



## Soccer team bounces back from losses; tops St. Dominic, O'Fallon

STEPHEN J. OCAMPO,  
JACK CALLAHAN  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

After two heartbreaking losses to end their undefeated streak, the St. Louis U. High soccer team bounced back to its dominant play with back to back wins against St. Dominic and O'Fallon, (Ill.) to improve to 16-2-1. Despite the two victories, the Jr. Bills dropped from No. 3 to No. 5 in the state among large schools, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

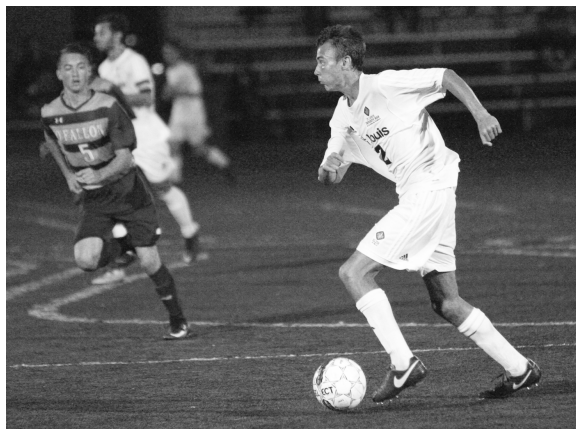
The Jr. Bills headed to O'Fallon, Missouri last Saturday to take on the third best small school in the area.

"We knew St. Dominic was a good team coming in," said senior Jack Nikodem. "No one really overlooked them because they got some really good players, but we were ready for them."

Early in the game, the Jr. Bills looked like a team with something to prove, dominating the ball on both ends, but just like in the Kirkwood game, their attempts proved fruitless.

"We were knocking on the door the whole time," said senior Buck Chevalier.

It was not until half-way through the second half



Senior Jack Nikodem in Monday's game against O'Fallon.

photo | Louis Barnes

that SLUH found the back of the net. Senior Billy Hughes crossed the ball in front of the Crusaders' goal, but in an effort to clear the ball, a Crusaders defender accidentally headed it right over the goalie and into his own goal.

"We had a lot of opportunities so it was just bound to happen," said Chevalier. "If it went off of them, it doesn't matter. Good teams find a way to win."

"A goal's a goal," said senior manager Peter O'Malley.

With the 1-0 lead, the Jr. Bills switched to a more defensive style, neutralizing any St. Dominic threat to coast to the victory.

"The St. Dominic win was huge for us coming off of two tough losses," said Nikodem. "The boys really needed a win tonight. It's sort of a new season for us."

With the St. Dominic

victory behind them, the team hosted the O'Fallon (Ill.) Panthers, hoping to keep the ball rolling.

Coming into the game, senior captain Stephen LaVigne was put back into the lineup, boosting the team's confidence. The game marked LaVigne's first game since the Gibault game due to a concussion.

"He's back so that's a

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## Cross country finishes 4th at Parkway West against tough competition

MATTHEW QUINLAN, JUSTIN KOESTERER  
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Twists, turns, and legs that burned characterized last Saturday's meet as the St. Louis U. High cross country team raced at the Living Word United Methodist Church in Glencoe, Mo.

The varsity team struggled in its race, placing fifth behind powerhouses like Parkway West, who is currently one of the top teams in the state, and Lafayette.

These struggles were in part because of injuries to sophomore Noah Scott and junior Chris Staley during their race. Scott had issues with his hamstring that caused him to fall back in the pack after the second mile, and Staley, who had been struggling with pain in his knee and hip flexor, was also hit with strong crampage.

The course at Living Word is also a generally difficult course, with a lot of turns and hills, which force runners to slow down as they change their pace and adjust their strides, and a 200-meter long stretch right before the finish line where runners can easily overtake one another.

"The course is a grueling combination of sharp turns

and steep hills," said junior captain Patrick Hetlage. "It messes a lot with your cadence and if you aren't paying attention it can slow you down a lot."

The team also struggled to keep pace and stay together in the race after they passed the two-mile marker. While they initially were keeping pace with some of the top teams, the runners dropped 12 places in the last mile.

"I think we all kind of had mental breakdowns that sort of made us five feel like we were doing a lot worse than we were," said senior Paul Burka. "We counted ourselves out before the race was even over."

Despite these difficulties in the race, the team still managed an average time that was ten seconds faster than the goal that the top seven had established earlier in the week, and SLUH's top three runners—Hetlage (16:22), Burka (16:31), and junior Reed Milnor (16:49)—all medaled.

"Coming off of travel from Palatine, this is not really a race we run well at," said Porter. "But we wanted one more big experience in a crowded field, because we

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## Swim soars past competition; 7-0 dual meet record

JOHN BURKE AND JOE FEDER  
REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High swim team continued to cruise over the past week with two more meet victories, and has turned its eyes toward the toughest competition of the season, at this weekend's COMO Invite at the University of Missouri in Columbia's pool.

The Jr. Bills competed in a tri-meet against Lafayette and Oakville at Lafayette last Wednesday, Sept. 27, and pulled out a victory by a healthy 55 points.

"It's become pretty routine for us," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "These wins

are pretty standard."

The meet saw some major time drops from junior Luke Brawer, sophomore Andrew Zimmerman, senior Barclay Dale—who dropped a second to break the two-minute barrier in the 200 IM—and sophomore Patrick Moehn, Swimmer of the Meet, who dropped a sizable three seconds in the 500 Freestyle.

"We're picking up some traction," said Ehret. "Other coaches are noticing how deep we are."

The team swam against Parkway South at Parkway South on Tuesday, pulling off another victory with ease,

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## Vianney hits Jr. Bills hard; injuries hurt offense

NICK PRAINITO  
REPORTER

The MCC is one of the toughest conferences in St. Louis football and the St. Louis U. High football team is experiencing that brutality in full force, as the Jr. Bills fell to 3-4 with a loss to Vianney last Friday. The Griffins improved to a 6-0 record on the season, dominating the Jr. Billikens 48-7.

Vianney's powerful offense was just too much for the SLUH defense. Vianney overpowered the Jr. Bills' defense behind three passing touchdowns from quarterback Tionne Harris. A strong passing game was key, as the Griffin wideouts, led by impressive athlete Kyren Williams, found holes in the defense to explode for big gains.

Vianney showed the initial signs of what was to be a rough night by connecting for a 14-yard run on their first play. They were in the end zone just minutes later, following two passes totaling 40 yards.

On their second drive of the night, the Jr. Bills made slow and steady advances. Taking advantage of a penalty on the Griffins, SLUH made progress with short passes. Their air game wouldn't be enough though. Following a first down, two incompletions and a short run forced SLUH to punt.

The Jr. Bills were hit hard by injuries in the first half. Running duo senior Jared Scott and sophomore Kellen Porter left the game with injuries, forcing the offense to have a more aerial approach. Senior Kam Bowdry also went out early, hurting the Jr. Bills' size on the defensive line.

Although they failed to reach the red zone on their first two drives, SLUH showed a positive sign on the second drive—taking the ball from their own 35 all the way to the Vianney 33. The running game, however, proved tough-

er for SLUH.

"Vianney did a phenomenal job of loading up the box (to) stop the run," said head coach Mike Jones. "We had to take what they (were) giving us, which was the opportunity to throw the ball."

On their second play after the Jr. Bills' punt, Vianney exploded with a 74-yard reception and touchdown for an early 14-0 lead.

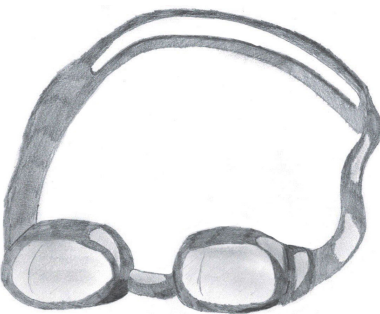
At the beginning of the second quarter, the Jr. Bills struck gold. The defense forced Vianney to turnover on downs, following a near

interception by senior cornerback AJ Hardin. Senior quarterback Austin Hannah then connected with an uncovered Hardin for a 35-yard completion to the corner of the end zone.

"I thought we threw the ball well. I thought Austin did a good job of finding the receivers," said Jones. "We also did a good job of catching the ball, I thought we ran routes well."

On the Griffins' next drive, their offense found holes in the Jr. Bills defense, as

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art | Eric Richards



Senior A.J. Hardin with the ball against Vianney in last Friday's game.

photo | Dominik Skroska

## Swimming seeks success at COMO with great depth

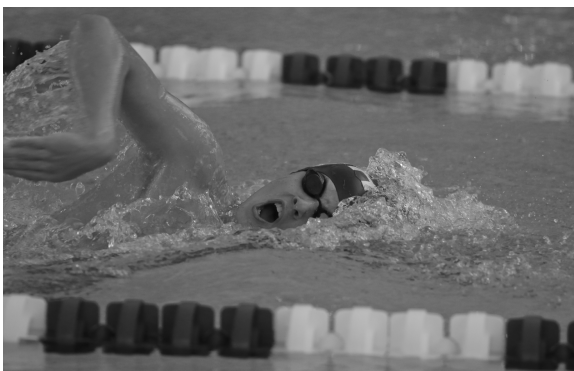
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117-69.

Although the meet was uneventful, sophomore Adam Simokaitis was able to drop a second in the 100 Backstroke.

The biggest test of the season will be tomorrow at the Mizzhou Rec Plex when the Jr. Bills take on high schools from around the state in the largest meet of the year.

"I'm really looking forward to this meet," said assistant coach Tony Ciaravino. "The guys have been working really hard and hopefully we'll see some exciting races at Columbia."

The meet is an opportunity for the team to achieve its goal of taking at least fourth overall at the COMO Invitational. Generally, the team sees lots of time cuts across the board at this meet due to what has been claimed as the "fastest water in Missouri."



SLUH swimmer at MICDS.

Hopefully, the team can work its way closer to the goal of ten individual state qualifiers as well.

"The water at the Mizzhou natatorium is like the Amazon River," said former

captain and star swimmer Kyle Irvine, '17. "It's hostile, dangerous, and only the most alpha of animals are able to withstand its terror. Luckily, the SwimBills are the most ferocious creatures to ever

touch the water and are happy to attend the feast that this river provides every year."

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

## XC succeeds at Parkway West; looks to MCCs at FoPo

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won't have that at conference when there's only 35 guys in the race."

The JV team also raced at Parkway West, and placed fifth among 15 teams, with junior Jack Buehring leading the way with a seventh place finish and a time of 17:54. Buehring was followed by senior Matt Gunn, who finished 11th with a time of 18:05, and junior Jack Sommers, who finished 12th with a time of 18:13 and a personal record.

"We did well overall against some pretty good teams," said Gunn. "Guys really stepped up to fill (junior) Charlie (Perry)'s and (senior) John Thomas's spot and I think it gave them a lot of confidence that we need for MCCs this weekend."

The Parkway West meet also hosted a relatively unique race that most other meets do not have, which is a sophomore exclusive race. With a lot of talent in the sophomore class, SLUH finished second, within two points of the winning Rock Bridge. This effort was led by sophomores Joe Callahan (eighth place, 18:15), and Mitchell Boohar (ninth place, 18:16).

The freshman team also had a very strong showing,

winning for the second week in a row. They were led by Daniel Hogan (18:25) who finished second overall behind a racer from O'Fallon.

As a program, the SLUH cross country team was the most successful boys team at the meet. This was determined by adding the individual placings that the teams earned for their races. With varsity's fourth place, JV's

fifth place, the sophomores' second place, and the freshmen's first place finishes, the program totalled 12 points, lower than every other team that competed on the boys' level.

"If you add the places together from the four races in the day, our team finishes, and you compare it to the other schools, we had the most successful day program-wide,"

said Porter. "So even if a school dominated a race, they still had a weak spot, and we didn't really have a weak spot, which really shows the depth of our program."

The team will compete in the MCC Championship meet this Saturday at Forest Park, on a course that runs over much of the same course as the Forest Park Cross Country Festival.



art | Nick Koenig

## Football stifles passing game against Vianney, loses on runs

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three runs averaging 24 yards apiece led them to another touchdown.

Afterwards, SLUH was forced to punt again and Vianney scored on each of its next two possessions to take a commanding 35-7 lead.

Despite big rushing gains by the Griffins, the Jr. Bills showed a strong pass coverage throughout most of the first half. Vianney rarely advanced yardage on passing plays, and when they did, the gain was minimal compared to their ground game. Meanwhile, SLUH's offense focused mainly on their passing game, as Vianney's defense successfully crowded the line of scrimmage, stopping any potentially long SLUH run.

Vianney added two touchdowns in the second half and shut out SLUH for a disappointing 48-7 loss for the Jr. Bills.

SLUH plays tonight against Rock Bridge High

School in Columbia, Mo. and next week they wrap up their regular season schedule on Friday night at home against Jackson for Senior Night.

Following the conclusion of the regular season, the Jr. Bills play in the District tournament. They are in Class 6, District 2, along with seven other teams including fellow MCC schools De Smet and CBC.

"The last two games we've been giving up too many big plays defensively so we have to eliminate the explosion play," said Jones on what would be a key to a victory tonight. "We have to do more explosion plays ourselves."

In addition, Jones mentioned that cutting penalties would be crucial to success—penalties have been a big problem for the Jr. Bills this season.

"We're still getting penalized entirely too much," said Jones.

## Soccer looks to continue winning streak in Peoria

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game changer," said Chevalier. "He brings a lot of stability to the team and a great member of the core."

The Jr. Bills snagged a 1-0 lead early in the game with senior captain Will Rudder's goal in the 14th minute of the game.

Later in the first, the Jr. Bills were awarded with a penalty kick after a hard foul. Senior captain Cam Verzino lined up to take the kick, and blasted it past the Panthers goalie to secure the 2-0 victory over O'Fallon.

"It felt good," said Chevalier. "It got the swagger back for the boys."

However, regardless of the victories, the Jr. Bills fell in the rankings. Last week, the team was knocked off its top-ranked spot to No. 3 and this week fell even further to No. 5, but the team remains unfazed.

"Rankings don't mean anything, it just motivates us even more," said senior Jack Steffel.

The main goal is to get

back to the dominant play that the team showcased earlier in the season. One thing that both coaches and players have noticed is the lack of energy in the losses.

"The losses brought us back to level. They were very sobering and brought us back to earth," said Chevalier. "But we're rolling now and the energy is back."

"Since the middle of the season we've been lacking energy at the beginning of the game so that's something we're going to work on for the rest of the season," said assistant coach Bradley Mueller. "We're much more of a defensive team than an offensive team so if we can get goals early we put ourselves in a better position to succeed."

The team is traveling to Peoria, Ill. this weekend to face Normal Community and Peoria Notre Dame.

"It doesn't matter where they're from, we're going to beat them. It's just how we play. It doesn't matter who they are," said Chevalier.

Senior Will Rudder scored Tuesday against O'Fallon to propel the Jr. Bills to a 2-0 victory. Rudder leads SLUH with ten goals this season.

art | Ian Shocklee

Senior Will Rudder against St. Mary's. photo | Joe Hillmeyer

## Swimming Nightbeat

The SLUH swim and dive team improved its dual meet record to 7-0 with a 128-58 win over Parkway Central last night.

Highlight swims came from: Sean Santoni, who dropped three seconds in the 500 Freestyle and now is within four seconds of the state cut; Joe Feder, who dropped two seconds in the 200 Freestyle making him the team leader for the event; and Micah See, who dropped seven seconds in his 100 Freestyle and was also named swimmer of the meet by head coach Lindsey Ehret.