



# Swim and Dive gets state times in close races

BY JOE FEDER AND NICK DAVIRAS REPORTERS

The St. Louis U. High Swim and Dive team got off to an explosive start this past Friday, accumulating six state qualifying times and 18 season best times, adding up to a decisive victory against opponents Francis Howell Central, 135-49.

The meet started strongly, with senior captain duo Joe Feder and Daniel Fink churning out the first state cuts of the season in the 200 Freestyle, posting times of 1:48.52 and 1:50.49 respectively. During the diving portion of the meet, which is placed halfway through the swimming events to give the swimmers an opportunity to rest, juniors Gabe and Max Manalang narrowly missed out on the point cutoff for the state meet, but each boasted a dramatic increase from their scores in the season opener, with Gabe rising from 202.4 to 224.2 and Max soaring from a 180.55 to a 219.4. Both divers look to qualify for state.

After the swimming resumed, spectators were treated to the closest race of the evening, when junior Josh Brown and freshman Jonas Hostetler were separated by just nine-hundredths of a second. When they lunged into the wall, Brown out-touched Hostetler for victory in the 100 Butterfly. Fink grabbed another state cut in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 4:52.70, obliterating the cut by twelve seconds, and narrowly missing his personal best by one second, which he swam at the 2017 State Championship Finals. Immediately after Fink's race, Feder led off the 200 Freestyle Relay squad, which included Hostetler, sophomore Eli Butters, and junior Andrew Zimmermann, and took a state cut the 50 Freestyle. Although the relay as a whole missed its cut by .51 seconds, Feder's leadoff leg was counted as an individual state qualification time because the leader of a relay uses a "flat start," a start where the athlete must have both hands and both feet on the starting block and must be started by an official, as in any other individual event.

Shortly after the 200-Free Relay, freshman Cooper Scharff had his opportunity to qualify for state in the 100-Backstroke, and easily seized it, dropping two seconds from the Blue and White Intrasquad meet and setting down at 56.45. In the final race of the night, the 400 Freestyle Relay team of Fink, Scharff, Feder, and senior captain Will Slatin conjured a 3:27.24, achieving the state cut by nearly two seconds, with each member having already swum three

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# Soccer picks up first win in overtime; pressure heavily put on versus out-of-town opponents

BY CHRIS STALEY AND BLAKE OBERT SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

It seems like the St. Louis U. High soccer team ran out of luck this week. In games against Glendale (Springfield), St. Xavier (Ky.), and Gibault (Ill.), the Jr. Bills ended all three games in every possible way with a win, loss, and tie respectively. Bounces against their favor, penalties, and shots deflecting off the crossbar cursed the squad in their efforts to improve their record.

The week's events began on Friday evening when the boys played against the Glendale Falcons from Springfield, Mo. The game had a rocky start, when in the first five minutes, a throw-in was settled inches away from the net and tapped in by the opposing team, sending the ball over junior goalkeeper John Mungenast's head. The Falcons took a 1-0 lead, but the Jr. Bills bounced back quickly.

"Once we settled in against Glendale after a rough start, it felt like a game we should win," said



Junior Charles Neuwrith against Glendale. photo | Jonel Olar

senior Michael Drabelle.

The team began to dominate and came close to scoring many times, most significantly when junior Ethan Joly was unable to convert a shot from the left side of the box, and when junior Tate Grearson was unable to put a shot away from inside the box.

But with just ten minutes left, Charles Neuwrith managed to send a shot to

the bottom left corner to make the score 1-1 and send it into overtime.

"We stayed in their half for most of (the game), especially once we tied the game and had all the momentum," said Drabelle.

In overtime, the Jr. Bills continued to put the pressure on Glendale with the help of some great saves by goalkeeper Peter Herrmann, and an array of shots from

the offense. If it weren't for some great work by the Glendale keeper, the game would have ended long before the final goal.

"We were all excited for OT because we knew had the momentum," said Herrmann. "We could easily finish them off with a goal."

The end came when the Glendale keeper had a bad touch after securing the ball from the Jr. Bills' offense. Drabelle received the best present on his 18th birthday—the ball on a silver platter at his feet. He finished the game with a chip over the goalie's head.

"I was just shocked the goalie hit it right to me," said Drabelle. "Once I had it, I knew I couldn't miss, and I'm still relieved I didn't."

The win was not only the first win for the team, but head coach Bob O'Connell's first win as the varsity head coach.

"I'm going to be honest, I thought it would feel different, I've won games before," said O'Connell. "I'm happy for the kids, because I know

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# Cross Country narrowly defeats competition at Granite City; eyes on first place for FPXC

BY JIMMY STANLEY AND PETER LABARGE REPORTERS

The gun sounds, then all is quiet. Then massive hooves clomping on the ground grow louder and louder. The boys in white fly by, led by junior Lukas Rackers and senior Patrick Hetlage.

The Jr. Bills took their XC talents to Granite City at Wilson Park last weekend, and took first place for varsity and JV in their first race of the season. Varsity came out big, finishing first among 38 teams from across the Midwest. All seven of the varsity runners came in the top 40 and under 16:45.00, and the top five all were awarded medals.

SLUH set three specific goals coming into the meet according to head coach Joe Porter. The first goal was to place two varsity runners in the top seven which was accomplished with Rackers and Hetlage placing 3 and 4. Rackers ran a 15:24.00 three-mile and Hetlage finished just seconds later with a time of 15:25.08.

The second goal was to put five runners in the top 30. This was accomplished as senior Chris Staley ran a 16:12.55, senior Reed Milnor ran a 16:26.06, and junior Noah Scott ran a 16:30.32.

The third and final goal was to have the first place through fifth place be under a

minute, which the team just missed. The difference from Rackers' to Scott's time was 1:02.

Junior Joe Callahan also had a good day setting his personal best time, finishing just four seconds behind the top 30, at 34th. Freshman Grant Brawley followed right behind Callahan, finishing 36th, just ten seconds behind the top 30. Brawley also set his personal best.

Sophomores Ryan

and compete," said Rackers. "We still need to improve on the gap. We want our gap to be closer to 45 seconds. In order to compete in a higher level and win those higher level races, we need to close that gap."

Meanwhile, Porter is looking to improve even further.

"In particular our two to three gap was larger than we wanted and we can't have those big of gaps. There are

commodities ready, etc.

This race also has a major difference in the size of the teams ultimately changing the strategy of the race. In most races, teams can run only up to seven runners in varsity races, but at FPXC, teams can run up to nine in the varsity. Even though this gives teams an opportunity to race more guys, it also makes the lineup for JV different causing the 10th runner on the team to have to move up and have a great race in JV. To make it even more difficult, some teams will only run seven in varsity, causing SLUH to need their Nos. 10 and 11 runners to stay with other team's 8 and 9 guys to compete and potentially win.

Despite this slight disadvantage, SLUH believes they can show their great depth in both the varsity and junior varsity level at FPXC.

"Knowing that we have another guy right there to fill in when someone goes down is exciting because we have that depth," said Porter. The team also is coming off a bounce week this week, where there is no hard workout and all the runs are reduced. This strategy is key to not overworking the runners early on in the season, leaving them feeling more fresh for FPXC.

"Coming off a bounce week, I really hope that we

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# Rough start in football sparks late comeback in loss to Ladue

BY NICK PRAINITO AND BRAD PIKE STAFF

Playing Ladue High School at Kirkwood last week and looking for their first win of the young season, the St. Louis U. High football team was met with a frustrating 14-6 loss. Though the defense put together a strong performance for the greater part of the evening, turnovers and missed opportunities plagued the Jr. Bill offense.

SLUH started the evening with the ball after Ladue elected to kick off, but the offense—led by junior quarterback Milo Wilson—went 3-and-out, and had to punt.

After a solid return of 39 yards, Ladue started their offensive game on SLUH's 26-yard line. After a mixture of passes and runs, a completion to a wide-open receiver in the middle of the field and an easy stroll into the Jr. Bill end zone put the Rams on top early, 7-0.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Jr. Billiken offense was stumped yet again. The run game, which carried SLUH two weeks ago against Battle High School, was completely stifled by Ladue's gap-control defense. Passes fell incomplete and many were close to being picked off. The Jr. Bills were forced to punt again with three minutes left in the first quarter.

"The running game was a big part of the offense, because it develops the passing game. As the game went along, yes the running game had its effect, but most of our big plays were passing," said junior running back Kellen Porter.

Starting on their second drive of the night, the Rams slowly but surely marched downfield. The quarter ended with the ball on the SLUH 40-yard line, and the second quarter began with a 25-yard completion. With a 10-yard pass to the corner of the SLUH end zone and an extra point, the Rams led 14-0 with 11 minutes in the half remaining. The team looked taken aback by the sudden deficit they were facing, and it showed on the sidelines.

"The team acted as if we were down by a lot. It felt like we were down 28-0 on the sideline when really we were only down two touchdowns," said senior quarterback Steven Mack.

From that point forward, SLUH maintained a lockdown defensive performance.

"On the defensive side, of course, we want to establish the line of scrimmage ... where

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art | Harrison Petty

Kramer and Daniel Hogan both ran in the B/C division last Saturday and both put up impressive numbers. Kramer finished fourth overall running a 17:20.12 three-mile and will be competing this weekend at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival (FPXC) for the varsity team along with Hogan, who ran a 17:24.13 three-mile.

"I think Granite City was a great meet. We showed people we could go out there

things we need to keep in mind moving forward but we should be excited that we beat some good teams like Edwardsville," said Porter.

Looking ahead to this weekend, SLUH hosts 197 teams in FPXC, which will take place on Aviation Fields. It is by far the biggest meet of the season. Porter and the rest of the SLUH cross country coaches spend the week of the race constantly preparing for it, whether making the course, getting other

## Football's strong defense allows offense to make moves despite injury

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teams are having a hard time running the ball," said head coach Mike Jones on the team's defensive plans for the season.

SLUH began their third offensive drive deep in their own territory after bobbling the kickoff. A few plays later, Wilson was picked off and Ladue was in prime scoring position, starting at the SLUH 32. The Rams took the ball to the goal line but fumbled and the Jr. Bills recovered. After a series of short runs, SLUH found themselves trying a difficult 4th down conversion from Ladue's 30-yard line, but an incompleteness led to a turnover on downs.

The Jr. Bills got another chance with a minute left in the half. With the ball on their own 33, they began their drive, but Wilson threw another interception. However, even with the ball deep in SLUH territory, Ladue failed to capitalize, and the half ended with the Rams ahead 14-0.

"We all said, 'do your job' because if you do your job, the team will do their job, and then, step-by-step, we can come back," said senior quarterback Steve Mack about the locker room speech during halftime.

After Ladue missed a field goal to end their first drive of the third quarter, SLUH gained possession of the ball on their own 26-yard line with nine minutes remaining. This time, penalties killed the Rams' defensive effort, with the Jr. Bills gaining 35 offensive yards on penalties alone. That, coupled with two long passes from Wilson to senior Nick Lang and junior Brendan Hannah, led the Jr. Billikens to the end zone for the only time that night. Senior kicker Joe Gilmore kicked what looked to everyone in the stands like a clean extra point, but the referees disagreed, much to the disdain of the loyal SLUH supporters that came to Kirkwood. Ladue led 14-6 after the missed kick.

The fourth quarter began with a SLUH interception in good territory by Hannah. SLUH marched downfield once more, but Wilson was picked off for the fourth time on the Ladue 8-yard line with ten minutes left in the game, putting a halt to SLUH's best chance to tie the game.

A scare came late in the fourth quarter. With about six minutes left in the game, and the ball in Ladue territory, Wilson carried the ball to the right sideline of the field, but failed

to slide and was leveled by a Rams defender. Though the tackle was clean, Wilson was injured and taken off the field, and Mack played out the rest of the game.

"I was ready. During practice, I always got plenty of reps, so I knew that if the time came, I would be ready," said Mack.

He heard the student section chanting his name, and the support of his teammates helped

him feel comfortable on the field on such late notice. However, his only play resulted in a deflected fourth down pass, and Ladue won, improving to 2-0 on the season.

Friday night, the Jr. Bills face De Smet at 7 p.m. at SLUH, hoping to gain their first win of the fall. The Spartans are 2-0 for the season and won last Friday against Rock Bridge, 35-17.

Following this game, SLUH plays Jefferson City at home next Friday, and then travels to CBC in two weeks to face the Cadets in their second MCC matchup. Starting at quarterback will be Brendan Hannah. However, the Jr. Bills strategy for the season is to just focus on the weekly matchup.

"We play one game at a time," commented Jones.

## Lack of luck plagues soccer in loss; improvement shows in play

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how important winning is to the kids. I really believe that these games are just preparation for something in October. I really believe that."

Celebration from the night before did not last long. At 10 a.m. the next morning, after a fan-packed tailgate, the Jr. Billikens took the field once again, this time against the St. Xavier Tigers of Louisville, Ky. The Jr. Bills, once again, got off to a slow start. The Tigers managed to score after running past the Jr. Bills' defense and putting the ball away in the bottom left corner.

SLUH remained scoreless through the first half, despite junior Ryan Klostermann nearly scoring, and energy remained low throughout the rest of the half.

"Even though we were down 1-0, our morale was still pretty high," said junior Kevin Stein. "We were looking forward to the second half."

That appeared to be true as the team came out hard in the second half, but a penalty in the box led St. Xavier to shoot a penalty shot and send the ball into the left side of the net. Things only got worse as the Tigers once again scored off a rip to the top corner on a penalty kick to make the score 3-0.

Herrmann was subbed out and replaced by junior Jake McCullar as time ran out, and the Jr. Bills were unable to avoid the shutout. "St. X was a tough test,"

said Drabell. "We really struggled to contain their forwards, and when we attacked, we couldn't create enough good opportunities."

With a weekend full of rest and the rough shutout against St. Xavier's behind them, the Jr. Bills hoped to pick up their second win across the river in the Land of Lincoln against the Gibault Hawks.

"We wanted to go into this game with the mentality that we went in to the St. Xavier game's second half," said Stein.

Herrmann got the call to start in goal again and played the entire game. His performance in recent games and continuous hard work throughout all 80 minutes of play at a time has been rewarded with more starts in goal.

"Peter has played very good lately and I think I still have two very good goals," said head coach Bob O'Connell.

"It's a great feeling knowing that the entire team supports and has faith in you to keep the slate clean," said Herrmann.

Despite a header from senior Alex Johnson that went off the crossbar, the defense on both sides of the pitch was solid as the score heading into half was all tied up at zero.

"We felt like we were playing okay," said Stein. "We were shocked it was still tied."

In the second half, Gibault struck first by tapping and passing past the

defense and shooting the ball just past Herrmann's fingertips.

However, senior Louis Vacca sent a laser to the back of the twine in the 17th minute to even up the score. The Jr. Bills attacked with more shots, but between the crossbar and the goalie making some spectacular saves, the game ended in a tie.

"Gibault was definitely a game we should've won," said Drabell. "We had all the chances we could ask for and played pretty well, but got extremely unlucky. It was a performance we were proud of, despite being disappointed in the result."

After a week going 1-1-1, the boys are starting to improve play as they create a better team chemistry and are hungry for more wins.

"We gotta continue to defend, we gotta continue to win in the midfield," said O'Connell. "We'll play similar types of teams next week and we just gotta continue to win the midfield, work on our positioning, our shape... I'm really proud of the back four."

The team plays Rock Bridge (Columbia) tomorrow at SLUH at 10:30 a.m. and then starts the CBC Tournament with games against De Smet on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., and then against Vianney on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. All tournament games will be played at CBC.

"Captain Lehmann has us hungry for some good footy dubs," said Herrmann.

## XC runs less to prep for FPXC

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can come out and have a big race, feeling a little fresher than we usually do," commented Hogan.

SLUH comes into the weekend trying to send a big message to Rockhurst High School and prove they are big competitors in Missouri this year. Last year, Rockhurst beat SLUH at both the JV and varsity level, and with Neuqua Valley posing as a new threat in this race, it will be a huge challenge. Still, the team remains extremely hopeful for what is to come this weekend.

"I think that it is possible for the varsity to win the meet," said Rackers. "Don't tread on SLUH"

## Swimming freshmen show off talent; voices ring around pool

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events earlier in the meet. "Again, I think it was a shock to some people how fast these meets move," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "We've got to recover and perform at the end of the meet"

Aside from the several state qualifying swims, the most exciting part of the meet was witnessing several freshmen rise to the occasion of their first dual meet, shaving time off of their personal bests. Among the most notable time drops in this group were Dennis McDaniel, who dropped over three seconds in the 50 Freestyle; Jack Figge, who dropped over two seconds in the 50 Free; and Connor Buehring, who was named Swimmer of the Meet for his four second drop in the 100 Free, and an outstanding backstroke leg in the 200 Medley Relay.

"(Connor) has really stood out in terms of always trying hard in practice and never swimming slow," said Ehret.

Although the U. High has ways to go in terms of their goal to qualify 17 individuals for state, the team has made it a priority to be the loudest team on deck. Each time a Jr. Bill was swimming, a fellow team member was behind their lane cheering. During diving, the team sat at the edge of the pool deck to shout encouragement to the divers after each dive.

After such a dominant opening meet, the team is eager to face its next opponents.

"As minnows swimming down our path to sharkhood, we have taken our first chomp of victory," said junior Sean Santoni. "And we're hungry for more."

The Swimbills are looking to satiate their appetite at the Ladue Invitational tomorrow at 11 in the Ladue Horton Watkins Natatorium, and in their dual meet against CBC next Tuesday at Forest Park.

## Calendar

### Friday, September 7 Regular Schedule

- 7:20AM F/C Friday Mass with Son
- AP Senior Class Meeting  
Sophomore Class Mass  
Rhodes College  
Kansas State University  
Snack—Chicken Rings
- LUNCH Special—Country Fried Steak  
Vegetarian—Garden Burger
- 4:30PM JV Soccer vs Fort Zumwalt West
- 5:45PM Father Son Pregame Football Party
- 7:00PM V Football vs Desmet

### Saturday, September 8

- ACT
- 9:00AM V, JV, C Cross Country Invitational @ Forest Park
- 10:30AM V Soccer vs Rock Bridge
- 11:00AM Swimming & Diving vs Ladue
- 12:30PM B Soccer vs Rock Bridge

### Sunday, September 9

- 9:30AM Family Mass & Breakfast
- 12:00PM KEEN

### Monday, September 10 Regular Schedule

- PACE Visit
- AP Fire Drill  
University of Missouri St. Louis  
Furman University  
Babson College  
Loyola Marymount University  
Duke University  
Tufts University  
Snack—Mini Corn Dogs
- LUNCH Special—Chicken Quesadilla  
Vegetarian—Burrito
- 4:30PM B Football @ De Smet

### Tuesday, September 11 Regular Schedule

- PACE Visit
- AP Tornado and Lockdown Drills  
Boston University  
Lehigh University  
University of Kentucky  
Roanoke College  
Snack—Mac & Cheese Bites
- LUNCH Special—Taco Bar  
Vegetarian—Olive Oil Pasta  
Northeastern University  
Truman State University  
C Soccer vs Edwardsville
- 4:00PM Swimming & Diving vs CBC
- 5:00PM V Soccer vs De Smet (CBC Tournament)
- 6:30PM Financial Aid 101

### Wednesday, September 12 Regular Schedule

- PACE Visit
- AP Sophomore Liturgical Choir Rehearsal  
University of Nebraska at Lincoln  
Columbia University  
Westminster College  
University of Central Missouri  
Williams College  
Knox College  
Snack—Pizza Stick
- LUNCH Special—SLUH Special Sandwich  
Vegetarian—Black Bean Burger
- 4:00PM C Soccer vs Chaminate
- 7:00PM Immersion Trip Info Meeting

### Thursday, September 13 Regular Schedule

- PACE Visit
- AP Sophomore Liturgical Choir Rehearsal  
Boston College  
New York University  
Snack—Bosco Stick
- LUNCH Special—Papa John's Pizza  
Vegetarian—Black Potatoes  
Grinnell College
- 4:00PM JV Soccer vs CBC
- 5:00PM V Soccer vs St. John Vianney (CBC Tournament)
- 6:00PM M/C Craft Workshop for Card Party
- 7:00PM Open Mic

### Friday, September 14 Regular Schedule

- Math Department Day
- AP Sophomore Class Mass  
Union College New York  
Drake University  
Snack—Chicken Rings
- Lunch Special—Country Fried Steak  
Vegetarian—Garden Burger
- 4:00PM Swimming & Diving vs De Smet
- 7:00PM V Football vs Jefferson City

calendar | Ben Kleveron

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