



Soccer blanks MCC in CBC Tournament wins

STEPHEN OCAMPO AND JACK CALLAHAN
CORE STAFF REPORTER

Yowza! The St. Louis U. High soccer team (10-0-1) was crowned the 2017 CBC Tournament champions after a 2-0 win over Jesuit rival De Smet last Saturday and the team followed it up with a close, heated 1-0 win over Webster Groves on Tuesday.

The Jr. Bills found themselves matched up against the De Smet Spartans in the CBC Tournament finals last Saturday.

Coming into the match-up, the Jr. Bills had two decisive victories over MCC opponents Vianney and CBC, and had not let up a single goal, so SLUH remained confident.

"We knew that they beat CBC, so we knew they were going to be pretty tough," said senior Jack Steffel. "But we knew we could handle them. They weren't special, and we weren't worried."

The game started off with the same fast-paced offensive



The soccer team with the CBC Tournament first place trophy. photo | Dominik Skroska

tempo that the Jr. Bills had shown all tournament, and featured multiple shots on goal by seniors Will Rudder and Peter Kickham.

With two minutes left in the first half, the Jr. Bills finally put a tally on the board when a De Smet player headed the ball into his own net after a

cross from Rudder, who was credited with the goal.

"It was definitely an earned goal because we had hard pressure on them the whole half," said senior Dan Frein.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Jr. Bills looked as

dominant as ever with senior Jack Nikodem locking up the Spartans' leading scorer, Avi Wesseh. Frustrated, the De Smet player shoved Nikodem when going for the ball, leading to a yellow card to start the second half. When substituting out, Wesseh punched the

bench.

"We knew that they were kind of hotheads, so we knew that we had to keep our composure, and if we could keep our composure, we would be able to tear them apart and break them down," said Steffel.

Halfway through the second half, SLUH found the back of the net again when senior Ethan Buss dribbled it past the goalie for his first goal of the season and a 2-0 lead.

"Most people wouldn't have pressured the way he did," said Steffel. "But it paid off because he had a goal."

With just a minute left, the Spartans finally had a chance to score when a De Smet player found an open shot on goal, but senior Alec Meissner came in for the save, securing the 2-0 victory.

With this win, the Jr. Bills were crowned the CBC Tournament champions, going an undefeated 3-0 versus their MCC opponents. SLUH totaled 9 goals in the three

games while holding their opponents scoreless to earn the most points by any SLUH team in the tournament in the past 25 years.

"I've never shut out all three opponents in a CBC tournament," said head coach Charles Martel. "We've won it before, but it's always been pretty close, but this year has been dominant."

Three days later, the team headed to Selma Field to face off against the Webster Groves Statesmen.

Playing on Webster's smaller grass field and in front of a large, noisy fan section, the Jr. Bills found themselves in unfamiliar territory.

"Coming into it, it was a very hostile environment," said Steffel. "We weren't used to the grass field. It was kind of bumpy and uneven."

"Their fans are always insane," said senior Ray Goedecker. "We weren't used to their state final."

Their unfamiliarity **continued on page 7**

Cross country hosts Forest Park XC Festival; places fifth overall

MATTHEW QUINLAN AND JUSTIN KOESTERER
CORE STAFF REPORTER

St. Louis U. High hosted the 11th Annual Forest Park Cross Country Festival last Saturday, an event that featured over 4,500 runners and 200 teams on all levels and from ten different states.

The SLUH varsity team finished fifth with a score of 152 in the Varsity Green Division, which is the most competitive of the three divisions (the other two being Gold and White). The team finished behind Rockhurst, Blue Springs, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Lafayette. Lafayette was the only St. Louis area team that finished ahead of the Jr. Bills.

"As far as competition went, it was really good," said junior captain Patrick Hetlage. "There were a lot of

teams we are going to be racing at state, and some of the top teams from other states like Kansas and Illinois, to name a few."

The fifth place finish was led by senior captain Paul Burka, who placed 13th with a time of 16:35. Burka was followed by Hetlage, who placed 15th with a time of 16:42.

"Throughout the race we sort of took turns leading and in doing so, we pushed each other to move up and not settle in too much," said Burka. "I think all the top seven runners are really competitive and that helps the seventh guy stay with the sixth and so on. That has really been our focus this year, running in groups for workouts so you can practice the pack mentality and transfer it to racing."

The next runner was junior Reed Milnor, who finished 20th with a time of 16:50, which was a personal record. After Milnor came sophomores Noah Scott, Adam Mittendorf, Lucas Rackers, and Mitchell Booher.

"We're a young team," said head coach Joe Porter. "So we're gonna have some learning curves ahead of us, but we're pretty happy with where we're at."

Despite these strong finishes from the sophomore runners, the varsity team did take a hit as junior Chris Staley, who was one of the starting seven, was unable to finish the race due to illness on the course.

"Staley ended up in the medical tent, so he didn't finish," said Porter. "When I **continued on page 7**



Milnor (3226), Burka (3192), Hetlage (3208) at Forest Park race. photo | Mr. James Hetlage

SLUH stuns Spartans 28-24 with last minute touchdown

NATHAN LANGHAUSER
SPORTS EDITOR

KSDK's Game of the Week.

Take Two. Last Friday night, St. Louis U. High football traveled to rival De Smet for a tough road test on a night surrounded by media to help raise money for Hurricane Harvey victims. The Jr. Bills won the game in the last minute of regulation, stunning the Spartans 28-24 in a bounce back from the loss to Chamainade to improve their record to 2-2.

Throughout the first quarter, penalty flags were exchanged on both sides, making the beginning of the game abnormally long.

"We have to do a better job of avoiding pre-snap penalties," said head coach Mike Jones. "We are still working on it. Every Saturday and Monday, we do extra running for however many penalties we had, and we will continue to do that until they are eliminated."

De Smet scored first, on a quarterback keeper with 2:55 left in the first quarter, to go up 7-0.

A pass interference and unsportsmanlike penalty helped SLUH move into the red zone, and then Jared Scott split the defense for a 15-yard touchdown to tie the score 7-7 with 1:48 to go in the first quarter, a swift reply to De Smet's long drive.

The Jr. Billiken kicking game had its troubles throughout the game, failing to convert yet another field goal attempt in the first quarter. Kickoffs have also been relatively short, helping op-

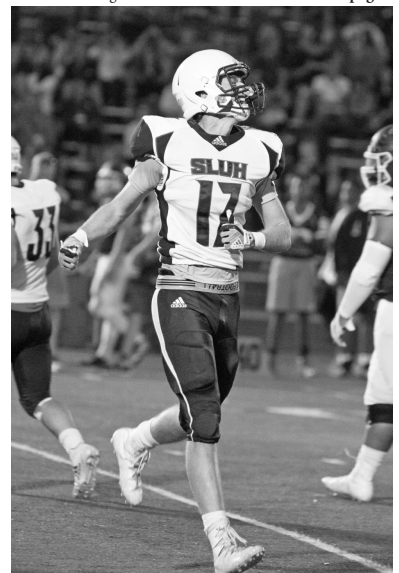
ponents with field position without having to work for it. Junior kicker Joseph Gilmore did finish the night perfect on extra points, going four for four.

In the second quarter, De Smet held most of the possession, slowly making their way down to the SLUH red zone, with positive plays by De Smet being cancelled out by tackles behind the line of scrimmage. De Smet's quarterback, junior Nate Martens, effectively slipped out of the pocket many times, running for big gains while the Jr. Bills were in coverage. From the

SLUH 21-yard line, Martens threw a touchdown pass over the top of the Jr. Bill defender, but the play was called back due to holding on an offensive lineman. Eventually Martens snuck the ball in from the 1-yard line to put De Smet up 14-7 with 42 seconds left in the half.

"He scrambled well, and is a very good football player," said Jones. "So what we try to do is make sure that we have someone eyeing the quarterback, and sometimes we did really well, other times we didn't."

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Senior Sean Bender last Friday. photo | Dominik Skroska

Defense proves unbreakable; five straight shutouts

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and showed as the game started off slow for both teams, with both having limited scoring chances.

"I think the fans keep the team hyped up and we weren't able to match their energy in the first half," said Frein.

In the second half, however, Rudder found the end of a corner kick from Kickham to put the Jr. Bills up 1-0 with 24 minutes left in the game. It marked Rudder's fifth straight game scoring a goal.

"Rudder is on fire, and it's really great, and I hope that

myself, Peter (Kickham), and Louis (Vacca) can really connect with him and really get him scoring even more," said Goedecker.

With the lead, the Jr. Bills were able to play a more defensive style, leading to tensions flaring from the Statesmen. The Statesmen started playing more physically, but the Jr. Bills matched their energy with aggressiveness of their own, leading to a number of fouls on both ends.

"We knew we could match their physicality because we could match their

size," said Frein.

Within the last few minutes of the game, the Statesmen found themselves with a few chances to tie the game up, but Meissner formed a brick wall, stopping any chance they had for his fourth straight shutout.

This wing kept the Jr. Bills undefeated through 11 games, and the team lacks any sign of slowing down.

"We need to not let off the gas pedal, stay motivated, and play every game like it's our last and try to beat every team 10-0," said Steffel.

Swimming undefeated; looking for more state cuts at De Smet Invite

JOHN BURKE AND JOE FEDER REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High swim and dive team faced off against De Smet for a Jesuit showdown on Friday and the Jr. Bills swept the board, taking first in every event and winning the meet by over 100 points.

"Despite a hard few days of practice earlier, the team performed well," said coach Lindsey Ehret.

The meet featured some impressive time drops from junior Daniel Fink in the 50 and 100 Freestyle, freshman Eli Butters in the 100 Freestyle, and sophomore Jordan Smith in the 200 Freestyle.

The team also added several individual state qualifications from junior Joe Feder (500 Freestyle), senior Mathias Hostetler (100 But-

terfly), and senior Barclay Dale (100 Butterfly and 100 Freestyle). For his new state times and four first place finishes, Dale was named Swimmer of the Meet.

"It was great to be able to swim against Hostetler," said Dale. "We pushed each other to state cuts."

While the De Smet meet was taking place, the MHSAA ruling on the swim suits came in. It was declared that the swim suits are technically illegal, but SLUH has been granted a one-year exception. Whether or not this means that AMDG must eventually be removed from all SLUH uniforms is currently unknown.

This week marks the official halfway point of the season.

"At the season midpoint, I'm very happy that

we're halfway to our goal of 10 individual state qualifiers," said Ehret. "Hopefully we pick up a few more this weekend."

The team is looking forward to the De Smet Invitational this Saturday at the St. Peter's Rec Plex. At this meet, teams from St. Louis, Columbia, and Kansas City will provide ample competition to propel the Jr. Bills toward more state qualifications. The meet will begin at 3 p.m.

"Swimming is a sport of intensity," said former captain and team cheerleader Kyle Irvine. "The great white shark isn't a docile beast. Our goal for this weekend is to be like the great white, devouring the inferior schools of minnows that show up to the De Smet Invite."



Art | Eric Richards

10,000 flood Forest Park for Festival

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saw him at a mile and a half he was still our five man, but the heat got him. Hydration is an issue when you race that late in the day, and we had our guys doing lots of different things throughout the day."

The JV team also posted a seventh place finish and a score of 216. Senior John Thomas led the SLUH pack with a 20th place finish and a time of 18:35.

The freshman team also raced at the Festival, but they ran a 3K race compared to the standard 5K. They finished third overall with a score of 116, and with freshman Ryan Kramer leading the way with a time of 11 minutes flat.

With 10,000 people streaming into Forest Park to participate in the Festival, sponsored by Big River Running Company and Saucy, many SLUH runners and parents volunteered to set up, sell concessions, and clean up after the meet.

"We couldn't do it without over 100 volunteers to put this event on," said Porter, "and even then our JV guys picked up a lot of the slack, working as course marshalls and concession stand workers and doing all kinds of fun things like that."

Another unique facet of the atmosphere at the Festival was SLUH's presence on the MoMileSplit Snapchat account. MoMileSplit is the official timekeeper of all races in Missouri, as well as the corroborators of all rankings for high school cross country teams. As SLUH was the host for the meet, senior Matt Gunn and juniors Charlie Perry and Justin Koesterer had the opportunity to takeover the Snapchat account for MoMileSplit, posting various pictures of the course, interviews with runners, and videos of the races.

"I'm not gonna lie, it was pretty stressful making sure I got coverage of all the races,"

said Perry, "It did really help me to see all the different teams from across the state and see the competition. The biggest highlight of it though was interviewing Tori Finley after her race. She's from Blue Springs in Kansas City and she's like the best female runner in Missouri."

Though the results of the race may have been a little disappointing, the weekend proved to be very fruitful for the young varsity team, allowing them to prepare for future races.

"I think the guys would say that they're a little disappointed in the race, but it wasn't a bad one, we just know the way that we're going to progress and get better, which is what we're trying to do, to progress and get better," said Porter.

The team's next meet is the Hazelwood Central Invite, which takes place at Sioux Passage Park in Hazelwood on Saturday morning.

Scott, Porter lead offense over De Smet

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On the ensuing kickoff, sophomore Kellen Porter weaved his way through traffic and all the way to the house, tying the score just before halftime, 14-14.

"I saw the hole and I knew Kellen was going to hit it hard and he used his speed and made a play," said Scott. "That was a big lift for the team and he really put us on his back during that play."

Just before the halftime horn, De Smet kicker Joseph Zarrick (the son of Patrick Zarrick) kicked a field goal to put De Smet up 17-14.

During halftime, Incarnate Word's Nightline Dance Team performed to help raise money for efforts to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey. On the field, SLUH and De Smet freshmen competed in a tug-of-war; each side won one pull before the final deciding tug. With a lot of fan support on both sides, De Smet defeated the Jr. Bills.

On their first drive of the second half, the Jr. Bills grinded the ball down into the De Smet red zone, and Porter punched in a 14-yard run to put SLUH in the lead for the first time, 21-17 with 3:12 to go in the third quarter.

Within a minute of SLUH's touchdown, De Smet jumped back into the lead with a 59-yard touchdown that made the score 24-21. Giving up the big plays has been an unhealing wound for the Jr. Bills this season.

"It's all about concentration," said Jones. "Our eye discipline wasn't very good. Most of the time when the big plays hit, it's not because you physically can't do it, it's some discipline that you're not practicing."

After some slow offense, an interception by senior Liam Armstrong provided a spark, with Scott then running the ball for a huge gain on the very next play to bring the Jr. Bills within striking distance.

"Liam stepped up when we needed him the most," said senior A.J. Hardin.

"When you see a guy like Liam making plays, you can't help but feel happy for him," said Scott. "He put in a lot of work to be where he is at now."

Forced to fourth down, SLUH decided to go for it and was saved by a roughing the passer penalty against De Smet, which set up the offense on the 9-yard line. But a false



Art | Michael Esson

start pushed the Jr. Bills back, and the offense stalled. Feeling the pressure of the De Smet rush on fourth down senior quarterback Austin Hannah threw an interception while looking for the end zone.

"De Smet has always been a fun and exciting game, so I think people were a little nervous," said Hannah. "We got into the red zone, but then we had pre-snap penalties that pushed us back so then we weren't able to score."

Offensive lineman Dan Sharp (Jr.) returned for his first game back from injury and the inexperience showed, with him jumping early a few times.

Working the ball downfield behind the rushes of Porter, SLUH also got help from a face mask penalty on De Smet, but a holding penalty negated a touchdown rush by Porter.

With less than a minute to go and a feeling of desperation, SLUH brought the ball to the 5-yard line with 47 seconds left. An illegal participation penalty on the Jr. Bills put them back to the 10 for first and goal. On the following play, the offensive line opened up a hole for the freight train of Scott to pass through and score, giving SLUH the 28-24 lead with 42 seconds left.

De Smet worked the ball out to midfield through some passing plays, getting out of bounds to stop the clock each time. SLUH forced De Smet to fourth down after some incomplete passes, but the Spartans converted with eight seconds left. De Smet was forced to its final play with two seconds left, calling their final timeout. SLUH broke up the final pass attempt at the goal

line, putting the game to rest in favor of the Jr. Bills, 28-24.

"A little too close for comfort," said senior Sean Bender. "We played sloppy."

Bender led the defensive effort with six tackles and two sacks.

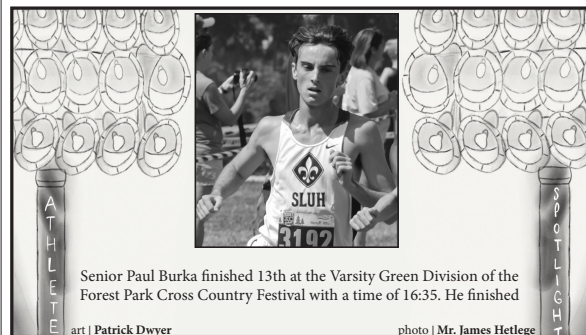
"Every Thursday we do a two-minute drill, for both the offense and the defense," said Jones. "We also have our Prevent Defense, and at the end of the game, they executed the defense perfectly. It was a great example of working on something during the week and seeing it work during a game."

SLUH's offense worked mostly through the run game, with Scott finishing the game with 20 carries for 142 yards and two touchdowns. Porter and senior Daniel Terry combined for 62 yards out of the backfield and Porter tacked on a rushing touchdown. The passing attack was put on the backburner for the evening, only gaining 65 yards. De Smet dominated possession of the game, making the Jr. Bills defense see just over 35 minutes of action compared to 15 minutes on offense.

Tonight SLUH travels to Jefferson City for a marquee matchup against the Jays, a team that blanked the Jr. Bills last year, 26-0.

"I know they are going to be a well-coached and tough team. It'll be a tough environment to work in," said Jones. "Jeff City has a great tradition. Everyone in Jeff City will be at that game."

Jefferson City is a ten-time Missouri State champion football program.



Senior Paul Burka finished 13th at the Varsity Green Division of the Forest Park Cross Country Festival with a time of 16:35. He finished

Art | Patrick Dwyer

photo | Mr. James Hetler