

JV Football builds around key players

BY KEITH THOMAS
REPORTER

The SLUH junior varsity football team is gradually growing as a team and striving to collect some big wins in the remaining weeks of the season.

Head coach Sterling Brown has a positive outlook for the squad.

"We've had our ups and downs so far this year, but our team has really improved since camp, and I'm glad to see that," he said.

Every good team has a few key players. Brown praised sophomore wide receiver and defensive back Danny Tarlas for being one of those keys.

"He has stood out tremendously this year," Brown said. "He is one of our most dominant forces out there on the field."

Others include sophomore running back and linebacker Aid-

en Jacobsen, whom Brown said has stood out in his first year at SLUH. Sophomore Perri Johnson is a leader, always providing certain advice to players. Sophomore Mike Zawalski has battled injuries but has still remained a dominant force for the Jr. Bills.

The Jr. Bills currently have a 2-3 record, with their best game so far a shocking 19-10 win against MCC rival Vianney.

"The game against Vianney was where we really began to come together as a unit," said Brown. "It was a well-played game and it went down to the last minute. We had really fought some adversity, and I was most impressed with my team starting that game, to play and rely on each other."

The JV Jr. Bills have fought through adversity this year. For

some, the season appeared to be turning downhill, but the team persevered through the struggle to make themselves better, and Brown is proud of that fact.

"I don't want us to be satisfied at how good we are now, but rather continue to get better as a unit, because we have three weeks of football left and these guys will be heading on to a higher level," Brown said. "My goal in the next three weeks is to prepare them for the next level of football."

Looking ahead, the Jr. Bills face off against Lafayette, Mehlville, and Oakville to round off their year. Lafayette has been a dominant football force, and Mehlville and Oakville both are respectable teams.

The squad's next game is at Lafayette on Monday, Oct. 8 at 4:30 pm.



photo | Mr. Matt Scuito

A JV player cuts the corner and turns upfield against DeSmet.

Boson causes mass, presides on occasion

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found by people who were looking for events where two photons showed up in the detector," Baumer said.

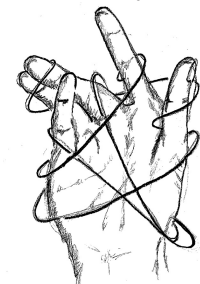
"We'd been looking (for the Higgs boson) for a few years and weren't seeing much, and people were starting to get worried," said Baumer.

The discovery, Baumer says, renewed the interest of both the public and the funding agencies that pay for the research.

News of the discovery was a closely-guarded secret until its July 2012 release.

"I knew it a few days before everyone else, but I was a part of a small team of people who

drawing | Sam Fentress



An artist's rendition of what the Higgs boson might look like, maybe. Probably not.

knew ahead of time," said Baumer. "Some of my friends (from CERN) were there for the announcement, and as you can imagine, there was champagne all around."

The discovery of the Higgs opens the way for much more research. There will be some delay as the LHC will be shut down at the end of the year to upgrade the collider's ability to produce more energy.

"They're going to almost double the energy of the collisions," said Baumer. "When you're at higher energy, for every trillion collisions, you're going to get more Higgs bosons."

And physicists will want lots of them. "Everyone's mindset has changed from a frantic search to a more methodical characterization (of the Higgs)," says Baumer. "There's this next step of figuring out what kind of animal we're dealing with."

Baumer's own plans have been changed with the discovery. As the Cambridge school year begins, he is still uncertain what sort of particles he will be analyzing and experimenting with.

Beyond characterizing the Higgs boson, the field of particle physics has plenty of work to do. The possibility that Baumer is most excited about is investigat-

ing the theory of supersymmetry.

Baumer explains, "Basically, the idea is that every particle you've heard of, like a quark or an electron, or a W boson has ... a 'secret twin,' you could say, and ordinarily we don't observe them."

The idea of each particle having a hard-to-see, supersymmetric twin might explain the masses of "dark matter"—regions of seemingly empty space that bend light in the same way an object like the sun would.

"Without supersymmetry your next best option is accepting that a whole bunch of huge coincidences happen," says Baumer. "Otherwise, the Higgs can't exist."

The theory is still several years away from being tested, however.

In the meantime, Baumer is adjusting to the rhythms and traditions of his new academic home.

"Cambridge is a world of its own. ... It's a place where you're sitting in the pub, and the people are wearing tuxedos," he says. "There's such over-the-top ways of living and doing business that it's hard to get used to."

After his year of research at Cambridge, Baumer will receive a degree in physics and return once more to the States, to study at Stanford University for his Ph.D.

JV XC stumbles at Forest Park, recovers at Parkway West

BY DANNY SCHNELLER AND MICHAEL DAUGHERTY
REPORTERS

Having run in five races so far this year, the JV cross country team is off to an impressive start that includes a first place finish at the Parkway West Invitational and a third place finish on the "Manmaker" course at Sioux Passage.

Junior Matt Thomas feels that the team's performance at the Forest Park XC Festival was only adequate, and noted that the team was still getting into shape as explanation for their lackluster performance.

"There is always room for improvement," said Thomas.

However, a dominating performance at Parkway West brought the team back to its usual standards. Thomas pointed to strong performances from sophomores Kevin Murphy and Jack Schroder along with junior Alex Sextro as reasons for the team's success.

Coach Joe Porter is most impressed by the team's strong depth. He said that this year, JV runners have often run at the varsity level with success.

There has only been one race in which the JV team ran solely on the JV level, the Parkway West Invitational, the race they performed the best in.

The JV cross country team

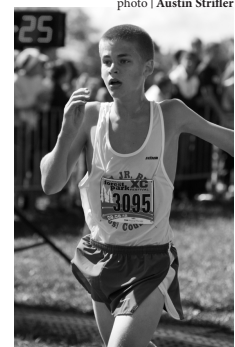


photo | Austin Strifler

Sophomore Kevin Murphy.

has three meets remaining in the season. Tomorrow the team will run in the MCC meet in Forest Park. Runners are hopeful that the cross country program will win at all levels: varsity, JV, sophomore, and freshman, and that the JV team will sweep the top seven finishes in their race. Juniors Peter Charles and Brendan Keuss stressed the importance and potential value of fan support as runners face off against MCC rivals.

The JV team also races at the Borgia Invitational on Oct. 13, and ends its season on Oct. 24 at the Findlay Invitational, as they have traditionally.

Huge crop of young swimmers gain strokes, experience

BY LEO HEINZ
REPORTER

The JV SwimBills have jumped into a great season already.

"They are improving their strokes and times, and they are building their endurance," said head swim coach Rachel Graczak.

They have participated in most of the meets so far, with the exception of the varsity invitationals.

The SwimBills are one of the largest swim teams in the state, with 47 swimmers and 4 divers. Swim coach and Spanish teacher Kevin Moore explained that most swim teams field both a varsity and junior varsity team. The main reason for two teams is to allow adequate practice time.

"It's great to have a big team. It enables swimmers to progress

at their own pace," said Moore.

The JV team's season will end on Oct. 27 with the JV MCC Meet. The varsity meet is the following Wednesday, Oct. 31. The State meet is on Nov. 9 and 10.

Moore said that it is great to have two teams. If SLUH had only one team, current swimmers would not be able to get time in the pool.

The junior varsity team is made up of mostly sophomores and freshmen.

"We continue to work hard and move forward," said freshman Jared Everitt.

This attitude is also reflected by Graczak and Moore. The JV swimmers continue improving and working hard as the season winds down.

Corrections

In last week's soccer article, senior Zach Hoffman's name was misspelled; sophomore Nathaniel Cummings was incorrectly identified as Nathan Cummings in last week's article on James Gunn; and senior Matt Horas' name was misspelled in last week's Spirit Week article. The *Prep News* regrets these errors.