

## Underclassmen XC runners have impressive first race; team preps for first meet in Granite City

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SLUH students think of Running of the Bills as their initiation into SLUH. For the St. Louis U. High freshmen and sophomore cross country runners, the O'Fallon Futures Invitational parallels the Running of the Bills as an initiation into their new racing season.

The SLUH freshman cross country team came out strong on Wednesday in the O'Fallon Futures Invitational. The race was only three miles, but the results were converted into 5K race times.

In the freshman race, Baker Pashea was the top SLUH finisher, finishing in seventh place overall with a time of 18:31. The team then packed together four more freshmen: Eli Dornlan (tenth place), Justin Glass (13th place), Sean Kellogg, and Joe LaBarge. Dornlan's time was 18:56, Glass's was 19:03, Kellogg's was 19:06, and LaBarge's was 19:07.

In total, SLUH had five freshman cross the line in under 20 minutes when converted for 5K paces, an incredible early session feat.

The sophomore race is quite a bit faster than the freshman race. Daniel Hogan and Ryan Kramer finished 17:43 and 17:44 respectively in their 5K conversions, times which would comfortably put them on the medal board of any JV race.

"It was a very good race," said Kramer. "Earlier on, Hogan, Hayden, and I packed up early in the race and tried to stay together. Around mile two, Hayden fell off. Hogan and I stayed together and tried to work up to beat the top two, but stayed around 10 seconds behind them in the end."

The O'Fallon race was significantly smaller than other cross country races, with fewer than 10 teams stepping up to the line in every race. Only the top ten runners in each race earned medals.

While the freshmen and sophomores were competing in Wednesday's race, the rest of the team prepared for Saturday's race at Granite City. SLUH will run seniors Patrick Hetlage, Reed Milnor, and Chris Staley, juniors Lucas Rackers, Noah Scott, and Joe Callahan, and sophomore Grant Brawley in the varsity race at Granite City. The newly-appointed varsity squad has high hopes for the weekend.

"I definitely think as a team we have a good shot at winning the race," said senior captain Patrick Hetlage. "For the varsity, we have had a desire to fight hard till the end in the last years, and I want us to keep that motivation. It all really comes down to the last mile and our motivation to give it everything we have. I'm really interested and excited to see how Grant and Callahan will do in the first varsity races."

Many runners set personal records on the abnormally flat Illinois courses in O'Fallon and Granite City, which are the only three-mile races of the season. Flat courses, in general, bring faster times than courses with more hills. With that in mind, the team will prepare differently for Granite City than they would for hillier 5K courses.

Hetlage especially reflected the bottom-up approach, emphasizing that the team is built by every runner, who relies on support from the rest of the team. He's optimistic about the program's chances in general.

"One thing I'm really excited about is the open race. I think we have a really good shot at winning the open race. We have a really deep team this year and that's exciting for the open race," said Hetlage.

In their first varsity race back, SLUH will face some very difficult competition.

"We're excited and very optimistic based on where we are at. We have had great workouts the past few weeks, and I'm excited to see where that puts our guys at on Saturday," said Coach Joe Porter.

Last year, the team placed third in the Granite City race, losing to only Edwardsville and Chatwood-Glendale North in Springfield. This year, those two teams will return to the meet, both ranked in the top ten in their divisions, making this an exciting and great opportunity for SLUH to compete early on in the season.

ti, and Cooper Scharff, have made waves in the varsity squad, placing in the top five in several events. Each of them comes from an elite club swimming level, which can have over six practices weekly. Fresh talent, the camaraderie of the team, and the several out-of-pool activities have led to an exciting month of practice.

"My favorite part about swim so far was the open water swim," said Scharff. "It was a really different experience compared to swimming in a pool, and it gave me some time to just chill with my thoughts."

This event, which took place this past Saturday, was generously hosted by Dr.

## Returning divers work on form; open swim highlights week

(continued from page 9)

that's always the plus."

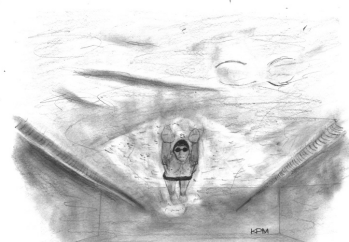
Veteran juniors Gabe and Max Manalang, on the other hand, have spent their practices pushing for newer, more difficult dives, which has created a dual focus for this season.

"The focus this year is continuing the foundation I have built with Max and Gabe, so there's a lot more polish there, versus getting the other ones up to speed," said LeBrun.

A trio of freshman swimmers, comprised of Jonas Hostetler, Ned Mehme-

Marty and Mrs. Kathy Foy, parents of AP Economics teacher Kevin Foy, and it allowed all swimmers and coaches to swim 1.2, 2.4, or 3.6 miles. Several standouts from the swim came from the JV team, namely freshmen Tom Nguyen and Clay Derdeyn, as well as Russian exchange student Amir Mamedinov, who braved the choppy waters of Lake St. Louis to swim 2.4 miles, the distance of an Iron Man.

The Open Water Swim was a hit among both the swimmers and the coaches. "It was a great experi-



art | Kyle McEnery

ence, probably one of the best experiences of my coaching career," said assistant coach Tony Ciaravino.

As the week has progressed, several swimmers became sick with a mysterious illness that seems to be crippling one swimmer at a time, with five swimmers having been affected already. Still, the attitude towards the meet remained optimistic.

"We want to get some easy state cuts, and it would be nice to get a couple of relays qualified early," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "We just might have to make some last minute changes (to the lineup)."

## Crowd energizes football; uphill climb too steep after first quarter

(continued from page 9)

crowd was so loud. It was just an awesome feeling crossing the goal line."

One quarter in, and the student section was still going strong. Chants of "U-High U-High U-High," were heard all throughout the football field, providing energy for the SLUH squad.

The second quarter was relatively quiet for the most part. A couple of big runs by Battle and a sack were the only noteworthy plays. However, after a long drive of running plays, Battle reached the Jr. Billiken end zone once again with four minutes in the half. After making the two-point conversion, they led 22-7.

On the ensuing kickoff, after fumbling initially, freshman

Isaac Thompson made a big return, taking the ball 47 yards into Battle territory. After two more big rushes by Porter Jr, SLUH found itself with another touchdown.

The home crowd was reignited and jumping for joy. The band ran through a fast rendition of "Oh When the Bills," the school's timeless fight song, as the students sang along with excitement.

However, the momentum came to a screeching halt when Battle, on their first series after receiving the kickoff, completed a 77-yard touchdown pass to make the score 30-13. But, the wild final minutes of the first half were not done yet, as the SLUH offense came marching down the field once more.

After a big run by Porter Jr. and another pass from Wilson to Lang, this one 24 yards for a touchdown, SLUH trailed at halftime by a score of 30-19. Down, but not out.

"The team's energy had increased drastically, leading to other players wanting to go out and make big time plays also," said Wilson on the team's momentum going into halftime. "The energy was at an all time high, even though we didn't come out with that win we wanted."

After the back-and-forth play of the end of the first half, the third quarter was surprisingly scoreless. The Jr. Bills opened the final quarter with the ball on the Spartans' one-yard line, and with the game so close, the SLUH fan section was back in full volume. They erupted the next play as Porter Jr. easily ran in for the touchdown, but SLUH failed the two-point attempt and trailed by their closest margin of the game, 30-25.

This would be all of the scoring for the Jr. Bills, however, as Battle's defense completely shut out the Jr. Bill passing and running game for the remainder of the fourth quarter.

SLUH's defense couldn't contain the Spartans' running game, allowing three touchdowns in eight short minutes. Battle found plenty of gaps and took advantage of them, sealing the victory and SLUH's defeat. In addition, the defense had more than its fair share of penalties, getting called for offsides and personal fouls.

"Well, we have to improve our tackling on defense, I know

we didn't tackle as well as we would like," said Jones about the team's defense.

The loyal Blue Crew and freshmen stayed for most of the game. For the freshmen, getting "baptized in blue" is always a highlight of the year. It is a sign of community and school spirit, and a popular school-wide event that is a great night for everyone regardless of the score.

"My favorite moment was just the togetherness as we were cheering. It was like we all (were) one," said freshman Patrick Tyrrell.

"I felt the nostalgia for freshman year as well as the satisfaction of seeing the new freshmen experience their initiation into SLUH," said senior advisor Ryan Juergens.

Tonight, SLUH has another tough test, playing at 7:00 PM against Ladue in hopes to even their record at 1-1. The game is at Kirkwood High School, due to construction at Ladue's field. Ladue won last week against Ritenour, 37-7.

"An offensive key to our game (tonight) has to be eliminating plays. We can't afford to miss blocks, make the wrong reads, or making careless mistakes that can lead to penalties," said Wilson, commenting on what the offense needs to do well. "If we manage to do these things, the offense will not have any trouble putting numbers on the scoreboard."

## Underclassmen Briefs

### B Soccer

#### 8/25 Chaminade

SLUH	0	0	F:0
CHAMI	0	0	F:0

Taylor, 3 goals  
Dowd-Nieto, 1 goal  
McGrail, 2 assists

### JV Football

#### 8/27 Battle

SLUH 6 0 7 0 F: 13  
Battle 0 12 22 7 F: 42  
Johnston: 2 passing TD  
Ortwerth: 5 Rec, Rec TD  
Sullivan: Rec TD

- compiled by  
Jimmy Stanley

### C Soccer

#### 8/25 Chaminade

SLUH	0	0	F:0
CHAMI	1	0	F:1

#### 8/28 Fort Zumwalt South

SLUH	5	4	F:9
FZS	0	0	F:0

Lemley, 2 goals  
Forthaus, 1 goal  
Cornett, 1 goal  
Broun, 1 goal



Junior Kellen Porter rushing on Friday.

photo | John Hilker