

Defense raises the bar while touted offense sputters

Football misses opportunities, unable to get ground game going

BY RYAN DOWD
CORE STAFF

We live in a world of disenchantment, pain, and frustration. Evil can triumph over good. The hero does not always emerge triumphantly victorious against sinister forces. Last Friday, CBC grabbed fate by the horns and defeated the righteous St. Louis U. High football team (1-3, 0-1 Metro Catholic Conference) to the tune of 34-7.

In a game that promised an offensive showdown, one offense struggled to recapture its mojo while the other made a few crucial plays under fierce resistance. CBC entered the game averaging 56 points on offense. The SLUH defense, averaging 38 points before the game, held the CBC offense to 27 points (CBC had one defense touchdown and missed one extra point).

The SLUH defense seemed to be the critical factor entering the game after a disappointing 49-point performance against Webster Groves. But last week the SLUH defense did indeed bounce back.

Head coach Gary Kornfeld said, "I think it was our best defensive effort of the year."

Football stats, while useful, rarely tell the whole story. Aided by the return of sophomore hit man Mike Hall and the clever defensive line substitutions by defensive line coach Matt Buha, the Jr. Bills held one of the area's



photo | Kyle Vogt

Senior Receiver Stefan Sansone battles for more yards after one of his five catches last Friday. Turnovers and failed red-zone opportunities doomed Sansone and the rest of the Jr. Bill offense and for the second week in a row, the Jr. Bills were unable to muster much of an offensive attack in the game's second half.

most productive offenses to 20 points until the fourth quarter. Stats show that SLUH allowed 427 yards.

If the SLUH defense hopes to improve further during the year, they must keep the quarterback in the pocket and bring him down when they force pressure.

The Jr. Bills had numerous chances to bring down CBC quarterback Dalton Demos for huge losses, but Demos always slid away unscathed by the hair

on his chinny-chin-chin and made big plays downfield.

"We make those plays, and now we're in the driver's seat," said Kornfeld.

The defense could have had an even better game if the offense had not put them in tough spots throughout the game. After the opening drive ended with senior quarterback Trevor McDonagh throwing a 28-yard touchdown pass to senior receiver Stefan Sansone, the Jr. Bill offense did not

score a point or seriously threaten again.

"They're good for a reason, and they're good defensively and did a good job on our guys," said Kornfeld.

It's difficult to pinpoint exactly why the offensive production fell through. As in the Webster game, the running game could never find traction in the first half. The Jr. Bills rushed 21 times for 29 yards, a 1.4 yards per carry average. Then early in

the third quarter a botched snap deep in SLUH territory gave CBC a free touchdown.

"When you play great teams like we have the past two weeks, you can't make mistakes, and you have to take advantage of the other team's mistakes," Kornfeld said.

At that point down 20-7, the Jr. Bills tried to ride McDonagh and the passing game to get back in the game. But the Cadets continued to stymie the Jr. Bill attack for the rest of the night. McDonagh finished 17 for 32 for 247 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. Going into week five, McDonagh has passed for 1055 yards, good for second in the area.

Tonight, SLUH will square off against Vianney at Vianney. The SLUH offense has had success offensively over the years versus the Vianney Golden Grifins. Current Arkansas running back Ronnie Wingo, '08, set the single-game school record for rushing yards and touchdowns almost four years ago against Vianney. McDonagh has historically had some of his best games versus Vianney as well.

But Kornfeld said, "Is Vianney capable of beating us? You betcha, especially at their place."

The Jr. Bills hope to turn the page of this season to Act II and show that the good guys can defeat the dark forces of the MCC.

Manmaker no match for SLUH XC

BY GREG FISTER
STAFF ARTIST

As the top 14 varsity runners train for the Palatine race in Illinois next weekend, the apprentices of Saint Louis U. High's fastest cross country runners, especially underclassmen, have showed remarkable talent in the two races in the past week.

SLUH's fastest cross country runners did not run in last Saturday's Paul Enke Invitational at Sioux Passage Park or the Ed White Warrior race in Arnold, and though SLUH's third-string varsity did not take home championships at either race, these races were a chance to highlight some much younger racing skill.

The annual Paul Enke Invitational race at Sioux Passage Park is a rite of initiation for SLUH cross country runners, as it is the first 5K that the freshmen run and it features the monstrous hill dubbed the Manmaker.

SLUH once again faced off against the infamous Manmaker Hill last Saturday, and again conquered the grassy devil.

Senior Nathan Fox, racing varsity, described his experiences on the hilly course: "It's intense, to see the hill before the race, especially if you know what it feels like to run up it. The hill looks at you and takes on a personality, almost egging you on."

SLUH's third-string varsity

runners placed 13th overall in the meet. Sophomore Jerry Amsler was SLUH's first varsity finisher with a time of 19:11 in 56th place, and senior Nathan Fox was two seconds behind him. The rest of SLUH's varsity team was composed of juniors and seniors, including team captain Josh Zink-Duda.

Amsler said he "took the Manmaker itself slow, and after that it was easy to pass people up on the other hills."

The SLUH runner with the fastest time on the day, however, was freshman Shayn Jackson, who was the singular champion of the freshman race, dashing across the finish line at a time of 19:06. With runners finishing in first through fifth place and three more in the top 12, SLUH (perhaps needless to say) won the freshman race. JV took third place, with senior George Carroll finishing first for SLUH in that race.

And just three days later, the coaches reshuffled the third-string varsity team and sent them to race on the flat, curvy course at the Ed White Fox Warrior race this Tuesday. This time, Jackson and fellow freshman Garrett Fox ran with varsity jerseys, leading the team to a sixth place finish.

Coach Tom Flanagan praised Jackson's performance, especially in his fast start, keeping his place in the top 20 for most of the race

and losing no enthusiasm as he crossed the finish in 15th place with a time of 17:42.

Jackson said, "I never want to finish a race with regrets; I know what that's like and I don't like it. On racing with a varsity jersey at only his third cross country race of his life, Jackson said, "It's cool to be on varsity, but it's more fun to run with the freshmen."

Next for SLUH in the varsity race were brothers Nathan and Garret Fox and Sean McLaughlin, in 30th, 31th, and 32nd places, respectively. The JV team finished second, led by sophomore Jacob Breiner with a time of 18:30.

The U. High's Fast Freshmen, even without their top two runners, gained an overwhelming victory in their division, this time led by freshman Jack Sullivan, the champion of the race with a time of 18:20.

This weekend SLUH's top 14 varsity cross country runners travel to Palatine, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, for the Palatine Invitational Saturday morning.

Senior captain Joe Esswein said, (the race) is a chance to see how we rank in the (Midwest) region.

The course, said Esswein, is mostly on a track, and therefore the finishing times are traditionally much faster than in any Missouri race.

CROSS COUNTRY TOP TEN TIMES THIS SEASON

Name	Time	Course
Joe Esswein	16:13	Forest Park
Nathan Rubbelke	16:15	Forest Park
Tom Laughlin	16:17	Forest Park
Matt Nicholson	16:18	Forest Park
Michael McLaughlin	16:35	Forest Park
John Esswein	16:48	Forest Park
David Arredondo	16:50	Forest Park
Joe Archer	16:52	Forest Park
Tom Rubio	16:53	Forest Park
Peter Rackers	17:02	Forest Park

Correction

In last week's issue of the Prep News, the caption for a photo accompanying the cross country article identified Joe Esswein as a sophomore. Joe, in fact, is a senior. The Prep News regrets the error.

