



## Hazlewood Central ends Bills' season, team finishes 8-3

BY CHRIS KREIENKAMP  
REPORTER

**H**azlewood Central beat SLUH 41-13 in the second round of district football playoffs Saturday, ending the Jr. Bills' football season for the second time in two years.

A slight drizzle meant wet field conditions on the uneven plane of real grass at Hazlewood Central. Both teams were subject to the slippery ground, losing their footing on several plays to result in small gains or losses at the line of scrimmage.

After the SLUH defense shut down the Hazlewood Central offense on its first drive, the SLUH offense opened scoring with a 41-yard pass from junior quarterback Mitch Batschelett to senior wide receiver David Jackson in the first quarter. The SLUH offense would not score again until late in the third quarter on a one-yard run by Batschelett.

Between the two SLUH touchdowns, Hazlewood Central reached the end zone three times.

The SLUH defense made the most of the muddy conditions, forcing three Hawks turnovers.

Senior Daniel Jackson recorded an interception while sophomore lineman Kameron Bowdry recovered a fumble. The most notable defensive player, however, was senior captain Chris Stahl, who finished with nine tackles, three assists, and a fumble recovery.

The Jr. Bills had a good



PHOTO | DOMINIK SKROSKA

Jr. Bills on defense against Hazlewood Central. Bills lost 41-13.

start to the game, but it did not last. Batschelett completed all of his first nine passes, but only completed five of the next 17 attempts. He threw for one touchdown and two interceptions but also earned a touchdown on the one-yard run.

SLUH was down just 21-13 going into the fourth quarter, but the offense turned the ball over three times, on two fumbles and an interception, and could not generate any substantial yardage.

The defense, in turn, allowed 20 points, the third worst defensive quarter of the

season. SLUH only allowed more points in a quarter to CBC, allowing 21 in the first and second quarters of that game.

"The first three quarters we played pretty good ball," said head coach Gary Kornfeld. "The fourth quarter was probably the worst quarter we've played all year. As I told the kids yesterday, we were a lot better team than what we showed in that fourth quarter, and it seemed that whatever could go wrong did go wrong in that fourth quarter."

The team ended its season with a record of 8-3. The

eight wins are the most in any football season since the 2011 team that reached the semifinals. The three losses came from CBC, Chaminade, and Hazlewood Central—all very talented teams that are still alive in the playoffs.

"I'm very happy with where we are," said Kornfeld. "I would've liked to see another rematch with CBC, but obviously Hazlewood Central had a little bit different plans. For us to go in and be victorious and finish 8-3, that's a testament to our kids and what they were able to accomplish."

Although the season

ended on a bitter note, the season as a whole was a great success for the SLUH football program.

"I first felt let down. I gave every ounce of effort on every play," said Stahl on the season. "Then I realized I wasn't the only one who gave it all. My whole team did and I felt proud ... but like David Diehl said when he talked to us after practice Friday, he said, 'have no regrets.' I don't have any regrets. I did what I could do and accept that it wasn't enough to win. I loved to play with such an outstanding group of guys."

## XC captures second at Sectionals

BY JOSEPH REZNIKOV  
CORE STAFF

**A**fter a strong race on a rainy and sloppy day at Sectionals last Saturday, the St. Louis U. High varsity cross country team is excited to compete in its 22nd consecutive State Championship tomorrow.

SLUH placed second in the sectional meet in Warington behind a very strong Rock Bridge team, losing 40-57.

Though they didn't finish first, coach Joe Porter is especially proud of the way his guys were able to rebound from their frustrating race at Districts.

"We ran much better than we did (at Districts) last week," said Porter. "There's still room to improve, but the guys are running really well

right now."

SLUH's race was topped off with an 18-point victory over Webster Groves, the only team who beat SLUH in the district meet last week.

"Our first (runner) was faster than their first (runner); our second was faster than their second, and so on. That's what we want, and that didn't happen last week," said Porter. "We also made sure our next four runners were closer to (senior) Dustin (Davidson) and we brought that time down to 48 seconds."

Junior Joe Laughlin was one of the leaders for SLUH in the meet, coming in second, just nine seconds behind SLUH's first place finisher, Davidson, who finished fourth overall. Junior Joe Laughlin ran the 5K in 16:51.25, good for sixth overall.

"I tried to stick with

some guys from Rock Bridge and stay with them when they made moves, and it worked out well," said Laughlin.

Freshman Patrick Hetlage also had a huge race for SLUH, coming in fifth on the team and 27th overall with a time of 17:30.54—a personal record by ten seconds.

"I was really pushed by my teammates; they were super supportive," said Hetlage. "They definitely helped me run as well as I did."

Hetlage's teammates were especially impressed by the way he stayed under control under the pressure of the sectional atmosphere.

"He seemed comfortable in the high pressure setting," said Laughlin. "To have a ten-second PR at a really tough race with mud everywhere and bad conditions is very

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PHOTO | ANDREW PLUFF

Billy Ballossi (left) and Joe Butler (right) at Sectionals.

## Swimming capsizes rest of MCC, captures title

BY PATRICK SCHULER  
REPORTER

**T**he St. Louis U. High swim team just seems to have a knack for winning, especially in the Metro Catholic Conference. The Jr. Billikens won the MCCs last Friday at Forest Park, their fifth consecutive victory.

Going into the meet, SLUH knew that Chaminade would be their biggest competition, having three very good swimmers to lead their team. And things looked bad early, when senior Mark Franz was disqualified from the 100-yard backstroke in prelims. Franz had been seeded to win the event, which would have meant a big 20 points, but false-started.

Despite the disqualification, the Jr. Bills were able to push through and win the meet thanks to key swims from everyone, as all but one swimmer made it back to finals.

The team accomplished another one of its goals—winning the MCCs.

After Franz's disqualification, sophomore Joe Jellinek was seeded second in the breaststroke. In the finals, he swam his best time of the year, placing second. Jellinek also placed sixth in the 200 individual medley.

"I was a little nervous when Mark got disqualified," Jellinek said. "But when I placed second I was really happy. It was a good race."

Another standout was senior Thomas O'Brien. After starting off the year on the dive team, O'Brien has become one of the team's most dominant sprinters. Despite missing state by a hundredth of a second in his 50 freestyle, he dropped significant time in his 100 freestyle, placing fourth overall and helping the 400 free relay take second.

"Our 400 free relay was really good," O'Brien said. "(Sophomore Dale) Barclay was tired, but it was still a good time."

"It was a culmination of a successful season," head coach Lindsay Ehret said. "We finished on a great note and finished another one of our goals. We had a few people better their state times and it was another testament to our depth. I enjoyed the cold water bath afterwards."

Now the Jr. Bills have one meet left, the State Championship. It is today (prelims) and tomorrow (finals) at St. Peters Rec Plex.

"This is going to be a tough meet, but I think we could do really well," O'Brien said.

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## —CYC Soccer—

Today, two SLUH CYC teams will face off in a heated battle on SLUH's turf. The undefeated Athletico Big Fella vs. PBR Streetgang. 4 p.m.

## Soccer ends with second-best record in program's history

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With about two minutes in the half, and SLUH anxious for a late first half goal, Simon had the ball on the flank after a pass from the Jr. Bill backline, and took on the De Smet defenseman with speed. Simon took a laser of a shot on net, but the De Smet goalie, Connor Range, came up with a save.

At the end of the first half, the score was knotted at zero.

"We had a couple of chances early, and I thought we were going to dominate the entire game," said Simon. "We just couldn't get the ball down and couldn't get anything going, but we contained them defensively and kept it 0-0 at the end of the first half."

"We had a plan in the first half to try and get the ball out of the midfield as quickly as possible," said head coach Charlie Martel. "De Smet was very aggressive, and we didn't have a whole lot of time on the ball. It was stagnant, and De Smet had control. We got outplayed at times in the first half, and pressure was the key element we had trouble dealing with."

Five minutes into the half, it was Simon again with the ball on the left flank. After finding his way through the De Smet wingers, he sent in a cross. The ball grazed the tops of heads, but couldn't find its way into the far post. SLUH missed the goal by inches, and

the score was still 0-0.

"We just couldn't get that last pass through on goal," said Simon.

Then, tragedy struck. De Smet was awarded a free kick about 35 yards out from the SLUH goal. A De Smet player sent a near perfect ball into the box, and the ball was bouncing around the box. Unfortunately, the ball found De Smet's Jack Klingler, and he hammered the ball into the top right corner of the net, giving De Smet a 1-0 lead.

"It went right to (Klingler), and he hit it in," said Martel. "There's luck involved, and that's the nature of the game. You can dominate a half, and give up a goal in that half. Teams lose and they shouldn't be losing, and that's the way it goes."

Right after the goal, SLUH had to try and get something going. Senior back Jack Dempster took a free kick from 35 yards out and curled the ball near the crossbar. However, Range brushed the ball over the net with his left hand, and the game was still 1-0 in De Smet's favor.

With 1:15 remaining in the game, SLUH had another great chance from senior Sam Rudder, who fired a shot that Range, who was rushing off of his line, saved to keep the score at 1-0.

"There were times when we needed to front the keeper and we didn't," said Mar-



Head Coach Charlie Martel with the team after Tuesday's loss.

PHOTO | BRENDAN VOIGT

tel. "He controlled the box, and did a really good job. He caught at least 30 balls."

SLUH's final chance came on a corner kick in the final minute. The ball flew in from the corner and found Dempster's head, who directed the shot on net. A De Smet defender was on the goal line, and effectively cleared the ball with a header.

The final whistle blew, and it was all over. Shots on goal were 13-2 in favor of SLUH, but they ended up on the losing end.

"It was the worst feel-

ing ever when I watched the clock tick down to zero," said Simon.

"The outcome is just the cruel reality of soccer," said senior Matt Lesko. "That's just how it goes."

The Jr. Bills ended the season with a 25-3 record, the second best in the program's 71-year history. Martel says this year's team is one of the best he's had in his tenure as SLUH's head coach.

"Second in 71 years? I can roll with that," said Martel. "I'm really proud of the guys, and they handled a

tough loss like gentlemen. It's the best team, all around, that I've had: personality, brotherhood, hard work, determination, character. It's the best team I've had in 23 years."

"This season has been the absolute best season of my soccer career," said Simon. "The support we received this year was absolutely breathtaking. I wish the season would have ended with a state championship, but I'm proud of my teammates because I know that every single one of them left every ounce of energy on the field."

## XC to compete for State Saturday

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impressive."

Though the Jr. Bills ran well, their times could have been much faster if it weren't for a rainstorm that persisted over the course of the race, greatly affecting the conditions. Along with the course being littered with puddles of standing water, it was also a brisk 50 degrees.

"The rain made it very challenging," said Hetlage. "It caused it to be more of a race between the runner and the course."

With their second place finish, SLUH has qualified for the State tournament, along with 15 other teams throughout the state including fellow District 3 teams Rock Bridge, Webster Groves, and Timberland.

Though Tuesday was the last day of hard workouts, runners are not backing down in their preparation for the state meet.

"We had a reduced mileage aerobic run on Wednesday and coach Porter even ran with us," said Hetlage. "It was relaxed but still pretty taxing."

The team will be racing the same seven Jr. Bills that ran at sectionals last week: seniors Davidson, Billy Balossi, Joe Butler and Jake Lepak; juniors Laughlin and William Kelly; and freshman Patrick Hetlage.

"Our seven ran great at sectionals, so we'll just see what we can do to make it work for one more week," said Porter.

Nine other runners are also traveling to the meet. Three of those are set alternates, while the other six are underclassmen who, in the coaching staff's opinion, have a good shot at racing in the state meet next year.

"They get the experience of seeing how we approach championship racing and it helps them to think through it for next year," said Porter. "They get to see how it works to stay in the hotel, eat dinner with the team, sleep in a different bed—that kind of thing."

SLUH has an impressive history at the state meet, including placing in the top five as a team for the past ten years in a row. While the team would love to come out in the top four for a trophy, they know they need to work hard and race well to achieve that goal.

"We're going to focus on what we can control, which is how we race," said Porter. "It comes down to who can be the toughest over the last mile, and we have some really tough guys. We need to put ourselves in positions to be successful."

"We had a really good race all around at Sectionals and I know if we get guys working together we could have another really good race at State," said Laughlin.

The team is leaving for Jefferson City today after first period so they can get a chance to run the course before the race tomorrow.

The state meet will be held in Jefferson City at Oak Hills golf course tomorrow at 1:10 p.m.

## Hockey skates out of the gate, withers Westminster 9-3



Senior captain Connor FitzGerald at Monday night's game against Westminster.

PHOTO | TIM NILE

BY TIM NILE  
SPORTS EDITOR

A hat trick from senior captain Steve Lockwood and the teamwork and resilience of the St. Louis U. High hockey team allowed for a 9-3 win over Westminster in the regular season opener.

All was quiet until late in the first period, when sopho-

more Joe Winkelmann found the back of the net for the Jr. Bills' first goal of the regular season.

Following the goal, senior Joe Warnecke came up with two big saves, one of which came on a Westminster breakaway.

Lockwood made it 2-0 three minutes into the second

period with the Jr. Bills on the penalty kill.

But Westminster did not give up, scoring two unanswered goals to tie the game. Lockwood's goal was followed by a Westminster power play goal and then the game-tying goal by Westminster—a wake up call for the Jr. Bills.

"Joe Warnecke was get-

ting pretty mad at the defense and the coaches were yelling at us so you know we pulled it together," said Lockwood. "We had some good guys on the bench keeping the positivity going and we came together as one and kept it going."

"We just took a few shifts off and they capitalized," said Warnecke. "(Our defense) went back to normal. They realized that they can't do what they were doing. They realized they needed to move the puck and stop being so selfish."

Then the Jr. Bills scored four times in the next ten minutes. Goals from senior captain Patrick Pence, junior John Sieckhaus, and two goals from Lockwood, and junior Peter Hoffmeister put the Jr. Bills up 6-2 before the end of the second period.

Lockwood has now scored a hat trick in two straight season-opening games, both of which have been played at Hardee's iceplex in Chesterfield.

Goals from Hoffmeister, Winkelmann, and senior Jonah Schwartz highlighted the third period and the Jr. Bills extended their lead and closed out the game, 9-3.

"Goals will come, that's all I have to say," said Lockwood. "We just got to keep shooting and crashing the net. And when the rebounds are there, we just need to bury them."

The Jr. Bills' next game is tonight at 9:30 at Queeny Park against MCC rival Chamnide.

Senior captains Connor FitzGerald, and Scotty Berger, Pence, and Lockwood, Schwartz, junior Chaz Palumbo and Kurt Lindhorst, sophomores Jack Wachter and Winkelmann, and freshmen Justin Jacoby and Henry Wagner will all be absent for this game. All of these players, besides Pence who is sick, have club team commitments.

## After winning MCC title, swimming floats on to State

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For a swimmer to qualify for finals at state, he must place in the top 16 at prelims. Right now the Bills only have one top 16 time—Franz, who is seeded 14th in the breaststroke. But the team is ready to drop significant time for Friday.

The biggest difference between this year's team and last year's is the lack of a star individual swimmer. Last year

the Jr. Bills had two: graduate Colin Derdeyn and senior Justin Andrews. Derdeyn placed third in the 50 and seventh in the 100 freestyle, while Andrews took second in both the 200 and 500 freestyle. Both also were a part of the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams. They will be very hard to replace this year.

Despite their seemingly bad placement going into the meet, the Jr. Bills expect big swims across the board to get into top 16 spots.

All three relay times expect to drop time, especially the all-senior 200 free relay team, led by state qualifier Michael Krause.

"After being in the relay last year, it is my job to lead our relay," Krause said. "If we all swim our best time we will go really fast."

Young talent will also be important in this meet. Fresh-

man Joe Feder and sophomore Barclay Dale both have a chance at top 16 in the 100 backstroke, as does Mathias Hosteller in the 100 butterfly.

Overall, SLUH has their work cut out for them on both Friday and Saturday. They know what they can and need to accomplish and are hoping to accomplish their last goal of the year: to be the best team in St. Louis.

"We have a lot of events,

11 races," Ehret said. "It's gonna be a fast meet and hard to crack into the top 16 (but) we wrote goals for the top 16 times. I think goals are very important in a big race. Rec Plex is a special place. The boys know I'm proud of them and I believe in them to swim their best times at state."