

## Soccerbills rebound with back-to-back shutouts

BY JAMES BOECKMANN  
REPORTER

St. Louis U. High took on Duchesne in St. Charles last Monday looking to rebound from their disappointing loss to Oakville last week. The Jr. Bills certainly came back strong, pouring it on in a 4-0 win.

The scoring began in the first half when senior Sam Steurer set up to take a free kick from SLUH's end of the field, usually an unlikely place to set up a goal. However, Steurer sent the ball beautifully over the heads of the Duchesne defense, and senior Ryan Merrifield ran on to the long ball for a breakaway, where he drove the ball into the side netting for goal number one.

SLUH continued to own the game for the rest of the half, but couldn't get another goal.

The scoring resumed in the second half, though, as senior Paul Buehler beat Duchesne's de-

fense to get a breakaway, which he buried in the bottom corner to double SLUH's lead.

Later, senior Joe Jedlicka headed in a corner kick with about 15 minutes to go in the game.

For the fourth and final goal, junior Nick Kocisak took advantage of Duchesne's goalie mishandling the ball and easily tapped in his first goal of the season.

Sophomore Jack Robinson started in goal for sophomore Guillaume Delabar, who suffered a concussion against Oakville last Wednesday. Robinson was never really tested.

The team seems to score in streaks and looks very dynamic at times, while at others the offense seems to stall.

Buehler said, "When we pressure all over the field and leave their defense exposed to the counter a few times when we are

very dangerous. Also, when we just get the ball down and keep it simple it works well for us."

The next day, SLUH took on Webster Groves in a rescheduled game from a few weeks earlier. Just like the Oakville game, the Jr. Bills dominated the game from start to finish, even though scoring was slow in the first half.

The SLUH offense was bogged down by an unusual amount of offside penalties in the first half, but senior Tommy Behr managed to send Buehler for a breakaway, which he slotted calmly into the corner of the net for the only goal of the first half.

The offense really picked up the pace in the second half however and added four more goals to their total. The first score of the second half came when junior Zach Hoffman crossed the ball to Buehler in the box. Buehler's shot was stopped by a great save, but senior Pepe Gas-

peroni got to the rebound and scored easily.

The next goal would come when senior Luke Gilsinger drove a cross to Merrifield, who quickly flicked the ball past the goalie with the outside of his foot. Soon after that goal, Behr headed in a Kocisak corner kick making the score 4-0. Kocisak also scored the game's final goal, working his way through the box well and beating the keeper easily from about six yards away.

"I think the wins gave us a boost of confidence and also prepared us to play as a team heading in to the Gateway Classic," Merrifield said.

After school yesterday, the Jr. Bills took on Cherry Creek, last year's state champions from Colorado, in their first game of the Gateway Classic. Check the Nightbeat for the results.

The Gateway Classic is one of the most competitive high

school tournaments in the country, and it comes right in the middle of the season. SLUH's group of eight includes five teams which won their respective state championships, so the competition is indeed going to be tough. This should help prepare the Jr. Bills for a competitive MCC schedule, as well as let them know where they stand.

"The MCC is nationally recognized for being so competitive in high school soccer, so we are used to playing in games against good teams all the time, so I definitely think it gives us an advantage," said Buehler.

The tournament will certainly be exciting, and crowds will fill the stands at SLUH all weekend for the tournament. SLUH's game times are dependent on its results, so be sure to keep updated about their schedule.

## Swimming grabs a pair of wins over MICDS

photo | courtesy of Mr. Jim Erlinger



Senior Sam Erlinger glides through his lane, with his sights set on the finish line.

BY DAVID GREAVES  
REPORTER

Last Thursday, the St. Louis U. High swim team was able to pull in a victory against MICDS. The final score was 102 to 81 and a 13 to 0 victory in diving.

The first race of the meet was the 200 meter Medley relay. SLUH's A relay team consisting of seniors Amir Paschal, Pieter Derdeyn, Christopher Favier, and Michael Slaughter came in first with the MICDS relay trailing.

Another notable victory for SLUH was in the 100-meter backstroke. Juniors Richie May-

er and Nick Koors and Paschal swept the MICDS swimmers placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd earning 13 points for the team against MICDS's three.

The victory was especially exciting for SLUH's team because even though they have done well in invitationals and in the Marquette relays, the Jr. Bills had yet to win a dual meet until they conquered MICDS. "I feel excited and relieved that we finally won one," said sophomore swimmer Adam Bensalah who recently recovered from a case of pneumonia.

BY GREG FISTER  
STAFF ARTIST

Venturing out of their home state last Saturday, cross country's top 14 runners traveled to a Pallatine, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, to race in the Pallatine Invitational.

The race, said runner Joe Esswein, "is a great way to see how the team ranks among the region."

SLUH's varsity team finished 11th in the meet overall, beating many odds to prove its worth among some of the best ranked teams in the nation.

In the varsity race, senior Michael McLaughlin finished first for SLUH, finishing with a personal record of 15:25, in 29th place overall.

Next came junior Tom Laughlin, who overcame some physical obstacles (he ran head-first into a pole during the race).

## Food drive meets expectations

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ra, juniors Jack Halbert, Mark Messmer, and Aaron Buettner, and sophomores Mark Rieke and Paul Fister. This team helped Bieber stay organized and keep all the homerooms ordered, to avoid

Laughlin righted himself and ran past the finish in an admirable 49th place, also taking home a personal 5K record of 15:40.

SLUH's JV team finished fourth in the meet, led by junior David Arredondo in fifth place.

As this is the first of two races that SLUH runs not in Missouri, the trip to Pallatine is a pretty big deal for the runners involved. McLaughlin described the attitude of the team on the journey up as "quite jovial, but as soon as we woke up on the day of the race, the tone was much more somber."

The weather, cloudy and 60 degrees, was also somber, and the pressure of facing some of the fleetest feet in the Midwest might have gotten to a few runners. But as soon as the starting gun went off at Deer Grove Forest Preserve in Pallatine, it was just another race, an opportunity to do your

personal best, as McLaughlin saw it.

"I just ran quickly, hoped I would do well, and I did," said McLaughlin. "Like Coach (Tom) Flanagan says, to race well you need to trust your body and spirit, and forget about your mind," McLaughlin continued.

McLaughlin says his focus for the rest of the 2011 XC season is a win at the State meet, the first step of which is a good showing at next week's Metro Catholic Conference meet.

After State, SLUH will again race some of their Pallatine competitors at the Nike Cross National Regional meet in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Today at 4 p.m., SLUH's JV and freshmen will race at Queeny Park in the Ron Jorgenson Memorial Invitational.

## Why are we not in the stands?

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costumes plus parents and fancy clothes. The girls and sweat, not necessarily together in this case, remain.

What social aspect draws hundreds of SLUH students away from the SLUH student section? One word, five letters: Girls. To see the impact girls can have on SLUH students, watch the heads turn when a girl enters the cafeteria during freshman/sophomore lunch period.

For nine months, we spend the majority of our day surrounded by a thousand other guys. For guys coming from co-ed schools, the adjustment is weird at first. It's completely natural to see a girl you know walking by the SLUH student section and want a free hug.

After a week of being only with guys, I think it's completely natural for 14- to 18-year-old boys, or men in some cases, to want to have some sort of contact with the female species. If the packs of girls are on the track, then, like sharks smelling blood, guys will follow them down to that track.

I have no problem with guys wanting to talk to, and get free hugs from, friends who happen to be girls. I have no problem with guys catching up with old friends. But as Colonel Jessep, played by Jack Nicholson, said in *A Few Good Men*, "We use words like honor, code, loyalty. We use these words as the backbone of a life defending something. You use them as a punch line."

Substitute the words brother-

hood, friendship, and solidarity and that's what we have going on here. There's a conflict between our self-professed brotherly love and our behavior at these games. If we really loved our fellow classmates, our brothers, then why can't unite in that friendship to form a loud, lively SLUH section like we had in my freshman year, led by the charismatically under-clothed Jack-Leahy, '08. But sadly, most SLUH students seem more interested in the packs of young girls than the battle raging on the gridiron between their fellow classmates and opponents trying to rip their heads off.

The party line from any track marauder, myself included, goes something like this: I paid to get into this game, and I can spend

some of last year's confusion about which homerooms earned which points.

CSP workers gave up their weekend to count and sort all the cans. After the cans had been counted up, they were

shipped to Sts. Peter and Paul and Shalom House. CSP plans to hold other events to get kids active later in the year such as having homerooms adopt a family, which should start around the beginning of November.

my time however I want once inside the gates. This is America for heaven's sake. There's some truth in that argument. But then don't act like you care when the Jr. Bills make a late comeback. Don't act like you were even at the Vianey game. "Go put your creed into your deed," said Ralph Waldo Emerson. If you don't believe in the whole SLUH brotherhood thing, then don't fake it. If you do believe there is some special connection between guys who go and have gone to SLUH, then honestly you should be in the stands demonstrating that connection.

The bottom line comes down to this. Although athletes and performers never admit that having a crowd or a lack thereof affects them negatively, humans

naturally perform better, feel better about themselves, with support. That's what we can provide in the stands, support. For example, the support a spotter provides in the weight room allows you to lift more weight than you normally could. The mutual support students give each other during an AP Physics study session improves everyone's grade.

I'm not saying that if SLUH is winning or losing by 30 points every student should be screaming his lungs out in the student section. But if it's a close game, we owe our brothers our support, or else all we stand for and say is a simple catchphrase to attract eight graders and make us feel better about ourselves.