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Soccer starts season with exciting win in PKs over Chaminade

BY JACK WATERS
REPORTER

Join! The 2016 St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team started its season with two impressive victories this week despite having lost ten starters from last year's District Championship team.

The No. 10-ranked Jr. Billikens traveled to Chaminade last Saturday to take on the No. 7-ranked rival the Red Devils. In contrast to last year's ten seniors and one sophomore starting the majority of the year, this starting lineup featured seven juniors and one sophomore.

The game started with quick chances on the SLUH side, as junior forward Ray Goedecker and senior forward Joey Krause had good opportunities, but the Chaminade back four stifled SLUH's offense early.

In the 12th minute, an opposing forward headed a ball off the crossbar following a throw in, one of Chaminade's best scoring chances throughout the entire game.



Junior Peter Kickham after scoring the winning penalty kick in the game against Chaminade.

photo | Brendan Voigt

After an animated half-time speech from assistant coach Charlie Clark, the second half was another hard fought battle. SLUH had trouble creating offense, while Chaminade started to find more scoring chances. How-

ever, the Jr. Bill defense of senior defensive midfielder and captain Brandon Trusler, senior right back Jeff Walter, junior center back and captain Kurt Schumacher, junior center back and captain Cam Verzino, and junior right back

Pietro Nicastro made many impressive stops, highlighted by a run-down tackle from Schumacher with 16 minutes left in the second half.

"Defensively, we're very strong," said head coach Charlie Martel. "Our back four and

Brandon are really solid."

However, whenever the Red Devils found a way to fight through the SLUH defense, the Jr. Bills had the answer in their goalkeeper, junior Alec Meissner.

Meissner, who attended

Chaminade in the eighth grade, had five total saves, most notably a stuff on a point blank shot in the final minutes.

"I liked it because I went to Chaminade. I knew pretty much everyone there," said Meissner. "I got yelled at a lot, got called Judas, so it was pretty cool."

Going into the season, Martel was unsure about the strength at the goalie position. But, he had confidence in the junior keeper.

"I had a few talks with Alec in the preseason, and I told him you're big, you're strong, you're quick, you have good hands, so you can do this. Apparently he believes me because he had some great saves against Chaminade; he kept us in the game," said Martel.

SLUH's best offensive chance in the second half came when Goedecker, with a Chaminade defender draped on his back, thought he was fouled inside the 18-yard box. With no call from the referee,

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Cross country sets to dash into season

BY ANDREW MODDER
SPORTS EDITOR

After a disappointing 11th place state finish last season, the St. Louis U. High varsity cross country team begins a year of redemption as they look to retake their place as Missouri State champions.

The team has been working hard on going back to the basics and figuring out what they need to do to place better this year, hoping for a top four finish at the state meet this season.

"We had a rough year last year, it was a recovery year," said senior captain William Kelly. "But we've tackled what we have done incorrectly and guys put in a lot of work over the summer."

The entire cross coun-

try program is comprised of about 75 runners, including many fresh, young faces who haven't run competitively before.

Six senior captains have been chosen as well as three class leaders to help facilitate teaching these young runners the sport while also giving them help and advice if they need it outside of cross country. The senior captains consist of William Kelly, Thomas Leeker, Roman Lipinski, Joe Laughlin, Brad Gale, and Matt Northcott. Paul Burka and Matt Gunn are the junior class leaders and Reed Milnor is the sophomore class leader.

"One of our roles is not only be a mentor to a freshman or new kids in the sport

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Football crashes into season with huge win over Gateway STEM



The Jr. Bills scrambling for a fumble against Gateway STEM last Friday.

photo | Brendan Voigt

BY NICK PRAINITO AND
BRIAN PRICE
REPORTERS

Built around a solid core of seniors, many of whom have started the last two years at the varsity level, the Saint Louis U. High football team is ready to make a push for the Metro Catholic Conference crown.

The SLUH team is loaded with star seniors such as quarterback Mitchell Batschelett, running back Andrew Clair, and wide receiver/safety Tony Adams, all three of whom have received multiple college offers.

The core of seniors is also supported by a cast of talented juniors, including defensive tackle Kameron Bowdry and running backs Jared Scott and

Daniel Terry.

The Jr. Bills opened up the year last Friday night with a bang, overpowering the Gateway STEM Jaguars en route to a 50-16 victory.

The Jr. Bills displayed their dangerous offense from the first moments of the game. Less than one minute into the first quarter, after several long rushes by Clair, Batschelett placed a perfect pass to Adams in the end zone for the first six points. Two more touchdowns quickly followed: a one-yard rush by Scott and another pass from Batschelett to Adams, this one for six yards. Senior kicker Joe Rogan nailed all three extra points and the Jr. Bills were up 21-0 within seven minutes.

For Clair, this game was

important for setting the tone for the rest of the season.

"My mindset was basically to start the season off right," he said of his thoughts going into the game, and he did exactly that.

Clair rushed for 123 yards on 15 carries, which included a 14-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. He attributes his high number of yards per carry to the work of the offensive line.

"Those are the guys who do all the dirty work," said Clair. "I just put the icing on the cake."

Batschelett threw only five passes during the game, but made the most of his opportunities, completing four passes for 96 yards and three touchdowns.

"Any time your run game can go (well), you'd be foolish to start throwing (the ball) just to throw it," said head coach Gary Kornfeld.

Meanwhile, Adams caught three of the four passes, all three for touchdowns and a total of 62 yards.

"I believe that when I'm on the field, it's just me and the ball," said Adams of his big game. "I really don't worry about the defender."

The Jr. Bills' defense was no less impressive, holding the Jaguar offense to just 124 yards and two touchdowns. Bowdry led the way with eight total tackles and forced a safety by tackling the Jaguars' punter in the end zone. Scott and senior Davion Nash contributed to the effort with 13 total tackles combined. Junior Dee McMurren and senior Jonathan Kroll recovered a fumble to keep the offense on the field as much as possible.

"I think it's always nice when you start your season ... like we did," said Kornfeld. "Over the years of my coaching, I think the most progress you make is from game one to game two. I think anytime you start off the season like we started off, with the success that we had, and do the things that we did, I think it's quite a bonus."

The team faces off tonight with the Ladue Rams at SLUH at 7 p.m., looking to continue this early momentum.



Artwork | Ian Mulvihill

All-Metro 2016

John Brinkman '16 — Baseball — Second Team All-Metro

Chris Kreienkamp '16 — Water Polo — First Team All-Metro, Player of the Year

Mark Franz '16 — Water Polo — First Team All-Metro

Dan Walsh '16 — Water Polo — Second Team All-Metro

Jack Perryman '16 — Lacrosse — First Team All-Metro

Patrick Broughton '16 — Lacrosse — Second Team All-Metro

Jayson Ashford '17 — Track — Third Team All-Metro

Dustan Davidson '16 — Track — Third Team All-Metro

Shawn Hughes '16 — Volleyball — First Team All-Metro, Player of the Year

George Huhmann '16 — Volleyball — Second Team All-Metro

Cross country races confidently into Granite City

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of cross country, but it also is a great thing to mentor them in making friends on the cross country team and how to budget work at school, and talking even after practice about teachers and study habits," said Leeker.

Another role of these captains and leaders is to build team unity and to make new runners feel like they belong and matter to the team as a whole, while also motivating them to work hard and stay fit so they can be successful.

"A big thing has definitely been a focusing on teamwork and making sure everyone is putting in the maximum effort and everyone is holding each other to the responsibility of being good for the team," said Gale.

The team's theme for this season is "The Return of the Blue Army," based on "The Blue Army," a name that many people have used in the past when referring to SLUH cross country. It is an image of unity and teamwork that evokes pride in the runners and promotes

team spirit.

"It's this blue army, this large group of guys that are all committed to everyone getting better," said head coach Joe Porter. "So we're going back to the basics and focusing on really building our program back."

"The Return of the Blue Army" begins with an underclassman race in O'Fallon, Ill. on Aug. 31, which is designed to get inexperienced runners used to racing competitively.

The varsity squad kicks off its season on Saturday, Sep. 3 at the Granite City Invitational, a race that will help the team gauge what they will need to work on for the bigger meets.

"It's definitely something to measure where everyone is individually on the team, and how we can work together as a team in an actual race," said Gale.

"We are really setting ourselves up so we have our racing experience before we have our big meet at the Forest Park Festival," said Porter.



Swimming holds second Blue and White meet

BY KYLE IRVINE AND MATT GODAR
REPORTER, CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High swimming team kicked off its season last week with its second annual inter-squad Blue and White meet, comprised of various relays and activities, that pitted team members against each other.

In its second year, the Blue and White meet is an unofficial event that splits SLUH into two different teams, Blue and White, who then compete against each other. After a series of fun events including sand volleyball and a Starburst relay (in which the color of Starburst determined which stroke to swim), the team moved on to a standard high school meet.

"I think the meet definitely went well," said senior captain Andrew Gammon. "It was a good start to the season, and exciting to see the freshman race each other for the first time."

The meet took place at Forest Park Pool, where the friendly competition yielded fantastic results for the first meet of the season, official or not.

This meet featured a spectacular swim from junior Barclay Dale in the 100-yard backstroke; his time of 55.26 seconds would have qualified him for State in the event in an official standard meet. In addition, sophomore Joe Feder swam an impressive 1:53.11 time in the 200 freestyle.

"There were some good times dropped,"

said junior Joe Jellinek. "As a team we looked strong. I'm excited for the rest of the season."

Looking ahead to the upcoming season, the team is hoping to make a splash. Rising juniors Jellinek, Dale, John Burke, Nick Mattingly, Brendan Moore, and Jacob Fields are a great source of hope in the face of losing seniors such as Dan Walsh and Mark Franz.

"It's going to be hard to qualify relays this year with the loss of such a strong senior class," said Gammon. "We have our work cut out for us if we want to do as well as last year, but I think we can do it."

"I want our team as whole to improve, I want us to be stronger, to be more agile, to think more, and to be faster," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "We have a strong returning class of juniors, we also have a good class of incoming freshmen that should offer support."

With one of the largest teams in the past 10 years, consisting of 49 swimmers and divers, the Jr. Bills are hoping for another MCC conference title.

The swim team's first official meet will take place in two parts tomorrow. Half of the team will compete at Marquette at 12 p.m. in a relay meet while the other half will swim at Ladue at 9 a.m.

—Sports Photo of the Week—

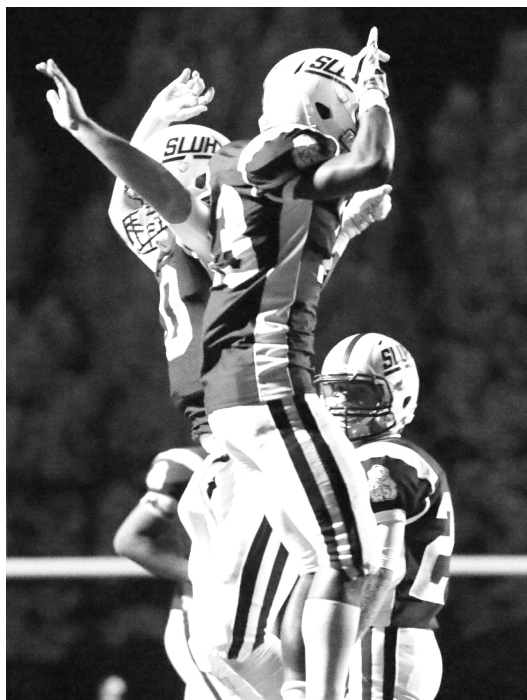


photo | Brendan Voigt

Seniors Tony Adams and Andrew Clair celebrate during Friday's game against Gateway STEM.

Underclassman Sports

JV Football

8/22/16
SLUH 27
Gateway 12
Key Stat: Freshman running back Tarian Cooper ran for three touchdowns, one being a 30-yard run into the end zone.

Next Game: Monday, Aug. 29 vs Ladue at SLUH at 6 p.m.

JV Soccer

8/25/16
Lindbergh 1
SLUH 1
Key Stat: Junior Danny Favazza netted the goal for the Jr. Bills.

Next Game: Tuesday, Aug. 30 vs. Gibault at SLUH at 4 p.m.

B Soccer

8/20/16
Chaminade 6
SLUH 0

Key Quote: "Chaminade has a really nice team. They put on a lot of pressure throughout the

whole game... We do have a lot of talent... The biggest issue is that we have to want to work," said head coach Tom Zinselmeyer.

8/23/16
Jefferson City 0
SLUH 2
Key Stat: Sophomores Alfrick Arun and Brian Lymberopoulos scored the team's first two goals of the season.

8/25/16
MICDS 0
SLUH 2
Next Game: Monday, Aug. 29 vs. Parkway South at SLUH at 4 p.m.

C Soccer

8/20/16
Chaminade 1
SLUH 1

Key Stat: Freshman Ryan Klostermann netted a goal for the Jr. Bills.

Key Quote: "It was definitely a frustrating tie. I felt like we

played well enough to win, and we had a lot of chances," said head coach Brock Kesterson. "Especially starting off against Chaminade like that, you would like to get a win, but we will take the points."

8/23/16
Jefferson City 0
SLUH 8
Key Stat: Freshman Austin Bienvenue scored a hat trick for the Jr. Bills in their rout of Jefferson City.

8/25/16
MICDS 0
SLUH 7
Key Stat: Freshmen Ben Gremaud, John Marshall, Kaleb Ephram, Austin Bienvenue, and Chan Hlawncu all contributed goals in the Jr. Bills big win.

Next Game: Tuesday, Aug. 30 at Vianney at 4 p.m.

Will Smit Jr., Ben Dattilo, Peter Curdt, and Jack Perry contributed reporting.