

## XC demonstrates depth at sectionals; eyes podium at state



Senior Lucas Rackers (1955) at sectionals.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

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On a brisk Saturday morning at Parkway Central, the XC team did what it has done all year: win. With a strong performance in Sectionals, the Jr. Bills took a 17-point victory over second place Kirkwood and qualified for State.

On a course with a very short start that gets narrow quickly, the Jr. Bills knew they would have to get out fast to put themselves in a position to compete. When the gun went off, the Jr. Bills raced with that exact mindset, with all seven of their runners getting out in potential medal positions.

Rackers led the way from the start for SLUH, and by the mile mark, was sitting in an impressive second place. The rest of the team packed well to lead each other through the race. At seventh, eighth, and ninth at the first mile mark, seniors Noah Scott and Adam Mittendorf and sophomore Grant Brawley used their pack to work through tough moments of the race.

"I think being in a group throughout the race really helps push each other to run better," said Brawley. "Having my teammates, the guys I have trained with all season, by my side through the race gave me confidence that we could work through the race together."

In the middle mile, Rackers began to make moves, pulling up to first at the second

mile mark. The second SLUH pack continued to move forward, but with Scott starting to fade, seniors Joe Callahan and Peter Dillon began to work up in the race. By the second mile mark, Callahan had worked himself up to 13th place, eyeing the SLUH pack just seconds in front of him.

"Even though I got out slow because of the narrow start, I finished right where I wanted to be because I had my eyes on my teammates for the entire race and I was able to roll the downhill well," said Callahan.

As the race continued to develop in the final mile, the Jr. Bills continued to stay on the attack. In the front of the race, the tight pack of three runners, including Rackers, pulled away from the rest of the runners. Near the end of the race, Rackers unfortunately began to cramp and fell back to third among the front of the pack, where he finished in 16:21.

"I think that the race Saturday showed that we are still extremely good despite not always performing our best," said Rackers. "I had hoped to be able to possibly pull away with the win but it just turned out to not be my day."

Meanwhile, the second to fifth Jr. Bill runners worked with each other to solidify strong finishes in the last mile. Mittendorf (10th, 16:45) led the SLUH pack across the line followed by Brawley (11th, 16:46) and Callahan (12th, 16:46) who came in side by side with Brawley barely pulling ahead. Junior Ryan Kramer (14th, 16:48), who had been in the top 15 for most of the race, finished a few seconds behind

Callahan to wrap up the scoring five for SLUH.

"At the end, I tried to make a move and stay with Grant and I did until the last 200 where Joe and Grant out-kicked me," said Kramer. "But I think the packs throughout the race were very strong and we had a great day as a team just trying to do what we've been doing and run as a team."

Dillon (18th, 16:58) worked his way up throughout the race to a strong position as the sixth SLUH finisher, and Scott (26th, 17:09) despite struggling, finished as a medalist, solidifying SLUH's strong seven-medal performance.

Overall, SLUH wrapped up the day with a team victory of 46 points, 17 points better than second place Kirkwood, advancing themselves to State.

"The goal for Sectionals was to advance," said head coach Joe Porter. "It's mission accomplished. We were very happy that the group was able to run so well together."

After 12 grueling weeks of grinding, with ups and downs, injuries and returns, huge wins and devastating losses, there is one more race to be run. It all comes down to State this weekend in Columbia. In their first time ever running Gans Creek Course, the new State course, the Jr. Bills look to keep up the momentum they have built over the last few weeks. They will continue to focus on themselves this weekend, using their confidence in the work they have put in all season. On Saturday, at 12:05, they aim to finish strong, to empty the tank, and leave it all on the line at State.

the Red Devils, but afterwards the referees concurred that senior goalie Cole Jansky had stopped the puck from crossing the plane.

After the initial offensive push by Chaminade, play between both teams evened out. SLUH's offense was getting into the Red Devils' zone, yet couldn't find the back of the net. As the game increased in competition, it got stingier, with an altercation between two teams and some hard hits popping up, which was capped off by Hazelton leveling a Chaminade player with ten minutes left in the first.

Later in the first, SLUH received a power play, but they weren't able to convert. However, they showed flashes of what was coming in the later periods with good puck

movement and shots on goal.

The first ended scoreless with SLUH having 11 shots on goal while Chaminade only had eight.

The second period opened with sloppy play from the defense. Chaminade started with another offensive push. Jansky was caught outside the goal, leaving the net wide open, but SLUH managed to send the puck the other way. That was the closest Chaminade came to scoring in the period, as the defense stiffened after that.

After that early minute debacle, SLUH was able to get into a rhythm again. The offense continued to pester the Red Devils' defense with a flurry of shots throughout the second, including a shot hitting the post.

## Soccer season cut short in overtime loss in districts versus De Smet

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that initial shock, the team bounced back with intensity, but also keeping our cool and not freaking out."

Just a minute after De Smet's goal, Murphy played a cross-field through ball to winger Ryan Klostermann, who shimmed the outside defender with a tight cut towards the goal line and crossed with his left to sophomore Tyler Van Bree, who was in perfect position to place a shot in the lower right corner for a 1-1 tie with 26 minutes left in the half.

"We attacked from out wide more in the second half and it brought a lot of success," said senior Ryan Klostermann. "We also got in the box and finished our chances. Tyler and Charles had great finishes."

Physical play continued as both teams showed that they were willing to sacrifice their bodies. Two De Smet players were carted off the field and junior Adam Wolfe limped his way

of the game. They were tired and we could tell."

With 14 minutes left, Herrmann came up big with a diving save on a shot from the top of the 18-yard box, preserving the 1-1 tie.

Eight minutes passed before senior Andy Mujezovic cut across the field on De Smet's half and created a passing chain that went from Marshall to senior Maks Juric on the sideline. Juric crossed to Neuwrth, who roofed it in for a 2-1 SLUH lead with only six minutes to go.

"Our response was great after their goal," said O'Connell. "The game settled down a little and both teams were fighting. The goal to put us up 2-1 was really a special moment."

After Neuwrth was forced to exit the game after a yellow card, De Smet, desperate for a chance with only four minutes left, got rewarded with their relentlessness when they drew a foul inside the box for a penalty kick opportunity. The forward struck in the

scored is the winner and the game ends.

Overtime was a back-and-forth affair with equal opportunities. Each team had a corner kick and three shots. Herrmann was particularly solid on a point blank volley five minutes in for his tenth save of the game, his season high.

De Smet got their best opportunity on a push from the De Smet forward that brought both Murphy and Herrmann away from the net. The ball bounced out to an eager De Smet midfielder, who placed the ball between the stretched out Herrmann and Joly for the game-winning goal. SLUH lost 3-2 in a heartbreaker.

"It's tough that this was the way that game had to end," said O'Connell. "Watching the goal, it was a slip and easy mistake. We absolutely could've won the game and the kids were gutted afterwards. I could not be more proud of the effort, but there's nothing much you can do. It was a great high school soccer game



Senior Maks Juric (left) and Petra Randrianasolo (right) versus De Smet.

photo | Jonel Olar

to the sideline, all within a ten minute stretch. SLUH got a free kick with 17 minutes left where they kicked a quick, bouncing shot into the goalkeeper's hands. The score remained tied.

"The game had physical written all over it," said senior John Marshall. "Everyone took a few hits during the game and everyone gave a few hits as well. I think you could tell how far we had come towards the end

lower left corner, opposite of what Herrmann guessed, and the game was tied 2-2 and remained that way until overtime."

"The penalty was a little unlucky for our point of view," said O'Connell. "That being said, we did not do a good job closing those last five minutes."

The rules for overtime in districts is two 15-minute halves and a golden goal format, where the first goal

that we unfortunately lost."

Sometimes the district lines up with good teams and only one can make it past. In SLUH's case, they ran into one of Missouri's top teams for their first game, despite having an incredible record. Some believe that if SLUH were in any other district, they would've advanced, but that is only speculation. De Smet moved on to play Chaminade in tonight's district final.

## Hockey starts defense of state with 3-1 win against Chaminade

JULIEN JENSEN  
REPORTER

SLUH opened the 2019-20 hockey season on Monday, Nov. 4 against MCC rival Chaminade with a 3-1 victory.

After a disappointing quarterfinal loss to Vianney in the Top Hat Tournament, SLUH was looking to open the season with a win against a good Chaminade team.

"We knew the game would not be easy. We had to come out prepared and ready to fight," said senior Patrick Simoncic.

Chaminade opened the game strong with a shot right off the drop. It missed but Chaminade was able to ring off a chorus of shots. With 14 minutes left in the first, senior Jack Hazelton lost his footing, leading to a apparent goal for

the Red Devils, but afterwards the referees concurred that senior goalie Cole Jansky had stopped the puck from crossing the plane.

After the initial offensive push by Chaminade, play between both teams evened out. SLUH's offense was getting into the Red Devils' zone, yet couldn't find the back of the net. As the game increased in competition, it got stingier, with an altercation between two teams and some hard hits popping up, which was capped off by Hazelton leveling a Chaminade player with ten minutes left in the first.

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After that early minute debacle, SLUH was able to get into a rhythm again. The offense continued to pester the Red Devils' defense with a flurry of shots throughout the second, including a shot hitting the post.

Finally, with three minutes left in the second, the Jr. Bills struck. In a wild sequence of events, the Chaminade goalie was forced out of the net. Junior Gus Heithaus pounced on the opportunity, zinging the puck to sophomore Zack Petlansky, whose goal gave SLUH a 1-0 lead with 2:38 left in the second.

"We settled down into the game," said Simoncic. "Our younger guys were able to create some offense, which created momentum for the rest of the team to build off of."

The second ended with SLUH still on top 1-0, with 19 shots on goal.

The game remained hard fought in the third, with Chaminade not waving the towel and SLUH refusing to give up the lead. Neither team

was able to gain any momentum for the first half of the third. Then, the Jr. Bills struck again.

With 8:58 left in the game, the tandem of Heithaus and Petlansky converted another goal. Petlansky got the puck and dishd it to Heithaus at the top of the circle, who lashed it past the goalie for a 2-0 lead.

The tough play continued with neither team giving any leeway. The Jr. Bills were able to stand strong on defense for the majority of the remaining minutes in the third. But with 1:54 left, Chaminade got one past Jansky.

The intensity rose to new heights with Chaminade bringing themselves within a goal of tying the game. In the final minutes, Chaminade de-

cided to pull their goalie, trying to get an advantage on offense. The attempt was futile, as sophomore Mario DiMaggio took the puck and shuttled it to senior Patrick Simoncic, who slapped a line drive into the empty net with 22 seconds left to seal the win for the Jr. Bills.

"The season is like a building. We start with the foundation and then we continue to build on that. The game showed a definite growth as we battled through a tough opponent who were playing at the top of their game," said head coach Jack Behan.

SLUH continues their state title defense on Saturday against Oakville at Kennedy Recreation Center at 9:15 p.m.