



Two points away, Jr. Bills drop close game to Red Devils



Senior Andrew Clair fights off two Chaminade players in last week's game. photo | Brendan Voigt

NICK PRAINITO AND BRIAN PRICE REPORTERS

After back-to-back victories to begin the season, the St. Louis U. High football team rolled into its first Metro Catholic Conference matchup at Chaminade last Friday night to face a powerful Red Devils team. The Red Devils, ranked first among Class 5 teams, had displayed an explosive offense in their first two games, while shutting down opposing offenses by attacking the offensive line and stopping running backs. The combination proved just too much, as the Jr. Bills lost a close one, 30-28.

The powerful offense was prominent from the first seconds of the game, as standout running back Damon Bonds returned the opening kickoff 97 yards to put the Red Devils ahead 7-0 in just 14 seconds.

"It's a long game. I just wanted everyone to know that going down early just means that we have to go take it right back," said senior captain and quarterback Mitch Batschelett.

He did exactly that, leading a long, methodical march down the field, mixing up passes and runs very well to keep the defense off balance. After several Chaminade penalties, junior running back Jared Scott capped off the drive with a one-yard touchdown run to even the score.

But the next Chaminade drive took just over a minute. Bonds once again burned the defense, this time with a 62-yard run to set up a passing touchdown.

Finally, the two defenses began to settle in and draw each drive out longer. The SLUH defense began holding the Chaminade run game

back, thanks in large part to hard work by the defensive line.

"They like to push everything inside," said senior defensive end Davion Nash. "We had to work to contain their running game so that the linebackers could clean it up."

The SLUH offense capitalized on the opportunity. After a long drive, junior running back Daniel Terry took a short pass from Batschelett and broke several tackles to dash 34 yards into the end zone.

The Jr. Bills then decided to dip a little deeper into the playbook. Junior quarterback Austin Hannah caught the snap for the extra point, but as senior kicker Joe Rogan ran up to kick, Hannah suddenly hopped up and rolled to the right, finding senior Ryan Hebenstreit wide open in the back of the end zone for two points.

"We felt like we could take advantage of (their defense)," said head coach Gary Kornfeld. "I was very proud that all of our guys picked up on the call, and we were successful on it."

Just minutes later, a seven-yard pass from Batschelett to senior wide receiver Tony Adams capped off another drive, and put the Jr. Bills ahead 22-14 with just a few minutes left in the first half.

But the Red Devils refused to go into the locker room trailing. With just four minutes on the clock, they quickly pushed down the field and capped off an explosive drive with a five-yard pass into the end zone as time expired. They chose to go for two points, but the Jr. Bills' defense stood tall, stopping the short run and maintaining

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Soccer, unable to capitalize on chances, loses first game to De Smet

JACK WATERS REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team is undefeated no more, after a loss to De Smet on Tuesday. The team also won one and tied one last week to start the season at 5-1-1.

The Jr. Bills played Glendale High School (Springfield) last Friday. In one of the team's best performances yet, SLUH created many scoring chances and domination on both ends of the field.

The scoring started when senior Donovan Ditto zipped a cross into the 18-yard box right on to the foot of junior Peter Kickham, who tapped it in for a 1-0 lead. Shortly after, junior Will Rudder took a shot on goal, which was saved and popped up by the keeper. On its way down, sophomore Alex Lehmann headed it into the net, putting SLUH up 2-0.

Not even three minutes into the second half, Leh-

ann found his way to the ball and scored for his second goal of the match.

"I thought our offense really came together, and we started to get something going," said Ditto. "Once we put one in, it's tougher for them to score, so we just kept coming and scoring more goals."

The scoring chances continued as junior Kurt Schumacher played a beautiful ball to junior Scott Janasik, who blasted the shot into the bottom corner for a dominant 4-0 lead, and SLUH had its fifth win of the season in one of the offense's best games.

After a night's rest, the squad faced a tougher opponent, St. Xavier (Louisville).

The Jr. Billikens found ways to create offense early, resulting in chances for junior Ray Goedeker and Lehmann, but the squad couldn't capitalize, resulting in a 0-0 tie at the end of the first half.

"They were a very big

team, most of them were above six foot. They were big boys," said junior goalkeeper Alec Meissner.

Meissner noted the team's struggle for scoring goals in games against teams with more height.

"Against big teams, I think that's when we struggle. Not necessarily against fast teams, but against big teams," said Meissner.

The Jr. Billikens continued to struggle offensively, as the St. Xavier defense and goalkeeper stifled SLUH's chances, most notably a shot on goal from junior Cam Verzino off of a free kick with eight minutes left in the match that was saved by the St. Xavier keeper.

With less than a minute left, a St. Xavier defender committed a foul about 25 yards out, receiving a yellow card and giving SLUH one last chance for a miracle goal.

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Sophomore Alex Lehmann after a hard loss against De Smet last Tuesday. photo | Brendan Voigt

Varsity Soccer Night Beat

The varsity soccer team dropped last night's game to Vianney 1-0. The Jr. Bills had trouble with ball possession, as Vianney maintained control of the game. Vianney scored halfway through the first half on a run from an opposing forward, resulting in an animated reaction from the SLUH bench, who wanted an offside call. SLUH is 5-2-1 on the season. The Jr. Bills will play tomorrow night against CBC, at CBC, at 7 p.m.

XC has strong start, led by Burka, Laughlin, Hetlage, and Kelly

ANDREW MODDER SPORTS EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High cross country team dashed into action this past weekend at the Granite City Invitational, where they took third place overall and had many impressive individual races as well.

SLUH had never traveled to Granite City for this meet before, so they only knew broad information about the course and its features.

"With a lot of Illinois schools that we don't compete against very often and it being early in the season, we really didn't know what to expect," said head coach Joe Porter. "We knew very little about the course."

The Granite City course was unique in the fact that runners could not wear spikes in the race because the race was run on asphalt. Typically,

cross country courses are on grass with several hills where runners can grip the grass with spikes rather than their training shoes.

"We didn't really know what to expect, so we just went in knowing our training and we had a race plan, and we executed and ended up doing well, so we were really happy with that," said senior captain Joe Laughlin, who medaled with a 21st place finish and a personal record (PR) of 15:54, the second best time run by the Jr. Bills.

Junior Paul Burka recorded the best time for SLUH, finishing just ahead of Laughlin at 15:53 to medal in 20th place with a PR.

"I was just trying to run a good time," said Burka. "I have a lot of confidence, I think I can run faster though just because my second mile wasn't too good."

The Jr. Bills came into the meet with several uncertainty, but they knew they had to compete with De Smet, one of their fiercest competitors throughout the season.

"Going into the meet our game plan was to have pretty much the whole varsity hop on De Smet's number two Tyler O'Connor and kind of have him pace us for the first couple miles," said sophomore Patrick Hetlage, who placed 25th and ran a PR of 15:59.

The team executed this plan perfectly, as they passed up O'Connor just after the first mile and then went head-to-head with Joey Reed, De Smet's number one.

"We definitely wanted to beat De Smet and wanted to show that we could contest with them show them that even though we graduated a few of our good guys, we can still go out there and win,"

said Burka.

In addition to the top three times of Burka, Laughlin, and Hetlage, four other varsity runners ran PRs.

Senior William Kelly placed 27th and medaled with a time of 16:04, relying on a strong first mile to be the last SLUH medalist. Senior Roman Lipinski finished in 60th place with a 16:48 to come in as the fifth Jr. Bill.

"I got pinched off at the beginning," said Lipinski, who beat his best time by 33 seconds. "I had to use a lot of energy to get back to the pack and then I was just buried (in the middle)."

Senior Thomas Leeker annihilated his previous best time, finishing in 66th place with a time of 16:57. Junior Matt Gunn rounded out the Jr. Bills with a 91st place finish and a PR of 17:28.

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Sophomores Paul Burka (left) and Patrick Hetlage (right) in last Saturday's meet. photo | Mrs. Linda Hetlage

Swim captains dive into leadership role



Seniors (left to right) Kyle Irvine, Andrew Gammon, Luke Smith, and Thomas Nordmann. photo | Mr. Charles Jellinek

KYLE IRVINE
REPORTER

The 2016 swim and dive team is led by four senior captains this year: Andrew Gammon, Kyle Irvine, Luke Smith, and Thomas Nordmann. Over the course of the week the *Prep News* got the chance to talk with two of these fine young men about how they are leading the team this year and their journey through swimming.

Smith came out for the team freshman year.

"I just wanted to do a sport," said Smith. "I've been swimming for a long time, I guess that's why I signed up."

Smith started his freshman year on the junior varsity team before getting bumped up to varsity for his sophomore year. Head coach Lindsey Ehret contributed this move to Smith's impeccable work ethic.

"Luke's very quiet," said Ehret. "But that doesn't stop him from showing everyone what a good worker he is. He's a lead-by-example type of person."

During his time on the team, Smith has grown as a swimmer and a person.

"Between freshman and sophomore year my strokes and technique shifted," said

Smith. "I went from focusing on short distance to focusing on long."

Looking ahead to this year, Smith hopes to be able to qualify for state in the 200-yard freestyle and 500 freestyle. He also hopes the team will once again be able to finish first at MCCs.

Nordmann has a similar story of starting his SLUH swim career on the JV team.

"I came out for the team freshman year because I thought it would make my mom happy," said Nordmann. "To be honest I wasn't really a fan and had trouble motivating myself to work at practice."

But Nordmann's negative attitude was short-lived as he soon shifted into a grind of hard work.

"Thomas has come a long way," said Ehret. "He started with more of a JV mindset, but managed to get it together and end his junior season on a high note."

Nordmann hopes to be able to lead the team to a top 15 finish in state this year. Personal goals for Nordmann include finishing top five at MCCs in his 200 individual medley.

The team will take on De Smet after school today at home. The meet starts at 4:30.

JV soccer strikes first but comes short of victory with 3-3 draw

BEN DATTILO AND TOMMY ROGAN
REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High JV soccer team played a hard fought 3-3 draw against Rockwood Summit on Tuesday.

SLUH put a lot of pressure on Rockwood right away. The Jr. Bills struck first when junior forward Daniel Dewan crossed the ball into the middle, allowing junior forward Jacob Gremaud to one-time it into the goal.

"I felt exuberant. Our team got off to a good start by scoring early," Gremaud said.

SLUH continued the pressure on Rockwood and kept the ball on Rockwood's side for most of the first half. Junior forward Gavin Gassner carried the ball to the Rock-

wood endline which eventually led the ball to be deflected off a Rockwood player for a SLUH corner.

Dewan took the corner and placed it just in front of the goalie. The ball bounced around the six-yard box until it was poked out in front of the 18-yard box, where junior midfielder Teddy Ragsdale was there to clean up the mess. Ragsdale ripped a shot from the top of the box and the ball flew into the bottom left corner, putting SLUH up 2-0.

"It felt fantastic," Ragsdale said. "I was satisfied to take our first ever 2-0 lead."

SLUH stayed strong while Rockwood slowed down. Junior forward Buck Chevalier received a pass, beat

a defender, and penetrated the 18-yard box. Chevalier shook off another defender and went bar down just outside the six-yard box.

"It felt good, I thought that goal would seal the deal for SLUH," said Chevalier. "If I was to describe how I felt in three words it'd be ... hard-working, alpha male, jack-hammer."

SLUH was getting the majority of the scoring opportunities and keeping possession of the ball until about 30 seconds after Chevalier's goal. Just after kickoff, Rockwood pushed the ball forward and got their first goal of the game. SLUH didn't let their guard down and continued to press on, but Rockwood had a lucky volley and scored again.

SLUH let down their guard yet again and Rockwood slipped behind their defense and scored again, ending the first half tied 3-3.

The second half kicked off and SLUH went right back to attacking. Junior Danny Favazza was taken down in the box but there was no call made. Favazza again had the ball in the box and he found Chevalier in the middle of the box. Chevalier took a shot but he missed wide to the right, and the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

On Tuesday, the team is participating in the Hillsboro tournament, taking on Washington in the first game at 3:45 p.m.

C football looks for resilience after 0-2 start

CHANDLER LOVE
REPORTER

The C football team is off to an 0-2 start after losses to Ladue and Chaminate.

The team started off the season with a game against Ladue at home. It was a close game the entire way, and the Jr. Bills fought hard. On the special teams side of the ball, there were two blocked punts in favor of the Jr. Bills. Offensively, there was a huge touchdown run that was called back that would have given SLUH the lead. The game came down to the last two seconds, but Ladue hung on to win 20-19.

The next game was against MCC rival Chaminate. At the end of the first quarter, the Bills were down 7-0 with the ball deep in Chaminate territory. The final score was 49-7, as the Red Devils routed the Jr. Bills the

rest of the game.

There is definitely some room to grow and all signs point towards the team being headed in the right direction. Assistant coach Adam Cruz just wants his team to keep working hard. One of the big things in the Chaminate and Ladue games were silly mistakes that could have been avoided.

"They have to realize that bad things are going to happen, but we can't let that stop us," said Cruz. "We have to keep going."

One aspect that most people will fail to see is the problem of not having a full team, with some of the better players being moved up to the JV and varsity teams. Joey Lansing, one of the offensive linemen, has recently been brought up to JV and running back Teriyon "Mookie" Cooper was moved up to varsity. To make matters worse, one

of the team's most important offensive linemen suffered a concussion in the game against Ladue.

"Injury and sickness are going to happen, we just need guys to step up," said Cruz.

A few of the notable players on the C team include captains Anthony Bohannon, Luke Sherman, and Brendan Hannah.

Cruz and head coach Tom Wilson agree that they have a talented team. The important thing is getting them to play a complete game and focus on improving every

game. "The overall goal is to get guys ready for varsity," says Cruz.

Running back Kellen Porter thinks that the team is headed in the right direction.

"Some of our team played their first football game ever the Ladue game. Some guys were scared but we never gave up. We made a few changes that I think will help prepare us for the rest of the year."

The C football team takes on De Smet at home on Monday at 4:30 p.m.

XC excited for Festival on Saturday

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The Jr. Bills finished with a total team score of 142, holding on to third place out of 42 teams in the meet. Chatham-Glenwood High School took second with 126 points and O'Fallon dominated the field with a total of only 91 points.

"First one out the gate we're feeling really good about where we're at," said Porter.

The Jr. Bills are now looking forward to the Forest Park XC Festival. One hundred and twenty-six high schools will be represented from eight different states. Porter is anticipating there to be 4,000 athletes and over 10,000 people in total.

"We can't get too caught up in how big of a meet it is, we just have to focus on our race and we have to focus on being prepared for the race," said Laughlin "It will be a crowded field but when it comes down to it, it's still a race."

The Jr. Bills are preparing by running the course for practice every day this week. The nine varsity runners are Burka, Hetlage, Laughlin, Kelly, Lipinski, Leeker, Gunn, sophomore Reed Milnor, and senior Matt Northcott.

"There's going to be so many people, I think there's going to be a lot of fast guys there," said Burka. "If we can stay with the lead pack, that would be really good and I definitely think we could PR again if that happens."

There are college races on Friday night, and the high school races begin at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Jr. Bills varsity team races at 1:20 p.m.

B soccer has bumpy ride to start season

JACK PERRY
REPORTER

The SLUH B soccer team has had a rough go at things these first three weeks of the season. The team's two wins came in the first week against MICDS and Jefferson City. Since then, the team has lost to Parkway South and then De Smet and Oakville in the MCC tournament. To make matters worse, lackluster play has resulted in an ever-changing lineup.

The Jr. Bills took on their Jesuit rival De Smet Spartans at Chaminate on Monday in the MCC Tournament. The first half was very evenly matched with each team generating offensive chances and coming up with big defensive stands. De Smet managed to squeak a goal past freshmen goalie Jake McCullars ten minutes into the first half.

SLUH answered, though, with a big goal by sophomore Alfie Arun on a penalty kick after he was tackled by the De Smet keeper. At the half, the score remained a 1-1 stalemate.

After the half, De Smet jumped ahead once again. The Jr. Bills fought back, taking control of the offensive

game and peppering the De Smet keeper with shots.

The Jr. Bills' best chance of the second half came with around five minutes left to play. Sophomore Michael Drabelle beautifully crossed the ball into the box. As sophomore Jon Broun settled the ball, the De Smet goalie slipped, leaving the net wide open. Broun passed the ball to another Jr. Bill, who tapped the ball towards the net. But as the ball was about to cross the goal line, a De Smet defender made a heroic toe save and then booted the ball out to his midfielders.

This proved to be a pivotal point in the game, as the Jr. Bills were never able to put together another cohesive run, and dropped the game 2-1.

The next evening, the Jr. Bills got ready to face Oakville on their home turf. The Jr. Bills fell behind early, allowing Oakville to score two goals in the first half. The defense was pushed to its limits, as Oakville dominated in time of possession and shots on goal.

As the first half wound down, the Jr. Bills looked as if they were turning things around, putting pressure on the

Oakville defense. Broun converted on his second tally of the year off of a cross from Arun.

The Jr. Bills took their momentum into the second half, flipping the script on Oakville. Despite their efforts and numerous chances in the second half, the Jr. Bills could not overcome the two-goal deficit and dropped to 2-4 on the season.

When asked what prevented the team from victory Tuesday, starting center midfielder Jack Schoen said, "We didn't start the game off with enough urgency and energy towards scoring first and played on our heels the first half. They put up two on us and it was pretty hard to come back from that."

Schoen went on to remark that "our energy was better in the second half and I believe this team can use that as a starting point for the games to come. I really think we are going to click on all aspects of our game."

The Jr. Bills look ahead to their games this week, versus Webster Groves on Tuesday at Webster and against Vianney on Thursday.



artwork | Ian Mulvihill