

XC battles illness and fatigue, places sixth at Parkway West

ANDREW MODDER
SPORTS EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High varsity cross country team raced into the Parkway West Invitational last Saturday, where the team stumbled to a sixth place finish with 156 points. Rock Bridge took home the team title with 43 points, followed by host Parkway West with 49.

The Jr. Bills had very high expectations going into this meet, especially because of the confidence they gained from their strong performance at the Palatine Invitational.

"At Palatine we had a really good week, and if you take the conversions of the 5K, we were looking pretty solid," said senior William Kelly. "We weren't really looking for a team place, ideally we would have been top three because we were trying to go after Parkway West and Rock Bridge."

However, the team as a whole struggled, as they did not compete with Rock Bridge or Parkway West at the level they wanted to. Five Rock Bridge runners and four Parkway West runners finished ahead of SLUH's first finisher, sophomore Patrick Hetlage.

"We were hoping to beat Parkway West and really be a contender with Rock Bridge during that meet, seeing that they're very high-ranked to win at State or at least get a trophy at State," said Hetlage.

Hetlage finished in 19th place overall with a time of 17:24, which was good enough to earn him a medal.



Sophomore Patrick Hetlage in this past weekend's race at Parkway West. photo | Courtesy of Mr. James Hetlage

However, Hetlage was less than impressed with his race, as he struggled to keep pace with the leaders in the final mile.

"Personally, I just thought too much during my race, and when you race you really just have to let go and not think about anything that happened in the past. You just have to go out there and run," said Hetlage. "I felt I definitely could have done better, I definitely could have been top ten and definitely should have run under 17 minutes."

Junior Paul Burka was the other medalist for SLUH, as he placed 24th with a time of 17:28, building off a strong first mile to stay up front with the lead group. Sophomore Reed Milnor finished close behind Burka in 31st position

at 17:33.

Kelly, who is currently on three different inhalers and other medications, battled through his allergies and mental fatigue in the meet, placing a disappointing 40th with a time of 17:44.

"Parkway West is a very thinking man's course. It was an unfortunate combo of being banged up, my allergies, and not thinking enough," said Kelly. "I ended up getting 40th place when there were people at Granite City that I beat who ended up being in the top ten, and that's where I should have been."

Sickness and fatigue have been a recent issue for the Jr. Bills, especially with freshman Noah Scott, who was diagnosed with bronchitis and was in urgent care the day before

Parkway West. Scott fought as hard as he could to a solid race given the circumstances, as he finished sixth for SLUH in 58th place at 18:05. Senior Thomas Leeker crossed the line just before Scott in 53rd place with a time of 17:59.

"It was not a good day, it was rough," said Kelly. "Frankly I think we were pretty tired, some guys were pretty banged up going into it."

Junior Matt Gunn rounded out the varsity group, having trouble finding his rhythm and ending up in 93rd at 18:59.

Overall, the meet was a struggle for the Jr. Bills, as they were very fatigued from tough training, big races, and traveling. They also struggled with mental preparation and staying focused during the race.

"We had a rough go, and we're bound to have one of those," said head coach Joe Porter. "Our varsity spent the last three weeks going through the hardest training of the season. They traveled last week, and that takes a lot of your legs, and they ran some tough races."

There were errors in the execution of the race plan, as the team was very spread out and did not run very well as a group. The original packs that had been assigned before the race were never built, and it turned into a battle for everyone.

However, the team also took positives out of this experience, treating it as a learning experience to build off

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Soccer battles for draw in Cleveland

Falls to gritty Rock Bridge team in double OT

JACK WATERS
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team rocked and rolled their way into Cleveland, Ohio, where they tied St. Ignatius 0-0, before returning home to play Rock Bridge, which resulted in a 2-1 double overtime loss.

The Jr. Bills arrived on Friday morning around 3 a.m. after a long bus ride. Before the team's 6 p.m. match against St. Ignatius, the SoccerBills spent their afternoon pumping up the jams at the world famous Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in downtown Cleveland.

The team then traveled to St. Ignatius High School for their match. The Wildcats had been ranked the No. 1 team in the country the week before by Top Drawer Soccer.

"They were big, strong, fast. I can see why they were ranked No. 1 in the country,"

said head coach Charlie Martel.

In a game that went back and forth in terms of possession, junior goalkeeper Alec Meissner came up in the clutch to make many saves in the first half. The U. High also had chances offensively, but to no avail, as the St. Ignatius defense kept the Jr. Bills scoreless. The first half ended 0-0.

The second half started with much of the same pace as the first, with many opportunities from both sides. The Jr. Billikens' opportunities included a breakaway from junior Pietro Nicastro, but the St. Ignatius keeper came out and made a remarkable save to keep the score even.

"Their goalie had to come up big," said Martel. "We could've scored two or three goals, but it was a great effort by the guys."

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Junior Cam Verzino in Tuesday night's game against Rock Bridge. photo | Brendan Voigt

Jr. Bill defense has no answer for strong Vianney offense, falls 42-32

BRIAN PRICE AND NICK
PRAINITO
REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High football team faced a tough test last Thursday night, squaring off against the Vianney Griffins in their last MCC conference game of the year. Despite an exceptional performance from the Jr. Bills' offense, the Griffins offense was just too much for the SLUH defense, as Vianney prevailed by a score of 42-32. The loss was the third straight for the Jr. Bills, setting them at 3-4 for the season with two games left to play.

In the first quarter, the Jr. Bills got the ball rolling, with senior running back Andrew Clair rushing for a 22-yard touchdown in just the first few minutes of the game. However, the extra point was missed, so SLUH held a 6-0 lead. It wouldn't last for long, as the Griffins offense came out of the gate hot as well. They scored two

touchdowns, with an extra point and a two-point conversion, to give them a 15-6 lead with four minutes left in the first quarter.

The Jr. Bills defense fared better in the second quarter, slowing the constant run offense of the Griffins. But despite their efforts, the relentless attack eventually broke. Midway through the quarter, Vianney scored a touchdown off a four-yard run.

The SLUH defense responded by standing tall and blocking their two-point conversion. Minutes later, Clair had a huge 50-yard run to put up six more for the Jr. Bills. The two-point attempt failed, however, so at the half, the Griffins led the Jr. Bills 21-12.

In the third quarter, Vianney ran for another touchdown, this time making the two-point conversion. SLUH, however, would follow with two successive touchdowns, one on a pass by senior quarterback Mitch Batschelett to

senior BJ Wilson for eight yards, and another one on a 30-yard run by junior Jared Scott. Senior kicker Joe Rogan nailed both extra points, and the Jr. Bills trailed by only three points, 29-26.

This was the closest that the score would ever get. Vianney scored again in the third quarter, and once more with two minutes left in the fourth to go up 42-26 after one blocked extra point. Clair scored one last time for the Jr. Bills with 40 seconds left, but the Griffins hung on to take the win.

Once again, head coach Gary Kornfeld noticed that the game really came down to a few plays that did not go favorably for the Jr. Bills.

"Winning and losing is a fine line. You take three or four plays and change them, and we win that game. But those three or four plays happened," said Kornfeld.

Despite the loss, SLUH had several outstanding performers in the game. On of

fense, Batschelett threw for 192 yards and a touchdown, completing 12 of 19 passes. Clair ran for 202 yards on 22 carries, averaging nine yards per carry. He also recorded three touchdowns on the ground.

The offense was hurt by a number of turnovers. Batschelett fumbled the ball on the Vianney one-yard line while trying to push his way into the endzone. Also, on a fourth and long situation, a bad snap left punter Rogan scrambling for the ball. He would eventually be tackled at the SLUH one-yard line, giving Vianney an almost guaranteed score.

"Turnovers were the one stat that we were really behind them on," said Kornfeld. "We probably had a 15 point swing (because of them), and we just have to try to limit turnovers from now on."

Defensively, four players posted more than ten total tackles, led by senior Henry Herzberg's 14. He has now

led the team in total tackles in four of their seven games. Kornfeld has given nothing but praise for the linebacker's game.

"Herz has done a wonderful job in the middle, calling our game," said Kornfeld. "He just goes out and plays every snap like it's his last snap."

Senior Davion Nash also made great defensive contributions, racking up eleven total tackles, three of them for losses. He also had a sack. His ability to break quickly into the backfield helped slow down the Vianney run game and earned him the praise of Kornfeld.

"We had a couple of plays where they just didn't pick Davion up, and he did a nice job with those opportunities. He's way too athletic for them to leave him untouched," said Kornfeld.

Unfortunately, the defense was hurt by the relentless run game of Vianney. The Griffins gained 417 yards

on the ground.

"They were just more disciplined than us. They did what they were supposed to do on every play, and we had trouble with tackling and making plays," said Herzberg.

Despite the loss, SLUH is still ranked ninth in the STL High School Sports rankings for the top ten large schools. After losing three straight against Jefferson City, CBC, and Vianney, the Jr. Bills look to turn things around in the final two games of the season. Tonight the Jr. Bills play Rock Bridge at SLUH. Rock Bridge is 2-7 on the season but won their last game by a score of 46-23. It is the Jr. Bills final home game of the regular season, and the team hopes to celebrate senior night with a big victory at home.

"We have to take every team seriously and just start doing our jobs," said Herzberg. "If we can do that, we'll be fine."

Around the Hallways

Band receives new percussion instruments

This year, the band acquired a new drum line thanks to a \$5,000 donation from Paul and Kathleen Matecki. Paul is a member of the board of trustees and a graduate of SLUH. He and his wife donated to the band program along with many other SLUH programs. The new drum line consists of four bass drums, three snare drums, and two quad-toms. The drums are replacing worn, outdated drums including some from the 1970s.

Picnic table space installed near St. Louis statue

As part of an effort to beautify the area around the freshmen exit, the grounds crew, under the direction of Gene Wright and Facilities Director Joe Rankin, created a new quiet area. The crew didn't have to buy any materials. The current picnic table itself - built by Senior Daniel Sitek as part of his Eagle Scout project - was brought over from its original home in between the school building and the field house. However, senior Dominick Gherardini is working with Rankin to build a large, octagonal picnic table to fill the area as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Robotics to get new bay annex from Painted Treasures room

Over the past two weeks there has been construction off and on in both the Robotics Room and Painted Treasures Room. An additional wall was built between the two rooms which resulted in the Robotics Room gaining space and the Painted Treasures Room losing space. The purpose of the project is to give the Robotics Team a work space with concrete counters that can be used to make cuts and do any other work they may need to do.

Fishing Club meets to eat, discuss outings

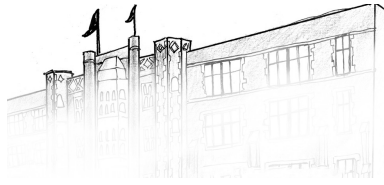
Last Friday, following the half day schedule, the fishing club met to eat lunch and discuss club outings. They had originally planned to take a fishing trip that day, but their reservations fell through. Instead, they reviewed their last club outing, thinking about what worked well and what did not, and also planned the next club trip for the exam grading day: October 21.

Fathers and Sons serve in North County

On Saturday, October 1, SLUH students and their dads joined with De Smet for a day of service to help clean up the historic Greenwood Cemetery in North County. The group met at De Smet for Mass before going out to help cut grass and clear weeds in an effort to restore the cemetery.

Nine alumni classes celebrate reunions

The SLUH classes of '56, '61, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, and '96 had their reunions this weekend. The reunions consisted of mass, a tour of the school led by current students, and brunch afterwards. "The reunions were a great opportunity to bring back Jr. Bills from 1956 to 1996," said President David Laughlin. Hundreds and hundreds of men came to hear from veteran faculty, share in Eucharist and reconnect with classmates from



across the country and world. It was a great turnout and a great weekend! We are grateful for the support and engagement of our alumni." The class of '66 will have their reunion this weekend.

Latin students surprise teacher Rich Esswein

During activity period on Tuesday, Oct. 4, the Latin Club and ARK surprised Latin teacher Rich Esswein with snacks and goodies, specifically Go-Gurt and cookies. The surprise was coordinated by Latin teacher Jennifer Ice and her students, specifically senior Nick Lally and freshman Ben Thomas.

Staycation heads to Illinois via Metro Red Line

Last Friday, the Staycation Club took advantage of the half day and travelled down the Red Line of the Metrolink. They got out at several stops to walk around, sightsee, and learn about our metro area. Starting at the DeBaliviere station, the group travelled down the line to Shiloh, Illinois. A major stop on the trip was Laclede's Landing, where the group spent a lot of their time exploring the historic neighborhood on the riverfront. The club's next trip will be traveling down the Red Line going west, to Lambert Airport on Thursday, October 20, after school.

STARS meets with speakers

The STARS club had two guest speakers at last week's meeting that inspired them to set goals and consider their dreams. The speakers were Mark Grider, class of 1990, and his friend Corey Durbin, class of 1991. Originally coming to talk to ACES, the speakers spoke at the STARS meeting as a cross-over because they could only come on Thursday. The speakers talked about how faith has helped them overcome struggles in their life and the importance of that faith in their careers. This week, STARS will have their usual meeting, during which they will read more of their current book, *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Harry Potter Club holds inaugural meeting, sorts students into houses

At activity period on Thursday, the SLUH Harry Potter Club met for their first time. They discussed a brief overview of the year's coming events, including the House Cup Tournament, movie watch parties, Quidditch, and fundraisers. The nearly 50 new wizards also started their journeys into the club by beginning the Sorting Process through pottermore.com. Senior Sam Grasso is the headmaster of SLUHHPC, and four other seniors will act as preliminary leaders of the houses.

—John Jackson, Craig Grzechowiak, Joe Lux, Luke Velts, Komlavi Adissem, and John Burke.

XC looks to MCCs after disappointing finish

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of and move forward from as they head into future meets.

"It did rattle confidence a little bit, but everyone has one bad race," said Kelly. "It's just like anything else. You can have one bad race, one bad meet, you're still a good team. We performed pretty well at Palatine. We're just trying to learn and move on from this experience."

"I think it was a one-time thing. We had previously been mentally ready for races, and we just struggled with that this week," said Helage.

There were also notable

highlights from the JV race, as seniors Roman Lipinski and Matt Northcott led the team to third place overall with fifth and 14th place finishes. Junior John Thomas provided a spark with a 15th place finish and a PR.

The B-team took fourth, thanks to great runs by Jack Buerhing (10th) and Charlie Perry (11th). The freshmen team took second, as Mitchell Booher led them with a sixth place finish.

After Parkway West, the team began one of their "bounce weeks," which is essentially a recovery week

where the workouts are shorter and less intense. It's a way to refresh and rejuvenate the runners and get them physically and mentally prepared for the MCC Championship tomorrow.

"We're getting our experiences now to really just set ourselves up for conference, District, Sectionals, and State," said Porter. "It's all trying to use different pieces in the puzzle."

Since the birth of the MCC in 1991, SLUH has won 21 of the 24 cross country championships, including the past 12 races. De Smet is

the main threat to this unreal streak, especially their top runner, Joe Reed.

"Joe Reed was second in the conference last year to Dustan (Davidson), and he's the favorite. We want to take a run at him," said Porter. "We had about four guys within ten seconds of him at Granite City, and we want to take a shot at him."

The MCC Championships will be held at Central Fields in Forest Park tomorrow at 9 a.m., as SLUH looks to regain its confidence and make a statement as they approach the postseason.

Friday, October 7 Schedule R

AP St. Louis University
Freshman Class Mass
LUNCH Babson College
Murray State University
4:00PM Class of '66 Reunion
5:00PM B Soccer @ O'Fallon Township
5:00PM Class of '66 Reunion Mass in Chapel
7:00PM V Football vs. Rock Bridge @ SLUH
7:00PM V Soccer @ O'Fallon Township

Saturday, October 8

9:00AM V/JV/C Cross Country @ Forest Park
10:00AM Class of '66 Reunion
10:00AM Swimming @ CoMo Invitational
10:30AM C Soccer vs. CBC
1:00PM C Football vs. Rock Bridge
4:00PM JV Football vs. Rock Bridge
7:30PM October Mainstage

Sunday, October 9

Speech team @ Cor Jesu
2:00PM October Mainstage

Monday, October 10 Schedule R

AP Belmont University
Brescia University
Carnegie Mellon University
Freshman Advisement
Snack—Chicken Bites
LUNCH Special—Toasted Ravioli
Vegetarian—Spinach Pasta
4:00PM JV Soccer vs. Pattonville @ SLUH
7:00PM Jazz concert

Tuesday, October 11 Schedule R

AP University of Kentucky
Marian University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Snack—Turnovers
LUNCH Special—Brunch for Lunch
Vegetarian—Black bean burger
3:30PM C Soccer @ CBC tournament
4:00PM Swimming vs. St. John Vianney
5:15PM B Soccer vs. Rockwood Summit

Wednesday, October 12 Schedule R

AP Kansas State University
Lafayette College
University of Mississippi
Ohio Wesleyan University
Union College
Snack—Mini tacos
LUNCH Special—Taco Bar
Vegetarian—Grilled cheese
3:45PM JV Soccer vs. Webster
3:45PM B Soccer vs. De Smet
8:50PM V Hockey vs. Chaminade

Thursday, October 13 Schedule R

AP Illinois College
The University of Oklahoma
Regis University
Confession
Snack—Bosco sticks
LUNCH Special—Domino's pizza
Vegetarian—Tilapia
3:45 B Soccer vs. De Smet @ SLUH
4:00PM Swimming and Diving vs. Parkway South
5:15PM JV Soccer vs. Parkway South
7:00PM Choral Concert

Friday, October 14 Schedule R

AP Ball State University
Georgetown University
Long Island University, Post
Rice University
Sarah Lawrence College
Junior Class Mass
Snack—Pizza sticks
LUNCH Special—Country fried steak
Vegetarian—Salmon
7:00PM V Football vs. Jackson

calendar | Jack Schweizer

Seniors to create project through WWT program

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was tasked with coming up with a project to try to better the world in some way. They have until the final week of January to submit their project, and progress will get underway shortly. SLUH could be awarded up to \$10,000 if they win.

The group had their first meeting on Wednesday, where they went over the guidelines of the project such as due dates, rules, and ideas for the projects.

"We found out a lot of

the info," said math teacher Dan See, "we figured out what we need to do. We haven't really made a plan yet. It's due at the end of January, so we have several months to figure it out, develop something, create something, then, of course, show it off."

"The project is very open-ended. For example, the winning project from last year was an airfield communication card to check attendance at public schools," said Schaefer.

They are still unsure of

what they want to do, but the project will gain traction once they start to meet. That will be decided in a week or two if everything goes as planned.

"It is very exciting to know that you and some other people are going to come up with a cool idea and from what we have done and brainstormed so far, it looks like it going to be successful and fun," Schaefer said.

As long as the project fits the criteria, then they are allowed to attempt that specific project.

"It has to involve technology, do good for the school or the school community. So as long as it does that, it's good. It's pretty wide open, I mean it's pretty general," said See.

Each group also has one mentor from World Wide Technologies who will meet with them on a regular basis and help guide them.

"I think it will be very challenging. It will involve a lot of learning, a lot of teamwork, a lot of time. So I don't think it will be easy, but it will be rewarding," said See.

WHY TO GO TO MOTHER SON MASS AND BRUNCH:

1. IT WILL BE NICE TO SPEND A SUNDAY MORNING WITH JUST YOU AND MOM!
2. IT WILL MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY.
3. YOU GET TO GO TO MASS, AND THEN BRUNCH!
4. IT WILL MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY.
5. YOU'LL GET A PICTURE OF YOU AND MOM!
6. IT WILL MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY.
7. YOU CAN ATTEND MASS WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
8. IT WILL MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY.
9. YOU WILL MAKE YOUR MOM FEEL SPECIAL!
10. IT WILL MAKE YOUR MOM HAPPY.

October 30, 9:30 A.M.
RSVP by October 20