

Findley hype comes true with JV first place, despite disqualifications

BY MICHAEL DAUGHERTY
REPORTER

Capped by the Clayton and Findley Invationals, the JV cross country team's season has come to a close. The team finished with seven first place finishes, including the Forest Park XC Festival where they competed against 29 other schools.

On Oct. 25, the JV team finished fourth in the Clayton Invitational, running only seniors in the race.

"It's nice to give seniors a last chance to run in a varsity race, or medal at the JV level," said head coach Joe Porter.

Because only seniors were racing, many moved up, taking their talent with them, to the varsity race.

"I think that the JV team's finish had a lot to do with the JV team's seniors moving up," said senior David Kasper.

The JV runners performed well, but could not surpass solid teams from O'Fallon, Clayton, and Festus, who finished in first, second, and third, respectively. The O'Fallon team performed especially well, sweeping the first six places.

Being the last race of the year, Findley was filled with anticipation and hype, surrounded by a Twitter page, @findleyxc13, created in April for the event. Because only the varsity team goes on to the state competition, Findley has

become the event that the JV racers look forward to and prepare for the whole season.

The seven month buildup did not disappoint as the fans flocked to the race.

"There were over 20 fans, which is really something for a cross country race," said senior Patrick Oster.

However, this year, after all of the buildup, other events threatened to spoil the race. During the last practice of the season, the day before Findley, Porter trusted the cross country team to practice alone while he was busy with parent teacher conferences. Nine seniors decided to take a swim in the pond across from the Muny. A Muny worker found the swimmers, and called SLUH to tell what they had done.

The next day, before the race at Findley, Porter called all the seniors to a team meeting. He asked who had gone swimming the day before, and told them to turn in their bibs because they weren't allowed to race.

"I think they learned a good lesson," said Porter.

After the race, the seniors apologized.

"It's not appropriate for our team, but I think they handled the situation well. Their apology really meant something to me," said senior Patrick Oster.

Despite the seniors that were unable to race, the team

still pulled off a first place finish. Because Findley is open to anyone who did not qualify for the District race, SLUH's team got to compete against some talented runners that would usually run on varsity. Sophomore Dustan Davidson won the race, while juniors Garret Fox and Jacob Marty came in third and fourth, respectively.

Throughout the year, Davidson has dominated the competition, winning first place finishes at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival, MCC Championships, and the Fleet Feet race along with another first place victory at Findley. Next year, he will be able to compete with the varsity team because the transfer rules only prevent him from competing for one year.

Porter acknowledged the team's leading runners as those who have worked their way up to become alternates for the State meet. This year's alternates will be senior Jerry Amsler, Fox, Marty, and Davidson. Porter also acknowledged junior Jack Gallagher as a great performer, but he will most likely not be able to run as an alternate because he is injured.

The team's improvement throughout the season was a hallmark of this year's JV team.

"We saw guys improve and run their fastest times at the end of the year," said Porter.



photo | Giuseppe Vitellaro

Junior Garret Fox leads a tight pack of JV runners during the Findley race.

JV football wins after team pulls together

BY JOE SPELLMEYER
REPORTER

Junior Varsity football concluded its season last Monday, finishing with a disappointing 1-7 record. Despite struggling throughout the year, the team improved towards the end of the season.

"Our team really came together at the end of our season," said junior Bo Chevalier, "which was shown by our win over Mehlville and close loss to Oakville."

Despite the team's record, coaches and players alike are optimistic.

"With JV football, you've got to look for something more than just a win-loss record," said JV head coach Sterling Brown. "As

long as guys are progressing and improving, things are going in the right direction."

Sophomore team captain Jake Henty agrees with his coach's view.

photo | Jack Connaghan



Freshman Davion Nash

"It's more about individual improvement than winning," said Henty.

This positive outlook is partly because of the Jr. Bills' drastic improvement in their last two games. Thanks to hard work, the team pulled off an important 28-0 win against Mehlville. The game showcased an offense led by Henty and junior Mike Zawalski, and a defense that shut out the Panthers and scored a touchdown of its own on a key fumble recovery by junior Patrick Higgins.

"A lot of team unity was built over the nine weeks that we were there," said sophomore Jeff Cooley.

For now, the JV Jr. Bills are confident that this unity and hard work will carry them through to playing varsity next year.

C XC ends with victories

BY MATT THOMAS
REPORTER

Although the St. Louis U. High freshman cross country team started out off pace, it pulled through in the season's most important races.

Since the outset of the SLUH cross country season in August, the freshman squad has participated in six freshman exclusive races. After a slow start at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival, Paul Enke Invitational, and Parkway West Invitational, the team looked to finish strong as the final meets approached.

"The highlights for the season would be MCCs and Findley," said head coach Joe Porter. "Both are big meets on the schedule at the end of the season."

Freshmen Xavier Ludwig agreed when asked about this season's goals.

"Win MCCs and keep that freshman record going even though we couldn't win every (race)," said Ludwig.

In past years, the freshman team has always had success at the MCC meet. Running on their

home course in Forest Park, this year's team did not disappoint. Ludwig and freshman Danny Meissner placed first and second respectively, leading the team to a first place victory.

The following week, SLUH cross country trekked to Washington, Mo. to run in the annual Borgia Invitational. The race took place at the Big Driver Golf center at one of Missouri's hardest cross country courses. After completing two miles on the driving range, racers endure running up a half-mile long hill. Meissner and freshman Thomas Leeker and William Kelly stepped up to help SLUH claim second place overall.

Last week, the Findley Invitational marked the end for 2013 Freshmen cross country. Hype around the meet this year was at an all-time high. The usually small cross country meet saw spectators lining the home stretch. In their last meet as freshmen, the team claimed first place.

"The freshmen had a very strong season, and I look forward to seeing them develop over the next three years," reflected Porter.

photo | Leo Heinz



St. Louis U. High freshmen runners burst from the starting line.

Wilson proud of 7-1 C football

BY JACK MINER
REPORTER

The C football team's 7-1 record shows how well it performed as a unit; the team's only loss was a D team game against CBC.

Freshmen Mitch Batschlett, Henry Herzberg, and Michael Megown all agreed that it wasn't the players' efforts alone, but the coaches had a huge impact on the way they played and improved. Batschlett, the team's starting quarterback, said, "Coach (Wilson) would always say 'They're going to hand you your lunch and you're going to like it too.'"

"The biggest goal of fresh-

man football is making sure the guys get better," said Wilson. "One of the biggest compliments we got with this group was that they never gave up."

The team showed off its resilience against Lindbergh, the best competition of the year. Herzberg and Batschlett both agreed that this was their favorite moment of the season.

"We really marched down the field as a team and won that one with under a minute to go," Batschlett said.

Wilson said that quick learners helped the teams. "Our guys picked things up so quickly," stated Wilson. "We were able to use different schemes and do a lot of no-huddle, and as freshmen that's

a huge accomplishment."

Another main goal of freshman football is to learn more about your friends and your school.

"This was a team that had a lot of cohesiveness to it and were very helpful of one another," said Wilson.

Wilson was very proud of his team and said that the ultimate goal is always to see the freshmen dress out for varsity one day.

"The more experience they have the better off they will be," said Wilson of his 13 freshmen who were called up to varsity this year. "Just them dressing is something that is valuable, it's priceless."

Junior heavy XC Bills stomp competition

photo | Nolen Doorack



Varsity cross country runners bolt out of the starting line at the District meet on October 26.

BY MICHAEL SIT
REPORTER

Saint Louis U. High's cross-country team snatched plenty of victories over the last two weeks. Most recently, the varsity team battled for first at the Clayton Invitational, followed by Districts and Sectionals.

On Friday Oct. 25, all and only the seniors raced at the Clayton Invitational in downtown Clayton's Shaw Park. The all-senior varsity squad included Jerry Amsler (15th), Peter Charles (18th), David Szatkowski (20th), Matt Thomas (31st), Brendan Keuss (55th), Alex Sextro (58th), and Michael Swan, who twisted his leg mid-race.

In total, there were 149 racers in the varsity race. Outstanding new personal records were earned by Amsler (17:31), Charles (17:39), Szatkowski (17:44), and Thomas (18:05). The team earned a third place team score at Clayton, trailing Festus and Arcadia.

Said Thomas, "Clayton was awesome. It was a different experience knowing that it was the last time we were going to run together as a class. We came in with a 'Bang and Chill' strategy. I think we followed through fairly well."

The day after the Clayton Invite, SLUH captured another District title. In addition to its pre-existing talent, the varsity had a home field advantage with the course being at Forest Park's Cen-

tral Fields.

Juniors Jack Sullivan (fifth), Shayn Jackson (sixth), Matthew Hennessey (seventh), and Thomas Hogan (eighth), sophomore Joe Butler (ninth), senior captain John Esswein (tenth), and junior Jack Gallagher (17th) participated in districts for SLUH.

The team made a bold statement as all but one of SLUH's runners went below 17 minutes, or is about 5:15 for each mile.

Sullivan, Jackson, and Hennessey achieved National Elite status, earned by running a 5K under 16:30.

Webster finished second with 21 points behind SLUH.

"Our strategy was similar to MCC's: run the first two miles at 5:10 pace, and then run our own race after that. We aimed to pack up and push forward together. The team followed through fairly well," said Hennessey.

Sectionals took place last Saturday, Nov. 2. Coach Joe Porter juggled the line up, replacing Esswein and Gallagher with senior captain Tom Rubio and junior Garret Fox.

"Coach is saving me for State. My legs need some extra time to rest," said Esswein in response to why he did not compete in Sectionals.

The times at Sectionals were not as fast as Districts, but the outcome remained the same: SLUH took first. Rubio kicked his way to

fourth place overall, and finished with a 5K time of 16:32. Jackson (ninth), Hennessey (tenth), Sullivan (eleventh), Hogan (twelfth), and Fox (30th) worked together and completed the race in a tight pack. Butler (14th) ran 17:17, which is extremely fast for an underclassman. SLUH smoked the other seven teams with 42 points, well ahead of Francis Howell's 88.

"I've been waiting all year for my race and that was it. I'm feeling really fit for this weekend (the State meet) and I think as a team we're going to surprise a lot of people," said Rubio.

"State will be much more difficult to win than Sectionals because of the much wider field of athletes, and because we will actually face our greatest rivals in the competition for the title. We are packing up well like last year's state team. Our one to five gap is the smallest it's ever been, 24 seconds, so hopefully we can use that to our advantage," said Hennessey.

Butler, Hogan, Jackson, Sullivan, Hennessey, Esswein, and Rubio will be running at State. The backups are Gallagher, Fox, and Jacob Marty, in that order. SLUH has the odds in its favor, and the athletes will be racing to defend the last year's first place title.

The State cross-country meet is tomorrow in Jefferson City.

Despite player attack, Hockey Bills pull ahead

SAM SEXTRO
REPORTER

The HockeyBills started off their regular season with a bang, taking down last year's Wickenheiser Cup Champions, Wentzville Holt, by a whopping 7-0.

"There was a lot of excitement coming with the first game. We didn't let it get to us. We came out fast and played hard all the way until the finish," said sophomore forward Connor FitzGerald.

After a strong first period of five straight goals, it was clear the game was going to get chippy. Halfway through the second period, sophomore Scott Berger left the game with a knee injury resulting from a late, headhunting hit from a Holt player.

The Bills kept their composure, however, going on to score a sixth goal shortly after.

Several students in the SLUH section experienced a close call late in the second period as a member of Holt fired a shot at the student section, striking senior Sean McLaughlin in the face.

Sophomore forward Patrick Pence said, "Well it was quite disrespectful to the game of hockey and if he had real courage he would have shot it at our bench, but I enjoy our fans getting into the opposing team's head. They should keep it up."

"The fans won us that game with their commitment to cheering and their encouragement through their dedication to the team," said junior winger Tommy Espenschied, who had one goal on the night.

The Jr. Bills also had a strong preseason in the annual Top Hat Tournament, defeating rivals DeSmet, Oakville, Kirkwood, and Lutheran South before falling 5-1 to Oakville in the semifinals.

On the bright side, the loss may help the team avoid the Top Hat curse, teams from recent years who have won the tournament have failed to win the Challenge Cup.

Oakville went on to the finals only to be defeated by CBC, this year's Top Hat Tournament champions.

The team has also received new sweaters for the 2013-14 season, sporting the new rebranded logo along with navy, white, and grey colors. Although many are against the change and upset with the lack of the traditional Carolina blue color and Jr. Bill on the front, the new design seems to be slowly growing on some.

The HockeyBills are once again looking upon another promising season and face the Chaminade Red Devils next Monday 6:30 p.m. at Queeny Rec Complex.

photo | Ben Banet



A varsity hockey player skates past the defender in a game against Oakville.

Varsity football upsets Ritenour to advance to state quarterfinals.

BY MAR LONSWAY
REPORTER

Despite dropping the last game of the regular season against the Oakville Tigers, the St. Louis U. High football team (3-5) defeated the Ritenour Huskies (7-2) in its first postseason meeting, taming the canines with a 42-28 victory.

After the perplexing 27-20 loss to Oakville, the Jr. Bills faced a familiar situation they encountered one year ago: a decisive game against Ritenour, the team that knocked them out of the 2012 playoffs.

Unlike last year, SLUH ended this night on top by riding senior running back Raymond Wingo to six touchdowns against Ritenour.

Wingo started the night with a 59-yard scoring reception from senior quarterback Sam Sykora early in the first quarter.

On the ensuing Husky drive,

Wingo, playing cornerback, intercepted the Husky quarterback for a 28-yard pick six.

"The linemen did great," said Wingo. "I give all the credit to the linemen, I wouldn't have done it without them ... they made all the right holes, I just had to follow my blocks."

Down by 14 points, Ritenour was quick to retaliate by scoring on the next two drives. The Huskies' Devin Alexander made his way into SLUH's end zone with a stout one-yard burst. But Ritenour missed the PAT.

After, Marvin Miller connected with Alexander for a short six-yard touchdown the Huskies attempted the two-point conversion, but SLUH's defense made the stop to stay up 14-12.

The first half of the game ended when Wingo drove into the end zone for his first rushing touchdown of the evening for a

21-12 halftime lead.

Making this game even more critical for the Jr. Bills, the St. Louis Rams, backed by the National Football League, sponsored the SLUH-Ritenour game as a High School Game of the Week. In a fan poll conducted by the Rams prior to the meeting, roughly 72 percent of voters predicted Ritenour to take the game.

In the upset win SLUH boasted over the Huskies, the Jr. Bills took home the reward: a \$2000 grant to SLUH's football program. Along with the grant, SLUH head coach Gary Kornfeld was deemed St. Louis Rams coach of the week.

After halftime, Wingo scored the three remaining touchdowns. When the game ended, Wingo had run 13 plays for 176 yards equating about 13.5 yards per carry. His rushing stats were greater than three times that of the Husky runners, who together gained an

average of 4.6 yards on each run.

Wingo's playmaking ability can also be adequately attributed to SLUH's offensive line that protected both Wingo and Sykora.

"The other part of it too, is that there are eleven guys out there, and whenever anything good happens, it's never just because of one person," said offensive coordinator Robert Chura. "It's because everyone's all pulling in the same direction ... it's all 11 guys just doing their job."

Junior placekicker Jake Cox also displayed an impressive outing. Cox quietly scored every extra point following Wingo's touchdowns, providing for SLUH another advantage over Ritenour, who failed to kick any points throughout the night.

If the offense hadn't provided a large enough threat to the Huskies, SLUH's defense also forced four turnovers, including Wingo's

pick six. Racking up one fumble recovery and three interceptions, SLUH's defense proved just as dominant as the offense. Junior linebacker Bryan Edwards led the team with 16 tackles and one interception.

"Our defense is doing real well," said Wingo. "Four turnovers to score; if our offense just keeps scoring, and our defense keeps doing what they do, we'll be good."

This road win advanced SLUH to play against CBC (8-2) tonight in the state quarterfinal State championship. The Cadets out-played the Billikens 31-6 just two months ago, but with SLUH's upset win carrying momentum into this week's matchup, SLUH will look for a similar outcome as they head west to play the Cadets on their home turf at 7:00.