

Soccer stuns top-ranked Chaminade, defeats CBC to win CYC Tourney

BY BRENDAN BEMENT AND JUSTIN SINAY
REPORTERS

Last Friday night, the St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team faced their toughest challenge of the season in undefeated Chaminade, the second ranked team in the nation, who stood between the Jr. Bills and the finals of the 58th annual CYC/Bob Guelker Memorial Tournament. The last time the two teams met was in last year's district final, when the Jr. Bills saw their season end at the hands of the Red Devils.

In front of a large crowd at Soccer Park, Chaminade lived up to their reputation, grabbing the first goal of the game on a free kick that deflected off the crossbar and was tapped in, giving them a 1-0 lead heading into halftime. SLUH junior goalie Jack Robinson, a junior, was the first-half hero, making several acrobatic saves that kept the Jr. Bills alive.

"We didn't start out very well," said senior captain Tony Bright. "They were coming at us pretty hard."

"The way it started I wasn't all that confident that we were going to get a result," said head coach Charlie Martel. "They got the early goal and they seemed to be dominating."

The second half, however, saw a completely different SLUH team. Only five minutes into the half, Bright sent a midfield free

kick into the box, where senior Zach Hoffmann was waiting to flick it over the keeper for the equalizing goal. Seven minutes later, Bright took another free kick near the top of the box, finding Hoffmann for his second goal of the game and a Jr. Billiken lead.

Hoffmann continued to press forward on the disorganized Chaminade defense as he dribbled through the last defenders to blast a shot into the lower right corner for his third goal of the game only minutes after scoring the second. The Jr. Bills never let up from there, dominating the possession battle and creating more scoring chances as the team played without regard for CCP's national ranking. The game ended in a 3-1 victory for the Jr. Bills as SLUH fans stormed the field in celebration.

"It was a good team effort," said Hoffmann. "We changed our formation at half. It helped us score goals and win."

"He has played great. He is one of the best forwards I've seen," said Martel. "Before, he was having a little trouble finding the net but now he's finding it. He is like our secret weapon."

That weapon may not be so secretive anymore, as Hoffmann has recently been named an stl-highschoolsports.com athlete of the week and is one of the area's leading scorers.

When asked what's the secret

behind his scoring success, Hoffmann said simply, "Teamwork ... and assists."

The Jr. Bills continued tournament play in the championship match on Saturday night against CBC. The Cadets had beaten SLUH in their matchup earlier this year. The first half ended scoreless, but the Jr. Bills came out of the halftime break strong once again as Hoffmann assisted junior Tim Manuel five minutes in, resulting in the lone goal of the game, making the Jr. Bills tournament champions.

"That game against CBC was huge because if we hadn't won that one it would have put a downer on the Chaminade game," said Bright. "It really capped off a great weekend."

"I didn't know if they could play with the kind of emotion they had against Chaminade. In order for us to win we have to play with emotion," said Martel. "We have to be aggressive, but they did. They played a really nice game. It was perfect."

The Jr. Bills didn't have much opportunity to savor the CYC Tournament Championship, as Monday night they hosted Duschene under the home lights. Riding their momentum from the tournament, SLUH got off to a quick start when Hoffmann scored five minutes into the first half. Duschene failed to get any rhythm offensively and couldn't

get any real shot on goal. Freshman Matt Frein notched his second goal of the season in the second half to ensure the Jr. Bills a 2-0 win.

With the rest of the week off, the Jr. Bills can start thinking about the upcoming Gateway Classic Tournament, which hosts some of the best teams in the country.

"We have our work cut out for us, but we can beat nationally ranked teams," says Martel.

"I feel like the tournament is

going to make us realize that we are a good team and we have potential to win State," added Hoffmann.

"We have confidence, but we're still humble," said Bright. "We are still under the radar, not as much as we were, but we still have to keep pushing forward."

The Jr. Bills play their first Gateway Classic game on Friday against Reitz Memorial at O'Fallon Park.

photo | Ben Banet



Junior John Espenschied clears the ball downfield against CBC on Saturday night at Soccer Park in the CYC Tournament final. SLUH won, 1-0.

photo | Ben Banet



Jubilant SLUH fans storm the field after the final whistle on Saturday night to celebrate soccer's 1-0 victory over CBC to claim the CYC/Bob Guelker Memorial Tournament championship.

Cross Country runs with elite teams in Chicago, Jefferson Barracks

BY BRIAN SUHRE
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High cross country team split up again last weekend, sending different squads to compete in two very prestigious events.

The top 14 traveled to Palatine, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, to compete against a strong field that included two nationally-ranked teams and a bevy of other extremely fast and talented Midwestern teams.

The third seven and the rest of the team competed at the Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks park.

The Palatine team finished a slightly disappointing 12th place

overall, but had many impressive individual times on the unique three-mile course.

Matt Nicholson led the way in 24th place with a time of 15:20. Sophomore Matthew Hennessey moved up to second on the team with a time of 15:49. Senior Joe Archer followed with a time of 15:52. Juniors Tom Rubio and Michael Swan and sophomores Shayn Jackson and Jack Sullivan rounded out the top seven. Peter Rackers was the JV team's only medalist, running a 16:16 for 20th place.

The course at Deer Grove Forest Preserve was very fast on the day, but racers did have to contend with brisk temperatures around 50 degrees and high

winds.

"The last 600 meters were really windy. I was a little worried because I didn't have anyone to run behind, but I just tried to keep my stride and finish," said Nicholson.

All of the varsity runners got out very quickly with sub-five-minute first miles to keep up with a very fast field.

Assistant coach Tom Flanagan was impressed with how fast the team started the race, but said they faded in the third mile. He was still pleased that the majority of the team achieved personal records.

The team actually finished with faster individual times than last year, but with a worse overall

finish, indicative of the high quality of the meet. St. Xavier from Louisville and York from Chicago were ranked in the top 10 nationally coming into the meet, and showed their class with a one-two finish.

Head coach Joe Porter said, "I really think St. Xavier or York will be competing for a national title. That's why we went there, to get some really good experience and to raise ourselves to that level of competition."

Captain Joe Archer was also very impressed by the field.

"The competition was amazing; it was even more competitive than last year. That's why we traveled so far, for that competition," Archer said.

While the top fourteen were racing at Palatine, the rest of the team competed at the Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks Park. They faced off against some strong Missouri competition, including Rock Bridge, West Plains, and Lafayette.

Senior Matt Rancilio, sophomore Tom Hogan, senior Alex Groesch, and sophomore Jacob Marty formed a very tight four-man split to lead the team to a respectable 14th place finish against other teams' top sevens.

SLUH had not run at Hancock for quite some time, so no current team members had any experience with the course. Rancilio and Groesch both echoed

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Wingo and Hall continue to propel offense in victory over Chaminade

BY WILL GREINER
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High football team pounded the Chaminade Red Devils 42-14 last Friday in another solid win over an MCC opponent. Scoring six touchdowns on the night, SLUH's offense fired on all cylinders, while the Footbills defense managed to contain the Chaminade run game.

"Offensively we came out strong," said senior captain Andy Rick. "The offensive line blocked well, and the skill players played great. It was just awesome to see the team come together as one unit on Friday."

The Jr. Bill offense racked up 431 offensive yards, including 387 on the ground.

Junior Raymond Wingo scored three of the six Jr. Bill touchdowns, running for 264 yards on 17 attempts. He also threw for a touchdown.

Each of Wingo's touchdown runs were over 60 yards, including a 99-yard kick return and a 91-yard inside run in the third quarter.

"Raymond is a dynamic young man with the ball in his hands," said head coach Gary Kornfeld. "When he touches it special things can easily happen because he is so gifted."

Another key to Friday's victory was the Jr. Bill offensive line, which in the last few games has been able to control the line of scrimmage and open up lanes on

offense.

"We've got a great group of guys up there making holes and containing the D-line," said senior captain Matt Hinkebein. "They have been working all year with Coach (Matt) Buha and I just think that all of the hard work in the off season has paid off."

"Whenever you get a shout-out from Mr. Wehner in one of his tweets, you know you're doing well," Rick said.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Jr. Bills showed great improvement, holding the Chaminade offense to just two scores on the night. Senior captain Alex Mackin led the defense with nine tackles, closely followed by junior Nate Anderson with eight. Sophomore Parker Pence recovered a Red Devil fumble to end Chaminade's final drive.

"We played hard," Hinkebein said. "Our linebackers are playing really well, and we are doing a great job of playing with the mentality of eleven to the ball. We're just working good as a unit out there."

After another conference schedule victory, the PigskinBills are proud of their efforts.

"Anytime you can go on the road in the MCC and get a victory, you've got to be real happy with that," Kornfeld added.

This week the Jr. Bills turn their focus to MCC rival DeSmet, who is seeking revenge after a last-second SLUH field goal



Junior Mike Hall dances through a horde of Red Devil defenders as junior Dan Evans helps him with a block.

eliminated them from last year's playoffs. This year however, the Spartans bring back a lot of talent along with fresh new faces and hope to disrupt the Jr. Bills at SLUH tonight. Led by D-1 recruit Andy Bauer, the Spartans are looking to unload some big plays.

"I know this will be a big game for both us and DeSmet this year," Mackin said. "They will be coming out hungry and I think we will be just as aggressive and ready to play come Thursday night."

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
SLUH	14	14	7	7	42
CCP	0	7	7	0	14

SLUH Offense

Rushing: 387 yards, 39 carries, 9.92 yards per attempt
Receiving: 44 yards, 4 attempts, 1 TD, 1 int

Chaminade Offense

Rushing: 244 yards, 48 carries, 5.08 yards per attempt
Receiving: 56 yards, 13 attempts, 0 TD, 0 int

XC returns with experience

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a widely-held sentiment by the team that day, that the course was very hilly and very narrow.

Rancilio appreciated his inexperience with the course.

"Since we've never raced there I had no idea where the mile marks were, which I thought was almost a good thing because it made me not be technical about my race and splits and such and just concentrate on running," he said.

The entire team reunites this Saturday to compete together at the Parkway West Invitational. The meet will feature state contenders Rock Bridge, Blue Springs, and Lafayette.

Strategic planning

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meetings will begin as planned. Other members could be added even after the meetings begin.

The committee will plan out the next five years fairly specifically, the five to ten year range conceptually, and the 10-20 year range strategically. By only planning out the first five years of the plan in detail, SLUH will be able to learn from the changes that are implemented.

The committee will ideally meet together at the onset and then break up into around ten smaller subcommittees that will focus on various aspects of the vision for the future. The subcommittees will have four meetings altogether, two between each of the plenary meetings of the whole committee.

For each of those plenary meetings, Rick hopes to have a wow factor that inspires committee members and encourages cre-

Porter is very excited about the meet.

"It'll be a good barometer for where we are five weeks away from the state meet," he said.

Flanagan is also looking forward to the Parkway meet.

"The guys are looking good, working hard in practice, and running fast, but 12th place doesn't seem indicative of that or just reward," he said.

The Parkway West Invitational will take place Saturday at Living Word United Methodist Church in Wildwood. The JV race is at 9 and the varsity race will follow at 10:10.

ative thinking.

The exact topics of the subcommittees have not been decided yet, but topics will likely include curriculum, spirituality, Jesuit ideals, financial modeling, and sustainability.

Rick estimates that the process of developing a strategic plan will take approximately 18 to 20 months. If all goes as planned, the proposal will have established significant funding in time for SLUH's 200th birthday in 2018.

After the subgroups have had their separate meetings, there will be other larger meetings to compile what the subgroups have discussed.

Two prominent headmasters of prestigious boys schools have already agreed to help oversee and give advice, according to Rick. These headmasters have gone through similar large strategic planning in the past.

Swimming drops times at the Rec-Plex

4 X 100 freestyle relay qualifies for State, will face tough competition

BY JUSTIN JELLINEK
REPORTER

Hot off its success in Columbia, the St. Louis U. High swim team fought hard over the weekend at the annual DeSmet Invitational.

Taking place at the Rec-Plex, the Invitational gave a great opportunity for dropped times. Among the dropped times was the long-awaited qualification for 4 x 100 freestyle relay. Seniors Chris Favier, Ryan Caselton, Nick Koors, and freshman Justin Andrews qualified for the relay after times one or two seconds above the state time.

Last year's freestyle relay made it to the top 16, but the

members of this year's qualifying relay face a lot of competition to make it back to that peak, as evidenced by the powerful team from Columbia, the Hickman High School Kewpies, and their performance at the Invitational. They took first place by over a half a lap.

Andrews said about his qualification, "I'm excited to swim that event at State. Hopefully we'll place well. To get where we want, we need to get faster, though."

The other notable dropped time went to Chris Favier and his 50-yard freestyle. Favier, whose previous best 23.01 seconds — a mere .02 seconds off of State qualification — brought his time down

to a 22.98, just below the qualification time.

"Qualifying for the 50 free was one of my top goals for the season," Favier said. "I'm glad to have it done early so I can focus on the 100 free."

Favier will spend the next two weeks focusing on getting those last few seconds shaved off of his 100 free time. Over the three-day weekend, he'll get the chance to get into the State meet first at Rockwood Summit on Thursday. Saturday, the whole swim team will travel to Columbia once again, this time to the mecca of all Missouri pools, at Mizzou, one of the fastest pools in Missouri.

Koors and Caselton also hope to qualify for the 100 free.



A SLUH swimmer competes in the butterfly at the DeSmet Invitational.

photo | Ben Banet

photo | Mr. Matt Sciuto