

Letter to the Editors: Walking to School

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Keeping pace: XC runs Buder Park for Big River PR Invitational

Charlie Gray, Tristan Kujawa, Staff, reporter Oct 26 2023

The Jr. Bills journeyed to Buder Park in Valley Park last Saturday for the Big River PR Invitational at Buder Park, a notoriously fast course with long straightaways and flat lands. The varsity race kicked off the meet.

The Jr. Bills quickly cemented their position at the front of the pack. Freshman Jackson Miller and senior Charlie Murray led the race to a sub-five first mile, something that has been rarely seen this year. The freshman star could not be stopped though, when he made his move he was defiant.

“Charlie Murray and I worked well together,” said Miller “I was with him for the first mile and then I made my move. Once I made my move I never looked back.”

This one move led Miller to the individual race victory, winning in a swift time of 16:05.

“It’s really exciting to watch Jackson win his first race,” said assistant coach Jeff Foerg. “As a coach I look forward to what his future has in store for him”



English

Behind Miller for the Jr. Bills was Murray (16:21), junior Gus Talleur (16:27), senior Mason Scargall (16:37), and senior Anthony Zangara (16:45). This strong sub-17 scoring five led the Jr. Bills to the team win as well.

"It was a solid race," said Foerg. "We are in a good spot heading into districts."

After an impressive varsity showing, the temperatures heated for the JV race. Nonetheless the JV dominated the race, placing four runners within the top five.

Up front early were seniors Landon Beiseman and Matthew Musial, who led the pack to a 5:20 first mile.

"Musial and Beiseman kept a good pace in those middle miles," said Foerg. "They kept the race honest through working together and racing boldly."

As the runners made their final loop around the flat Buder Park, the race was down to four people. Sophomore Nick Ahlheim was leading the charge with freshman Joe Talleur, Musial, and a runner from Rock Bridge following behind. With 200 meters to go, Ahlheim made the surge to win with a time of 17:15. Following closely behind were Talleur (17:20), Musial (17:21), senior Lucas Strohmeyer (17:27) and freshman Luke Hartweger (17:33) to establish a scoring five with an average time of 17:23.

"It's great to see Ahlheim get back in race-winning form," said Foerg. "He struggled earlier this year and it has been great watching him overcome that."

With the regular season over, the program shifts its focus to the Class 5 District 3 Championship this Saturday at St. Vincent Park in North County.

"We have not qualified for state yet, so let's focus on districts," said assistant coach Chris Staley. "I want to make those guys feel confident so we are ready to rock and roll when the time comes."

The program has been given a challenge facing off against one of the best teams in Missouri, Rock Bridge, along with several all state runners. Ultimately though, the program looks to qualify for the State Championship Race on Nov. 4 in Columbia, Missouri.



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