



Cross country continues crushing competition; takes first in Sectionals by 43 points to qualify for State meet in Jefferson City

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Feel! Fie! Foe! Fum! The St. Louis U. High cross country team is on the run and can taste the glory of a state title as the Jr. Bills qualified for the State meet for the 25th year in a row, being crowned champions of their Sectional this past Saturday.

Taking place at Parkway Central High School, the Sectional meet is the final step in the road to the State Championship meet in Jefferson City, and the top four teams in the race qualify for state.

Despite the goal of simply qualifying, the team came out thirsting for sweet victory in the 38 degree weather. Junior Patrick Hetlage led the team with a third place finish, in 16:35. He was followed by senior Paul Burka, who finished fourth (16:43), and junior Reed Milnor, who finished fifth (16:49).

Following the top three were sophomore Adam Mittendorf, who finished seventh with a time of 16:51; sophomore Lucas Rackers, who finished 15th (17:01); sophomore Noah Scott who



Varsity cross country during Sectionals last Saturday.

photo | Mr James Hetlage

finished 19th (17:07); and junior Chris Staley, who finished 30th (17:20).

With great races from each of the runners, SLUH was the only school to have all seven of their runners place in the top 30 and place as medalists. Mittendorf, Rackers, Scott, and Staley all achieved personal records for their 5K times at the Sectional race. Even if the seven would have run for different schools, they still all would have qualified as individuals

for the state meet.

"We knew that Chandler from Hickman would take it out as fast as he could, but we were content with that and decided not to play those cards a week before state, especially in a race that was only about qualifying. We formed and kept the chase pack, that pack that trailed (Chandler)," said head coach Joe Porter.

These finishes earned the team a champion spot with a score of 33, 43 points

better than runner-up Rock Bridge and 48 points better than the third place finisher, Jefferson City.

The Sectional meet was also the spawn site for the arrival of the infamous Blue Army. As the team started getting ready at the line, a brigade of boisterous boys stripped off their shirts in the 30 degree weather and bathed their bodies in blue paint. As the bitter wind bounced off the blue paint, the blue battalion ran from

point to point on the course and made sure the runners knew that the brute force of SLUH was behind them.

Led by the self-proclaimed "cheer captain," junior Jack Buehring, the army stormed through Central. At one point, the boys lay waiting in ambush for Staley. They pounced, and Staley, somewhat either scared or inspired, bounded forward, passing five runners, causing

more roaring from the fans.

Forging forward from this fantastic feast of physical fitness, the varsity cross country team will take on the top 15 teams in the state, hoping to capture the State title for the first time since 2013 this Saturday at 12:30 on Oak Hills Golf course in Jefferson City.



art | Jackson DuCharme

Hockey comes out firing; offense overpowers competition in Top Hat preseason tournament with 40 goals in six games

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The St. Louis U. High varsity hockey team started the season off strong, taking the Top Hat preseason tournament championship for the third straight year against Oakville, 6-0 on Thursday, Oct. 26.

Boasting a powerful offense, the Jr. Bills outshot their opponents 212-72 and outscored them 40-1 throughout the tournament.

In the round robin part of the tournament, SLUH beat Kirkwood 6-1, Webster Groves 13-0, and CBC 4-0 before beating Chaminade 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

Against Edwardsville in the semifinals, the outstanding SLUH defense didn't allow a shot until midway through the third period, and they won 8-0.

The Jr. Bills faced off against Oakville on Thursday, Oct. 26. The first period was action packed with many shots by both teams, but neither team could net a goal.

Early in the second period, sophomore Bob Lockwood scored the first goal of the game, opening the floodgates for the Jr. Bills. Senior Steven Pawlow netted his own goal quickly



Senior Joe Winkelmann against CBC in the Top Hat tournament.

photo | Joe Hillmeyer

following Lockwood's and put the Jr. Bills up 2-0.

In the third period, the Jr. Bills put on a scoring onslaught, scoring 4 goals to close out the game. The first of the goals came early in the period when junior Christian Berger set up senior Joe Winkelmann for an easy goal.

Berger put up a point of his own just a few minutes

later with a hard slap shot on a Jr. Bill power play, giving SLUH a 4-0 lead over the Tigers. While the Jr. Bills were short-handed, Pawlow returned the favor back to Corker, setting him up on a two-on-one for an easy goal.

As the game came to a close, senior Chip Holmes sauced a beautiful pass to sophomore Jack Hazelton as he snuck one past the goalie

to end the game 6-0 for the Jr. Bills.

Junior goalie Brendan Rasch put up his fourth consecutive shutout and fifth of the tournament with 17 saves on the night. Rasch has only let in one goal this year on 72 shots.

"We saw how good our team could be," said senior Jack Wachter. "It showed how well we can play together.

When all of us are there, nobody can skate with us."

"Accountability in the locker room and all the players are more serious are the differences this year compared to past years," said Winkelmann.

Winkelmann led the team with seven goals throughout the tournament, including a five goal game against Webster Groves.

"This hockey isn't our best," said Winkelmann. "We continue to get better and better every game we play."

"We need to play a game hard from start to finish," said Wachter.

"We have a really close knit group of guys this year," said senior assistant captain Matthew Hohl. "The seniors especially know what's at stake and I feel that all the other players have bought in to the same goal."

SLUH hockey will start the regular season against Westminster this Saturday at 7:30 at Kirkwood.



art | Sam Kutz