

Soccer splits pair of CBC, looks to matches in Cleveland

(continued from page 5)

Chances from senior Joey Krause and junior Ray Goedecker highlighted the Jr. Bills' scoring efforts; Krause missed the top-left corner by only a couple feet. "CBC has some big forwards, some big guys up top, so Joey was substantial. He's fast, he's strong, so I thought he would be the logical choice," said Martel.

CBC answered SLUH's scoring chances, but was constantly stuffed by junior goalkeeper Alex Meissner. Meissner has notched ten shutouts on the year, the second most by any goalie in the state. Meissner made a handful of impressive saves, including a beautiful leg-save with ten minutes left in the half.

"Every good team, every championship team has a good goalkeeper and we have one. He can make the big saves," said Martel. "One thing we always try to stress with goalkeepers is controlling your box, and he does a really nice job of that. He's got it all, he is really solid."

At halftime, assistant coach Charlie Clark decided to switch the team's formation into a 3-5-2, playing five midfielders.

"The opposite midfielder for CBC was getting the ball and exposing us, so we put two wide midfielders with the other three and I think it worked," said Martel.

Fifteen minutes into the second half, Goedeker was fouled about 30 yards out of the goal, giving SLUH a free kick. Verzino stepped up to take the long chance, ran in, and hit an absolute rocket that found the bottom left corner of the goal, giving the U. High a 1-0 lead.

After Verzino's heroics, SLUH still had 25 minutes to play and finish off a strong defensive effort.

As the half continued, CBC started to accumulate more scoring chances, but again, Meissner was a wall in the net keeping the Jr. Billikens' lead safe. With 1:30 left, a CBC forward had a great chance inside the 18-yard box, but it was saved by Meissner and then cleared by Horton, saving the lead.

CBC sent everyone up in the last seconds in a final effort to score. A Cadet played a ball into the SLUH box, which sent Meissner rushing out towards the ball. However, a CBC forward reached it first, dribbled past Meissner and shot on the wide open net. Senior right back Jeff Walter came sprinting in to the right post, and cleared the ball right on the goal line to save the victory for SLUH.

"I was holding my breath waiting for the final whistle, I was never comfortable," said Martel.

The match win crowned

the Jr. Billikens the CYC tournament Champions.

"Gratification was the number one thing I was feeling. I was just standing there after the game, and after the guys were leaving, I just had this calm, peaceful, gratified feeling like 'Wow what did these guys just do?'" said Martel. "It was really amazing, considering how many seniors we lost last year, how good the CBC team is. It was one of my favorite games for a long time."

However, SLUH had to jump right back into league play on Tuesday, facing CBC again. As the sea of black student section cheered on the Jr. Bills, SLUH battled for scoring chances throughout the game. A game played mostly in the midfield, CBC had multiple serious scoring chances in the first half, but all were stifled by Meissner, as he continued to dominate the pitch, making a plethora of clutch saves. On the U. High. side, Trusler almost bent a shot into the bottom left corner of the net, but the Cadet keeper made a good save, as SLUH and CBC ended halftime knotted up 0-0.

As the second half started, CBC began to create more chances than the SLUH side. Four minutes into the half, CBC finished off a chance. The Cadet striker put the shot past Meissner's hands, giving CBC a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, SLUH scoring chances were few and far between.

"Their midfield dominated in the second half and we didn't really have that many chances to go forward," said Ditto.

With five minutes to go, Meissner came out to meet a CBC player on the right side of the box in an effort to save the ball, but the opposing forward passed the ball back into the middle of the field, which the CBC player shot and scored, giving CBC a 2-0 lead.

Late efforts from the SLUH side came out short, as they fell 2-0.

"Obviously when it's at CBC, it's kind of hard to get back. They're just good at controlling the game after they score," said Ditto.

The team left last night for Cleveland, Ohio, where they will face off against St. Ignatius tonight. St. Ignatius is ranked No. 4 in the nation according to USA Today. They will face Hilliard Davidson High School tomorrow, in an effort to finish off their road trip on a high note.

"Definitely looking to win," said Ditto. "Obviously it'll be a little tougher competition, but we're up to it. Hopefully it will lead us into some good games back in state."

XC travels to Palatine, enjoys racing and bonding

ANDREW MODDER
SPORTS EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High varsity cross country team traveled to Palatine, Ill. this past weekend for the annual Palatine Invitational, where they finished 21st out of 32 teams with a total of 465 points.

Several national top-25 teams competed in this race, one of the most competitive races in the country, including No. 25 Lake Zurich HS (Ill.), who won the meet with a total of 124 points, as well as No. 17 Brentwood HS (Tenn.), who finished in eighth.

Going into the meet, the team hoped to look at it as a brand new race, and to not think about previous times in the XC Festival or Paul Enke Invitational.

"We've talked about throwing times out from the Festival and Sioux Passage last week because of the conditions of the course and the terrain we were running on makes it a little more difficult," said head coach Joe Porter. "We knew this would be faster; the course is pretty firm, it's not that hilly, so all those kind of helped us."

Senior Joe Laughlin came into the meet as the top runner for SLUH, and he continued to fill that role, finishing first for the Jr. Bills in 53rd place with a personal best three-mile time of 15:41.

"I PR-ed by 15 seconds, and I was really happy with that. I ran well, I got out



Senior Joe Laughlin at the Palatine Invitational last Saturday. photo | courtesy of Mr. Terry Leonard

a little too fast, but I was able to still run a good race, so I was happy with that," said Laughlin. "This was just a flat course, it was perfect weather, couldn't ask for anything better, and with some good competition to push us I think it's just a course very conducive to PRs."

Junior Paul Burka was not far behind Laughlin, as he finished just seven seconds after him with a 15:48, his new personal best. Burka crossed in 74th place overall.

Sophomore Patrick Hetlage followed Burka in the third position for SLUH, claiming 101st place with a time of 16:03.

"Personally, I didn't real-

ly perform at the level I wanted to," said Hetlage. "I was really seeking to pack together with Burka and Laughlin, and I ended up falling off of them in the third mile."

Senior William Kelly, despite throwing up just before the race, managed to put forward a solid time for SLUH, coming in 104th place at 16:05. Sophomore Reed Milnor crossed shortly after in 130th place at 16:18, closing out the scoring five for the Jr. Bills with a PR.

One of the major improvements Porter and the team have continually focused on has been the time gap between the first and fifth runners. Headed into Palatine,

their goal was to keep this gap below 40 seconds. With Milnor's PR, this gap shrank down to a mere 37 seconds.

"I think we ran really well," said Porter. "We're definitely ahead of where we were last year, it's just that there's five teams in the national top-25 right there and a bunch of teams right outside of it, it's one of the most competitive meets in the country. That's why we go to it, to run against the big dogs."

Seniors Thomas Leeker and Roman Lipinski finished in the last two spots for SLUH, with Leeker in 160th at a personal best time of 16:35 and Lipinski in 186th at 17:05.

continued on page 7

Senior driven team sets sights on return to Scottrade Center with state title hopes

(continued from page 5)

they have two forward lines."

During the offseason, the club lost varsity assistant coach Alex Effinger, who took a job in Chicago, but added two new coaches to the program, Bret Morrell and John Crow. Crow will be helping out at the JV level, while Morrell will be a defensive coach for the varsity team.

"I think it's going to be interesting, we have some new coaches this year," said senior Louis Garavaglia. "I think they're gonna bring some new good ideas about power play and breakouts and everything."

Despite the coaching change, leadership on the team will not be in short supply this year, as the team has a very strong senior class.

"I think it's gonna be better than it's ever been, since we've been on the team," said Garavaglia. "I think this is probably the most seniors we've ever had, and we're all pretty skilled and get along well, so we definitely have a shot."

With ten seniors graduated (four of them having been captains) the coaches and players will look to the new upperclassmen to see who can lead the team on and off the ice this year.

"I think that the change in leadership will be fine," said Gassett. "A majority of our guys are older guys that played major roles since coming straight onto the team freshman year."

"Having been on the team since freshman year, I've

seen a lot of different captains and learned a lot from different people," said Hohl. "I want to use some of their methods, that they used to motivate the team, to kind of teach the younger kids throughout the year."

The Jr. Bills kicked off their preseason last night with the beginning of the annual Top Hat Classic, against Rockwood Summit. (See Nightbeat; page 7)

"I think it's just important for us to kind of get our feet wet as a team, and get into a routine," said Gassett. "We can finally get into that routine on the ice, and get familiar with the guys who are in the lineup. It's good to get everybody out in these tournament games."

These early games are

important for setting the tone for the rest of the season, as SLUH looks to take home the championship of the Top Hat Classic for the second year in a row, topping CBC last year in the tournament's championship game.

"It's good especially for the younger guys that are just coming onto the team, that they get a warm up game to get ready," said Hohl. "I feel like we have a lot more depth this year to be able to win consistently all year long and be closer as a team."

The Jr. Bills will face off against Kirkwood next week on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 6:50 p.m. at the Webster Groves Ice Arena.



Junior Will Rudder (7) against CBC last Tuesday.

photo | Brendan Voigt

Fink and Smith lead team in time drops

Wins Tri-Meet against Oakville and Lafayette

KYLE IRVINE
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. high swim team competed in a nail-biter this past Wednesday at Lafayette. The Bills went up against a great Lafayette team and Oakville in the only tri-meet of the season.

The SLUH swimmers put on a show in the longer events, with impressive 500-yard freestyle swims from senior Luke Smith and sophomore Daniel Fink. Smith managed to drop another five seconds, putting him very close to his first State cut.

"Dropping another five seconds within a week is just incredible," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "It's just another testament to his work ethic."

The meet stayed close to the very end, with the Bills having some poor swims throughout. Lafayette managed to beat out the Bills' dream team of sophomore Joe Feder and juniors Nick Mattingly, Barclay Dale, and Joe Jellinek in the 400 free relay. This setback, along with other good races by the Lancers, made the Bills doubt their chances. It was not until Thursday morning when the Bills found out they did in fact win the meet to keep their undefeated record for the season.

The Bills failed to capitalize on their depth in a tri-meet environment. Being able

Scott places 24th in JV race, earns a spot on Varsity for next race

(continued from page 6)
Overall, the team ran very well, but due to the depth and crazy speed of the field, they placed in the bottom half of the leaderboard.

"It's hard to think that (we ran great) and then look at what place we got, but you also have to think about all the good teams that are there and how they probably are also having good days," said Leeker. "But overall I was very excited about how well we ran and how great a trip it was."

In addition to strong performances at the varsity level, several JV runners put forward spectacular individual efforts, the most impressive being from freshman Noah Scott, who came in 24th overall with a PR of 16:27, propelling him into the top seven for varsity.

"As a freshman, a meet like Palatine can be very intense. It's very competitive, it's a very fast feel," said Laughlin.

"I guess a lot of times freshmen can get swallowed up in competitive races, but he really ran a tough race, a good race, he had a huge PR."

Junior Matt Gunn placed 48th in the JV race with a PR time of 16:44, and senior Matt Northcott came in 72nd with a PR of 17:05. The JV team finished 12th of 27 teams.

Going to a meet like Palatine is about much more than simply the racing and the competition. The team takes the time they have on the bus rides, meals, and nights in the hotel to get to know each other better and develop a communal feeling within the team.

"I loved the experience of bonding with the team. It is one of the things I love most about cross country, being part of this great team family," said Leeker.

"After the race you really see just how weird cross country runners are, and it's just a

lot of fun," said Laughlin.

Porter also sees Palatine as a good practice for the experience the team will have at the State meet later this fall. He also values the trip as a way to have one-on-one connections with every team member.

"We were able to on the way home talk to each one of the 14 about their race, and have that one-on-one conversation," said Porter. "Normally they're off doing whatever with the rest of their Saturday, but on the bus we had time to go through all those things together so it was kind of nice."

SLUH heads to the Parkway West Invitational this Saturday with a new lineup of runners: Burka, Hetlage, Kelly, Leeker, Scott, Milnor, and Gunn will be the seven varsity members. The varsity race begins at 10:10 a.m., immediately following the JV race at 9:00 a.m.

Jr. Bills lose second consecutive game, looking for solutions

(continued from page 5)

On six carries. Several players put up very strong numbers on the defensive side. Senior linebacker Henry Herzberg once again led all Jr. Bills tacklers with 11, while junior defensive tackle Kameron Bowdry racked up nine. Junior Jack Leavitt also played a major role in the defense, with seven tackles and two fumble recoveries. His aggressive play on the outside helped stop the Cadets short passing game and their outside runs. However, the defense as a whole struggled to make tackles on a few plays in the first half, several of which resulted in touchdowns for the Cadets.

Despite the first half score, Kornfeld is choosing to focus on the strong play from the Jr. Bills in the second half of the game.

"Our execution was so much better," Kornfeld said. "And when we had the chance to make plays, we did it. There are other people who just wouldn't have gone out and given their all with a score like that, but our guys gave everything, and I was very proud of them."

The Jr. Bills now hold a record of 3-3 for the season after two consecutive losses. After last night's game against the Vianney Golden Griffins, the last MCC matchup of the season, the Jr. Bills look forward to a matchup with Rock Bridge at home next week. The Helias are 1-7 on the season, having struggled to get their offense going in several of the games. They have been held to less than ten points in half of their matchups so far, so the Jr. Bills' defense will be key in securing the victory.

Underclassman Sports Reports

JV Soccer

9/27
SLUH 1
Vianney 2

9/29
SLUH 1
Desmet 1

next game: 10/4 @ De Smet

B Soccer

9/27
SLUH 2
CBC 2

key stat: Sophomores Alfie Arun and Michael Drabelle scored.

9/29
SLUH 0
Mehlville 2

next game: 10/4 vs. Rock Bridge

C Soccer

9/23
SLUH 2
Vianney 0

key stat: Freshmen Austin Bievenue and Andy Mujeznovic scored.

9/27
SLUH 2
CBC 0

9/29
SLUH 4
Mehlville 1

next game: Today @ CBC

JV Football

9/26
SLUH 20
CBC 27

key stat: Freshman running back Mookie Cooper ran for an 80-yard touchdown.

key quote: "I just try to do what I can to lead my team to greatness," said Cooper.

next game: 10/3 @ Vianney

V2/JV/C XC

While the varsity team was away at Palatine, the second varsity team and underclassmen teams competed in the Hancock Invitational, a 54-year old meet in Jefferson Barracks Park. The varsity team

finished 13th out of 16 teams. The top runners for the team were junior John Thomas (64th), senior Jack Conaghan (73rd), junior Tom Munsell (74th), and senior Zach Hennes (80th). The JV squad took seventh of 18, led by sophomore Justin Koesterer (36th), junior Robert Joy (49th), and sophomore Jack Buehring (55th). The freshman team placed fifth of 11, as all the team members finished inside the top 35, led by Joe Callahan (15th) and Sirius Song (21st).

—Jack Perry, Alexander Rodgers, Tommy Rogan, Ben Dattilo, and Will Smit Jr. contributed reporting.

22 years ago: a legendary kicker

At the SLUH v. CBC Week game for that year, and Stadium Game at the Old Busch Stadium in the fall of '88, junior Brian Leahy, '90—was one of the very first students in SLUH history to both kick for the varsity football team and play varsity soccer in the same season—which his coaches Ebbie Dunn and Gary Kornfeld had to agree upon.

He also made All-State and All-Metro his senior year, another first for a SLUH stu-

dent.

He eventually went to Northwestern University on a kicking scholarship.

The jersey that Tim Leahy, '85, is wearing in the picture below is his brother's jersey for that season.

—compiled by Samuel J. Chechik



photo | Matthew Book

Football Nightbeat

Varsity football faced off against the Vianney Griffins last night in their final MCC matchup of the season. Despite a strong performance from senior running back Andrew Clair, who totalled 202 yards on 22 carries with three touchdowns, the Griffins amassed 417 yards on the ground en route to a 42-32 victory over the Jr. Bills. Several Jr. Bills put up strong numbers on defense, with Henry Herzberg leading the way with 14 tackles. Jared Scott and Kameron Bowdry also contributed with 13 each. Davion Nash had 11 tackles, including a sack and three tackles for losses. Offensively, Clair was supported by quarterback Mitchell Batschelett, who completed 12 passes for 192 yards and a touchdown.

—compiled by Brian Price

Hockey Nightbeat

The St. Louis U. High hockey team kicked off the season last night with a dominating performance in their first game of the Top Hat Classic against Rockwood Summit, defeating the Falcons 8-0. It didn't take long for the Jr. Bills to get on the scoreboard, as senior Chaz Palumbo put one in the back of the net only 90 seconds into the game. After the first, SLUH didn't look back, adding two more goals from junior Matthew Hohl and senior Luke Sextro before ending the first period. This was the story throughout the entire game, with the Jr. Bills adding six more goals. Goal scorers included seniors Louis Garavaglia, Erik Floyd, Liam Knobbe, and Blake Riley, along with junior Kevin Einig. The team outshot Rockwood 42-6, making a big statement in their first win of the season. SLUH will face off against Kirkwood next week on Thursday night at 6:50 pm.

—compiled by Will Farroll