

Letter to the Editors: Walking to School

May 16 2025

Athlete of the Week: Ivan Kennedy

May 16 2025

Man at the Masthead: Missey's humble service at Prep News spans quarter century

May 16 2025

Keyword Search



Search

SPORTS

V2 XC places 2nd at Big River, top 7 travel to Cape Girardeau for district

Otto Reitenbach and Tristan Kujawa, Core Staff, reporter Nov 1 2024

The St. Louis U. High Cross Country team wrapped up its regular season last Saturday with a strong performance at the Big River PR Invitational, a fast flat course, placing second out of 11 teams in the varsity race and claiming the win at the JV level.

Despite resting their top seven runners, the Jr. Bills V2 squad performed admirably, fighting off a strong field for second place. The only team to top SLUH was cross-state rival Rock Bridge, who rested their top six for the day. If Rock Bridge held out seven like the Jr. Bills, SLUH's times would have taken the win out from under the Bruins.

Leading the charge for the Jr. Bills was junior Jake Fitzpatrick, fresh off back-to-back wins in varsity at the Hancock Invitational and JV at the MCC championships. His time of 16:27 secured seventh place, and teammates senior George Donahue (16:29; 11th place) and sophomore Luke Hartweger (16:31; 12th) weren't far behind. Right behind those two were junior Jaden Elgin (16:38; 15th place) and sophomore Joe Talleur (16:42; 16th) rounded out the scoring.



English

five for the Jr. Bills. The SLUH scorers had a time spread of only 15.1 seconds, a powerful testament to the strong team running and their dominant depth.

“We were able to beat a good team,” said head coach Joe Porter. “That’s Fort Zumwalt West and it looks like, on paper, they’re going to be going to state as a team. And holding on seven guys, we were still able to beat that group pretty handily. That’s a testament to those guys running well.”

Not even five seconds behind the scorers were senior Gavin Smith (16:44) and freshman Warnicke Beatty (16:45), further flexing SLUH’s depth. With junior Preston Eash finishing in 16:52, eight of the top 20 places belonged to the Jr. Bills. Last, but certainly not least, sophomores Edmund Reske (16:58) and Nathan Khouri (17:10) both snagged top 30 finishes, rounding out a fantastic varsity race.

“We really demonstrated our depth on a severely impressive scale,” said Reske. “We can hold out seven guys from racing and still have the next ten all go under 17. That’s a truly crazy feat, in the history of our program and the context of the sport.”

Much like the varsity race, Rock Bridge was the main competition in the JV race. Senior Patrick Jones and junior Tristan Kujawa took it out hot, going one and two at the mile split. Then Jones dropped Kujawa, and the entire field, winning in 16:52.

“I’m really happy for Patrick and the way that he competed,” said Porter. “He really drove home that last 400 meters and I’m glad he got to enjoy a race like that.”

Kujawa held on for third, running 17:12. The battle was still tight with Rock Bridge with their top runners placing second and fourth in the race. However SLUH took home the victory with senior Ethan Bognar (17:22), junior Brayden Bussmann (17:31), and senior Otto Reitenbach (17:42) rounding out the scoring five. Reitenbach was a key factor in SLUH’s success as he moved up 15 places from the second mile mark, passing Rock Bridge’s fourth guy in the process.

Overall it was a historic day for the SLUH cross country program with an astonishing 71 personal records set at this meet alone.

“Improvement is always encouraging,” said Reske. “Big improvement is even better, especially at the PR Invitational.”



Now the Jr. Bills head into postseason racing, traveling south to Cape Girardeau, Missouri for the Class 5 District 1 Championships looking to qualify for state.

“The biggest thing right now is to survive and advance,” said Porter. “District titles really mean very little, other than you're able to advance to the state meet. You really just want to be in the top four and make sure that you're ready and healthy for the following week.”

FEATURES

[Letter to the Editors: Walking to School](#)

May 16 2025

SPORTS

[Athlete of the Week: Ivan Kennedy](#)

May 16 2025

FEATURES

[Man at the Masthead: Missey's humble service at Prep News spans quarter century](#)

May 16 2025

FEATURES

[Palazzolo earns third Pulitzer Prize as Wall Street Journal reporter](#)

May 16 2025

[Load More](#)

Prep News – the weekly student-run newspaper of St. Louis U. High

Copyright ©2020 of St. Louis U. High's Prep News

No material may be reprinted without the permission of the editors and the moderator.



English



English