Joe Shaughnessy, swimming
Biggest rival this year?	DeSmet	CBC	CBC	Chaminade
Favorite pastry?	Donuts. 12 in 1 minute flat.	McDonald's apple pie	Apple fritters	Jelly donut
How long have you been playing your sport?	6 years	11 years	8 years	11 years
Animal?	I've always felt like a liger on the inside.	Lion with a big big mane.	Lion with a flowing red mane.	Manatee.
Favorite pump up song?	"Birthday Song" by 2 Chainz	"We Can't Stop" by Miley Cyrus, actually anything Miley	"My Life be Like" by Gritz	"Get Out the Way" by Ludacris