Wingo shines, leads football to record-tying win over Vianney

BY WILL GREINER
REPORTER

photo | **Kyle Vogt**



Junior Raymond Wingo breaks a tackle en route to racking up 312 yards and six touchdowns.

It only took the Jr. Billikens nineteen seconds to score their first touchdown against the Vianney Griffins last Friday night. From that point on, the Jr. Billikens never surrendered their lead, punishing the Vianney defense for nine more touchdowns on the way to a 69-35 victory.

"After CBC everyone was feeling kind of down, and this was a great way for us to come out, play together as a unit, and help us realize the potential that this team has," said senior captain Andy Riek.

Following a disappointing 51-7 loss to the CBC the previous weekend, the Jr. Billikens managed to turn around their offensive struggles against the Griffins to find the end zone ten times, good for 69 points. This number is in stark contrast to the 14 points the Jr. Bills scraped together in their first two games combined. The Jr. Billiken offense was in fact so efficient that they only punted once.

"It was a nice way to get the ball rolling," said senior captain Alex Mackin.

But on Friday, it wasn't only the the offensethat made the night special for the Jr. Billikens.

The Jr. Bills put up 48 points in the first half—including a 20-yard pick-six by junior Dan Evans, which was one of the five Vianney turnovers on the night—and an 80-yard touchdown run from junior multi-purpose player Raymond Wingo. Wingo added three more touchdowns and junior Mike Hall tacked on two scores before the half.

"Our offensive line did a great job of opening up holes on the field throughout the game for both Raymond and Mike," said senior captain Matthew Hinkebein.

But the beatdown did not finish there. Wingo added two more touchdowns in the second half, while Hall added after the break.

By the end of the night, the Jr. Billiken offense had raked in 507 offensive yards, including 463 rushing yards and 46 passing yards. Along with these impressive offensive numbers, the Jr. Billikens also forced five turnovers on the defensive end of the ball, and were able to sack the Vianney quarterback twice.

But the most impressive performances of the game came from juniors Wingo and Hall, who together scored nine of the Jr. Billikens' ten touchdowns.

Wingo's six-touchdown, 312 rushing-yard performance stands as one of the greatest performances in SLUH history, with his six touchdowns tying the U. High's single-game record set in 2008 by his brother, Ronnie Wingo '09.

Hall also had an outstanding game, rushing for 149 yards while scoring 3 touchdowns.

In response to both Wingo and Hall's performances, Riek said, "It was amazing. Whenever one person can run for 300 yards and another for 150 it obviously shows a lot about the guys and the skills they have. They just keep going and fighting for that last inch."

On the flipside of the ball, the Vianney offense by no means struggled in Friday's game. By the final horn the Vianney offense had compiled a total of 424 yards of offense with 252 rushing yards and 172 receiving.

The backbone of Vianney's offense on Friday proved to be their star running back Markel Smith, who rushed for 230 yards on 34 carries. The division-one recruit also scored two of Vianney's five touchdowns.

"The defense has some things they still need to work on and will need to step up the intensity for future games," said Mackin.

For the Jr. Bills a win is a win, and they have now switched their focus onto this Friday's game against Chaminade.

With another MCC conference game on the line, the Jr. Bills hope to improve their MCC record to 2-1 against a 1-3 Chaminade team. They go into this Friday with high hopes and big expectations of delivering the Red Devils their fourth loss on the season.

"We're hoping to go out there on Friday and both look good and play good," said Mackin. "It's going to be a great white out."

Young runners emerge as Top Seven rest

Younger squad takes on Parkway Central course, "Manmaker"

BY BRIAN SUHRE
REPORTER

As the top seven runners took a week off from racing in preparation for the Palatine Invitational this Saturday, the second and third varsity squads showed that the St. Louis U. High cross country team has depth.

SLUH's top seven did not run at the Parkway Central meet nor at Sioux Passage Park this past week. While the team's second-and-third string squads finished middle of the pack in both races, impressive performances from a large group of underclassmen showed that the team has a considerable amount of young up and coming talent.

Only seven runners raced at Parkway Central last Thursday. Sophomore Garret Fox was SLUH's top finisher, coming in 22nd place with a time of 17:56. Fox was followed closely by seniors David Arredondo and Tom Laughlin, and sophomore Jordan Sosa, all within five seconds and places of each other.

"(The course) was surprisingly hilly for a high school campus, said Fox who found himself "more tired" than he expected to be at the end of the race.

The hills at Parkway Central are no match for the high peaks of Sioux Passage Park, home of the infamous "Manmaker" hill. The Manmaker is an extremely steep, 400-meter hill that the race starts on and then climbs again at the start of the third mile. The course provided a rude awakening for the freshmen, who were experiencing their first five kilometer race.

The coaching staff again rested the top seven for the Paul Enke Invitational at Sioux Passage, emphasizing youth over experience. The young squad finished ninth out of 22 teams. Senior captain Alex Groesch led the way finishing in 18:31, good for 43rd place in a tough field. Junior Alex Sextro and sophomore Thomas Hogan finished close behind Groesch at 18:36 and 18:38 respectively. Freshmen Billy Balossi and Joe Butler, and sophomores Jack Schroeder and Kevin Murphy rounded out the youthful varsity squad.

Groesch thought that the team fought hard.

"I was really proud of Alex Sextro and Thomas Hogan for pushing me during the race and really giving it their all," Groesch said.

Groesch has considerable experience with the hilly intricacies of Sioux Passage, and said the team's "tactic was to keep cadence on the hills and then pass people at the top.

The JV and freshman team also had standout performances at the meet. Sophomore Jacob Marty and junior Peter Charles had fast enough times to be considered among SLUH's top seven finishers overall, including varsity. Freshmen Ethan McIntyre, Cade Dernlan, and David Stolz led the way for the freshman squad, finishing in the top 14 overall for the team. JV finished third overall and the freshman finished second, slightly weakened by the loss of Balossi and Butler to varsity.

Head coach Joe Porter said the key for both races was "getting some quality varsity experience and teaching the young guys how to race at a high level." Despite middle of the pack varsity finishes, Porter said he was impressed by the team's resilience.

The top 14 travels to Palatine, IL outside of Chicago this Friday. They will be competing against two teams in the national top 25 and the defending Illinois State champions.

"The quality of the field is just outstanding," said Porter. "We're consistently towards the top of the state, but the next level we need to reach is to be one of the top teams in our region and in order to do that we need to keep racing national top 25 teams and close the gap to them."

The rest of the team will compete at the Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks Park on Sep. 22. Hancock is a late addition to the schedule, replacing the canceled Fox Warrior Invitational.

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Soccer Nightbeat

Senior Zach Hoffman scored the game-tying goal in the middle of the second half on a ball from junior Tommy Hill to put the Jr. Bills through to the next round of the Bob Guelker CYC Tournament. Senior Tony Bright scored the other goal in the 2-2 tie. SLUH will face Chaminade, ranked third in the nation, in a semifinal matchup tonight at 8:00 at Soccer Park.

-compiled by Justin Sinay