



Soccer overcomes first deficit of year, has first multi-goal game

JACK WATERS
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team extended its winning streak to four games, defeating both Parkway South and Gibault this past week.

Looking to stay undefeated after starting off the season with impressive wins against Chaminate and Jeff City, the No.7 ranked Jr. Billikens hosted Parkway South on Monday.

The game started with a shocking blow to the U-High. About four minutes into the game, an overhead pass was played into the box by a Parkway South player, only to be stifled by junior center back Kurt Schumacher. However, when Schumacher touched the ball after the tackle, the referee blew his whistle and called a back-pass, believing Schumacher played the ball back to his keeper intentionally.

"It was a pretty rough call,



Senior Donovan Ditto in this past Monday's game against Parkway South. photo | Brendan Voigt

there wasn't really anything we could do from a defensive standpoint," said senior right back Jeff Walter.

Parkway South was

awarded an indirect free kick just inside the 18-yard box.

The free kick was passed right to the Parkway South player's foot, who blasted it into the

net, giving SLUH their first deficit of the season.

However, as SLUH fell behind, the players didn't lose hope.

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Leeker and Kelly ready to lead XC into Granite City

ANDREW MODDER
SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into their final year at St. Louis U. High, senior cross country captains William Kelly and Thomas Leeker look to take on a leadership role and instill their knowledge and passion into underclassmen runners for the upcoming seasons.

Kelly had never run cross country before SLUH. He entered high school planning to run track in the spring, and even tried out for the soccer team in the fall before getting into cross country.

"I was originally interested in track, but my parents had convinced me that doing cross country would help me out with track and help me stay in shape," said Kelly.

Kelly began his trek to senior captain as a member of the JV and freshman teams in his first two years at SLUH. As he continued running, he saw his potential as a future varsity runner.

"I think the biggest reason I (run) is because I love the satisfaction you get from improvement," said Kelly. "With other sports, you don't necessarily get to see how direct your improvement is."

And Kelly's improvement has shown in his times in races, especially last year when

is very knowledgeable about the sport but also has a lot of fun with running," said Leeker.

During his freshman year, Kelly was able to experience the State meet with fellow current senior captain Joe Laughlin, who had invited him to watch.

"When we got there, there were like 25 kids from SLUH just running around, and it was great to see that fan base," said Kelly.

In addition, the two got exposure to a State Championship team as freshmen, and Kelly recalls seeing the joy and

jealousy of the team after winning State due to a scoring error. He especially looks up to the achievement of Thomas Hogan, '15, who came in 19th place.

"Seeing how he developed as a runner and put faith in his running was really cool," said Kelly.

As he heads into his final season, Kelly hopes to do more than run better times or win more races; he hopes to build up the camaraderie he has experienced over his first three years on the team.

"What I would like to do with (my) leadership position is give back to all of the virtue and all the positivity, the faith, all the life, learning, les-

SLUH defense shuts Rams down in 35-7 football win

NICK PRAINITO AND BRIAN PRICE
REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High football team rolled to a 2-0 start to the season last Friday night, defeating the Ladue Rams by a score of 35-7. On a hot August night with multiple injury timeouts due to cramps, the Jr. Bills defense was excellent, holding the Rams silent for three quarters of the game. The offense was spectacular as well, led by running back Andrew Clair and quarterback Mitchell Batschelett. In their first two games, SLUH outscored their opponents 85-23.

After the coin toss, Ladue received the ball, three plays later, SLUH had forced the Rams to punt. After several rushes and a reception after the SLUH takeover, Batschelett took off from the Rams 31-yard line, though fumbled the ball several yards from the end zone. Teammate Zach Millman was nearby to scoop it and fall into the endzone for the first Jr. Bill touchdown. Kicker Joe Rogan tacked on the extra point, and SLUH had an early lead.

"Scrambling is like my last option," said Batschelett. "Obviously we have really, really strong receivers and a really strong running back. But the offensive line did a great job of opening up holes, so when I was presented with the opportunity, I just decided to take off."

A couple of fumbles later, Clair ran for a 39-yard touchdown. The extra point attempt was good, and at the end of the first quarter, the Jr. Bills led Ladue 14-0. The defense was solid throughout the quarter as well, forcing three

quick punts and returning a fumble for 30 yards to set the offense up well.

In the second quarter, junior linebacker Jared Scott recovered another Ladue fumble. After a 31-yard carry by junior Daniel Terry, Batschelett held on to the ball as he shoved his way across the goal line from a yard out. Just a minute later, Terry picked off a Ladue pass, and Clair quickly rushed in for his second touchdown of the game. The Jr. Bills went into the locker room at the half leading Ladue 28-0.

"I was really excited about how we played the first half," said head coach Gary Kornfeld. "I don't know if we could've played (it) better."

The defense continued to shine in the third quarter, with an interception by senior safety Tony Adams and a forced Ladue fumble. In the

opening minutes of the fourth quarter, Clair rushed for another touchdown, and Rogan hit his fifth extra point of the night. Ladue would finally get on the board later in the quarter, but SLUH easily held on to gain their second victory of the season.

"Going in, I would've thought Ladue, as good as they were, could've scored three scores on us. So it's a pretty good feather in the cap to our defensive guys that they only got one," said Kornfeld.

Despite having to battle his way through several leg cramps, Clair totalled 136 yards and three touchdowns on 23 carries, and his ability to grind out yards at the line of scrimmage allowed the offense to keep possessions going.

"I didn't have the break-away speed," Clair said about his leg injuries. "My cuts

weren't as quick. Really, I was just trying to get back to the line of scrimmage and then gain as many yards as I could from there."

Batschelett completed 11 of 16 passes for 102 yards. Those 11 passes found the hands of seven different receivers, as Batschelett efficiently spread the ball around the field to keep the defense off balance.

Batschelett attributes the high number of different receivers to how the defense was playing the game. "They were double-covering (Adams) a lot, so that option was gone. But the other receiver... did a great job of stepping up."

Leading the way for the defense was senior middle linebacker Henry Herzberg, who was all over the field, garnering 10 total tackles. Herzberg said he primarily focused on run defense first, and would then step back into coverage if necessary.

"He's just a very aggressive, smart player. He sees things very well. We could not be happier to have him back," Kornfeld said of Herzberg.

Tonight the Jr. Bills face a tough test, playing at Chaminate at 7:00 p.m. The Red Devils are 2-0 on the season, and are number ranked No. 1 in the STLtoday rankings for Class 5, while SLUH is ranked No. 6 among Class 6 teams.

Despite the rankings, Batschelett is confident. "I have great weapons around me," he said about this week's game plan. "For me, it's just to not make mistakes and just kind of manage the offense. I think the rest will take care of itself."



Senior Andrew Clair in last weeks game against Ladue. photo | Brendan Voigt

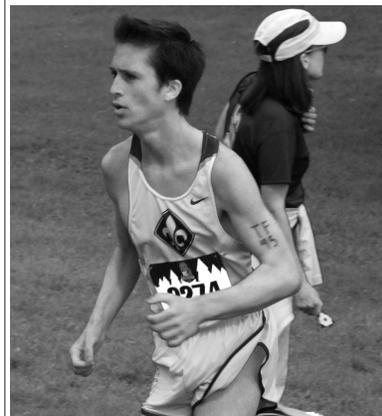


photo | Andrew Pluff

Senior Will Kelly in last year's Forest Park Cross Country Festival.

he broke his personal record by over a minute and ran a 5K in 16:41.

As an underclassman, Kelly struggled with finding joy in racing, but as he has grown as both a runner and a person, he has found the fun in competition.

"During competitions, the way Coach Joe Porter phrases it is a celebration of all the hard work you've done, and that's kind of my mantra when I go into a race," said Kelly.

"Will is awesome because he has the great quality of being a very serious runner who

sons that I've learned from all the people going through this program," said Kelly. "(I want to) instill passion into people to realize you're part of something bigger than yourself, to believe in yourself, and lastly to find faith in your talents."

Looking ahead, Kelly is unsure whether he can compete at a high college level, but he is considering maybe a Division III school. But, if that does not pan out, he will continue to run on his own and perhaps be on a club team.

Leeker came into SLUH much in the same way Kelly continued on page 10

No. 7 ranked Soccer team continues to roll

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"We knew we had enough time, ability, and effort to come back," said senior captain Brandon Trusler.

The Jr. Bills had all three of those things. Though the team had only scored one goal in its first two games, SLUH pushed the ball forward and maintained possession in the Parkway South half, creating multiple scoring chances.

With four minutes left in the first half, SLUH finally broke through and tied the game when junior left back Pietro Nicastro ran down the wing and hit the ball with his left foot, taking a high bounce towards the goalie who tipped the ball into the net.

After the goal, the Jr. Bills decided to switch up their lineup, moving junior captain Cam Verzino up into the midfield. Just a minute after the position change, Verzino netted his first goal of the season for a 2-1 halftime lead.

"It was good to get the feeling of being down. From that point on, we were perfect," said junior goalkeeper Alec Meissner. "Coach (Martel) always says we have a lot of heart, so I mean we really showed it in that situation."

In the second half, senior Donovan Ditto extended SLUH's lead. Ditto flew by his defender, took one touch on the ball, and buried it into the right side of the net. After the goal, Martel decided to bring in some new faces to make their season debut.

SLUH kept the pressure on, as seniors Luke Marcoulier and Nick Baumer had scoring chances throughout the second half, but the match ended in a solid 3-1 victory.

Another impactful player in the game was defensive midfielder Trusler.

"Really, when Brandon plays well, it seems like the whole team plays well. It seems like everyone looks up to him, with him being a captain. Everyone loves it when he plays well," said Meissner.

After a good night's sleep and a balanced breakfast, SLUH quickly turned the page in preparation for Gibault Catholic High School, their opponent on Tuesday.

After sitting through a 50-minute weather delay, the Jr. Bills were ready to play.

"Coach Clark told us in the pre-game speech that we were gonna roll over them and that we have to have that mentality right away. Honestly, we were expecting to just kill them," said Meissner.

However, SLUH faced their common problem, putting the ball in the back of the net. After numerous first half chances, SLUH finally cracked the scoreboard with fifteen minutes left in the half, when sophomore Louis Vacca scored off a rebound from the shot of sophomore Alex Lehmann.

"Obviously, Louis getting that goal in the first half, that was huge," said Meissner.

The first half took a

choppy pace, with many fouls and stoppages in play on both sides.

"There were a lot of fouls, a lot of dead balls. It just wasn't a good game. Once we got that goal though, we were like, alright, let's take control," said Meissner.

The match went into halftime with the Jr. Billikens up 1-0.

At the start of the second half, SLUH played with more control of the game and the outcome showed.

Lehmann bent the ball around the wall and into the net to give the U. High a 2-0 lead.

Lehmann struck again in the last minutes of the game, sealing SLUH's 3-0 victory, and giving Lehmann a three-point game (two goals, one assist).

Lehmann and Vacca, referred to as the "Super Sophomores," have turned heads with their impressive play.

"The sophomores are playing really well right now. It's obviously inspiring because everyone sees that and says 'alright, we can do it, let's get it going,'" said Meissner.

The Jr. Billikens hold a record of 4-0 going into two weekend games against out of town opponents. They will play tomorrow against Glendale (Springfield) at 5:00 p.m. and against St. Xavier (Louisville) on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.



artwork | Lancer Li

Dale and Feder qualify for State as swimming wins Marquette Relays

KYLE IRVINE AND MATT GODAR
REPORTER, CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High Swim and Dive Team broke open the floodgates of the new season this past week, with two meets attended and two meets won in the Marquette Relays and against CBC.

The team's conference debut came on Saturday with the annual meet at Marquette. The Bills managed to come away with a first place finish, beating out 12 teams from the St. Louis and Cape Girardeau areas.

In total, the team managed to nab four medals, all silver, in the 400-yard medley relay, the 400 freestyle relay, the 300 butterfly relay, and the 300 backstroke relay.

"When you go up against a State Champion in a relay and win because our secondary swimmers are stronger than theirs, it says a lot about the depth of your team," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "It takes more than one good swimmer to win a relay, and

we're lucky to have multiple."

Junior Barclay Dale and sophomore Joe Feder both managed to qualify for State in the 100 backstroke. Dale posted a time of 54.49 seconds, while Feder swam a 56.43. Senior captain Andrew Gammon also impressed and contributed to the team's victory by placing second among ten divers.

"Marquette definitely went really well for us," said Gammon. "It was important to kick off the season like this, and hopefully set the precedent for the rest of the year."

The Bills continued their success later in the week with their first dual meet win of the year. Squaring up against CBC on Thursday at Forest Park, the team managed to rack up a score of 118 points, easily triumphing over CBC's 65 points.

Dale was deemed swimmer of the meet after he managed to qualify for State once more, this time in his 50 freestyle (22:59). Dale also helped the 200 medley relay

team qualify. These qualifications for State were among a total of five for the new season, including a qualification from Feder in his 100 freestyle (49:77).

"I didn't expect to make State in that event (50 free)," said Dale. "I felt slow on the second 25 yards and came into the wall thinking I wasn't going to make it. I looked up and had to do a double take at that 22:59 just to make sure that was actually my time."

However, State-qualifying swimmers and impressive depth were not the only factors in the team's success kicking off the season.

"The team had some new apparel, including some new robes," said Ehret, "I think we can contribute the robes to some of the success we saw at CBC. The blue, fuzzy, smurf robes helped us mentally and by physically keeping the team warm."

Looking ahead, the swim team will face De Smet at home on Friday, Sep. 9.

Captains Leeker and Kelly hope to inspire XC underclassmen to victory



Senior Thomas Leeker in a meet at Jefferson Barracks in 2014. photo | Xavier Ludwig

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to the varsity squad and has never looked back.

Leeker takes pride in running because of how difficult it is for him and in response to all the cynics who don't understand why someone would go through the physical and mental pains of running.

"I do find satisfaction in running, and racing, and doing well. It certainly helps that some people don't know if they can do it and so I find satisfaction in doing something a lot of people think would be tough," said Leeker.

Leeker appreciates and

enjoys the tranquility and peacefulness of running, even during the most competitive races, and he also really likes running with his friends either for practice or for leisure.

"Running with (my friends) is awesome, and also just having some time quietly if I'm running by myself to think and work and be in nature," said Leeker.

"Thomas is one of the guys I respect the most at SLUH," said Kelly.

At last year's State meet, Leeker felt his leadership role for his senior year begin to

develop. Although he only cheered at the State meet as a spectator instead of running for the team, he feels this is one of his best memories of SLUH cross country.

"Being part of the team, getting to help them run at the State meet, and the idea of my role as partially a leader, helper, and runner was a lot of fun," said Leeker.

Leeker has a personal record of 18:08, which he achieved last year. However, like Kelly, he hopes to do more than just run good times this season.

"I would like to be a great team captain and be a positive example for the underclassmen and really help the juniors come into a leadership role and take more responsibility," said Leeker.

As he looks toward his future in running, he wants to focus on the community aspect and the fun of running more than hardcore competition. In college, he likes the idea of being part of a running club where he can meet people who share the same passion he does.

Leeker and Kelly look to kick off their final season with a bang tomorrow morning at the Granite City Invitational at 9 a.m.

Underclassmen Sports

B Soccer

8/29		
SLUH	1	
Parkway South	2	

Key stat: Sophomore Jon Broun scored the lone goal for the Jr. Bills.

Key quote: "Our team is struggling to find a rhythm while in games. Our team is strong. We are well coached and have a lot of talent. We will come out stronger than ever, Monday vs. De Smet," said sophomore Brian Lymberopoulos.

Next game: 9/5 vs. De Smet Jesuit @ Chaminade

C Soccer

8/30		
SLUH	4	
Vianney	3	

Key stat: Freshman John Marshall scored twice, including the winning goal.

8/31
SLUH 0
Priory 2

Next game: 9/7 vs. Chaminade

C Football

8/29		
SLUH	19	
Ladue	20	

Key stat: SLUH had a touchdown called back in the loss to Ladue.

9/1
SLUH: 0
Chaminade: 49

Next game: 9/12 vs. De Smet Jesuit

B/C XC

8/31
SLUH underclassmen runners traveled this past Wednesday to the O' Fallon Futures Invitational in O' Fallon, Ill. Reed Milnor won the sophomore race with a time of 16:44; Jack Buehring finished sixth and Justin Koesterer took seventh. Noah Scott placed second in the freshman race Mitchell Booher third, and Ben Kriegler ninth.

Jack Perry, Chandler Love, and Alexander Rodgers contributed reporting.