

Swimmers triumph; underclassmen lead charge to state

(continued from page 8)

Massie. "I had been anticipating CoMo for weeks and working hard in practice. To look up at the board and see I had beaten my goal time by so much was an unbelievable feeling."

In the 100 free, Butters (48.02) qualified second and Zimmerman (49.43) fifth, dropping two seconds and getting his second individual state cut of the season.

Soon after, the 200 freestyle relay was ready to take to the blocks. No one was ready for what they were about to deliver.

The relay team of Butters, Zimmerman, Brown, and Scharff blew out the nearest competitor in the field by three and a half seconds, Scharff splitting 20.25, the fastest split in the field by a full second, as the squad broke the school record by 0.16 seconds, a record previously set at the 2018 MSH-SAA championships by a squad featuring both Butters and Zimmerman.

"It was great to see our team rally around one another's individual goals and then set their sights on our team goals, especially on the 200 freestyle meet and school record," said Ehret.

Scharff got out of the pool and immediately prepared for his 100 backstroke, which he swam roughly ten minutes after the record breaking relay. New event, same result. Scharff did not allow fatigue to ruin his specialty event as he crushed his previous season best by three seconds and broke another school record by 0.04 seconds. The record was previously set in 2017 by Barclay Dale. The time also broke the meet record by about 0.4 seconds and seeded Scharff first for finals.

Lu closed out the individual preliminaries by qualifying as the lone SLUH swimmer in the 100 breaststroke finals, squeezing into the championship final in seventh.

The 400 free relay of Hostetler, Santoni, Butters, and freshman Jason Cabra closed out the session with a 3:19.73, seeded second behind Park Hill South by 0.07 seconds.

"(The relay) was stressful," said Cabra, who was swimming on his first relay at a big invitational. "But it also felt great because I was representing SLUH the best I could."

After a short break between prelims and finals, the team returned to the pool to attempt to repeat last year's victory.

The 200 medley relay placed second like they did in prelims, shaving 0.04 seconds off their earlier time, and Santoni followed their effort up with an eleventh place finish in the 200 freestyle final.

In the 200 IM final, Mehmeti took tenth and then Scharff lowered his school record by 0.57 seconds, go-

ing 1:52.28, and took second place. Scharff was elated about his swim.

"I was shooting for breaking records, but I didn't think that I would be able to do it this early in the season," said Scharff. "It makes me really excited to see what's to come at state."

After the 200 IM, Butters and Zimmerman took sixth and eighth in the 50 freestyle final.

In the diving well, SLUH was just as dominant. Seniors Max and Gabe Manalang took fifth and sixth in the competition, with scores of 386.50 and 382.60, respectively. But it was sophomore Sebastian Lawrence who had another meet to remember. Lawrence led the talented field into the last dive before taking second to CBC's David Burke after the final dive. Lawrence's score of 455.10 placed him less than ten points behind Burke and just over 30 points off of the school record.

"For me personally, CoMo was a great experience. I hit all of my higher difficulty dives, which brought up my score a lot," said Lawrence.

"Breaking the school record in diving has been one of my goals for a while now and to think that I'm just 30 points from the record as a sophomore is crazy. It makes me excited to practice harder and hopefully one day be able to beat the record."

The dive team's combined 44 points was the highest of any of the Jr. Bills' events, relay or individual, a testament to the depth and talent of the dive squad.

"I couldn't be any happier with the performances of Gabe, Max and Sebastian," said head dive coach Brennan LeBrun. "Each has the potential to beat the other on any given day, and that is what makes this team so incredible. I think we learned a lot about our individual strengths and weaknesses at CoMo, but I was most impressed by their resilience and determination to continue to fight."

After the diving awards ceremony, Hostetler took eighth, Brown eleventh, and Massie sixteenth in the 100 butterfly. Then, Zimmerman charged fifth into the wall, and Butters took second in the 100 freestyle.

"The 100 free was not exactly the time that I was looking for, it felt strong, but I did not go out as fast as I should have," said Butters. "Although, I was very happy getting second place and score some great points for the team."

In the first heat of the 500 freestyle finals, Santoni (4:56.92) and Mehmeti (4:58.49) opened a wide lead and finished eleventh and twelfth, respectively.

"As soon as I dove into the water, my fears went away," said Santoni. "I felt I executed the race as I should've. Getting my best times and state cuts in the 200 and 500 was

extremely fulfilling."

Then, the race of the meet, even amongst multiple outstanding Jr. Bill swimmers, arrived. The 200 freestyle relay was ready to repeat their record again, and the crowd at Mizzou Natatorium was treated to one of the fastest times in state history.

Butters started off with a 21.82 flat start before exchanging to Zimmerman, who improved his prelims split by 0.3 seconds with a 21.65. Brown flung himself off the blocks with his blistering relay start en route to a 22.39. Then Scharff took away the breath of everyone on deck and in the stands. The team's final time of 1:25.68 took another second off the night before, the majority of the historically flat and fast course at Palatine was just enough above water that races were not cancelled. First up for SLUH on the rainy, wet, and muddy day was the varsity, who fought through the course, already torn to shreds

"It was mind boggling," said Scharff. "When I finished the last leg of the relay, I didn't look at my split, but at (the team's) end time. It was only when I looked back up at my teammates and the rest of the people in the stands that I realized what I did. I never thought I would be able to get a split like that."

"When Cooper split a 19.8, I was in shock," said Santoni. "The coolest part about it was the crowd's reaction. It was like the meet stopped for a second after everyone saw his split because they were so shocked. People from different teams were applauding him, which was really cool to see."

Scharff stood atop the medal podium with his teammates, and minutes later took second place in the 100 backstroke, 51.10. Scharff was named one of the Post Dispatch's athletes of the week for his achievements.

Lu closed out the meet with an eighth place finish in the 100 breaststroke, 1:03.96, and the 400 freestyle relay faded to fifth, 3:19.99.

The meet was sealed, and SLUH came atop victorious by 105 points over Park Hill South, a commanding win that establishes the Jr. Bills as the ones to beat come State in November.

"Everyone on the team had either a season best or lifetime best performance in at least one event," said Ehret. "It was really great to see our team rally around one another's individual goals and then set their sights on our team goals."

The AquaBills hope to ride their CoMo high into another win at the De Smet Invitational at St. Peter's Rec Plex Saturday evening. The JV squad will compete at the Lindbergh Invitational Saturday morning.

XC's top 14 powers through the mud at Palatine

PETER LABARGE AND MITCHELL BOOHER REPORTERS

Last week was a big one for the SLUH cross country team, as teams lined up for five races in two different meets on two different days in two different states. On Saturday, up in the foreign lands of Chicago, the top 14 trekked through three miles of pure mud at the Palatine Invitational, while the rest of the team raced in the heat of the day before on a brand new course at the Fox Invitational riddled with problems.

While some major meets in the Chicagoland area were cancelled due to courses completely submerged from a torrential downpour the night before, the majority of the historically flat and fast course at Palatine was just enough above water that races were not cancelled. First up for SLUH on the rainy, wet, and muddy day was the varsity, who fought through the course, already torn to shreds

first varsity medal for SLUH since 2014. Seniors Adam Mittendorf (44th, 16:16) and Lucas Rackers (57th 16:25) were next across the line, and sophomore Grant Brawley (87th, 16:42) ran a tough race to help close the gap. Junior Hayden Zenor (102nd, 16:57) moved up in the second mile to catch Dillon (107th, 17:00), thus sticking together as they have done all season. Coming back from a stress reaction in his fibula, junior Ryan Kramer (135th, 17:20) ran an impressive opening race to fill in for fellow junior Daniel Hogan and close out the varsity race for SLUH.

Already down to six guys after Kramer ran in varsity, the JV squad was not deterred by the mud bath that was the course by the time the gun went off, finishing seventh in a yet again loaded field of 27 runners.

"It was hard to get out fast because of the physicality," said sophomore Joe LaBarge. "I had to make moves

they took home fifth place in varsity, first in JV, and first in freshman.

With the top 14 in Palatine, JV guys, who became the V3, had a great opportunity to race in a different styled varsity race. Using his previous varsity racing experience, senior Mitchell Booher led SLUH out of the start with a strong 5:25 first mile, setting the tone for the Jr. Bills on the day. Booher (22nd, 18:08) kept up his high intensity throughout the race to finish first for SLUH. The duo of senior Sirius Song (28th, 18:33) and sophomore Graham Sanfillipo (29th, 18:39) were the next two finishers for SLUH, around 30 seconds behind Booher. Juniors Aiden Byrne (35th, 18:54) and Henry Bourneuf (37th, 18:59) closed out the top five scorers for SLUH giving them a team total of 121 points.

The final two varsity SLUH finishers were junior Noah April-Sokkol (43rd, 19:23) and freshman Carter



Lucas Rackers (left) and Noah Scott in the Palatine Invitational.

photo | Courtesy of Chris Mittendorf

by the first few races, to take 10th out of 30 teams in what is consistently the most competitive race of the year, post-season included.

In the first 300 meters, the wide open starting line goes extremely narrow and stays that way for the rest of the race. As a result, it gets physical, with runners throwing elbows, shoulders, and even occasionally spiking one another to get position.

"Moving through the pack, I got hit with a few elbows, and I actually got spiked across the front of my shin," said senior Peter Dillon. "The first mile was pretty crowded, but a lot of guys faded and I got more space to work after about a mile or so."

Due to the abnormally large amount of mud—there was even a pit of water about a foot deep right in the middle of the course—acceleration was key. Whenever there was a corner, working through the mud to explode out of the turn was a must in order to move in the race. With virtually no hills, mud was the only factor, and with every stride, it slowed down the race and with that the XC Bills.

Senior Noah Scott (26th, 15:58) showed that the conditions weren't all consuming, as he brought home the

through the middle mile to get back where I wanted to be."

Senior Joe Callahan (23rd, 17:01) led the underclassmen with a strong first mile and a good finish, but he just missed out on a medal. Sophomore Baker Pashea (33rd, 17:12) was able to run through the water and mud to clock a personal record in the 5K (converted) LaBarge (52nd, 17:41) was also able to tough out the conditions and PR. Freshman Wyatt Seal (72nd, 17:56) continued to have a great rookie season with a strong effort, and sophomore Justin Glass (83rd, 18:03) battled to close out the scoring five. Freshman Tim Greiner (113th, 18:23) added a third PR on the day to close out the meet for the XC. Bills.

While the top 14 were in Chicago, the rest of the SLUH team got the chance to race on a flat course at the Ed White Invitational. Despite the historically fast times of the course, many conditions did not play out well for the team. Race time temperatures were around 90 degrees, cars were parked on the course, and the varsity team had very little time to learn the completely redesigned course. However, these poor conditions were no issue for the Jr. Bills as

Low (54th, 20:06) who got great opportunities to race in a different and more competitive type of race.

"Running in a varsity race was a lot more intense in terms of speed and times," said Sanfillipo. "Even though I wasn't able to do better, it makes me feel confident that I can be at the top half of a varsity race at sophomore year, especially in a chaotic course like Fox was that day."

Although they did not get off to a quick start, the JV race exemplified SLUH's depth. Through the first mile, the team was farther back than they hoped to be, trailing Marquette for the lead. However, led by junior Sandy Legrand's first place finish, the team worked itself back up to a 22-point victory.

After Legrand's 18:24 finish, sophomore Francis Alford came roaring in to finish in second. Senior Peter LaBarge (6th) finished a few seconds later as the third man for SLUH, followed by sophomores Tad Gray (13th) and Sean Kellogg (14th) wrapping up the team's top five and giving them a total of 36 points.

"Coming into the race, Coach Porter said to get out fast, and I think I did that,"

continued on page 11

AMDG

Football will be looking for consistency, set to face Vianney tonight

(continued from page 9)

The tough circumstances didn't stop them from fighting though, as pressure from a blitz smothered the quarterback on their first play back on the field. SLUH completed the goal line stand following the initial holdup, and held CBC to a field goal. The kick was good, and the score was 24-7 with CBC in the lead.

With 10:36 left in the second quarter, SLUH returned the kickoff and got ready to drive downfield. SLUH had the ball for about two minutes, and was unable to produce much yardage, as passes were batted away by the CBC secondary and the running game was stopped again and again near the line of scrimmage.

SLUH punted with about 8:00 left in the second quarter, and once again their injury-ridden defense gave up another score within seconds of the first snap. They bit on a play action fake, and it was too late for the strong and free safeties to recover and stop a 40-yard fly route down the sideline to the end zone. The score was 31-7, and SLUH couldn't find a solid footing for their offense or defense.

With 6:22 left in the half, SLUH started their next drive. Again, trying to march downfield behind Kellen Porter and the offensive line, SLUH was unable to get a rhythm going. This was also due to the large number of penalties on SLUH's offensive line and playmakers. With the yellow flags flying frequently, SLUH found themselves at a tough third and 25.

After Hannah completed a short 6-yard pass, SLUH elected to punt, which was returned to about the 43-yard line, giving CBC great field position with just under 5:00 left in the first half. As CBC made their way downfield, SLUH continued to play with physicality, but couldn't get crucial stops on third and second down. On an important third-down conversion, SLUH was backed up into

their red zone, and were moved even further back after a tough holding call.

SLUH's defense played aggressively and tried to hold CBC to a field goal, but was unable to stop CBC, as a receiver cut quickly and found the corner of the end zone for another six points. The extra point sailed onto Oakland, and the blowout continued with a score of 38-7.

"I remember Coach Cruz talking about that even though through any kind of tough situation that most football teams experience, we're all great friends and we stick together through everything," said linebacker Dashiell Wuller. "We've got



Ike Thompson against CBC.

photo | John Hilker

a lot of team chemistry. It gives us a good foundation for us to learn and improve and see the team as a whole instead of thinking of the individual."

Following an unreturnable kick, SLUH's offense stepped onto the field for their last drive in the first half. The first two plays of the drive looked promising with two good run plays right off the bat. On second and seven, Brendan Hannah faked a pitch to sophomore Isaac Thompson, which gave Kellen Porter leeway to power up the field for a gain

of about 15 yards.

The running game started to show consistency, mixing up outside runs and plays up the middle. However, following suit of their previous drives, SLUH failed to get their passing game going. But, on a big third down and five, a pass interference was called against CBC, moving the Bills up to the 44-yard line.

After a quick screen pass, the flags flew again and CBC was penalized for offsides. Hannah dropped back into the shotgun, trying to get a big pass to put some points before time expired, but was forced to scramble backward, leading to a huge 20-yard loss and

breath.

"I was just hyperventilating pretty bad and needed oxygen," said Thompson. "It was pretty scary, but I should be fine for next week. I dropped in and out of consciousness like ten times, so yeah it was pretty scary."

SLUH still had fight left despite the dire circumstances. They stopped CBC on the next drive defensively, and strung together five first downs offensively, but it still was not enough to get the Jr. Bills back in the game. Their 11-play drive was fruitless on the scoreboard, and SLUH appeared deflated and exhausted for the rest of the game.

CBC drove from their 5-yard line to the end zone, utilizing an explosive offense. Their running back rushed for 66 yards, 54 of which came from only two plays, the first being a 24-yard rush up the gut and the second, a 30-yard draw play that opened up with stellar blocking from the CBC offensive line. The Cadets capped off the drive with a direct snap to their quarterback, who waltzed into the end zone untouched for the final score of the game. With the closing drive, CBC shut down any opportunity for SLUH to make a comeback as the score read 45-14.

SLUH's season has been one of ups and downs, and now their focus is to find consistency in the chaos.

"Every week it's the same thing. We have to find a way to be consistent," said Jones. "We are on a rollercoaster ride, one game we play good, the next not so good. We have a young team, we do have a lot of seniors on the team, but now we have a lot of underclassmen who have to learn how to play varsity football. I think we're getting better every week, but we need to learn how to be consistently better every week."

SLUH faces MCC rival Vianney tonight at Vianney at 7:00.

a fourth and 25 for the Jr. Bills.

After a punt from Ridgeway, CBC set up with 30 seconds to go. On the first play, the crowd was immediately silenced, as SLUH's man to man coverage almost gave up what would have been a 76-yard passing touchdown. To end the half, SLUH's defense gave up six yards on a quarterback option.

The Jr. Bills took a devastating blow to start the second half, as Thompson was taken out of the game when he was unable to

Soccer looking for more scoring in the flow

(continued from page 8)

on creating more offense.

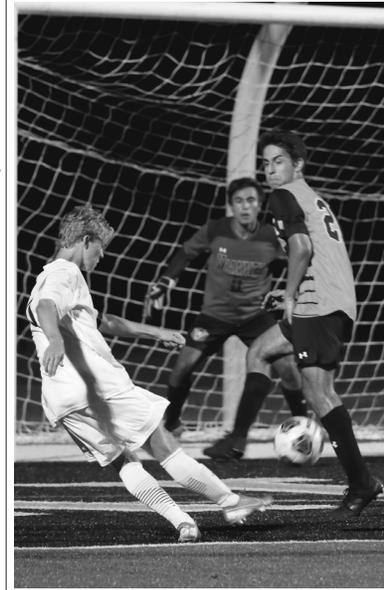
McCullar started in goal in the second half, and after another close battle of long balls back and forth, junior Adam Wolfe managed to score SLUH's only goal, in the 51st minute off of a free kick. SLUH preserved their lead and closed out the game 1-0.

"Parkway South was admittedly not our best game," said Mungenast. "We had issues getting back on defense and our ball move-

"One of the things I think we need to improve upon is scoring in the flow and creating more possession and not relying on free kicks," said O'Connell.

The Jr. Bills can't rely on the other team's mistakes and lucky opportunities in close games.

"The fact that we are able to win some of these games of late is indicative of our ability to learn from earlier mistakes in the year.



Charles Neuwirth (left) vs. Vianney.

photo | Miguel Cadiz

ment wasn't as good as the previous games. That being said, we kept pressuring them by sending long balls in, and eventually we got a free kick at the top of the box which Adam Wolfe took very smartly."

SLUH is now focusing

XC's JV depth shines at Fox Invitational

(continued from page 10)

said Legrand. "I think this helped pull some of my teammates into the front few packs which helped us get some much needed points."

The freshman team followed in the footsteps of varsity and junior varsity, running a strong, competitive race en route to a first place team finish and an astounding 21 points. Like they have done so well throughout the season, the freshmen packed up well, helping each other through the race before the pack began to separate near the end. The leaders of the pack were Nolan Meara (3rd), Will Riggan (4th), and Tyler Barks (5th) who never lost sight of each other all race. Nicholas Puschke (7th) and Lucas Rammacher (9th) rounded out the top five for the freshman to complete their first place win by a margin of 62

points.

As October begins, racing weather is finally beginning to roll in just in time for the Parkway West Invitational tomorrow. Temperatures will not rise above the mid 70s, and that means nothing if not fast times. With four races instead of three (Varsity, JV, sophomore, freshman), SLUH looks to show their depth and win it outright.

"If we run our race, no one can beat us," said head coach Joe Porter. "We're really fit, and if we run confident in our abilities, we can win this thing at every level."

With MCC's next Thursday, the Jr. Bills look to gain momentum into the postseason and keep it rolling all the way to the state meet.

Underclassmen Briefs

JV Soccer (7-0-2)

9/30-Liberty
(CYC Tournament)
SLUH 3 0 3
Liberty 0 1 1
Goals: Dominic Ponciroli(2),
Brendan Byrne
10/1-Fox
(CYC tournament)
SLUH 3 5 8
Fox 0 0 0
Goals: Will Grzesiowski, Jack
Rudder, Dominic Ponciroli,
Camilo Hernandez (3), Kellen
Hamilton, Michael Hiblovic

B Soccer (6-5-1)

9/26-Vianney
SLUH 0 0 0
Vianney 0 1 1
9/30-Mehlville
SLUH 0 2 2
Mehlville 0 1 1
Goals: Tim Thouvenot,
Johnnie Ferrara
10/1-Marquette
SLUH 2 0 2
Marquette 0 1 1
Goals: Johnnie Ferrara, Own
Goal

C Soccer (11-0-2)

9/26-Bayless
SLUH 3 0 3
Bayless 0 0 0
Goals: Joseph Olascoaga (2),
Kevin Cooney
9/30-Mehlville
SLUH 5 3 8
Mehlville 0 0 0
Goals: Kevin Cooney, David
Garcia, Keller Anderson, Jack
Heater, Michael Thang, Joseph
Olascoaga, Tommy Reh,
Miguel Ituarte
10/1-Marquette
SLUH 1 0 1
Marquette 0 0 0
Goals: Kevin Cooney

B Football (1-4)

9/30-CBC
SLUH 8 14 0 7 29
CBC 6 6 13 7 32
Louis Kertz: 2 rushing TD's
Zac Ortwerth: 1 receiving TD,
3 sacks

-compiled by Louis Cornett