



SPORTS

SLUH stuns Mo. swimming community; takes second overall at COMO Invite

BY JOHN BURKE AND JOE FEDER
REPORTERS

In one of the most spectacular weeks in recent memory, the St. Louis U. High swim team won two dual meets and captured second place at the COMO Invitational, the biggest meet of the year.

Last Thursday, the swimmers took down Parkway Central 128-58 in another dominant dual meet victory. With the big weekend meet at Mizzou in sight, the team did not focus on huge time cuts or state-qualifying times. They focused instead on resting up and securing a win.

However, it is worth noting that sophomore Micah See was named Swimmer of the Meet for a seven second time drop in the 100 Freestyle after weeks of dedication and hard work at practice.

The following day, Friday, the team had an abbreviated practice to their workouts going into the COMO Invitational, which took place the next day at the University of Missouri Columbia's natatorium. During activity period, senior captain Barclay Dale gave each member of the team a goal time for the events that the person was swimming at the meet. With goal times in mind and a cautious sense of confidence, the team prepared for Saturday's meet.

Nothing about the next



SLUH swim and dive after COMO Invite.

photo | Mr. Charles Jellinek

day disappointed.

On Saturday, the swim and dive team took second place, the highest that the team has ever scored. What is more, they posted gigantic time drops across the board, more individual state qualifiers, a new meet record, and a new school record.

"It was the best meet of everyone's lives," said head coach Lindsey Ehret after the meet. "There are no words. I've never experienced a meet like that. We swam with a lot of heart."

Among the stand out performances were senior Math-

ias Hostetler's 50 Butterfly split of a 23.28 in the 200 Medley Relay and junior Will Slatin qualifying for finals in two individual events, despite severe shoulder pain. With two new state qualifiers, senior Joe Jellinek and sophomore Sean Santoni in the 200 IM and the 500 Freestyle respectively, the team met its goal of 10 individual state qualifiers, a feat that seemed impossible at the beginning of the season. There were also major improvements from junior Daniel Fink in both the 200 and the 500 Freestyle, dropping a total of 15 seconds, as well as from senior

captain Jack Laux, who is now a second away from a state cut in the 100 Breaststroke. In the 100 Freestyle, senior captain Nick Mattingly achieved a second state cut, and junior Joe Feder dropped a second to take fourth overall. Feder also dropped five seconds in his 200 Freestyle, taking fifth, and posted an incredible time of 20.96 as the anchor leg of the 200 Freestyle Relay—the fastest 50 free the team has seen this season. Senior captain Barclay Dale came out with a vengeance, taking second in the 50 Freestyle, but also tak-

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Perfect score! Cross country sprints past MCC

MATTHEW QUINLAN AND JUSTIN KOESTERER
CORE STAFF REPORTER

They came. They saw. They conquered. Julius Caesar had nothing on the St. Louis U. High cross country team, as they overshadowed his ways of total domination at the Metro Catholic Conference meet last Saturday.

The varsity team steamrolled their way to a first place finish, their 14th straight title, by placing their top seven in the eight overall places. The team also earned a perfect score of 15, which has only been done once before, back in 2014. A perfect score is awarded when one team takes the first five overall places in a race—because the scoring system only counts the places of the first five runners despite seven runners racing.

"We knew that CBC has a good runner in Michael Hogan, who's actually [freshman] Daniel Hogan's older brother, and DeSmet has a good runner in Colin Donovan," said head coach Joe Porter. "We kind of came in with a game plan to take them out of their rhythm, and if we were able to take them out of their rhythm and keep our pack together, then having a perfect score would be a possibility."

The team decided on running very strategically due to the nature of the course. The course was adapted from

what the team ran on at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival, with a few minor changes. However, the biggest obstacle of the course, a grueling hill that goes straight up to the Planetarium, was still present.

"The hill was right before the two mile," said junior Reed Milnor. "So it's a little bit farther out from the finish on this course than it was at Forest Park [Festival], so it was a little bit more of a challenge to keep the pace and lengthen afterward."

The nature of the course forced runners to focus on conserving energy when needed and challenged them to conquer the various turns and hills.

"We were trying to run with Colin Donovan from DeSmet at the start of the race, and taking our first 2k together, then from there we'd make moves," said Milnor. "We also really wanted to work on having a good finish in the last k because at Parkway West we lost a lot of places, and we sort of lost the meet because of our last k."

The team was led by junior Patrick Hetlage, who was crowned champion with a time of 16:58—SLUH's 11th MCC Champion. Behind Hetlage, Milnor finished with a time of 17:04, and senior Paul Burka finished with a time

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Rock Bridge poses strong challenge for Jr. Bills

NICK PRAINITO
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High football team has had a tough road leading up to tonight's game, playing three straight teams in the top 15 of the Missouri high school football rankings. SLUH faced the Rock Bridge Bruins, and fell 45-7, dropping their record to 3-5. In the rout, SLUH faced a tough test against a championship-tier squad, with Rock Bridge showcasing their powerhouse offense and moving up to No. 14 in the state rankings.

Straight from kick off, Rock Bridge forced a fumble, and with the ball inside the SLUH red zone, the Bruins easily drove the ball into the endzone on their first play of the drive for a very early lead. "I think the team came out of the locker room with a lot of excitement and anxiety," said senior quarterback Austin Hannah. "But after a few quick mistakes at the beginning of the game, we struggled to find confidence."

"We have not executed, we need to do a better job of playing the system," said head coach Mike Jones.

Rock Bridge displayed its

defensive strength, as SLUH struggled to gain more than a couple yards at a time, forced to a three-and-out on each of the next four drives.

After the Bruins' third touchdown put them up 21-0, the Jr. Bills again fumbled on the ensuing kickoff. However, SLUH's defense showed its first signs of life, as senior A.J. Hardin recorded an interception and returned it for 30 yards, moving the offense from being pinned in its own territory.

On the next drive, Hannah completed short passes to get the Jr. Bills inside the red zone, but another interception gave the ball back to the Bruins. Rock Bridge held a commanding 35-0 lead at halftime.

SLUH was able to hold the Bruins to a single field goal in the third quarter, and the Jr. Bills reached the end zone in the fourth when Hannah found Hardin with a ten-yard touchdown pass. Rock Bridge would score another touchdown and go on to win 45-7.

For a victory against Jackson tonight, reducing turnovers will be a major component. In addition, says

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Trip to Peoria, Ill. bears fruit for soccer

STEPHEN OCAMPO, JACK CALLAHAN
CORE STAFF REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High soccer team came back from a weekend trip to Peoria, Ill. with a pair of wins over the Normal Community Ironmen and the Peoria Notre Dame Irish.

Due to a concussion, senior captain Kurt Schumacher did not play during the weekend. Instead, senior Ethan Buss filled his place in the starting line up.

"It's almost like we didn't miss Kurt because he played so well," said head coach Charlie Martel.

Regardless of missing one of their captains and an almost three hour trip to Peoria, the Jr. Bills came out with the same fast paced and strong defensive play they have been displaying all season, creating a number of chances early on.

"We pretty much play our game and see what other teams can do," said Martel.

"We had an energy about us that elevated our play and I think scared the other teams in a sense," said senior captain Will Rudder.

Halfway through the first half, the Jr. Bills finally found the back of the net when senior Ray Goedecker received a

ball from his fellow forward, junior Louis Vacca, and put a move on the Normal Community defenseman for a wide open shot. Three minutes later, Goedecker returned the favor to the other member of the dynamic duo, setting up Vacca for a goal of his own to put the Jr. Bills up 2-0 with 18 minutes left in the half.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time to put the extra goal in," said Vacca.



art | Tommy Rogan

In the second half, the Jr. Bills did not let off of the gas, scoring another goal early in the half as Rudder fully extended his left leg to touch the ball into the back of the net after getting set up on a free kick by senior Peter Kickham to seal the 3-0 victory over the Ironmen.

"I'll just say they call me 'Daddy Long Legs' for a reason," said Rudder.

The following day, the team matched up against

Notre Dame, a team who had previously defeated the Jr. Bills' MCC rival, the Chaminate Red Devils, 7-2.

"We didn't know anything about them except that they had a good record, and usually when we travel we always try to face the best teams in the area, so we knew it was going to be a good game," said Goedecker.

However, the team's toughest opponent was not

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Puck season back with the Top Hat Tournament; powerful offense

BEN COX
REPORTER

Oh, baby! It's puck season! The Junior Bills faced off against Kirkwood for their first preseason game. Being the favorites for this game, SLUH won their first Top Hat game, defeating Kirkwood 6-1. By the end of the first period, the Jr. Bills were up 4-0 with 27 shots on goal. With 7:07 minutes left in the third period, Kirkwood struck back with a consolation goal to make it 6-1. Former defenseman turned forward Steven Pawlow led the SLUH offense with two goals.

"The atmosphere in the locker room is ecstatic. We came out strong against Kirkwood, and we have to finish every game like we started," said senior Jack Watcher.

The Jr. Bills followed their first victory with an all

out offensive domination over Webster Groves, winning 13-0. Senior Joe Winkelmann led the way with five goals.

"It's a confidence builder, and it shows us how we have to bring it every game. Playing our best each time we step on the ice is crucial," said Winkelmann.

That mentality certainly showed during the biggest game of the tournament so far against CBC. The crowd at the game was buzzing, a huge turnout bolstered by STUCO hosting a Taco Tuesday and a promise by senior spirit leader Sam Lockwood to dye his hair blue if 75 students showed up. That attendance challenge was certainly surpassed, and Lockwood arrived at school Thursday with a head of blue. Sophomore Bob Lockwood started the game off with a goal in the first minute of the

game on a sneaky snipe past the goalie.

"Having your school and friends come out to support you makes it about more than you or even the team. The crowd raises the stakes, and when we get a big crowd like we did against CBC it really means something special," said recent Penn State commit, junior Christian Berger.

Senior Trevor White tacked on two more goals in the game and Winkelmann scored, burying the long time rival Cadets 4-0.

Head coach Jack Behan is pleased with his team thus far and what they have accomplished.

"It's all about confidence. Players gaining confidence in coaches and coaches gaining confidence in their players. It is very important that we trust in each other," said Behan.



Junior goalie Brendan Rasch in front of the SLUH crowd at Webster.

photo | Joe Hillmeyer

Football prepares for Senior Night

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Jones, reducing penalties will be key. False starts especially have been trouble for SLUH this year. The team goals for the game: running for at least 180 yards and the defense staying focused and not giving up big plays.

"We practiced on us-

ing different snap counts all week," said Jones, noting that the team did see a reduction of penalties last Friday.

Following the conclusion of tonight's games, SLUH will be placed in the District 2 Championship, with the first game next Friday. The district and state tournaments consist

of single-elimination games.

"We need to work on playing as one unit and doing our individual responsibilities," said Hannah. "If that can happen and we can regain some confidence as a team, then we will be successful."

Swimming adds six state qualifications to an already deep state team

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ing first in the 100 Backstroke, shaving nearly a second off his time, while setting a school and a meet record time of 51.90 seconds. Senior Jacob Fields also swam very well, lowering his state qualifying time in the 100 Butterfly. For many, though, the highlights of the meet were the 200 and the 400 Freestyle Relays. SLUH took third in both events, led by senior captain John Burke, who finally broke through the state barrier in both the 50 and the 100 Freestyle.

"Watching Lindsey [Ehret] cry after John Burke qualified for state in the 400 yard relay was amazing," said former captain and current Mizou Tiger Andrew Gammon '17, who made a much welcomed appearance on deck at the meet.

Prior to a full team stop at Fritz's Frozen Custard on the

way home, and the team consuming close to twenty boxes of pizza, each coach gave a speech on the bus, commending the team on the truly incredible day they had just had.

"It was so collective. Everyone was up. Everyone was behind everyone else. Everyone was so fantastic," said Ehret.

"COMO was honestly one of the most memorable experiences of my coaching career," said assistant coach Tony Ciarrivano. "The way the team came together and supported each other...the way the team fed off each other's positive energy...it's just a testament to our training and drive...I've seen [what happened at COMO] before from an outside stance, but to be a part of it was something special."

"It was the most exciting swim meet I have ever seen. And I've seen a lot of swim

meets. [The team] just blew our expectations away," said assistant coach Mary Reagan.

Winning second place at COMO is a big deal for several reasons. First off, it is the highest SLUH has ever placed. One of the team goals this year was to place in the top four at COMO. Second off, COMO is arguably harder to win than State due to many more participants and therefore much greater depths of other teams. And finally, the only team that SLUH lost to, Cape Central High School, is not even in SLUH's state class, meaning that SLUH is in an even better position to take home a state championship.

It was certainly hard for the team to return to reality after Saturday's meet. But, for fear of burning up in the sun

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Cross country repeats itself as MCC champions

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of 17:07. Following these top three were sophomores Adam Mittendorf (17:23), Lucas Rackers (17:33), junior Chris Staley (17:40), and sophomore Noah Scott (17:50).

"It was those guys executing our game plan extremely well," said Porter. "At Parkway West last week we faded in the last k, so our focus with the guys was to close really well in the last k, and that's what they did. They ran really well there, and that's where it mattered the most."

The varsity team also was able to greatly improve their time spread from their first runner to their fifth runner, from 1:05 at the Parkway West Invitational, to 35 seconds at the MCC meet.

"It was very windy, which definitely slowed times down, and the grass was longer than it was at the Festival, which slows times down," said Porter. "But the goal was to come in, and keep our one to five gap close; it was thirty-five seconds this time, which is the shortest it's been all year."

Following the stellar example of the varsity squad, the JV squad came out of the gate ready to wrangle their MCC rivals after ceding the title to DeSmet last year. The team also earned a perfect score

and beat their past rivals, DeSmet, by 41 points.

Junior Jack Buehring led the pack with a champion finish of 18:12. He was followed by senior Matt Gunn, who finished second with a time of 18:18. They were followed by sophomores Joe Callahan (18:35) and Ben Krieger (18:38), and junior Jack Sommers (18:39).

"This is a very deep team," said Porter. "We pressured the guys because we lost JV for first time since 2003 last year, so we really called them out on it, and they did a great job."

After the JV race came the freshman race, which was slightly delayed due to an unexpected helicopter landing on the Archery Fields. The helicopter was forced to land close by because it was too windy to land at Barnes-Jewish Hospital off Kingshighway, but the crew did not realize there was a race. As soon as the helicopter landed, an ambulance was called to take the patient to Barnes.

After the kerfuffle with the copter the freshman race began. Freshman Daniel Hogan came out looking for redemption after placing second at the Parkway West Invitational, and finished first with a time of 19:08, nearly fifty sec-

onds faster than the Chaminate runner behind him.

Following Hogan came Reid Jackson and Henry Bournef, who finished side-by-side with times of 20:12, then Noah Apprill-Sokol (20:22), Hayden Rutledge (20:30), and Ryan Kramer (20:31).

This first place victory for the freshman team continues the 26 year victory streak, beginning at the birth of the MCC. It also marks the third straight meet at which the freshmen have been crowned champions.

"No one on the team ran a PR," said Porter. "That was to be expected with the wind, especially during the freshman race. But they looked good, with 22 points, they won by 32 points over DeSmet and Chaminate teams who are pretty solid when you look over the area at freshmen teams."

Coming out of this tremendous triumph, the SLUH cross country team hopes to continue their dominance as the Varsity two, JV, and Freshman teams will race at the Borgia Invitational in Washington, Mo. this Saturday, and as the top seven look far ahead at the District Meet on Oct. 21st at Koch Park.



Varsity cross country after the MCC Meet.

photo | Mr. James Hetlage

Forwards fire up; winning streak at four

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the team itself, but the conditions under which the game was played. Not only was the field smaller than a typical soccer field, but in the first half, the Jr. Bills had to play against strong winds and in light rain. However, despite these conditions, the Jr. Bills prevailed, scoring three goals in the first half.

"I was hoping we could go to halftime 0-0 and get the wind in the second," said Martel. "But we scored three in the first half. They played great."

Once again, Goedecker started off the scoring for the Jr. Bills halfway through the first half when senior captain Stephen Lavigne played a well-timed ball to Goedecker for an easy shot. Ten minutes later, junior Alex Lehmann located Rudder in front of the goal with a cross for an easy header. Finally, before the second half came to a close,

Vacca netted one of his own for the 3-0 Jr. Bill lead heading into halftime.

"If all three of us can get hot at the same time. It's perfect," said Goedecker.

In the second half, though, rain started pouring, making the small grass field a wet and muddy wasteland that the Jr. Bills had to navigate through. However, the Irish were not backing down, using the terrain to their advantage to score two of their own.

"We got away from our style of play," said Rudder. "It was real sloppy," said Martel.

Despite the seeming comeback from the Irish, the Jr. Bills were able to hold them off for a 3-2 victory to rise to a 18-2-1 record after the weekend.

"The games showed our ability to create chances and we just need to keep focusing on finishing," said Vacca.

"It was good for our energy and spirits," said Goedecker. "It was good team bonding, and it was just fun."

With the regular season closing, the team still has their sights set on continuing their high level of play, especially this Saturday as they face the DeSmet Spartans at DeSmet.

"One thing I noticed this weekend in Peoria is the dominance we bring to the field when the whole team is energized," said Rudder. "I think if we bring that to every game for the rest of the season and postseason we are going to be a very hard team to beat."

"We've become a stronger team in the last two weeks, so all we're going to do is play the way we always play," said Martel.