



Can you say 9-0? IceBills remain undefeated after three road victories



The team celebrating a 2-1 victory against De Smet last Friday night.

photo | Brendan Voigt

WILL FARROLL
SPORTS EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High varsity hockey team dished out some tasteful losses this past week, as they added to their perfect record. The Jr. Bills downed De Smet 2-1 on Friday, followed by a 4-1 win against Kirkwood the next night. Then, they took down Oakville 8-0 on Monday to make their record 9-0 going into tomorrow's game against Vianney.

The Jr. Bills started off their first of three away games against the De Smet Spartans in a close game last Friday night.

The feet were flying early and it seemed like the speed of the De Smet offense dazed the Jr. Bills, but only for a few minutes. After playing some solid defense and some great saves from sophomore Brendan Rasch, SLUH was on the offensive.

Despite many scoring chances, the Jr. Bills were unable to find the back of the net in the first period and it ended 0-0, but not before De Smet drew a SLUH roughing pen-

alty at the end of the period.

Down a man, the Jr. Bills started on the penalty kill, but were evened at 13:39, when a De Smet player went to the box for slashing. With 13:00 left in the second, SLUH had a chance on the power play, but couldn't convert.

"We were not at our best. As a team we were a little slower than normal. It was just an off night for us I think," said head coach Kevin Fitzpatrick.

Finally during an uneven possession, senior Luke Gassett got the puck behind the De Smet net and centered it. The puck went off a De Smet defender and found a way into the back of the net for the first goal of the game and a 1-0 SLUH lead.

De Smet responded quickly and began to dominate in possession time and shots. With 7:07 left in the period, the Spartans took a shot from the right side that deflected off a SLUH defenseman and into the net. It was all tied up again.

De Smet didn't let up, but the efforts of the SLUH

defense and Rasch kept them in it and the second period ended with the score still 1-1, but the Spartans outshot the Jr. Bills 20-17.

Much like the second, the tempo of the third was in favor of De Smet. With 8:04 left they had a great shot on goal that Rasch denied.

On a lucky bounce with 3:48 left in the game, senior Liam Knobbe took a shot from the point to create a rebound opportunity, which trickled through the five-hole of the De Smet goalie. The Jr. Bills went up 2-1, leaving it up to the defense.

They proved themselves as they had throughout the game and Rasch had another flurry of saves with a minute left as De Smet pulled their goalie for the extra man.

The Jr. Bills took the game 2-1 but were outshot for the first time all season, 28-26.

"It's going to happen, but the kids battled, didn't quit, and got the win, but it was definitely not one of our best efforts," said Fitzpatrick.

"You know the De Smet game was a little closer and

uglier than we wanted, but we came out with two points and that's all that matters," said junior Trevor White.

The Jr. Bills played a late game against Kirkwood the next night that started 30 minutes after the original start time of 9:15.

From the beginning, the game had a chippy tone to it, with both teams' physicality showing. Kirkwood was the first to go to the box for cross-checking with 12:09 left in the first period. The Pioneers successfully killed the SLUH power play and continued to keep the Jr. Bills at bay with the help of a stellar goaltender.

Right after another power play, junior Nick Corker found the back of the net with only eight seconds left in the period.

With a 1-0 lead the Jr. Bills kept up a multitude of shots, all stopped by the Kirkwood goalie, who continued to deny the puck entry into the net.

At the 12-minute mark the Pioneers took a shot from the goal line on the left side

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Basketball bounces back with convincing win over Hazelwood Central

MATT GODAR
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High basketball team rebounded from last week's loss to Vianney by defeating Hazelwood Central 60-49 last Friday.

"We had a different mindset, and played a lot more like a team with a different energy," said senior guard Brandon McKissic.

Hazelwood started out strong against the Jr. Bills, winning the tip and forcing a bucket inside, plus the bump. However, the Hawks forced a turnover at the other end.

However, the success was fleeting, as SLUH's junior forward Matt Lertz took a charge to get the ball right back. Facing down a Hazelwood press, McKissic dropped a beautiful floater to open up the scoring for the BasketBills.

After the teams traded inside baskets, McKissic corralled a rebound off of a block from senior forward Andrew Grassi, took the ball coast to coast, finished, and took a foul. McKissic sunk the free throw. Unfortunately, the Hawks matched the next play, drilling a spot up three to cap off a nicely run play.

Evidently, the Jr. Bills were tired of trading buckets. Though junior Mike Sanders missed a shot, Lertz tipped the ball away from a few Hazelwood defenders into McKissic's hands for a smooth finish inside. Down the court, McKissic forced a Hawk out of bounds on an attempted baseline drive before dishing the ball inside to Grassi for a basket.

"We had kind of gotten away from our game against Vianney," said head coach Erwin Claggett. "But I think we really got it back and played great."

After a missed Hazelwood shot, McKissic pushed the ball to Sanders for a nice transition bucket, prompting a Hawk timeout. The timeout did not manage to slow

down the U. High, however, as Lertz and senior Anthony Hughes teamed up for a stop in the paint. After McKissic brought the ball down the court, Hughes used a stiff pick from Grassi to penetrate and dump the ball to Lertz for a tough layup.

"Defense wins the game. We had all five guys focused in, and it paid off for our offense, with turnovers and rebounds for fastbreaks," said McKissic.

The Hawks managed to break the Jr. Bills' 8-0 run with a quick three, though Lertz answered off a McKissic dish. Hazelwood then came back with a post spin finish with a minute left in what closed with SLUH on top, 18-12.

In the second quarter, the Hawks began to trim SLUH's lead.

Though McKissic opened the quarter with an impressive post fade, the Hawks dropped a three at the other. After a pull-up jumper from Hughes, Hazelwood scored the next two baskets to make it a one possession game, with SLUH up 22-19.

Back and forth play ensued, with both teams draining shots. Though the Jr. Bills never gave up their lead, they failed to pull away. With a minute left in the half, the score was 26-24, SLUH.

After running down the clock to ensure the last shot, McKissic craftily dished out to Sanders for a dagger of a three to close out the half, SLUH on top 29-24.

"Offensively, we shared the ball really well, which is good to see," said Claggett.

The third quarter was much of the same, as Hazelwood refused to give up, and the Jr. Bills refused to give in.

McKissic again opened up the scoring, splitting a pair of free throws to put the U. High up by six.

After trading baskets, the Hawks knocked down a couple of inside shots to bring

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XC Club travels to Nike Cross Regionals

ANDREW MODDER
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven St. Louis U. High cross country runners traveled to Terre Haute, Ind. to compete in the Midwest Regional Qualifier Race for the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN) on Saturday, Nov. 13.

The regional took place at the LeVern Gibson Cross Country Course, Nike's course solely dedicated to cross country, and was one of eight regional qualifiers for the national race in Portland, Ore.

Representing the St. Louis XC Club were seniors Roman Lipinski, Thomas Leeker, and Matt Northcott, junior Paul Burka, and sophomores Patrick Hetlage, Reed Milnor, and Justin Koesterer.

The SLUH cross country team had not participated in this race for the past two years due to a lack of interest from

team members, but this year, when the option of going with the XC Club was presented, several guys got on board with the idea.

"Over the past decade, the SLUH XC team has made a tradition of competing (in this race)," said Northcott. "With the season theme of 'the return of the Blue Army,' this tradition seemed like a good one to revamp."

The team drove up to Terre Haute on Saturday morning, convening at the course for a brief practice run to see the terrain and layout of the race.

After dinner at Fazoli's, the runners attended an ice cream social offered by Nike, where they got to meet and take pictures with Evan Jager, the 2016 Olympic silver medalist in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

The team went to Mass

to begin its Sunday morning, and after a brief lunch arrived at the course ready for the race.

St. Louis XC Club ran in the boys championship race, which was composed of 35 teams in the Midwest region and 316 runners in total. The top two teams and top five individuals not on those teams qualified for the national race.

"The course was beautiful and had an awesome atmosphere because everything was dedicated to cross country," said Leeker. "There were huge grandstands on the starting straightaway which is straight for almost one kilometer. It was great, there were billboards for the event everywhere in Terre Haute."

The SLUH team fought hard in the race, coming in 32nd place overall, with an average time of 17:11 and a point total of 861. Naperville

South (Ill.) won the boys race with just 88 points.

Burka led the team to the finish line, finishing 191st with a time of 16:43. Hetlage followed ten seconds later (16:53) in 219th place. Milnor came in ten seconds after Hetlage at 17:03 in 241st place. Leeker placed in 276th at 17:29, Northcott in 293rd in 17:57, and Koesterer closed it out in 308th in 18:44.

"We were missing some main members of our top seven team, but we still had a good, fun day," said Leeker. "(I was) close to my State time and 20 seconds off my PR so it wasn't a bad day. Overall I had a great trip and it was a great cap to an amazing season."

"For my last race, I was hoping to get a PR, but at a tough course like that and with a packed field of competitors, I thought I ran pretty

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artwork | Jack Bailey

Young players step up, hockey looks to conference foe Vianney

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that took a lucky bounce off sophomore goalie Dylan Bak's shoulder and into the net, tying the game at one.

The game continued and with it the chippiness escalated. With nine and a half left in the period, senior Louis Garavaglia was called for roughing and not 20 seconds later, senior Chaz Palumbo was sent to the box on a questionable interference call.

Down two men, the defense faced a tough test, as the Kirkwood offense had two minutes to pepper Bak with shots. However, the defense stood and Bak held his ground, not letting a single puck past him.

With tension high and tempers getting hotter, a Pioneer skater cross-checked senior Blake Riley in the back of the head and into the boards. Riley got up to engage the player but was stopped by the referee. Riley was sent to the box for two minutes on an unsportsmanlike conduct, while the Kirkwood player received two minutes for checking

from behind and a ten minute misconduct. The second ended still tied 1-1.

Even though no extra man opportunities came from this, it started the downfall of penalties that would eventually lead to Kirkwood's loss.

"They took both teams off their games," said Gassett. "Obviously with our depth it didn't affect us as much as them. Overall we broke their will in the end."

The Jr. Bills finally took the lead again when junior Steven Pawlow netted one on a power play with 7:35 left in the third period.

On the play following the goal, junior Kevin Einig ran into the Kirkwood goalie, sparking a fight that would land two Pioneers in the box.

In the middle of the chaos of the third period, Kirkwood managed to get a breakaway, but the skater was tripped, prompting a penalty shot for the Pioneers. Bak stood tall and shut down the chance, keeping the Jr. Bills up.

"Dylan was unbelievable. Rasch was available and we

wanted to split the game, and Dylan came up huge for us," said Fitzpatrick.

Kirkwood didn't see even strength again until the final seconds of the game, after Knobbe and Corker had added to the lead, making it a 4-1 win for SLUH when the clock expired.

In another game with guys missing, the Jr. Bills showed their depth.

"We go with what we got," said Fitzpatrick. "This game tonight with missing nine guys, it's unbelievable the effort and it takes all 30 guys to make it through the season, and we've got everybody going."

To cap off the weekend, SLUH traveled to Kennedy Rec Complex in South County to face off against Oakville.

Unlike the other two games, the Jr. Bills were quick to start off the scoring against Oakville. Junior Matthew Hohl put one in with 10:18 left in the first and sophomore Justin Jacoby added another later after a sneaky toe drag around a defender.

With two minutes left, Garavaglia hit one in from the right side, and, with 26 seconds left, Jacoby netted his second to make the score 4-0 at the end of the first period.

Two minutes into the second period, sophomore Henry Wagner scored on a slap shot after a pass from Hohl.

As the nine minute mark rolled past, the Jr. Bills scored three goals about 15 seconds apart from each other coming from Corker, Hohl, and Corker again.

With a big lead, the Jr. Bills decided to mix it up. The forwards got some shifts at defense, while the defenders took some shifts playing of-

fense. The game ended 8-0 and SLUH outshot Oakville 42-17.

"The young guys played well," said Fitzpatrick. "We have guys stepping up and stepping in."

SLUH will play Vianney tomorrow night at 7:30 at the Affton Ice Rink.



Senior Chaz Palumbo checks a Kirkwood player into the glass. photo | William Kelly

World's largest wind chimes: XC Club finishes 32nd at NXR

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well," said Northcott. "This season, I placed very high expectations on myself, and NXR was no exception. But looking back, I gave my best effort. To quote the motto of the meet, I finished on empty."

Overall, the runners weren't merely focused on the racing when they came on this trip. Many of them also saw it as an opportunity to have a fun experience and continue to bond with teammates even though the high school season had already ended.

"This experience was one of my favorites over the past four seasons on this team," said Northcott. "The race was such a small part of the whole trip, and that's one of the things I love about the sport."

Lipinski, Leeker, and Northcott took an interesting detour on the drive back to St. Louis, as Leeker and Lipinski convinced Northcott to stop



Junior Paul Burka (1923) in the NXR race on Nov. 13. photo | William Kelly

in Casey, Ill. Casey is home to several of the world's largest novelties, and the senior trio saw the world's largest golf tee, wind chimes, rocking chair, mailbox, pitchfork, and wooden chair.

"We had a great time

driving around the city taking pictures with these tourist attractions and being idiots," said Northcott. "In order to take a picture with the wooden shoes, we had to enter a small candy store, where I convinced my partners to buy a pound and a half of taffy."

The rest of the ride home consisted of extensively reviewing and grading all of the different taffy flavors, a comical ending to the seniors' cross country careers.

Late scoring run propels Jr. Bills against Hazelwood Central

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McKissic tallied a couple of assists for a Leritz three and a Hughes fast-break layup. Hazelwood then put in a bucket in the face of a tough SLUH defense before senior guard Davion Nash hit McKissic on an inside cut for a nice finger roll layup to put the Jr. Bills up 39-32, their largest lead of the quarter.

The teams then traded more buckets before the Hawks nailed a few threes to bring the score to 43-40, SLUH. With 45 seconds left in the quarter, Nash drove hard down the baseline before dumping the rock to Hughes for a saucy floater.

Hazelwood failed to capitalize on the last possession of the quarter, leaving SLUH up 45-40.

The fourth quarter was all Jr. Bills.

Sanders opened the quarter with a tough drive for a hoop plus the harm, and converted on the free throw to extend the lead to 48-40. From there, the Jr. Bills never let the lead drop below seven.

"Whenever they made a

basket, we came right back, we always had an answer," said McKissic.

With many long possessions and made free throws, the Jr. Bills staved off the Hawks for the next seven minutes, outscoring them 15-9 in the final quarter to secure the 60-49 victory.

In their second game without senior big B.J. Wilson, and third without senior Brent Smith, the Jr. Bills found much more success in the paint than they had previously. Whereas Vianney had dominated inside, Hazelwood struggled in the paint, scoring mostly from the perimeter.

"We were just more ready this time," said McKissic. "B.J.'s our dominant force in the paint, but we were okay because the other guys really stepped up."

"You gotta man the paint, and I really think we did that," said Claggett.

The Jr. Bills are currently in Kansas City for the weekend Blue Springs tournament before facing off at Chaminate Monday night.

Underclassman Sports Briefs

JV Hockey

12/4
SLUH 5
Seckman 1
key stat: Matt Wulff netted three goals.
key quote: "The boys were working well as a team. We passed the puck around and everyone was playing their 100 percent, leaving it all out on the ice," said junior Louie Perotti.

B Hockey

12/3
SLUH 0
Francis Howell 2
key quote: "We had a lot of opportunities and our defense was good, but we need to capitalize on the opportunities," said sophomore Nick Prainito.

JV Racquetball

Steven Zak—15-5, 15-2
Riley McEnery—15-4, 15-0
Nick Patrilli—forfeit
Liam John—15-3, 15-2
Michael Oldani/Will Kramer—15-9, 15-4
key quote: "Everyone played smart racquetball this week, and that led us to some easy victories. Fundamentals are important," said McEnery.

JV Basketball

12/5
SLUH 60
Northwest 16
key stat: The sophomores got off to a strong start in the Northwestern Tournament, being up 40 points at halftime.

12/7
SLUH 49
Marquette 50
key stat: The Jr. Bills fell just short in the Northwestern Tournament Semifinal and advanced to the third place game the next day.

key quote: "In the first half we had too many turnovers. We turned this around, and focused primarily on defense but our big push came too late," said sophomore Nick Lang.

12/8
SLUH 45
Ladue 50
next game: 12/12 @ Belleville East

Freshman Blue Basketball

12/3
SLUH 45
Webster 36

12/6
Chaminade 50
SLUH 32
key quote: "It was a tough first home loss. We definitely have lots of work to do," said freshman Adam Boll.

next game: 12/16 @ Vianney

Freshman White Basketball

12/2
SLUH 24
Timberland 50

next game: 12/12 @ Belleville East

VARSITY BASKETBALL NIGHTBEAT

The St. Louis U. High basketball team came out strong in the first game of the Blue Springs Tournament in Kansas City yesterday, defeating Lincoln Prep High School by a score of 67-55. In tune with other games of the early season, the BasketBills struggled to pull away until late in the game. The U. High finished the first half on top 28-25, after a supreme display of athleticism in the form of a Mikey Sanders to Brandon McKissic alley-oop connection. In the fourth quarter, the Jr. Bills managed to control the game. Matt Leritz went off for 26 points and ten rebounds, while McKissic contributed 17 points and tallied seven steals on the defensive side of the ball. In his first game back from an injury, forward B.J. Wilson scored ten points and corralled seven boards. The Jr. Bills looks to continue their tournament success today against Blue Springs High School.

—Compiled by Matt Godard