



MP

Seniors lead football to dominant win against Vashon

BY BLAKE OBERT
SPORTS EDITOR

The seniors of the Jr. Bill football team may have played their last game on home turf last Friday under the lights against Vashon. It was evident that they were aware of their circumstances, as the seniors put on a show in their last regular season game, blowing Vashon out in a lopsided 51-6 victory to finish their regular season with a record of 5-4.

SLUH's offense had a field day, racking up 263 total yards—188 of them on the ground and 75 of them through the air—scoring six touchdowns, and giving up no turnovers. Despite the team's poor third down conversion rate, which was 2 for 7 on the game, they were still able to generate offense effortlessly.

The Jr. Bills scored all of their points before the first half ended, and were able to call in the second stringers by the third quarter.

"Everything is about execution," said head coach Mike Jones. "When we are able to block the guys in front of us, that gives the quarterback time to throw the ball. We also have good skill guys and when they had opportunities to make plays, they made plays."

Senior running back Kellen Porter rushed for four touchdowns and added a receiving touchdown, showcasing how much of an offensive asset he has been to the squad. Porter has 18 total touchdowns this season, and has rushed for 883 yards. He has totaled 2,293 all-purpose yards and 24 touchdowns.

"Freshmen year we won six games and got to the second round of playoffs. We were one of the best in the area. Then we

became one of the worst teams in the area," said Porter. "Now we are a force to be reckoned with, and we've made tremendous strides towards bringing back the old SLUH (football team). I cannot stress how much this team has worked hard and clawed since the summer."

Senior quarterback Brendan Hannah also contributed to the win, rushing and passing for a touchdown, as well as contributing 93 total yards to the effort. Hannah, along with Porter, has been a driving force on the offense this season with 14 touchdowns, 1,053 passing yards, and 232 rushing yards on the season. He hasn't played quarterback though. Throughout his career he's also played tight end, wide receiver, outside linebacker, and strong safety. Even though he has rarely been seen on defense this year, he has amassed 45 tackles and one interception in his career.

Both Hannah and Porter have been on varsity since sophomore year, and will be missed next season.

SLUH's defense also had an amazing night, notching a pick-six, allowing under 100 total yards from Vashon's offense, and yielding just one touchdown, which came after the starters had left the field.

The senior linebacker duo of Anthony Bohannon and Dashiell Wuller tore up the field, picking up a total of 6 tackles and 10 assists in the first half alone. Wuller also picked off a pass in the end zone for SLUH's fifth touchdown of the night.

Throughout the past two seasons the duo has been quintessential to the defense. This year they stepped up even more, and without Sidq Cherry, the third member of the starting linebacker core and another

huge member of the defensive unit for the past two years, they've had more responsibility in carrying the load. Wuller made 111 tackles, 5 sacks, and 3 forced fumbles in the past two seasons. Bohannon has had 213 tackles and 6 sacks; the 111 tackles he's had this season is the second most in the state.

"The team meant a lot to me, especially this year, since



Senior Brendan Hannah against Vashon. photo | John Hillker

we all became closer as brothers," said Bohannon. "I found a group of guys who I know will always have my back."

"Football is one of the few outlets left that teaches the vital life lesson of toughness and durability," said Wuller. "Our guys this year really stood up to this challenge. Signing up and putting in all the work over the summer that we did to play for a team that was 1-9 must've been hard for them to do, but they did it. That's what makes this team so special: the persistence. I

never see our guys roll over, and that's what makes me so proud to call them teammates."

Senior Luke Schuermann, who plays both offense and defense, also got his name in the stat book against Vashon with 25 receiving yards, a tackle, three assists, and a sack. Schuermann, as a tight end and defensive end, has been a workhorse for the Jr. Bills the past two sea-

son. "I don't even know if Luke has been fully healthy all year, but he never complains and never asks for a play off. We were getting smoked by De Smet earlier this year and I told him, 'it would be coaching malpractice if I left you in', and he started screaming at me because he kept saying 'I want to finish my fight'. When he does stuff like that you can't help but want to fight with him too."

Senior Joey Lansing, a captain and essential member of the offensive line, played his 30th consecutive game for the Jr. Bills against Vashon, starting his last regular season game after not missing a single one since his first start sophomore year. His presence has been cherished and his shoes are going to be, literally and figuratively, hard to fill next season.

"We call Joe the director of football operations, we don't even call him a captain," said Cruz. "There is nobody who embodies SLUH football like Joey Lansing. He might as well be on the staff. He shows younger guys how to do things, he makes adjustments, and when we have questions about someone on the other team, we ask Joey because he knows everybody. There is no way to quantify what he's meant to this team."

"Obviously my first two years with coach Jones was a bit of a struggle. We didn't really have an identity," said Lansing. "Now as I am a senior, you can kind of see how our senior class got the program back on its feet. We take a lot of pride in that. We didn't have much to begin with, but now we're here. There's still a lot more work to be done, starting with CBC Friday."

SLUH plays their first game of the playoffs tonight against CBC at CBC at 7:00.

XC dominates Districts despite rain

BY MITCHELL BOOHER AND
PETER LABARGE
STAFF

High winds, torrential rains, cold temperatures, and looming flash floods set the scene in Jackson, Mo. last Saturday at the Cross Country District One championship. The Jr. Bills were not shaken by these issues, battling through the rain and the mud on their way to a first place finish, with all seven runners finishing in the top 10. The Jr. Bills utterly dominated the race, and qualified for this weekend's Sectionals.

On a course that could only be described as a series of ravines with water as much as four inches deep with an immeasurable amount of mud connecting them, the Jr. Bills took charge of the race very quickly. Since the starting line had been reduced to a mud flat, the terrain took some getting used to.

Once they adjusted, all seven SLUH runners quickly took hold of the race. During the first mile, the entire team was a part of the first two packs, and at one mile, only three seconds separated SLUH's first three runners from its seventh one.

"I feel like packing up is what allowed us to be so dominant on Saturday," said senior Peter Dillon. "We all work well together and are able to push each other enough to keep the pace hot."

In the middle mile, two distinct packs formed, with seniors Lucas Rackers, Noah Scott, and Adam Mittendorf creating a menacing front three for the three non-SLUH runners to run behind, and senior Joe Callahan, junior Ryan Kramer, sophomore Grant Brawley, and Dillon leading the chase pack, once again employing team racing to dominate their opponents.

"Having us four in the chase pack probably intimidated the other runners," said Brawley. "They see four runners that are working together and helping each other to race better and push through the tough conditions."

As the rain intensified, the race only got better and better for SLUH. Through two miles, all seven runners were placed in the top 14, and it even got better from there. In the last mile Rackers, Scott, and Mittendorf pushed the pace to leave all but one runner from Poplar Bluff behind. The chase pack became the four remaining SLUH runners as they closed in on less than a

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Swim finishes undefeated in dual meets; heads to MICDS Invite

BY NICHOLAS DALAVIRAS AND
JACK FIGGE
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

An elated atmosphere filled the especially humid pool deck of Forest Park Community College after St. Louis U. High beat Chaminade this past Monday, Oct. 28 to conclude an undefeated dual meet season for the Swim and Dive Team. Yet, among the SLUH swimmers and coaches, there was a somewhat somber tone as the Monday meet also served as Senior Night, the final home meet for the Class of 2020, who finished off their four years of swimming with a perfect 40-0 dual meet record.

Going into the meet, Chaminade, with a record of 11-0, was seen as the toughest MCC opponent that SLUH would face this season.

"Chaminade has gotten better every year," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "They are probably our closest rival in the MCC, so it was good to see what they had and good to see what

we have."

Chaminade showed its skill from the start as the Red Devils won the 200 medley relay, beating the Jr. Bills team in a close finish by 0.42 second.

The 200-yard freestyle continued the trend of Chaminade out-touching SLUH at the wall as senior Patrick Moehn was barely beat by a Chaminade swimmer, taking third by 0.32 seconds. In the 100 freestyle however, junior Eli Butters finished second by just 0.13 seconds behind the Chaminade swimmer and Duke commit Andrew O'Brien.

The Jr. Bills still held control of the meet despite the close losses. Anchored by a pair of wins by both senior captain Sean Santoni in the 200 and 500 freestyles and sophomore Cooper Scharff in the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke, SLUH was able to tame Chaminade and pull out the win, 120-65.

The win capped off the team's dual meet season and secured the team's fifth straight undefeated season.

After the meet, the eleven seniors were honored in a ceremony in which they ran through a tunnel made up of their teammates and then dove off the diving board to make their "final swims" in the waters of Forest Park Community College.

"Senior Night felt sentimental," said senior captain Andrew Zimmerman. "However, it feels great to say I am undefeated in all my dual meets with this team. This last dual meet win was a fitting end to our class's dual meet career at SLUH."

The eleven seniors have

proved to be an instrumental part of the SLUH swim team, making up nearly half of the varsity team, providing moral support to underclassmen, and setting a moral code for the team.

"They have been a pretty core group," said Ehret. "They bring a lot of experience, a lot of fun, and they try not to take themselves too seriously."

But Ehret remains hopeful. "Losing eleven will be hard," said Ehret. "But I know people will step up and fill the gaps."

However, the seniors' SLUH swimming and diving

careers aren't over just yet. They still have three meets remaining: the MICDS Invite, the MCC Conference Championship, and State.

SLUH will participate in the first of those, the MICDS Invite, this afternoon, where many varsity swimmers hope to see significant time drops and possibly qualify for State.

"At MICDS, I hope that we have a lot of good, fast times," said Ehret. "A lot of kids are resting for that, trying to get best times to qualify for State."



art | Bob Devoll

AMDG

Soccer prepares for District semis showdown vs De Smet after 1-1 week

JIMMY STANLEY AND
MICHAEL TROWER
SPORTS EDITOR, STAFF

In their last two games before districts, SLUH soccer split with a win on Senior Night against St. Dominic and a loss to Fort Zumwalt West to finish the regular season 16-5-1. They continue their season in a do-or-die district semifinal against rival De Smet on Tuesday.

Last Thursday, SLUH faced St. Dominic Catholic High School. Seniors Juan Hernandez, Ryan Taaffe, Amar Mujezinovic, Charles Neuwirth, Ryan Klostermann, Maks Juric, Ben Witte, Kevin Stein, John Marshall, and Adam Boll all got the start on their Senior Night.

"(The game felt) not much different besides the emotion at the beginning with the parents and ceremony," said Neuwirth. "After that it felt like just an-

other game."

After St. Dominic scored an early goal, SLUH kept on with pressure with multiple scoring opportunities, but didn't score their first goal until the last minute on another Neuwirth penalty kick that tied the game at 1-1.

"We wanted to try and keep the ball in the final third and get some shots on goal because we were pretty fortunate to be tied going into half," said Neuwirth.

In the second half, the game was back and forth through the midfield, with SLUH unable to capitalize. The game was a draw until the 68th minute, when junior Tilahun Murphy scored off of the goalie's hands. Murphy celebrated with a back flip, and SLUH won 2-1 on Senior Night.

"This group has been really enjoyable to coach and be with," said head coach Bob O'Connell. "Cer-

tainly a unique group where they play more for each other rather than individually for their own selves."

In soccer's last game of the regular season, they travelled to Fort Zumwalt West for their final test before districts.

The game started slow as both teams were getting a feel for each other until the 18th minute, when SLUH rattled off multiple shots before the Fort Zumwalt West goaltender covered the ball, ceasing the chaos. SLUH kept on the heat when Neuwirth roped a free kick off the crossbar in the 31st minute. Only a few minutes later, in the 36th minute, SLUH scored on a corner kick, but was ruled offside by the line judge. Before any other opportunities could be generated, the clock hit zero and the score was 0-0 at halftime.

"Our forwards had a hard time getting the ball on occasion," said Andy Mujezinovic. "And when we do it's not bouncing our way or there's something that brings it back."

The second half was a stalemate, and SLUH's offense wasn't able to do anything. The lack of ability to finish plagued the offense for the remainder of the game. The game looked like it was going to overtime, but with only 30 seconds left, SLUH was caught napping and the Fort Zumwalt West forward got a breakaway from a long ball and finished into the lower corner past senior Jake McCullar for a 1-0 SLUH loss.

"The loss stinks, but the important thing is that nobody got hurt for districts," said Klostermann. "We feel confident in our ability to go far."

"We've already forgotten about it," said Amar Mujezinovic. "We've been working on some things in practice that should really help us for the next week."

"Our only goal this season is to win," said Randrianasolo. "I don't care who scores, as long as we get it done."

SLUH begins their journey through districts at De Smet in the semifinals. De Smet has a very similar record to SLUH as they sit at 12-4-1. In addition, they have beaten SLUH in both matchups this season by a score of 3-0 each time. The game plan and preparation are very important for a team that has been dismantled in games against the Spartans.

"Going up against (De Smet), we have been working on increasing our speed of play and our fitness," said O'Connell. "Trying to deal with their athleticism will be a challenge in the next week, but we'll be ready."

The other two teams within SLUH's district are Chaminade and Ritenour, where they are playing against each other. This district is considered the most difficult in St. Louis, as Chaminade, De Smet, and SLUH are all top ten teams this year. SLUH is set to play against De Smet next Tuesday at 6:30 pm, on D-block's turf.

Manager Spotlight: Michael Trower, Varsity Football



Favorite sport to watch:

College Basketball

Defining role as manager:

Setting up end zone

camera, taking stats

Favorite moment as a part of

SLUH football:

Isaac Thompson's game

winning TD vs Battle

Favorite part as manager:

Coach-player interactions,

tossing the football

Underclassman Briefs

JV Soccer (10-5-3)	<u>10/29-Vianney</u>		
<u>10/28-Fort Zumwalt-</u>	(CBC Tournament)		
<u>West</u>	SLUH	0 0 0	
SLUH	2 0 2	Vianney	1 0 1
FZW	0 0 0	C Soccer (21-0-2)	
Goals: Jack Rudder,	<u>10/28-De Smet</u>		
Michael Hiblovic	(SLL Tournament)		
	SLUH	0 2 2	
B Soccer (13-7-1)	De Smet	0 0 0	
<u>10/28-CBC</u>	Goals: Joseph Olascoaga, Miguel Ituarte		
(CBC Tournament)			
SLUH	3 1 4		
CBC	0 1 1		
	—compiled by Louis Cornett		
Goals: Caleb Forthaus,			
Ben Ridgway, Johnnie Ferrara, Jude Fucetola			



art | Nick Koenig

Seniors shine in varsity and JV races

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Team All-Conference spot to kilometer to go, and with that, it not only ensured that the one to five gap was small, but that the one to seven gap, the gap between the entire team, was very small.

Closing in on the final stretch, with one turn to go, Rackers went with the runner from Poplar Bluff to go for the win. The conditions, however, had different plans for Rackers. Due to the extreme amounts of mud and the girls' race having already torn up what little stable ground was left, instead of accelerating out of the turn for the win, Rackers slipped on the mud and hit the ground.

"Just as (the finish) came into view, I took a turn a little tight and wiped out," said Rackers. "I'm not really mad about getting second because we got our job done as a team."

He hopped right back up from his unfortunate tumble and still secured second place overall. Rackers (second, 17:20) out-kicked Scott (third, 17:21), with Mittendorf (fourth, 17:24) closing to end the first continuous stretch of Jr. Billikens. After two non-SLUH finishers, the last four spots in the top 10 were all wearing the blue and white fleur de lis. Kramer (seventh, 17:46) snagged the last First

petitors were traveling down to Jackson, a small group of SLUH runners, primarily seniors, laced up the spikes to compete in the Clayton Invitational. This fast course has previously proved successful for many seniors looking for a final chance to medal and/or PR, and last Friday proved no exception.

In the varsity race, juniors Hayden Zenor and Daniel Hogan jumped out early towards the front of the pack, and stayed in the front of the race the whole way. However, Hogan (third, 17:31) gradually pulled away from Zenor as the race continued and earned a podium spot in the process. Senior Sirius Song, despite a slower start, neared Zenor by the end of the race, but Zenor (fifth, 17:44) held his place over Song (sixth, 17:47).

Senior Mitchell Booher (14th, 18:13) had a strong senior day as the four man. In a battle in the final kick, sophomore Graham Sanfilippo (22nd, 18:27) edged out senior Peter LaBarge (23rd, 18:27) to give SLUH a total of six medals in the race. Senior Matt Friedrichs (44th, 19:14) wrapped up the varsity for SLUH, giving the team a total of 47 points to beat second place Clayton's 63 points.

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