



XCBills cross finish line with state win in Jefferson City, 3 juniors All State

photo | courtesy of Jack Sullivan



The cross country team after its State win in Jefferson City on Saturday.

BY MICHAEL SIT
REPORTER

Despite clerical confusion, the XCBills hauled in their second consecutive State title last Saturday thanks to strong performances from their junior runners and the bond their team had formed.

The team had high hopes for the State meet, but the top seven were not sure of another State Championship. Coach Joe Porter brought almost all of his top 14 runners on the team in case of an

injury within the top seven.

On Friday afternoon, the State team members ran the course to familiarize themselves with it. Porter did not want the runners to have any surprises other than the fierce competition during the race.

Prior to the meet, junior all-state runner Jack Sullivan said, "At the beginning of the season, the top seven were just hoping for a state trophy, but after talking with senior captain Tom Rubio we believed we could defend the title."

The state course is dotted

with numerous hills, especially the infamous "Firehouse Hill"—the hill in which this year's State champion lost his lead in last year's state meet. The route, painted out on a golf course, challenged the runners' abilities, but the course' cushy grass provided a positive change from the usual rocky and dusty courses that SLUH's varsity runners have competed on before.

In addition to the favorable course conditions, the clouds cleared, resulting in a sunny race day in the low 60s.

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第二名! Finazzo gets second in Chinese competition

BY NOAH WEBER
REPORTER

Months of preparation and two weeks of long days filled with hard work paid off in the end for senior Tristan Finazzo, who recently returned from receiving second place at the sixth annual "Chinese Bridge," an international Chinese speech, talent, and cultural competition in Kunming, China.

Finazzo's work for Chinese Bridge started at the beginning of the year, when he began preparing a speech and talent routine for the Midwest qualifying competition at Webster University on Aug. 16.

Finazzo's original speech focused on his previous trip to Nan-

jing last spring, and he sang and played the drums to the Chinese pop song, "我真的很不错," "I'm Really Great," a song that sounds less conceited and more inspirational to Chinese listeners than it may be to an American.

After winning the competition at Webster, Finazzo, accompanied by Webster Chinese professor Li Fang, joined more than 300 other accomplished students representing 64 countries around the world.

Before arriving in Kunming, the location of the actual competition, the travellers were given four days to sightsee in Beijing. The 300 attending students had been divided into participants and observers, based

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Santels endow scholarship honoring Houlihan

BY CONNOR FITZGERALD AND
LEO HEINZ
REPORTER AND CORE STAFF

The Santel family dedicated a fully endowed scholarship in the name of longtime St. Louis U. High Jesuit, Fr. Ralph Houlihan, S.J. at a Nov. 7 Mass and dinner reception. The scholarship was fully endowed by Tom and Mary Pat Santel; Tom graduated in 1976, and his son Jim in 2008.

This is the third of four

scholarships endowed by the Santel family. The first was donated in the name of longtime SLUH teacher Jim Raterman in 2011. The second scholarship honors John Fitzsimmons, '76 a classmate and friend of Santel's who died of cancer. The fourth and final scholarship, to be endowed next year, will be in the Santel name.

"They've chosen to commit a significant amount of their family

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Flying high after golden goal, soccer soars past CBC

BY DANNY SCHNELLER
SPORTS EDITOR

After battling through 80 minutes of regulation play against the CBC Cadets last Tuesday night, senior captain Luke Nash flew into the box to head in senior Tony Doellefeld's corner kick for the game-winning goal, sending the St. Louis U. High soccer team to the State quarterfinals. Doellefeld, the Soccerbills' usual setpiece kicker, lofted the ball beautifully into the box. The ball drifted as if in slow motion across the front of the goal until Nash came streaking in to lock in the victory.

As Nash ecstatically tore

away from the goal, his teammates sprinted toward him for the inevitable dogpile.

Nash was blown away by the moment.

"This is unbelievable," he said after the game. "I've never felt like this before."

Nash and Doellefeld had talked about headers earlier that day.

"We had a lot of free kicks and corner kicks," said Doellefeld. "Luke was always saying, 'Just put it up, and I'll go get it.' He attacked it when it mattered. That was awesome."

Before Tuesday night's game, the Soccerbills were 1-1-1 against

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Senior Sam Chevalier before scoring against CBC in Tuesday's game.

—photo | Leo Heinz

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prepnews@sluh.org

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NEWS

Leahy and Clark: 30 years later

St. Louis U. High security workers Tim Leahy '85 and Charlie Clark look back on the pivotal 1983 soccer game pitting SLUH against CBC. Page 10

OPINION

What makes Gadfly a gadfly?

Sam Fentress comments on a shift in Gadfly's nature in recent years. Page 3

SPORTS

Football fizzles out

Varsity football ended its season last Friday (4-6) with a 42-14 loss to CBC. Page 11

NEWS

Tibet and Genetics

Professor Yingxue Zuo discussed Tibet on Tuesday; Dr. Stephen Braddock discussed genetics to students at yesterday's Medical Career Club meeting. Page 2

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76 Sundays, 76 games, Section 319

Assistant Director of Admissions Adam Cruz misses his first Rams game in nine years. Page 8

NEWS

What is that?

The Prep News explores the bunker in the northwest corner of the Oakland lot. Page 4

XC races to repeat title

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Despite the seven dollar entry fee, a large number of parents, siblings, and SLUH students flooded the course's sidelines to cheer on the XC Bills. The Blue Army—XC's version of Blue Crew—made an appearance thanks to senior cross-country captain Jerry Amsler's bringing two gallons of washable blue paint to the meet. The Blue Army helped boost the runners' morale throughout the day.

Like usual, the strategy for the runners was to race smart.

"Our plan was to have our pack all around places 25 to 30 at the mile, and we did that perfectly," Rubio said. "From there, our plan was to just move up and see what we could do."

At the three-mile mark, junior Shayn Jackson led the team in 13th place with junior Jack Sullivan trailing at 17th place, and junior Thomas Hogan followed the two in 23rd place.

The finishers for SLUH were senior captains Tom Rubio (50th) and John Esswein (125th), juniors Shayn Jackson (13th), Jack Sullivan (18th), Thomas Hogan (25th) and Matthew Hennessey (42nd), and sophomore Joe Butler (72nd).

"I knew by a mile and a half that it wasn't my day, and after Firehouse Hill around two miles, I thought I was going to fall way off, but I just tried to hold on for my team and stay where I was, and that was enough," said Rubio.

Along with Rubio, Hennessey faced fatigue despite the adrenaline rush from participating in the state race.

"I think I may have suffered from exhaustion and nerves in combination with the physically exhausting act of racing," Hennessey said, "Pain kicked in around two miles into the race, and not finishing wasn't an option. I carried on to the finish and practically passed out."

After the race, Porter huddled the team for prayer and then told the team about the apparent second place finish. The team was told that they were just three points shy of the initial state champions, Lafayette. After Lafayette's coach, Sean O'Connor, dug further into his team's initial success, he discovered that one of his alternates had been recorded as finishing in 17th place. With the shift in points, SLUH ascended to first with Rockbridge trailing 16 points behind. Lafayette finished third overall.

In response to the championship, senior captain John Esswein said, "It feels awesome. It is definitely the hard work that got us to this title reclamation. I look at a guy like Tom Hogan, and I see how he was at 19:40 his freshman year, and I then look at the hard work he did, and now he is an all-state athlete and his personal record is 16:22. Something like that is hard work and that's definitely what this team is about."

"It has been a great journey. I've definitely come a long

way in the past three seasons. It was a good season, and we put in a lot of work together. We really came together as a team, and we raced really well today," said junior Thomas Hogan. "My suggestion to get faster is to run in the off season, and train hard. If you're committed to being fast you will get fast."

After being asked how it felt to run his first state race—since he was supposed to run at state for the past three years but was injured—Esswein said, "Oh man, the race was nuts. It was a tough course. At the end of the day, it feels good to know that I finally got on that state course and got a race there."

"We all had a good day and people stepped up. Also, we had great fans cheering us on; it really helps," said Butler. "The nerves got to me, this being my first time really seeing the course but I was happy with the race."

"I think we all had the potential, but none of us had that good of races throughout the season before the state championship," said junior and all-state runner Jack Sullivan, who finished second for SLUH. "We didn't care about the pain, and we tried to work together. It is nice to see it pay off after all the hard work over the season. Last season, I finished in 96th place, and this year I finished in 18th place. I was pleasantly surprised."

After coaching on a fourth state championship team, coach Brian Gilmore said, "I am exhilarated and exhausted." He mentioned that the key ingredients to winning a state championship with no phenomenal runners are "pack running, training, and a positive attitude."

"They ran the plan, and they ran it quite well. It was the race that we were hoping that they might have," Gilmore said.

"We won state because of our team's skill in packing up and holding onto each other. We push ourselves, and each other, to keep forging ahead," said Hennessey. "When the going gets tough, we find motivation in our teammates. Personally, I don't feel that I ran my best race, but what's important is how we ran as a team. Together, I feel that we had a good day."

"We didn't have as much success as we wanted in the early part of the season, but we train to peak at the end of the season, which is what we did," Rubio said. "I think it took longer this year to find our team identity in the top seven, but, for the last three races, it was there. When Thomas Hogan recited a battle speech from Henry V the night before state, I think that identity was crystal clear, and that definitely helped us win."

In addition, Rubio attributed the team's success to their brand of training, saying, "We run lots of hilly workouts and races, probably more than any other team, so we can be prepared for the toughness of the state course."

Former coach Jim Linhares credited the state title to the cross-

country workouts and Porter and believes that the team can only get better from here on out.

"This was a complete team effort from our top runner to the 97th guy on the team," said Porter. "They all are part of this title. I don't think it was one person's race that defined it for us. It was seven guys working together."

Of the team's future, Porter said, "We don't have anything to together yet, but I think the numbers tell you that we should be tough again, but so should Lafayette, who is returning six of their top seven. I believe in slowly increasing volume over the past four years, so we will plan on doing the same for next year."

"Having five returners from this year's state team (three of whom were all-state), as well as many promising underclassmen runners, I think we are in good shape to go for a three-peat. I definitely would not say it's guaranteed though," said Hennessey.

"We have a lot of new kids, such as sophomore Dustan Davidson, so I'm optimistic. But it's always earned; never guaranteed," all-state finisher Shayn Jackson said of the team's future.

SLUH had a tiny 103 points, ahead of Rock Bridge's 119 points and Lafayette's 124.

The team appreciated the consistent support, and will be sending the top runners and some seniors to round out the season in Terre Haute, Ind., for the Nike Cross Nationals on Nov. 17.

photo courtesy of Jack Sullivan



From left to right: juniors Shayn Jackson, Jack Sullivan, and Thomas Hogan receive their all-state cross country certificates.