

SPORTS

Swimming rotates events to create new experiences, places second



Senior Carson Massie at the De Smet Invite. photo | Miguel Cadiz

BY NICHOLAS DALAVIRAS
NEWS EDITOR

The De Smet Invite, which took place at the St. Peters Rec Plex on Oct. 5, was a humbling outing for the SLUH swim and dive team as the AquaBills took second place to a Rockhurst team that they beat by 169 points the week before at the CoMo Invitational. However, the varsity team was not so quick to call the meet a defeat due to a few circumstances surrounding the meet lineup, including having no divers score points and having the team swim off

events to gain experience in the low stakes meet.

While most of the Jr. Bills had rough days coming off of another exhausting week of training after CoMo, some SLUH swimmers showcased improvements in events they don't typically swim. One such swimmer, junior Joe McArthur, dropped eight seconds across his two events, the 200 (2:04.48) and 100 (55.92) freestyles. McArthur placed 14th overall in both events.

"It was very gratifying seeing a total eight second drop," said McArthur. "I just

saw a lot of improvement. Tips from Coach Ehret helped, and I felt like I found my strengths in my peak performance. It was very nice to see the times even though I didn't get first place or anything."

"I was really happy to see Joe drop so much time," said Ehret. "He's been putting so much effort into practices and doing outside work to be the best he can be, and I knew his hard work would pay off. I think this is only the tip of the iceberg with him in terms of potential."

Typically a sprint freesty-

ler, sophomore Brody Nester also enjoyed a nice swim in his first time competing in the 200 IM, taking 11th overall with a 2:17.50 in his only swim of the day.

While no SLUH divers completed all 11 dives, sophomore Tom Nguyen made his diving debut at the meet, completing six dives before bowing out of the competition as he learns more dives. Nguyen and the dive team hopes to be able to perfect an 11-dive lineup at Forest Park Community College with the swim team as soon as next week as a new diving board is ready to be installed.

Even though most SLUH swimmers competed in off-events, a few team members attempted to use the fast waters of the Rec Plex, where State will be held in November, to clinch their spots at state in close events. There were no new state qualifiers, but sophomore Jonas Hostetler technically surpassed the individual state qualifying time in the 100 freestyle (49.70) off a flat start leading off the 400 freestyle relay. In past years, relay leads that got the state cut were eligible for state qualification, but a new MSHSAA rule prevents times like Hostetler's from being counted as individual automatic qualifying times.

"It felt great to know that I could actually swim a 49 and go to the state cut in the 100 free. I think that, for me, it's okay that (the qualifying time) didn't count because I'm gonna have more opportunities to swim it as an individual event," said Hostetler. "But, overall, (the time) should definitely count because relays can take the place of what could be an individual event, so a relay should have the same impact."

The second place finish was disappointing to the team, which was hoping to pull out a win even without its strongest lineup in place and no diving points. However, Ehret and the team hope to learn from the meet and build off experiences of swimming other events to improve on main focus swims going into the last month of the season.

"It's always hard to swim at an invitational the week after CoMo," said Ehret. "When we swam at the De Smet Invite, we knew we were going to be tired. It's clear that Rockhurst has rebuilt their program—they won State about 10 times in a row and now that coach is back. We have to be aware of the depth they have leading up to the State meet."

Cross Country dominates Parkway West Invite as they head into Conferences

BY MITCHELL BOOHER AND
PETER LABARGE
REPORTERS

The Parkway West invitational is always a big test for SLUH XC as they head into the postseason, with strong teams to face like Parkway West, Festus, and Rock Bridge. With conference on the horizon, the team showed extreme depth. In the four different divisions, the Jr. Bills took home three team titles and a second place finish, and had one individual race champion.

Even without two of their top seven runners (senior Lucas Rackers and junior Daniel Hogan), the Jr. Bills dictated the style of the race they wanted to run on their way to a first place team finish. The Jr. Bills jumped ahead out of the gate, packing up near the front.

Senior Noah Scott and junior Ryan Kramer came through the first mile at 5:09 in the front pack of the race with the other five guys less than 10 seconds behind, and although Kramer began to fade, Scott kept up the pace holding up front for the entire race.

Senior Adam Mittendorf caught Scott in the middle mile, and they ran the second half of the race hip to hip in the front of the chase pack until the final 200.

Also notable was sophomore Grant Brawley, who went with Scott and Mittendorf to place three SLUH runners in the top ten. Rock Bridge junior Matthew Hauser ran away with the race, but Scott (3rd, 16:26), Mittendorf (7th, 16:35), and Brawley (9th, 16:43) set the tone of dominance, with all three going sub-16 minutes.

"I was excited to see that five of us medaled and were all towards the front of the race," said Brawley. "When I was up there I felt comfortable having my teammates up there helping me stay up with the pack and run with them."

SLUH's secondary pack of seniors Peter Dillon and Joe Callahan, and junior Hayden Zenor ran a great team race, coming through the first mile at the same time, and still within two seconds of each other through two miles. Coming up the final big hill that leads to the long straightaway, Dillon (16th, 17:08) took off, moving up ten spots in the final sprint.

"I just focused on my form and thought 'it's now or never,'" said Dillon. "There were two Rock Bridge guys in front of

Victory over Vianney leads to first MCC win in two years

BY BLAKE OBERT AND
LUKE ALTIER
SPORTS EDITOR, STAFF

The St. Louis U. High football team rained on Vianney's homecoming parade last Friday night, burying the Griffins 48-28 in a statement win that brought their record to .500.

The legacy of SLUH football is so strong that it's easy to pretend the last two seasons never existed. SLUH's total record from 2016-18 was a disheartening 4-16, but this year something has changed.

As of now, SLUH is 3-3, tallying wins against Battle, Jefferson City, and, last Friday, Vianney. Their losses haven't come from easy opponents, as De Smet has not lost a game this season, CBC has only lost to De Smet, and Ladue came into this season after winning the Class 4 State title last year.

Last Friday's win was SLUH's first MCC win in two years.

Even though the end result was good, the game did not look good for the Jr. Bills in the early going. Vianney's homecoming game started with a bang for the Griffins as they scored a 68-yard rushing touchdown on the first play of their first drive, their run-

ning back ducking through a hole in the offensive line and using his speed to split the safeties for the score and an early 7-0 lead.

SLUH stayed level-headed after the score, concocting an explosive five-play drive that ended with a score of their own. SLUH's three core offensive players shined on the drive as senior Brendan Hannah threw for 47 yards, sophomore Ike Thompson and senior running back Kellen Porter combined for 36 receiving yards, and Porter rushed for 16 more.

From the four-yard line, Porter drove his way through a swarm of Vianney defenders to punch in the touchdown to tie the game at seven.

SLUH's defense easily handled Vianney in the first quarter, forcing two three-and-outs after the Griffins' score, but the offense did not have immediate success.

Following a penalty-ridden drive, SLUH was in a third and 17 situation where Hannah, jumping off his back foot, threw up a prayer that was intercepted in front of the end zone by the Griffin secondary. Luckily for SLUH, Vianney squandered their drive following and was forced to punt.

"We had way too many penalties," said head coach Mike Jones. "I think we had six for the game. Our goal was two or less on offense and two or less on D and two or less on special teams."

SLUH decided to keep things simple on the next drive. They ran the ball all over the Vianney defense, rushing six times, and averaging 4 yards per carry, and finished the drive with a quick receiving touchdown

from junior Luke Ratterman, who caught the ball seconds after the ball was snapped on a slant route inside the end zone. SLUH took its first lead of the game 14-7.

SLUH had a chokehold on Vianney, and in the second quarter they really started to squeeze. In their first offensive possession of the quarter, Ratterman grabbed the ball over two defenders, causing them to fall over each other, and took home his sec-

ond touchdown of the night on a 45-yard tear down the field to make the score 21-7.

Jones was very pleased with the team's offensive improvement.

"I think part of it was we had starts up front. We had a clean pocket that gave Brendan the opportunity to throw the ball, and our guys caught the ball extremely well," said Jones. "If you have good protection, a guy throwing the

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Senior Kellen Porter (21) against Vianney. photo | Jonel Olar

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XC shows depth with strong underclassman performances

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me and I knew the race could be close between us and them, so I knew that I had to catch at least one of them, but then more and more people started falling behind me."

Callahan (29th, 17:14) kept his ground to earn the second to last medal and secure the 13-point win for SLUH. Zenor (34th, 17:22) fought up the steep hill to close and Kramer (41st, 17:40) fought through the pain that comes with such an aggressive first mile to close out varsity team's race, with every single one of their runners well inside the top 50.

Inspired by the renowned "Flanny Challenge" (from Coach Flanagan), the SLUH JV set out to win their race despite being without a few of their normal stars who ran in the varsity and sophomore races.

Right from the start SLUH was aggressive in their fight to win. The now healthy junior Reid Jackson took to the front of the race with a 5:26 first mile, and he hung on in the front on the way to a fourth place finish. Senior Sirius Song kept up his string of strong races, finishing 12th after a strong start. Senior Peter LaBarge (19th) and junior Sandy LeGrand (20th) battled in the final stretch to finish as SLUH's three and four finishers. Junior Aidan Byrne (23rd), not far behind LaBarge and LeGrand, wrapped up the scorers for SLUH with a total of 79 points.

Although the team fell short of the challenge with a second place finish, the race was a strong testament to the depth of the program.

"Despite little training, it felt really good to go out there and race hard with the team," said Jackson. "When the race started and I was leading our team, I knew that it was my responsibility to pull the next couple guys through fast in order to get our team in a good position and I think I did a good job of that."

Baker Pashea went out to lead the sophomore race from the start and midway through the race, he made the move to first which he held for the rest of the race. Sophomore Graham Sanfilippo came flying in behind Pashea, running one of

his best races ever to finish in fourth place. The three and four men, Joe LaBarge (7th) and Justin Glass (9th), battled throughout the race and near the end LaBarge worked past Glass to solidify himself as the three man on the day.

Despite having their top four finishers in the overall top ten, the Jr. Bills were locked in a tight battle between Rock Bridge and needed their five men to step up to secure a victory. Francis Alford (23rd) did exactly that as he battled competitors all the way to the line to help SLUH squeak out a one-point victory over Rock Bridge.

"I didn't get out as fast as I wanted to in the beginning of the race, but I was proud of the way I moved, especially toward the end of the first mile and the beginning of the second," said Pashea. "Next time I hope to get out faster and this race definitely gave me the confidence I need going forward."

For the first time in a few weeks, the Jr. Bills finally had all their top freshmen to race in their freshman race, which lead to a dominating win at Parkway West. Tim Greiner and Wyatt Seal worked together in the front of the race, but Greiner pulled away midway through the race to finish second, with Seal (5th) finishing a few seconds behind him.

Despite a large gap after Seal, Carter Lowe finished in sixth. Then, SLUH finished with a large pack of runners led by Will Riggan (14th) and Tyler Barks (15th) to win with a total of 36 points and winning by a 36-point margin over Rock Bridge.

"(Parkway West) is always a meet where we get to show our depth, and to win the varsity, freshman, and sophomore races and to get second in JV, that's big," said head coach Joe Porter. "We matched up against Rock Bridge, a top ten team, and came up on top. It was a great day for the program."

Yesterday, the Jr. Bills went to Jefferson Barracks to compete in the MCC championship on a rain soaked course. In the varsity, the Jr. Bills secured their 16th straight Conference Championship with a perfect score of 15, while the JV and freshman races were cancelled due to lightning.

Soccer posts gritty PK win against CBC; wins SLUH Tournament final vs. St. Mary's



Senior Kevin Stein against St. Mary's.

photo | Matthew Leight

BY MICHAEL TROWER AND LOUIS CORNETT REPORTERS

SLUH soccer continued its hot streak of nine straight games without a loss with three wins in the past week, including two against Mehlville in the semis and St. Mary's in the finals to win the SLUH Tournament. However, SLUH took a major hit to their roster as captain Ethan Joly broke his jaw in the finals and will miss the remainder of the season. They also beat CBC 1-0 in PKs on Tuesday in an instant classic to improve their overall record to 13-4-1.

In the semifinals of the SLUH Tournament, the Jr. Bills took on Mehlville in a game that was certainly frustrating to the offense, as they couldn't break through. SLUH controlled possession and had pressure on the defense, but couldn't get any high quality scoring chances.

The game was deadlocked until the last fifteen seconds, when SLUH broke through on a prayer sent by senior Ryan Klostermann. Midfielder Kevin Stein played a through ball at the top of the box which allowed a narrow window for Klostermann to take his shot before getting knocked down by a defender. The ball went right through the Mehlville keeper's hands into the bottom left corner for the 1-0 lead.

"I knew there wasn't much time left so I wanted to make sure that I could get something on goal," said Klostermann. "When I looked up, I was pumped to see the ball in the back of the net."

SLUH faced St. Mary's in the final. In the first half there was a lot of physical play from both sides, especially from senior John Marshall when he was in a tough matchup against the Mehlville winger. The result was a very stubborn matchup that would set up a terrific second half even though the score was knotted at zero.

The first five minutes of the second half was chaos as center back and captain Ethan Joly was kicked in the jaw on a reckless high kick from a St. Mary forward that earned a foul but no yellow card. Joly left the game for about ten minutes before going back in with what would eventually be diagnosed with a broken jaw.

"I got concussion tested and nothing remotely bad came up," said Joly. "I knew I didn't have a concussion, so it was nothing big enough to keep me out of the game, and I got the green light from the trainer."

During Joly's brief departure, SLUH maintained their cool from the high tensions sparked by Joly's motivation to get back in the game. SLUH was pouncing all over every loose ball and with nine minutes remaining, junior Adam Wolfe was intentionally fouled in the box on a breakaway, earning a penalty kick. Senior Charles Neuwirth took the penalty kick and buried it left side for the 1-0 SLUH lead.

"(I was) a little nervous," said Neuwirth. "But I felt pretty confident that I was going to put it in the net."

St. Mary's wasn't able to get the ball past midfield for the last seven minutes, and Peter Herrmann preserved the shutout for his second consecutive game in the tournament. SLUH won its own tournament, and goalie Herrmann, Joly, Marshall, and Klostermann all earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team.

The championship did come at a heavy cost, as Joly will be out for the remainder of the season. He had surgery yesterday to repair his jaw. His meals starting from Friday include a liquid-based diet where everything he drinks is blended, including his breakfast of eggs, bacon, and a protein shake all blended.

"It's actually not as bad as it sounds, believe it or not," said Joly.

Once Joly is back with the team, he wants to do much more than watch the games from the bench.

"My main goal as a captain is to still have a leading role for my guys," said Joly. "I'd like to have a role on the bench with pumping up the team, stretching players out, and being the vocal leader that I know myself to be."

Although he will miss the rest of the season, Joly has come out of this situation with the knowledge that the SLUH community, his coaches, teammates, and parish have been extremely supportive of him, so he is certainly thankful for that.

"We will certainly miss his presence on the field," said head coach Bob O'Connell. "I know he will still be our leader on the bench, and I'm confident in him taking a penalty kick if necessary."

"Looking back on (Joly's) injury now, the fact that he played most of a half with a broken jaw is incredible," said Marshall. "It definitely motivated us even more for this game."

On Tuesday night, the Jr. Bills took on CBC in a thriller in their first game without Joly. Starting off slow in the first minutes of the game, SLUH allowed CBC a few chances on goal, but all shots were shut down by Herrmann. The two teams continued to test each other's defenses with no breakthroughs, and the half ended in a tie, 0-0.

Coming quickly out of halftime, SLUH dominated the first 15 minutes of play, keeping possession and pressing towards CBC's goal. Stein had a great opportunity to put the Jr. Bills ahead when the ball trickled to his foot right outside the box. He skied the ball just over the crossbar on SLUH's best scoring chance of the night.

With the game clock winding into single digits, sophomore Tyler Van Bree had a fantastic chance off of yet another SLUH corner. Deflecting off of defenders in the box, the ball came to

Van Bree, who volleyed it right on goal where it was stopped by a CBC defender guarding the near post.

With under two minutes remaining, CBC was awarded an indirect free kick inside the box. A CBC forward shot the ball which deflected off a SLUH defender and out of play. With neither team able to break through, SLUH and CBC headed into overtime.

Defense for both teams remained stellar during the overtime periods, and the game continued into PK's. Two of the first four CBC shots hit Herrmann in the hands, but he was unable to keep them out of the net, and the score of PK's was tied 4-4. Herrmann came up with a huge save on the sixth shot, giving SLUH the chance to win. Senior Petra Randrianasolo was unable to convert after a great save by the CBC goaltender, but only two shots later Herrmann came up with yet another save, giving senior Ryan Taaffe the chance to win the game.

"Prior to the shot I was a bit nervous, but after seeing Pete make a huge save, all my nerves calmed," said Taaffe. "I just tried to focus on striking the ball as cleanly as possible."

Taaffe buried his shot in the lower left hand corner, past the outstretched hands of the CBC keeper and the SLUH bench swarmed him near the corner flag.

"Great stuff from everyone who shot for us and especially Pete in net," said O'Connell.

Despite the loss of Joly, O'Connell is still optimistic about his team.

"Man these guys just keep finding ways to win," said O'Connell. "I don't think Joly's injury will hurt us as much as it would other teams because I love our depth and the new dimension they bring."

The next game is tomorrow against Eureka at home 10:00 a.m. to continue their torrid streak.



art | Nick Koenig