

PHOTO: DOMINIK SKROSKA

XC Senior Spotlight: Dustan Davidson

BY JOSEPH REZNIKOV
STAFF

Running has always been a passion for senior Dustan Davidson, and he's ready to leave it all out on the course for his last year on the St. Louis U. High cross country and track teams.

Davidson's running career began when he started to run competitively in middle school.

"After I started running competitively, I began to realize I had some talent for it," said Davidson. "So I just continued to practice and work hard and that's how I got to where I am now."

Davidson transferred to SLUH from O'Fallon Township High School after his freshman year. Per MSHSAA rules, a student is not allowed to play varsity sports at their new school the year after they transfer, so Davidson was not part of the varsity cross country or track teams his sophomore year.

more year.

Not letting the rule set him back, Davidson continued to work hard and train with the JV teams. His hard work showed during meets, when he began to set personal record after personal record.

"I've tried to work my hardest and it's been paying off," said Davidson. "My PR's I'm proudest of are 4:12 in the mile and 1:51 in the 800-meter."

Davidson made the varsity track and cross country teams his junior year and placed second in state in the 800-meter race.

Besides running for SLUH, Davidson also competes individually at colleges for some extra competition. Having competed at events at the University of Missouri, Arkansas, and Vanderbilt, he's been able to experience many different levels of competition over his high school running career.

Last Saturday, the SLUH

cross country team had a 5K time trial; Davidson placed first with a time of 16:01, a 5K PR.

"For the first mile I was running with Joe (Butler) which was good because it always helps to have someone to run with," said Davidson. "But later I was by myself, which made it kind of difficult. But I'm still pretty happy with my time even though I know I can run faster."

Davidson and his teammates have created a strong bond through their years of running together and they push each other to perform better.

"We're all pretty great friends. I love running workouts with these guys," said Davidson. "It's always good to have someone push you in a workout and we do that for each other."

Davidson's hard work is obvious and inspiring to the other members of the cross country team.

"Anyone on the team can sense that he has a real passion for running," said junior Joe Laughlin.

Nevertheless, Davidson is excited for the opportunities that this year is going to bring him and the whole SLUH cross country team.

"I think right now we're definitely looking like a top five team at state, which is exciting," said Davidson. "I watch guys like Will Kelley and Joe Laughlin always working hard and contributing a lot to our team. We're all putting in a lot of miles, so I'm excited to see how this year ends up," said Davidson.

Davidson's love for running stems from his dad, who ran Division I in college at the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

Following in his father's footsteps, Davidson committed to run at the University of Illinois this past Friday.



Junior Andrew Clair at Friday's game. He ran for 179 yards.

Football stays undefeated, now 3-0

(continued from page 6)

171 yards. Though SLUH's defense let up six touchdowns and so many yards to so few players, several players on the Jr. Bill side had standout performances. Senior captain Anthony Sansone led the way on defense with 10 tackles and senior captain Daniel Jackson recovered a fumble and returned it for 46 yards.

SLUH takes on the 10th-ranked Chaminade Red Devils (3-0) tonight at 7:00 p.m. at SLUH. Chaminade features several explosive skill players as well as a physical offensive line.

"This might be the best Chaminade ball club I've seen in a lot of years and they've had some good ones," said Kornfeld.

JV cross country collects ten medals in Illinois

BY JIMMY BRICKER AND
AIDAN MOORE
STAFF REPORTER

JV cross country has started their season off strong as a dedicated group of underclassmen found success at the O'Fallon Futures Invitational, earning 10 medals and dominating a field of top Illinois programs.

The two-mile O'Fallon meet was shortened from the original three miles because of 90-plus degree heat, but the SLUH team still finished strong. Ten of SLUH's top 14

medaled. Notable, besides the dedication, was the unity the team showed.

"I thought the strongest aspect of both the freshman and sophomore races was the pack running near the front of the race," said head coach Joe Porter. "In the freshman race, after Hetlage, we had a nice pack of Milnor, Buehring, Poag, Perry, Christie, and Dwyer. In the sophomore race, we had a great pack as well with Burka, Tajkowski, Himich, Gunn, and Watkins."

Senior runner Joe Butler

was also impressed with the group dynamic that he felt led to SLUH's success.

"I think they are doing well, we saw a lot of the guys do very well at the O'Fallon Futures meet," said Butler. "They ran in packs, which is great because they have a teammate to run with. That's how the SLUH team has done so well over the years, so it's great to see the JV team continue that history."

The cross country team has had a lot of success in the past, racking up two state

titles and one second place finish in recent years.

When asked how he plans to continue this legacy and follow the team's new motto, "Defend the Tradition," Porter said, "Our tradition is that we strive to chase excellence. We all have different abilities, but we strive to get the best of what God has given us. That is how we defend the tradition."

The SLUH JV and freshman teams race tomorrow at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival.

Swimming to face former coach today

(continued from page 6)

lay finished second in the race behind Rock Bridge.

"There was some good competition this year at Marquette relays, especially from Rock Bridge and Marquette," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "The high competition did push our relays (which) result(ed) in two more state cuts (and) several of our relays also finished in the top three."

One of the last key swims for the Jr. Bills was by sophomore Nick Mattingly in the 100 backstroke. Mattingly dropped significant time in the event, which brought him much closer to a State time. The relay team, which also included Dale and Feder, took second in the race.

"I went out strong and

tried to keep my pace. I was really proud of my time," Mattingly said.

The Jr. Bills placed third behind Rock Bridge and Marquette, but they were only 10 points behind Marquette.

In Tuesday's win against Parkway South, the Jr. Bills gave some of their younger swimmers experience in meets.

"Parkway South meet was a chance for swimmers to swim events they usually don't," said Ehret. "We're continuing to meet one of our team goals of being undefeated in dual meets."

Diving also had a good meet at South, with junior Andrew Gammon taking first and O'Brien taking second.

"At (Parkway South), I improved on my score," O'Brien said. "I'm shooting for state, but it's gonna be a long time before I make it."

The team's next meet is today at Forest Park Community College against MCC rival De Smet.

There is a little added rivalry to this meet as well, since ex-SLUH head coach Joe Esposito will be coaching for De Smet on the other side of the deck.

"We hope to get a few more cuts on Friday against De Smet," Krause said. "But more importantly, we want put up a win against our old coach."

Soccer tops CBC 3-1

The St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team advanced to the championship of the CBC Tournament last night by defeating host CBC 3-1. Senior Jack Dempster had the highlight of the night, scoring a goal from nearly 30 yards out. Midfielder Matt Lesko controlled play in the midfield, earning a beautiful assist on senior Trey Haman's goal. Senior Sam Rudder continued his hot streak, extending his goal streak to three games.

—Keith Thomas

—JV Soccer—

(3-0-1)

SLUH	9/9/15	5
Rockwood Summit	4	

Scoring: Jacob Gremaud

Key Quote: "We had great possession for most of the game and it helped us to play with less pressure," said junior captain and goalie Klaus Preusser.

SLUH	9/10/15	0
CBC	1	

Next game: 9/16/15 at Maplewood-Richmond Heights at 5:40 P.M.

—Joe Knapp and Peyton Myrick contributed reporting.

Game Briefs

—B Soccer—

(2-2-0)

SLUH	9/7/15	0
Chaminade	1	

Scoring: Will Perryman and Nick Dimmitt.

SLUH De Smet Game was called at half due to inclement weather.

SLUH	9/10/15	0
De Smet	0	

Key Stat: Stephen LaVigne, Billy Hughes, and Scott Janasik have played every minute this season.

Next game: 9/14/15 at Webster Groves at 5:00 P.M.

—Andrew Modder contributed reporting.

—JV Football—

(3-0-0)

SLUH	45
Vianney	21

Key Stat: Sophomore Running back Billy Brooks had a 70-yard touchdown run.

Next game: 9/14/15 at De Smet at 4:30 P.M.

—Will Smit Jr. contributed reporting.

—C Football—

(2-2-0)

SLUH	7
Vianney	6

Scoring: QB sneak from Nick Lang

Next game: 9/15/15 vs Miller Career at 4:30 P.M.

—Keith Thomas contributed reporting.

—C Soccer (3-4-1)—

SLUH	9/8/15	0
Chaminade	3	

Key Quote: "We lost the first game (to Chaminade) 2-1, we felt we were pretty competitive. So we went out to their place and the result was not the same. I think we were a little lethargic, we didn't dictate that game the way that we

had hoped in the first half and we got down 2-0 at halftime," said coach Brock Kesterson.

SLUH	9/9/15	2
Opponent	1	

Scoring: Andrew Menker and Louis Vacca.

SLUH	9/10/15	0
Edwardsville	2	

Key Quote: "The effort was there, we passed and played the ball well. We had enough chances we just couldn't finish the ball," said freshman Colin Rhoads.

Next game: 9/12/15 at De Smet at 10:00 a.m.

—Tim Nile contributed reporting.