



SLUH President Alan Carruthers reflects on 2020-21 school year

Editor's Note: On Tuesday, Editor in Chief Carter J. Fortman talked with SLUH President Alan Carruthers over Zoom to discuss the end of the 2020-2021 school year, or what some have dubbed the "Year of Covid." The following transcription has been edited for length. The unabridged version can be found at our website.

Carter J. Fortman (CF): This has been a year full of uncertainty with everything surrounding the pandemic. What are your feelings as we end this tumultuous year?

Alan Carruthers (AC): Three words sum it up. Incredibly hopeful, a healthy pride in what we've achieved as a school, and the third thing is exhaustion. Everything has taken so much more emotional and mental energy, whether

it's just dealing with the isolation, having to constantly pivot, or being involved in a presidential election year. Overall, I'm just super proud of how our people and our community have responded. I think that our people have been really focused on trying to create as best an experience possible for the boys, and to also achieve the mission goals as best as possible. And I think we did both of those things. I think the guys generally had a great learning year, a good social year, and a good formative year despite the fact that it was different. So, I'm very proud. But I can tell you I don't think I've ever had a year I've been as tired at the end. And I know that that is the case with most staff and certainly all the faculty.

CF: I'd like to dig deeper

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The boys are back in town! New guidelines allow expanded fan sections for sports



The student section comes alive during the lacrosse game. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY LUKE ALTIER
SPORTS EDITOR

A crowd at a sports game can sway the momentum of a game. When a team suits up on its home turf, the main advantage is the support of fans to cheer and help motivate its players to put on an entertaining show.

"Having a student section can make a huge difference in

a game," said senior lacrosse player Luke Baumer. "It gives us much-needed energy and confidence."

The return of crowds to lacrosse, baseball, and volleyball playoff games this week was a decision that came from a group of SLUH administrators featuring Athletic Director Chris Muskopf, Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J., Director of Security Dan Schulte, Assistant Princi-

pal Brock Kesterson, school nurse Scott Gilbert, and newly named Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy. They met after the City County Health Department's announcement to adhere not to county-specific but to CDC guidelines when organizing high school athletics.

"We convened a meeting Friday afternoon, some on campus and some by zoom."

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Admin working on plans for 2021-22 school year following CDC update

BY JACOB SPROCK AND
NATHAN RICH
NEWS EDITOR, CORE STAFF

One week ago today, the CDC made perhaps one of the most significant announcements of the pandemic: in many cases, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks, including indoors. The announcement, which for many was a surprise, quickly sent ripples throughout the nation. At SLUH, the news was well-received, as many students and faculty saw it as a sign of the pandemic's nearing end. The announcement also created many questions, though, as members of the community considered its implications on the 2021-2022 school year.

First and foremost on students' minds were all the restrictions that have been put in place this year, specifically masks. Theoretically, vaccinated students could now go without a mask. Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J., however, noted that it's more complicated than that.

"The city and county have overturned all of their directives that add to or nuance the CDC recommendations. The city has been much stricter than the CDC but now they have pulled back all of those pieces. Our rulebook is no longer the city's directives but the CDC's directives which opens up a lot more possibilities," said Gibbons. "By the same token, though, we're not a Costco, we're not a Lowes store, we're a school and we're responsible for safety which requires different steps than another organization."

Still, Gibbons, in light of national progress combatting the virus, expressed significant optimism about next year.

"I would hope by Christmas the pandemic will largely

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Missouri governor honors SLUH alum with state holiday



Lt. Michael Blassie. photo | courtesy of Patricia Blassie

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The formation of every St. Louis U. High graduate is based upon the principles outlined in the Grad at Grad profile. It is expected that every alumnus who lives out the five categories—being Open to Growth, Intellectually Competent, Religious, Loving, and Committed to Doing Justice—will find, in the long run, vast consolation,

a vibrant relationship with God, and the "man for others" ideal that is instilled in every student. It is worth reflecting, especially 10 days before graduation and nine days after the anniversary of his death, on one of the most notable examples of a grad at grad: Michal Blassie '66. Last Tuesday, Missouri Governor Mike Parson created Lt. Michael Blassie Day in the State of Missouri, to be observed every May 11.

Open to Growth

Blassie's story begins in North St. Louis, near the intersection of Grand and West Florissant Rd. He was the oldest of five siblings. His youngest siblings were Patricia and George, who had a 10- and 13-year age gap respectively. To them, he was a positive influence who, while committed to his own growth, also dedicated himself to helping

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Slew of renovations underway as roof work continues

BY JACK F. FIGGE
CORE STAFF

Random banging and clashing sounds have recently become daily noises around the hallways of St. Louis U. High, forcing students to question what is making such a ruckus. The noise signifies the beginning of a multitude of renovation projects for the school, starting with a new roof.

Coming into the new decade, the administration real-

ized the need to update SLUH's campus to better prepare it for the 21st century.

"We have a 100 year old building as of this year. The cornerstone at this main Mrs. Backer memorial campus building was placed in 1921, so our old building needs help," said SLUH president Alan Carruthers.

The first project to tackle: the roof. Since 2001, the roof has been in need of repair, however, the job has continued to be pushed back.

"We have been stretching this project out for a very long time," said Director of Facilities Joe Rankin. "In order for us to get to that particular stage (chapel renovations), we were going to need to end up having the roof done and completed already."

The roof project involves a total revamping of the current roof of the main school building. This project consists of ripping off the old roof and placing down new roof panel-

ing. The new roof is made of a special product called TPO, or thermoplastic material, which is stronger than typical roofing material.

"It's a little bit thicker than what we ended up putting on every other roof because this is pretty much of a roof that we're wanting to get a 30-year warranty out of it," said Rankin.

Over the course of the past couple weeks, crews have been working to replace the old roof with the new material. Despite

finishing work on the north end of the school building, the construction came to a halt when spring showers entered the forecast.

"At one point, they couldn't get back to us for almost two weeks because of all the rain and the bad weather that we had," said Rankin. "And just like this week, it's almost an entire week of non-productivity on the roof, which doesn't mean too much for anybody other than the fact"

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Zimmerman leaves impact on many in English Class

BY SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

Alum Service Corps member and St. Louis U. High Class of 2016 alum Jack Zimmerman will be departing SLUH with gratitude and an inspiring legacy as his time as a freshman English teacher comes to a close.

Starting his time at SLUH in 2011 with Upward Bound, Zimmerman has now had a decade of his time directly connected with his former high school, a journey that he felt was natural to close out with a year as an ASC.

“I did Upward Bound and I went through all four years here at SLUH, so I felt like this just seemed like the logical next step in my very long association with this institution, a decade’s long as at this point,” said Zimmerman. “It just felt like the logical, natural decision that after I’ve been a student here that I should also be teaching here for a little bit. I always had a feeling that I’d wind up here.”

Teaching freshman English, Zimmerman found value in the class materials that he taught, and in the students. While Zimmerman loves English and he especially admired it as a SLUH student, he openly admits that he wasn’t as engaged by the subject until the later portion of his education at SLUH. Because of this, he thoroughly enjoyed taking a trip down memory lane for books he has fond memories of and helping his freshman not make the same mistakes he did.

“The study of English progresses as you age and mature.

So I really only started to understand English late sophomore year or early junior year, and I was really starting to be engaged with it then,” said Zimmerman. “To go back and look at these books I read before I really developed the same understanding of English that I have now ... it has been really interesting to get a second look. Teaching classes as if I was teaching it to my 14-year-old self has been my way of approaching it. Because I remember I didn’t fully understand it, I realized that I should explain this a little more in detail to my students, and I think that experience has been pretty invaluable.”

“I got to first know Mr. Zimmerman this summer at ASC training, and he was such a fun guy. He’s a true man of the stage and a true poet, and I think he’s got the soul of an English teacher,” said fellow freshman English teacher Michael Mohr, S.J. “He brings that passion with him in his classes. He was just so passionate and electric. I knew that he would have a great year and he would bring that passion energy to his students.”

“He was someone that I taught years ago, so it was great to see him back and to see him be able to bring his experiences back and share them then from the teaching perspective,” said fellow freshman English teacher Jennifer Carroll. “He always kept his freshman classes connected and engaged. He would come into the room after me, and he always had music to play. Even on breaks he encouraged guys to

go out to the green space out here and throw around a football. He was aware that the freshmen needed a chance to get to know each other, and I think he wanted to do that through the activities and the enthusiasm that he brought to the classroom.”

While his time at SLUH as an ASC was short-lived, the impact that it had on Zimmerman will surely stay with him for years to come. As his departure comes ever closer, Zimmerman acknowledges the English Department as a great inspiration for his career as a teacher, and the freshman class for embodying SLUH spirit and for being such a great class during such a hard time.

“I would like to express my gratitude to the freshman English team and the English Department as a whole for being really organized in their class materials and lesson plans so that I had the autonomy to teach my classes, and having it be structured that way has made my job so much easier as a first time teacher. I had the added benefit of having a great team behind me,” said Zimmerman. “I would also like to thank the freshman class for being true Jr. Bills in the sense that they come into my class every day, and they’ve proven to me that they have what it takes, not just from an intellectual standpoint, but in terms of kindness and gratitude and being genuine. They persevered through the worst of times and they are a testament of what it takes to be a Jr. Bill every day, in my class and beyond.”

Chemistry ASC Matthew Fink moving on to pursue Ph.D

BY LUKE DUFFY
CORE STAFF

ASC volunteer Matthew Fink is leaving St. Louis U. High this year to pursue his Ph.D in Biology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. During his time at SLUH, Fink taught two sections of sophomore chemistry and helped with freshman service.

Fink was excited to return to SLUH—his alma mater—even amidst a tumultuous pandemic, as he saw the challenges of Covid as ways to excel in his teaching and knowledge of science.

“Even though this is a very unusual year of teaching, there will probably never be another one like it. I found consolation in the uniqueness and the challenges that it had to bring,” said Fink.

Throughout the year, Fink has been able to connect with students in his chemistry classes and to reconnect with former teachers in the Science Department.

“The students I have this year are great, they’re wonderful,” said Fink. “Even with the pandemic, they’re eager to come in, they’re ready to learn.”

Fink was also able to work alongside his former biology and anatomy teacher Tim O’Keefe and his AP Chemistry teacher Mary Russo.

Of course, Fink has also

found difficulty teaching students in virtual and hybrid settings.

“It’s been hard dealing with two groups at a time where you have your in-person group and then your online group,” said Fink. “It’s hard to make sure that, as a teacher, you’re engaging with both groups. You know, for me personally and a lot of the colleagues I talked to, we tend to gravitate more towards the people we see right in person.”

Nevertheless, Fink’s students have been impressed by his class in his first year of teaching high school.

“Mr. Fink is one of those one of a kind teachers that I am very glad to have had,” said sophomore Cal Kreuter. “One thing I loved about Mr. Fink’s class is that we could always chill out in his room before class started, and that he’d always be willing to help us with his work. Mr. Fink just has that swag about him that nobody could match. He always hyped the class up for labs and in-class activities.”

For the sciences and especially chemistry, this year has been particularly challenging. Labs and demonstrations, a fundamental part of science teaching, have been largely lost in a year of social distancing. Fink was glad that, towards the end of the school year, he was able to do some in-person demonstrations with his students.

“My students this whole

year, they always asked me, ‘When are we going to do an explosion?’ because they so desperately wanted to see an explosion in class,” said Fink. “Finally, I delivered last Wednesday and Thursday’s classes. As part of our topic with rates of reactions with help from my colleagues, I created this unstable compound called nitrogen triiodide and then literally all you have to do is just touch it with a feather and then it goes off. I got to do that in person for my group and the students got a kick out of it.”

Apart from his chemistry classes, Fink has also participated in freshman service projects this year.

“I did a lot of freshmen service here too, and we had to modify that too because normally we cook the meals and then they serve it and enjoy the meal with the Garfield place residents, but obviously this year we couldn’t do that,” said Fink.

While Fink is saying goodbye to SLUH, this will not be his last time teaching. He plans to do more teaching in graduate school and then possibly become a science professor.

“I definitely knew that I really wanted to teach again starting out when I was a TA (Teaching Assistant) for chemistry, then that kind of led me to ASC wanting to teach, and then moving forward I might continue teaching but also encourage research too,” said Fink.

Vitellaro finds meaning in year working for Campus Ministry, media

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
NEWS EDITOR

After a year of service to the St. Louis U. High community, Alum Service Corps volunteer Giuseppe Vitellaro will be putting away the camera and media devices as his time at SLUH comes to a close. From helping out with videography or live-streaming Mass to proctoring the Commons after school to leading Sophomore Pastoral Team, despite Vitellaro’s time at SLUH being short, his impact on the SLUH community has been widespread, and the SLUH community will be sad to see him go.

Vitellaro came to SLUH this fall as an official part of the SLUH Media Team after graduating from UMSL. Having majored in Media Studies, Vitellaro’s media and technology experience has allowed him to be a strong asset to the media team. Particularly, Vitellaro has assisted with copy-editing and managing SLUH’s social media platforms. He has also helped assist media specialist Ryan Doyle film around the school.

As a member of the Campus Ministry team as well, Vitellaro has been the moderator for the Sophomore Pastoral Team and involved in setting up the livestreams for the all-school and class Masses. Vitellaro has also led groups of freshmen after school for the Freshman service.

“I will miss his energy the most. He knows when to make the mood right, and he has the innate sense of when to be serious and when to be funny,” said sophomore

George Mikhail, a member of the Sophomore Pastoral team. “I remember our first pastoral meeting. It was over Zoom and most of us had our cameras off. Despite this, he really tried to get us engaged and excited over Zoom.”

For Campus Minister Brian Gilmore, Vitellaro’s service to the Campus Ministry team has been invaluable, especially given the constant struggles that have arisen because of the pandemic. Gilmore believes that it is not just the technological support that he brings to the team but also his spirit of calm that he models for his students.

“I don’t think it was just a coincidence that he came to us in the midst of a global pandemic where the word Zoom became a verb. I don’t know what we would have done without his assistance. He is a God-send in that sort of way,” said Gilmore. “In addition to all the behind the scenes work that he does, I think that his prayerful piety and devotion to his faith is a great model for all the students too.”

While Vitellaro has enjoyed helping out on the media team and Campus Ministry, he finds real joy in his interactions with students. Vitellaro and the ASCs have helped proctor the Commons after school as students wait for their rides.

“Day after day of working in the Commons after school really allowed me to get to know some of the students. This (last semester) is the first time where I feel like people know me. I’m starting to know the students and they’re starting to know me,”

ASC Sam Glass grateful for experience

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL AND
ROARKE UNRAU
NEWS EDITOR, CORE STAFF

From his compassion on the PE floor as a teacher to his genuine attitude when he checks athletes in before they go to practice, Alum Service Corps volunteer Sam Glass has instilled a value of cura personalis in his interactions with students and faculty throughout the year. As his ASC year comes to a close, Glass will be remembered for the care that he lives out on a daily basis despite the challenges and stress of the pandemic.

“If we prioritize that cura personalis aspect of what we as the adults in this community are asked to do, he knocked that out at high levels all year long,” said Director of Athletics Chris Muskopf. “He exhibits that he cares for the whole person, whether it be creating activity through physical education or helping students be active and get the physical benefit of that activity or when he’s been doing the screening and he has conversations with the athletes.”

This year, Glass worked in the Physical Education Department to handle the extra workload as Scott Gilbert has moved away to help with Covid-19 health concerns at the school. Glass took over Gilbert’s PE classes, as well as helped the

Athletic Department write Covid-19 protocols for athletic competitions. However, the biggest contribution to the department was the spirit that he brought to the team meetings.

“He brings a sense of calm,” said Muskopf. “When he is in the meetings, he brings a ‘don’t say no, this isn’t too big for us, like, we’ll figure it out’ approach which was much needed at several points this year.”

For P.E. teacher Patrick Zarrick, having Glass here this year was a big help for the whole P.E. Department.

“Keeping the guys socially distanced, disinfecting equipment, running class, being creative with what we could do and trying to bring energy to the class—needless to say, Mr. Glass was invaluable in that regard,” said Zarrick.

Glass is very thankful to the people at SLUH and to have had this time at SLUH, albeit a short one.

“To sum it up in one phrase, I’m just eternally grateful for the opportunities that I’ve had here at SLUH, and also that the Society of Jesus has given me them as well,” said Glass.

Even during the pandemic year, Glass enjoyed his role here at SLUH.

“It’s been such a great time here and SLUH is such a good

said Vitellaro. “Sometimes I will go up to people, and sure, I will tell them to stop sitting on the table or to pull up their mask, but there are other times where I will see a kid playing chess or reading a book and we will have a conversation.”

For Editor-in-Chief Carter Fortman, Vitellaro has been a great mentor when it came to helping him discover how to lay out the Prep News paper more effectively and improve the aesthetics.

“I never realized how inefficient we were,” said Fortman. “Mr. Vitellaro helped us to produce more efficiently which, looking back, was essential during a pandemic. It helped us get out much earlier than in previous years which I think Mr. Missey liked too.”

Vitellaro is still deciding what the next step for him in his life journey will be, but he is grateful for the SLUH community for being his home for the past year. This gratitude is mutually shared among the members of the SLUH community, who will remember the amount of work that he has done for SLUH through an attitude of thoughtfulness and prayer.

“He’s very busy around the school, but he knows what he draws his strength from, a very deep well of prayer, contemplation, of Jesus and the sacraments, and in the midst of his day, he knows that he needs that energy for what he’s doing,” said Gilmore. “This is why I think he represents the Jesuit ideal of contemplation in action, and this attitude of his will be significantly missed.”

place. My older brother was a SLUH alum so finally getting into the school and seeing what everything’s about, and getting to experience that kind of stuff first hand has been fantastic, even during the pandemic and all that,” said Glass.

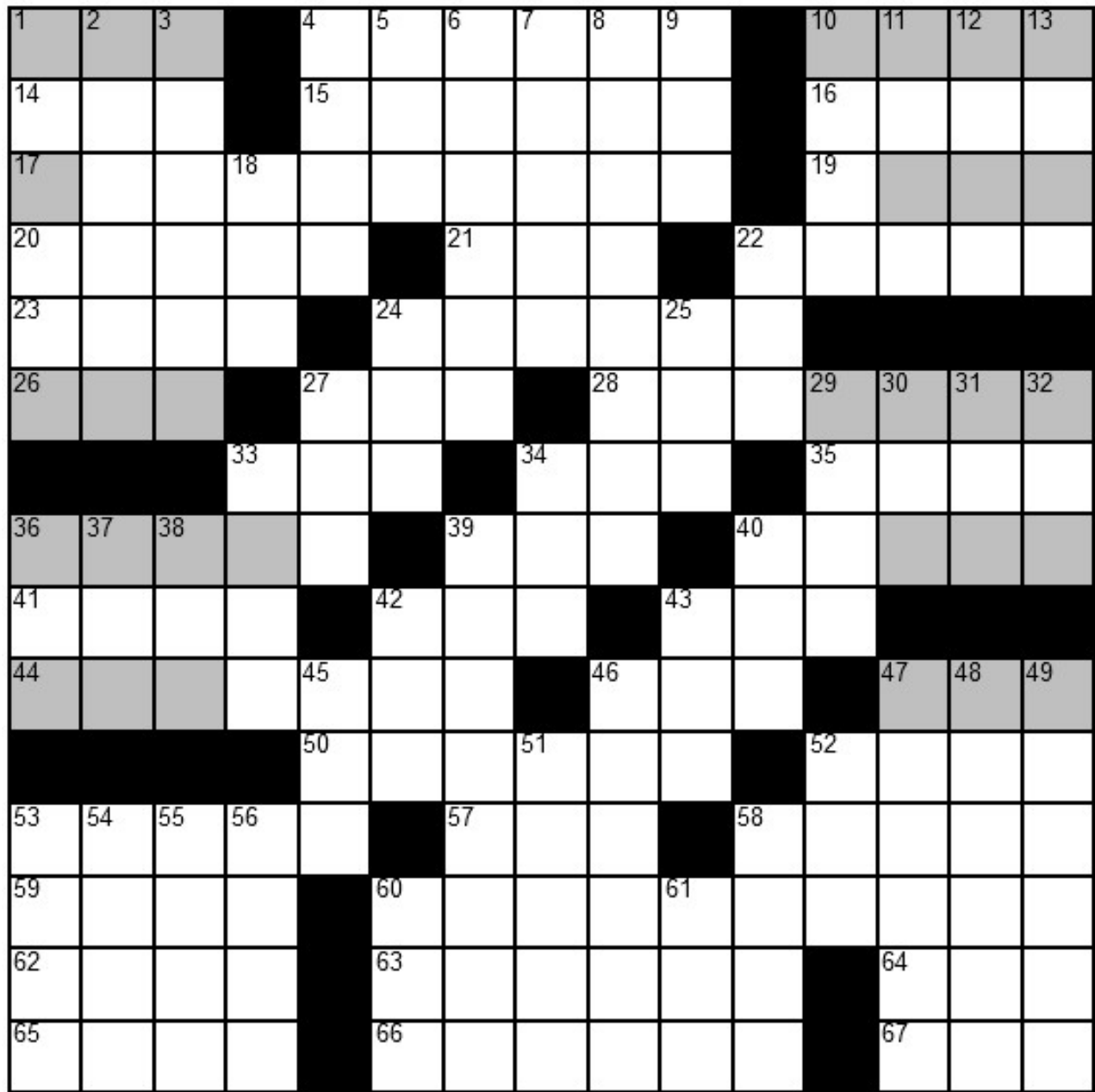
For junior Grant Grabowski, his relationship with Glass was one to remember, and he will miss Glass as he moves on.

“Hearing that Mr. Glass was leaving was a feeling of bitterness. I had really gotten to know him throughout my junior year and to hear he was leaving at the end of it was sad. I’ll miss checking in with him every day of the winter season and talking about the most recent chapters and episodes of Attack On Titan, but I know that he is moving on to new environments where he can really shine and help others,” said Grabowski.

Glass is unsure about where he will be next year and what the future might hold for him, but he is hopeful that God will guide him in the right direction.

“Whether that is to continue with interscholastic athletics, or if that is to go off into some other career path in marketing or business, that’s kind of the two forks that I have presented to me at the current moment. And right now I’m just discerning the path that God has set out for me.”

PN Puzzle: “All wrapped up”



- ACROSS
1. Outfielder Griffey, or his dad

4. With trumpets playing

10. Fashionable

14. “Who am _____ judge?”

15. Rotating blade that often gets licked after use

16. Surrounding quality, as of a person

17. Youngest son of Abe and Mary

19. Acronym celebrating the imminent weekend

20. Light used for filmmaking or searching, such as the Bat-Signal

21. Prefix that means the same as bi- or di-

22. They make a V

23. One of the Three Fates, responsible for cutting threads

24. Influenced: wrapped around one’s _____

26. Spasm

27. Photo, as for a profile

28. Buzzes regarding events

33. Bath locale

34. Small abbreviation for a large landform

35. Hair that grows near 67-Across

36. Where people play the Blues?

39. Used to be

40. Rocker Joe or NFL coach Bill

41. Margarine

42. Tear

43. Possess

44. Beatitude beginning

46. Reveal: take the wraps _____

47. Pal, per Wolverine

50. Give the cold shoulder

52. Dish list

53. Secret: _____ wraps

57. Class of 2021, in brief

58. One with records

59. 55-Down, e.g.

60. Finishing words ... and a hint for the shaded squares

62. Date for fools (abbr.)

63. Elect to office

64. Wield

65. Understand: wrap one’s _____ around

66. Buffet heater

67. It might be naked or private
12. Source of color for 67-Across

13. Monk’s in Seinfeld, e.g.

18. _____ & Perrins steak sauce

22. Miracle-_____

24. Lie

25. A long time

27. Yellow body fluid

29. Chart

30. LeBron’s team, on a scoreboard

31. Donkey, or one acting like a donkey

32. “Quiet!”

33. Endings of some boxing matches

34. Chart

36. Steal

37. Sickly

38. Like Todd, for Mary of 17-Across

39. Picture that shows the subject in its surroundings

40. Org. for Hulk Hogan and the Rock

42. _____ room, such as a pool hall

43. Frequently, poetically

45. Madam’s counterpart

46. Remove from office

47. The Beach Boys’ _____ to Your School

48. Troubled

49. Squat, push-up, jump

51. Give a speech

52. Trim grass

53. State with the third-highest average elevation, 6100 feet

54. “Ain’t gonna happen”

55. _____ the Explorer

56. Oklahoma city that includes Vance Air Force Base

58. Billionth

60. Idiot boxes

61. Sloth, e.g.

Unseth performs original composition at finals for STL Teen Talent Competition

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
NEWS EDITOR

America’s got talent and so does SLUH! Senior and cello extraordinary Alexander Unseth perform his original composition, Beethoven on Broadway, in the finals of the Teen Talent competition. The event will be broadcast on PBS Channel Nine on Monday, May 24.

On April 3, Unseth performed on the stage of the Fabulous Fox theater as a finalist for the St. Louis Teen Talent competition, an area-wide event talent competition for high school students. Unseth had to beat out over 100 other student acts and pass by the preliminary and semifinalist stages to make it to the final round. SLUH sophomore Jude Reed also participated in the event, making it to the semifinal round with his band, The Lemons.

Now, after over a month since it was filmed, Unseth’s act—in addition to the acts of the 14 other contestants—will be aired in a special on PBS Channel Nine on May 24.

Unseth is classically trained in both the piano and the cello, a member of the SLUH orchestra and the renowned St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, and experienced in composition, which he started doing back when he wrote his first musical piece at the age of 14. However, when the preliminaries came around

in January, Unseth wanted to design a piece that moved away from his classical roots, one that incorporated all of his musical talents but added a twist to a style that he is so accustomed to.

“I feel that classical music is taken very seriously and it’s cloistered itself off in the world because it’s a very serious form of music. I wanted to compose something that would appeal to everyone, like something classical but something that is also fun,” said Unseth. “I came up with the idea of a piece called Beethoven on Broadway, where it takes a classical piece by Beethoven but then goes completely Broadway with it.”

For the preliminary round, Unseth would have to be on a call with a panel of judges while they listened to his piece. The judges provided helpful advice to Unseth that he took to heart as he fine-tuned his performance. This process of judging and providing feedback would also happen in the semifinals round too.

“It was certainly quite daunting to have to listen to myself in front of people who were critiquing everything that I was doing, but they gave me some very good advice,” said Unseth. “The first thing they told me was to have more personality in my playing, which I can attest to that. My playing is very flat because as a classical musician you aren’t really trained to put a lot of emotion into how you act.”

Although Unseth does not want to reveal his final performance until after it is streamed, he is confident that any viewer will enjoy the performance and that it was an enriching experience to be a part of.

“It was super fun to go outside my comfort zone because I’m a classically trained cellist. So for me to play something Broadway style was really strange and very new,” said Unseth. “And the fact that I played it on a huge stage was really going outside of my comfort zone for me. I think that really made for a fun experience for me there.”

While Unseth is happy to make it to the big stage and to be a finalist for the competition, he is even more grateful for the opportunity to share something that he is so passionate about with the St. Louis area.

“I think that music in general is really important to me for the fact that it’s really the way that I best express myself. There have been many personal challenges that I’ve had to face and I’m still facing many personal challenges. And there’s just such a nice escape in music because I’m able to just sit down at the piano and play, sit at the cello and just play,” said Unseth.

Tune in to Channel Nine next Monday at 7:00 pm to hear Unseth wow St. Louis in his final act of the St. Louis Teen Talent competition.



Unseth performs at the talent competition. photo | courtesy of Alex Unseth

Freshmen participate in class fun day



Freshmen participating in funday activities.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY JACKSON COOPER
STAFF

Members of the freshman class gathered on campus last Friday to celebrate their class fun day, the last class at St. Louis U. High to do so.

Though the date for freshman fun day was set at the beginning of the second semester, planning really only began in late April, about three weeks out from the event. The planning committee was headed by math teacher and freshman class moderator Stephen Deves, who was joined in planning by a volunteer group of teachers, including English teacher Michael Mohr, science teachers Megan Menne and Robyn Wellen, math teacher Julie Moeser, art teacher Sean Powers, and Admissions Coordinator Jennifer Thomas. The members of the committee were responsible for coordinating the itinerary for the day, as well as any logistics involved with setting up activities.

The day began with students arriving at school at 8:30 a.m. For the day's first activity, the freshmen gathered in the chapel for Mass, which was preceded by a speech from two senior advisors.

Mass was followed by the freshman awards ceremony, which served as a replacement for the planned all-school awards ceremony on April 29, where attendance was limited to juniors and seniors after weather concerns moved the event indoors. One of the freshman award winners this year was John Posey, who won the Fr. Hagan Award, given to students who display, in addition to extracurricular involvement and academic excellence, a love for SLUH and an overall joy in attending school.

"I'm really happy to have won the award," said Posey. "I am just very grateful."

After the awards ceremony was concluded, freshmen embarked on the remainder of

the day's activities. At the beginning of the day, as students walked into the Danis Lobby and finished their VisitU surveys, they received a name tag denoting which group they were assigned to. Depending on their group number, freshmen were sent to one of the three activities to begin: bashball on the soccer field, a scavenger hunt in the main school building, and, perhaps most fun of all, a wide variety of inflatables on the football field.

Of the day's abundance of activities, students especially enjoyed the opportunity to play bashball, which, for many, was their first experience of the SLUH fixture due to social distancing guidelines, until recently, limiting close contact sports on campus.

"Bashball was really fun," said freshman Noah Evers. "I had heard so much about it, but that was my first introduction to it. I would say it definitely lived up to expectations."

Another aspect of freshman fun day that was met with enthusiasm were the inflatables set up on the football field. The inflatables, which varied shape and size from an obstacle course to a bounce house, were a huge hit, and gave students the ability to let out some energy after a stressful school year.

"I really liked the obstacle course," said Evers. "I thought that was pretty fun. They also had a basketball inflatable and a soccer inflatable, and both of those were pretty fun."

Students also took part in the scavenger hunt, which was organized by art teacher Sean Powers, and was directed towards encouraging freshmen to explore areas of the school which they may not have seen before.

"The scavenger hunt was so great," said Deves. "Mr. Powers has such a deep knowledge for the school, so he was able to come up with some cool things where (freshmen) could find unique parts of the school they

hadn't known about before. They also had an app where they could scan a QR code and take a photo of themselves, so that was a good time."

Said Posey, "Especially for freshmen, because we are still so new to the school, being pushed to find new places and to just explore was really fun. I found a bunch of cool places (around the school) that I didn't even know existed before."

At the end of the day, Deves and his colleagues on the planning committee had one final trick up their sleeves, so to speak, as freshmen were treated to 45 minutes of magic. The idea to bring in a magician was hatched in a brainstorming session aimed at coming up with exciting activities, and, as planning progressed, the idea became a reality.

"One of the other things that came up in brainstorming that we thought was really cool as well, it was kind of like 'Hey, let's get a hypnotist or mentalist to perform,'" said Deves. "At first it seemed kind of big, but I looked into it, and there were some local people who could do it, so we ended up going for it."

For freshman Drew Winkeler, the best part of the day was not only the magic show, but also having the opportunity to talk to the magician throughout the day.

"Of course there was the whole big magic show," said Winkeler, "But (the magician) was also there for most of the day, doing tricks around some of the tables in the Commons. I really liked him. He was very fun and very good at what he does."

Above all, though, Deves expressed a huge amount of gratitude for his fellow members of the planning committee.

"I'm just very grateful that there are colleagues of mine who care much about these students and who want to make sure they have a fun day. They put in so much work to benefit them. I'm just so lucky to work with such great people," said Deves.

Following completion of roof, chapel renovations to begin in 2023

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that it's pushing two or three more weeks into the job due to the weather."

In addition to replacing the roofing material, the chapel skylights are being cleaned out and replaced in preparation for future projects on the chapel.

"The Chapel renovation and Campus Ministry offices that are going to be built below it are coming soon," said Rankin. "So, in order for us to get to that particular stage, we were going to need to end up having the roof done and completed already,

and the skylights to be already put in, which is not a problem during this renovation for that particular area down below."

After the roof project is completed, the next major project in the near future is a renovation of SLUH's chapel and creating a new space for Campus Ministry, set to begin in 2023.

"Bringing out more fully the most beautiful parts of the chapel will help enhance the students ability to pray to God and participate in the Mass," said Director of Campus Ministry Father Joseph Hill, S.J.

While there is still a lot of work to be done, and the completed renovations won't be completed for at least five years, the administration is hopeful and excited for the new opportunities that a renovated campus will bring.

"I'm excited about the renovations because every step allows us to prepare to provide great service and formation of young men and the fulfillment of our Catholic and Jesuit mission," said Carruthers. "And that is what we're going to keep doing, forming men for others."

Carruthers reflects on both the good and bad in school year of Covid

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into some of the difficulties and some of the triumphs. What have been some of the lowest points for you going as far back as the fourth quarter of last school year?

AC: The low points were often associated with corresponding high points. I think one was the fear of the unknown. I'm almost at my 30-year mark in Jesuit secondary education, and not a lot of things come across that you haven't at least had something that was close to it. The fear of the unknown and working through last Spring was really hard.

We didn't know much about the disease. We were making decisions and had to do long-term planning with not a whole lot of scientific data yet. I think that was really a low point.

The other piece was trying to find a way for the Class of 2020 to feel cared for. We committed early on that we were not going to do a virtual graduation. Having to delay graduation and Jr. Ring weighed heavily on all of us. Those guys had given up a lot in their last semester, but then to not have that moment of closure until, in July when we had it, and this comes with the (positive) flip side. It was spectacular.

The last thing was just the financial piece. We had many benefactors who had made pledges that we rely on for cash flow holding back their payments because they're coming from Donor Advised funds which had taken such a hit in the downturn. That happened at the same time as we're talking about doing lots of spending to accommodate the needs of protocols of the pandemic. We were seeing potential cash flow sources really change. Fortunately, this resolved, the market came back, pledges began to come in, and we had a very good last four quarters with advancement. The bills don't stop coming.

CF: I think you started to touch on this, but what were some of the best moments from this year where you've seen the SLUH brotherhood in action?

AC: We came together last year at the end of June to figure out what we were going to do. We had very serious discussions, but in the end, the energy shifted at one point to being, 'we've got to come back in person, in some way.' We decided we're coming back in hybrid. And I just remember this group full of people who were all volunteers, the Covid Task Force, all respectfully working through their own personal fears, their own personal beliefs, their own interpretations of science because there was not a clear pathway. And many schools ended up going a completely different way. We committed ourselves, collectively, even with the fear in the room and some of the unknowns, to make it.

People's positivity, creativity, innovation, and belief in each other kind of moves you forward.

CF: I think a big part of this whole pandemic has been, like you said, making sure that the experience of the freshmen and especially the experience of the seniors was as special as it is in typical years.

AC: It's different, right? It's going to be different. That's one of the most difficult pieces. A lot of people want it to be the same, and they get quite emotional that it's not going to be the same.

It's going to be different, but different doesn't mean worse, different means different, and in fact, it can be better. There were many people after we had graduation that were like, 'why don't we do this every year? It was better than the one we usually have.' It's such an Ignatian moment, right?

The Spiritual Exercises really have someone try to explore their disordered attachments. Tradition never graduates is a beautiful thing, but there is the potential of a disordered attachment in tradition never graduates because sometimes tradition should graduate. Change is good sometimes. It's not to be feared. And I think within the context of the pandemic we had no choice.

CF: How do you think the seniors then, as the leaders of the school, exemplified the grad at grad principle especially during the challenges of this 2020 to 2021 school year?

AC: They kept an eye on each other, they supported one other, they tried to find ways to feel connected, and I think that's loving. Guys showed up to food, faith and fellowship events or StuCo did things that were incredibly positive like the fish fries and mission week. We had to figure out a way to do service and we figured out how to do that.

I've seen it on the sports field, I've seen it on the stage. I've seen it in various other clubs. They've been a spectacular group. I think the Class of 2021 has knocked it out of the park, collectively, when it comes to the grad at grad.

CF: So this will be my penultimate question. I think as a school, especially as a Jesuit school, we have always tried to center everything around God. So how and where did you find God during dealing with all of this craziness?

AC: I found God in the moments of my own self doubt. I found God in the incredible service and hard work of our administrative team, the Covid Task Force, and the blood, sweat and tears that people put into that. I found God in Mr. Muskoff's commitment to find a way to get athletics go-

ing. I found God in teachers who, while faced with almost insurmountable challenges and demands, generally did so with grace and composure and professionalism at a level that I didn't think possible.

I found it in donors who, despite a market being rough, invested in what we do, and a board that continued to engage heavily.

We pulled off two Cashbahs that raised over \$2.6 million between the two of them, virtually. That's unheard of. The advancement team succeeded in continuing to do \$3 million a year plus in annual fund in each of those previous years. Across the board, people found a way because they believed in the mission.

People talk about how Catholic schools are so successful when some other schools really struggled. And I think in the end, it's the mission, it's the calling, it's the vocational element of the gift of our tradition. That's God behind that in the end, that's the Holy Spirit. So there's no doubt in my mind that that is the case.

CF: Mr. Hussung, on the art retreat, said 'we often talk a lot about where we find God, but it's what we do with God that really is spectacular.' And so that leads to my next question: where do we go from here, leading out of the pandemic, looking forward to the recovery? What's it going to look like next year, a year of recovery from this whole tumultuous time?

AC: We have many things we don't have answers to, kind of like this whole thing, right? You move forward and you answer the question of the day and then tomorrow you expect to answer the question of the day.

I think that we have a pathway that's more clear than it's been before. I think that we understand the need to not just wait for it to end but to plan our way out of this, and that's why we have this strategic summit this summer, to plan our way out of it on an academic level. I have a group of board members meeting to kind of plan our way out of it from a financial standpoint.

We will take the lessons of the pandemic and see what are the ones that we should keep. And we'll shelve the other ones for the future. Hopefully, it never happens again, but it may. We're going to plan, we're going to be smart and I think we have people around here that helps that become a reality.

How we've managed this entire enterprise is to put a bunch of motivated smart people in a room, identify the issues, use various different discernment processes and problem solving methodologies and research to find the possible answers and then pick the best possible answer for our scenario. It's not magic. It takes a lot of work. It takes smart people and we'll continue to do that.

Michael Blassie '66, who died in Vietnam, recognized for bravery and service

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form his younger siblings.

“My brother George would tell you that he (Michael) would always say, ‘eat your vegetables,’ or ‘do soccer,’ or ‘go outside,’” said Patricia Blassie, a former Air Force Colonel herself. “What we remember of Michael is, is very, very positive in our lives. . . . So we all look up to him and we still look up to him. And you know, he’s still only 24 years old (to us), and we’re all older.”

His parents, neither of whom attended college, were extremely proud of Michael for getting the appointment to the Air Force Academy. His father, a World War II veteran who served in Normandy, was especially proud of Michael’s decision to serve his country.

“My father was very proud that Michael was taking this step, serving his country,” said Blassie. “In some ways, my father lived his life through Michael. It was sort of interesting because he was so proud of him, and he wanted to be around him. And of course we all did. But it was in a different way,” said Blassie. “But I don’t know if it was because of my father, but I do know that Michael was proud of my father’s service.”

“I remember him studying, practicing all the things that he needed to, but very focused and determined and just kept getting up each day and going, and that’s what I heard from his classmates and you know, as he went through the academy and as he went to Vietnam, you get up every day,” said Blassie. “You got a mission. You gotta do it.”

Michael discovered a passion for flying while in the Air Force Academy.

“The next thing I knew as a

young person is he’s graduated and he is going to go to Columbus Air Force Base Mississippi to get his wings,” said Blassie. “He loved to fly. And he was really good at it. His athleticism lended him to flying, because the kind of plane he flew, it was an A-37. It’s an attack aircraft, they fly very low because they drop bombs on very specific targets.”

Michael was forced to grow up very quickly in the midst of the Vietnam War. However, he developed into a skilled pilot with a sense of duty.

Intellectually Competent

Part of what led Blassie to the Air Force Academy post-graduation from SLUH was a strong intellectual competency.

“My parents were not educated and so we weren’t really encouraged to get an education,” said Blassie. “Michael got that appointment (because) he had that mentoring (at SLUH). My father and mother were so proud. And yes, that was an important thing for him (Michael). It seemed like there was a focus for Michael to do all the things that he was going to do: get an appointment to the Academy, become a pilot, and carry on from there.”

On May 11, 1972, Blassie was flying outside An Loc by the Cambodian border when a burst of fire was seen coming towards his plane. According to Patricia Blassie, he was seen streaming fuel by the plane in front of him and shortly after his plane inverted and he went down, exploding on impact in enemy territory. It is believed he died on impact because he never transmitted any distress call.

Blassie died alongside many other soldiers that day.

“I always thought that May 11 was a bad day for the Blassie

family,” said Patricia Blassie. “But it was a bad day for a lot of Vietnam veterans and their families. The battle was so intense that when Michael went in, the helicopters that usually go in to find you if you’re alive and bring out your remains, they couldn’t do much other than make sure there was no sign of life and leave.”

The great mind of Michael Blassie was cut short by the horrors of war.

Religious

As Michael most likely recited often as a practicing Catholic, the Nicene Creed states, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.” Michael was a server at his local parish and kept attending church at the Air Force Academy. Maybe it was his faith in God that allowed him to have the courage to enter into such a thunderous battle. In any case, Blassie’s actions show a trust in God greater than many people ever get to experience.

“We went to church, as Catholics, but just knowing that when he went to the Academy, he would attend chapel, and when we brought him home, the Archbishop of St. Louis presided over his bringing home,” said Patricia Blassie.

Patricia Blassie appreciates SLUH’s goal of creating Men for Others and believes her brother exemplifies that ideal.

“I didn’t know SLUH’s motto was ‘man for others,’ said Blassie. “Michael signed up to serve his country, he died serving his country, even under controversial situations. But he believed in what he was doing. I’ve read what he wrote, and he believed

in what he was doing, in spite of the controversy. But he answered the call, just like so many other Vietnam veterans, hundreds of thousands of them, and 58,000 who lost their lives, but then he was selected to continue to serve as the Vietnam unknown soldier, for 14 years as he was in the tomb.”

Loving

Perhaps the hardest grad at grad principal to describe is loving. It can be shown in many different ways, but in the case of Lt. Blassie, it is best seen in his commitment to God, family, and country. Even though Patricia only got 14 years with her brother, his love continues to impact her in her life today and she continues to miss him to this day.

“You sort of think somebody is invincible, you don’t think that’s the last time you’re going to see somebody is at the airport and way back in the day we were able to go to the gate to see the aircraft off,” said Patricia. “And we were there and you know Michael looked back and did one of his smiles and waves. But in my small mind, young mind, I should say, I never thought it would be the last day that I would see him. But my parents may have, it just wasn’t asked as a family.”

Committed to Doing Justice

Michael’s commitment to justice was evident in his decision to attend a service academy during a time of war, knowing he would almost certainly be engaged in the conflict.

“I don’t remember my family ever talking about the war. We were just so proud of Michael getting appointed,” said Patricia Blassie. “But the class of ’70 knew they were going to go to

war and it’s a big deal when you look back on that, because they made a commitment to their country, and they knew they were going to do something on the battlefield most likely when they graduated.”

His service didn’t just stop there. In 1973, Congress ordered a Vietnam vet to be interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier because every other war had a soldier interred there. However, they passed this in a time when bodies were soon much easier to be identified.

Despite initially being correctly identified from his military ID in 1972 and other artifacts found on his body, his identity was stripped in 1980 after a 1978 report from a doctor at the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii.

Meanwhile, Vietnam Veterans groups were pressuring the government to inter someone in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier because they wanted something to commemorate the veterans and the sacrifice. By 1984 President Ronald Reagan led the charge to put someone in the tomb, and Michael’s remains were chosen. Fast forward to 1994 and Patricia Blassie received a call from former Green Beret Ted Sampley, who argued that it was in fact Michael in the tomb due to his investigation into the 1972 records, eliminating pilot after pilot and until he settled on the identity of the unknown soldier as being Michael Blassie. Patricia Blassie listened in disbelief.

Not much happened until CBS Correspondent Vince Gonzalez reached out to the family in 1997, wanting to dive into the theory. Michael’s mom Jean Blassie agreed to let

Gonzalez investigate using the Freedom of Information Act, and on Jan. 19, 1998 CBS Evening News aired the story to the world, saying the remains were not in fact unknown. Following DNA tests from the remains and Blassie’s mother, his identity was confirmed, and he returned to St. Louis on July 11, 1998 after 14 years in the Tomb of the Unknown.

“It was tough,” said Patricia Blassie. “Because confronting the U.S. government is daunting, right? But he would have wanted us to stand for the truth, I believe.”

In other words, Michael would have wanted the truth to come to light. Michael’s commitment to fighting for countrymen led him to his untimely death, and eventually to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. But it was this memory of his commitment to justice that led his family to bring him back.

“And then (my youngest brother) George said, ‘Wait a second: Michael’s a hero. He served his country. He deserves to be known,’” said Patricia reminiscing on her family’s decision to fight for his return instead of leaving him in the sacred Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Michael’s short life with his heroic service are examples of the type of person every SLUH student should be; one that is open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice, even when the world is a mess. His family’s struggle to bring him home ensured that everyone could know him and celebrate him, and that we as students could use his struggle as inspiration to be better people.

Lacrosse has first home crowd since spring of 2019



The first filled student section of the year.

photo | Jack Rutter

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We talked about what the CDC guidelines looked like for masks, numbers, indoor sports versus outdoor sports. We discussed which events we would be hosting,” said Muskopf. “Then, I went to look at volleyball, baseball, and lacrosse, and typed up a proposal which we (the committee that met on Friday) edited and finalized.”

By Monday, May 17, the document with the new rules for attendance and procedure processes for the three spring sports who are currently in the playoffs (lacrosse, baseball, volleyball) was released in Gibbons’ weekly parent connect email.

Varsity baseball, which took on Kirkwood last night in the district quarterfinals, had the strictest rules for the spectators because of how dense the seating at the baseball stadium is. Fans

who are admitted will be sitting shoulder-to-shoulder, so the rules the spectators will have to adhere to will be more conservative. Each player and coach is allowed four spectators, who upon arrival to the field will need to present a voucher they were given ahead of time by their affiliated programs’ coach, and will also need to pay a \$5 admission fee. All spectators seated in the stadium still have to be masked. The athletes, like their supporters, will have to remain masked because of the impossibility of maintaining social distancing in dugout areas.

“We felt that four people per player was appropriate because we recognize that this is the postseason, which is important,” said Muskopf. “We’re going to fill the stadium, so masking was the right idea.”

“This will be the first time

my whole family has been able to come to a high school game in a long time,” said senior catcher Andrew Loeffelman. “Having a student body presence adds a whole new level to the home field advantage too so it would be great to have guys at the game.”

Volleyball’s district playoff game against Fort Zumwalt West this Tuesday had slightly less strict regulations because the contests were played in the Danis Field House. There was a five-person limitation for each player and coach, and a list of the spectators’ names and information was compiled prior to the event. Only those on the list could spectate. The groups of five had to distance from the other respective pods of spectators, and the fans were confined to the west bleachers. Masks remained a requirement due to

the fact that the event was inside and the CDC still recommends masking while indoors for unvaccinated people.

“Our limiting of five per player or coach was that we could space the bleachers out,” said Muskopf. “We felt like five was a good number because the capacity of one side of our bleachers is about 500, so if we have about 200 people in the stands, we can space that out well.”

SLUH’s lacrosse team, which played its first playoff game against Eureka last night and advanced to the State Finals, had its first home crowd on Tuesday. There were no limitations on the spectators that were allowed at the game, but the spectators were required to sit together in groups by household or family, and keep a distance from other groups. To ensure Covid-19 safety, those who were seen not adhering to the distancing rules would be asked to wear a mask.

“The logic for lacrosse extrapolates to the stadium for lacrosse. We’re playing Eureka, and we knew we were going to have a good crowd, but not as large a crowd if we played a rival like De Smet or CBC. We knew that we were going to end up with 700 fans or so, which could easily be spaced out in a stadium that can hold 3,000 people,” said Muskopf,

The players, who had not

experienced a true home game all season, felt the impact of the fans.

“Having a home crowd at SLUH against Eureka was really motivating and a good feeling of having my peers supporting us,” said senior Bobby Conroy.

“It was awesome,” said Baumer. “I loved having the crowds back in the stands and to feel their energy on the field.”

The players were not the only beneficiaries of SLUH’s bleachers being filled by supporters; SLUH students, especially seniors, were thrilled to fill the bleachers once again.

“It definitely felt good to finally have a student section,” said senior Jack Rudder. “We had some weird restrictions as far as distancing went, but it felt really good and normal to get the boys rowdy.”

The changes made recently for game attendance are not necessarily permanent for next season, but they are a start.

“We’ve got another week before we talk about how Friday’s announcement impacts the summer, and then we’ve got six weeks or so to figure out how Friday’s change impacts the fall,” said Muskopf. “I would hesitate to say that what we’re doing now is definitively what’s next. But, given the importance that the CDC and the medical community has given to vaccinations, hopefully we’ll be in

a place where we can continue to move with more opportunity and less restriction.”

It is hard to imagine sports without crowds of fans waiting to witness greatness or something to cheer for. The sound of a cheering crowd serves as a background vocal for sporting events, which felt eerily silent and out of place as sports stadiums across the country and the globe were without in-person fans. The best case scenarios were virtual fans displayed behind NBA benches in the Orlando bubble, or even cardboard cutouts of celebrities behind home plate in the MLB’s last season.

As we come closer to loosening regulations on Covid-19, both professional and now high school sports are seeing fans return to the stadium. Although fans might not gather by the thousands at SLUH events, they are still crucial to making sports games an experience for both the spectator and the player.

“I have only one thing to say; please come to games if you’re free. It really makes the athletes that are playing feel so much prouder and happier to play for the school and for you guys as fellow brothers and fans,” said Conroy. “Be loud and be into the game, have fun with it. Seeing crowds in the stands of SLUH games is one of the greatest feelings I’ve ever encountered in my time playing sports here.”



Top News Articles:

Grande Project replaces Senior Project for pandemic

In place of their Senior Projects, seniors have spent early mornings, long evenings, and late nights interviewing, researching, recording, and writing for their Grande Projects. It's been an experience of grudge-filled lows and surprising highs as seniors have struggled and persevered, their high school experience coming to a close. The Grande Project is the replacement for the Senior Project, which was not possible due to Covid-19.

Cashbah

The St. Louis U. High Commons were commandeered for the annual Cashbah event on Saturday, April 10, but instead of being flooded with parents and friends of SLUH, it was adorned with tech equipment and cameras to host the virtual Cashbah event. A cocktail reception was offered to sponsors, who generously supported the auction. It was limited to around 100 people in order to provide a safe environment. The predominant fundraising event for SLUH, it exceeded its 1 million dollar goal even with the implications of Covid and the economic uncertainty it created.

Admin decides to keep block schedule for 2021-2022 school year

The administration announced its decision earlier this week to keep the block schedule for the 2021-2022 academic year instead of reverting back to the pre-pandemic seven-period schedule. The announcement has evoked mixed responses from students and faculty, who have expressed a wide range of opinions regarding the schedules.

According to Principal Ian Gibbons, S.J., the decision was made to keep the block schedule for mainly Covid safety reasons. A Pandemic Response Team that the administration put together last March will remain active through next school year to monitor the remaining Covid risks at SLUH.

"It's one of those things that at some point we're going to look back and realize that this is no longer a thing," said Gibbons. "It just kind of quietly goes away and that's the story of pandemics, there's not a hard end to something like that."

Snow days go asynchronous in age of virtual learning

Rumors of snow days and questions about schedule changes were spreading across the Backer Memorial this past Tuesday and Wednesday. With the possibility of a snow day looming, and with SLUH teachers and students becoming more proficient in learning remotely, principal Ian Gibbons S.J. and his staff decided the time was ripe for updating the school's snow day policy. These changes revolve around teachers assigning asynchronous assignments to complete during their snow days. These changes are expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future, meaning that students will no longer be able to relish those coveted snow days.

SLUH staple Tom Becvar retires after 48 years of service; Kevin Foy promoted

Assistant Principal for Academics Tom Becvar announced this year that he will be retiring after 48 years, leaving behind a SLUH community that is much better off because of his work. Faculty and students alike often don't realize the extent to which Becvar has impacted St. Louis U. High. He will be replaced by Social Studies Department chair Kevin Foy.

We're back! Students and faculty return to synchronous learning

Through a three part series, the *Prep News* has documented how SLUH has transitioned from being completely online for first three weeks to a hybrid system for a majority of the Fall semester to final a full in-person return at the beginning of

the second semester.



photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

90% of students polled feel safe returning to school

The *Prep News* sent out a survey on Friday, Aug. 28 asking students about their satisfaction with distance learning and confidence in Saint Louis U. High's safety programs as we return to school in person on Sept. 10. Two hundred fifty-five people responded to the survey: 69 freshmen, 53 sophomores, 49 juniors, 52 seniors, and 32 faculty/staff. Each respondee was asked how they would rate their satisfaction with the current distance learning schedule, how they would compare the current system with last year's system, and how safe they feel coming back to SLUH in the coming weeks. Just over three quarters of the respondents reported that they were at least moderately satisfied with the way distance learning is being handled at SLUH, 58.8 percent saying that the current system is better than last year's with an additional 24.3 percent stating that it's on par with last year's system. In regards to safety, over 90 percent of respondents answered that they at least feel moderately safe returning to school for in-person classes, with 48.6 percent saying they feel completely safe.

Sports fight to return amid pandemic

Fall sports were introduced to the adjusted processes they would have to implement into their programs because of Covid. High-frequency sports like football and soccer faced longer returns to full capacity with more precautions, while low-frequency sports like swim and dive and cross country had fewer hurdles to leap before they were back in full.

Friday Night Lights Return: Football begins season against St. Mary's

SLUH football returned to the field on Oct. 9 after what felt



Top Sports Articles:

like an eternity against Saint Mary's. The team unfortunately lost 40-24, but the fact that the team was able to put the pads back on and suit up for its first game was a huge sign of hope for the community.

Cross Country snags second place finish as historic season comes to an end

The 2020 cross country season came to a close with a surprising second place finish at the 71st annual Missouri State Meet. The race conditions were perfect, and personal records were sure to be broken. In the end, even though only seven students ran for SLUH, the second place finish represented the great season and the team as a whole.

SLUH scores 4 goals in 3rd period comeback to retain Jesuit Cup for 6th year in a row

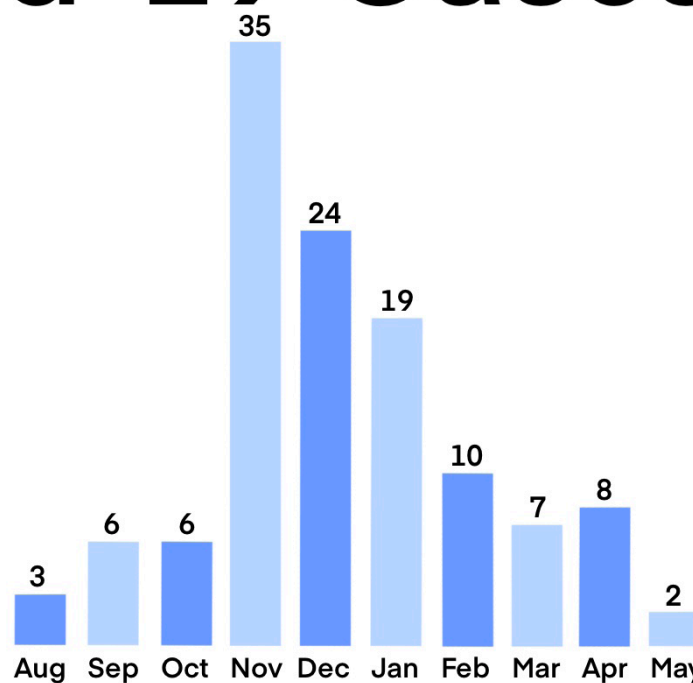
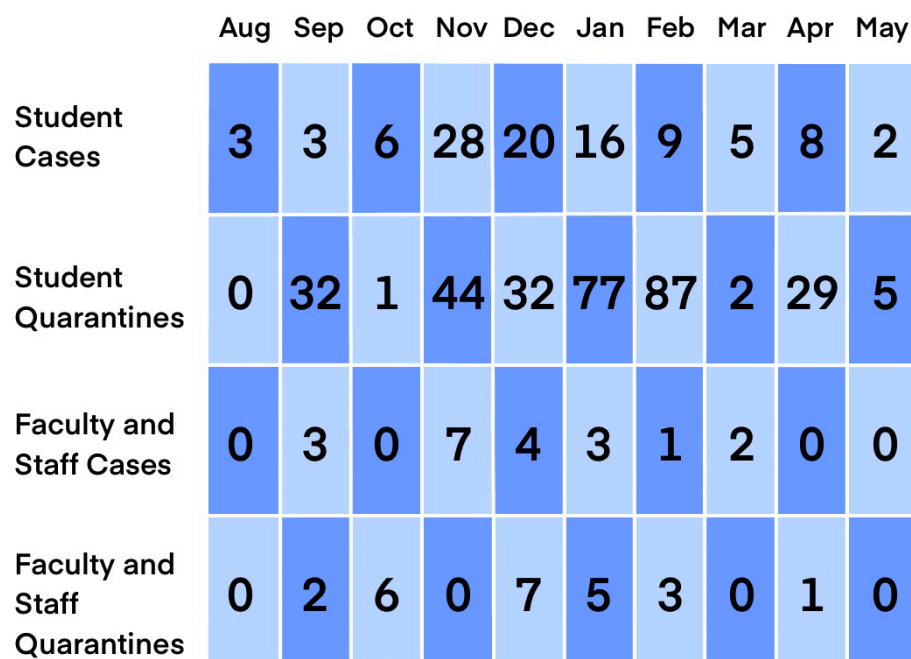
Coming back from Christmas break, the SLUH hockey team won its sixth straight Jesuit Challenge Cup. The game was a huge win for SLUH because they earned temporary bragging rights in the longstanding SLUH-De Smet rivalry. The game was one of the best this year, as the Jr. Bills fought tooth-and-nail to score four goals in the final period of the game.

Lacrosse brings Marco Cup back to SLUH, takes down De Smet 9-8

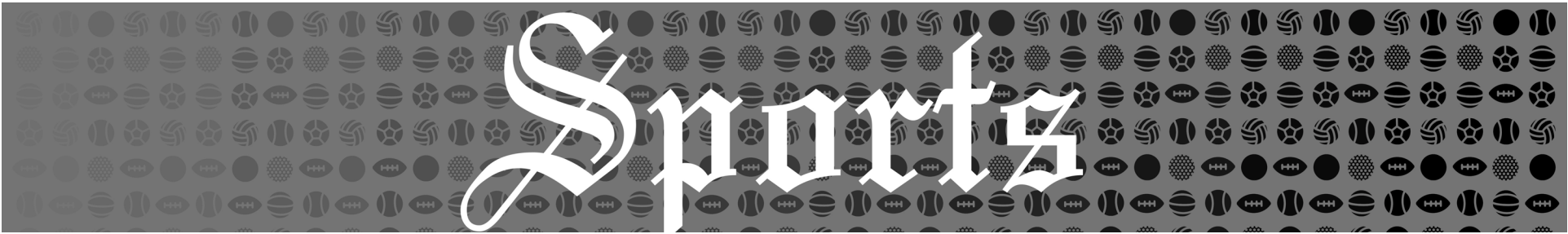
SLUH won against De Smet not only in hockey, but in lacrosse as well. This year, the team retook the cup from the Spartans in the three-game event. The lacrosse team had suffered a tough 15-point loss the year prior, so the victory was a huge morale booster for the squad. Like their brethren on the ice, the team had to come back after trailing. Senior captain Bobby Conroy managed to put the nail in the coffin for a 9-8 SLUH victory over the Spartans.

21 in '21: Racquetball edges Lindbergh, Parkway West for 21st state title

This year, SLUH's heralded racquetball team won its 21st State Championship on Feb. 27, with the fun coincidence that its 21st title did indeed come in the year 2021. The team won four of the seven brackets at the tournament, and its score of 545 was enough to earn victory over its main competitors, Parkway West and Lindbergh.



graph | Charlie Bieg



Lacrosse wins against Eureka to advance to semis

BY NICK CAMPBELL
STAFF

State playoffs. These two swords have begun to occupy the minds of St. Louis U. High's varsity lacrosse team in recent days after receiving its No. 6 seeding for the Division I State Cup. For many seniors, a season that seemed to have gone by so quickly is nearing an unavoidable end, and with this sentiment came a newfound sense of energy and grit that allowed the Jr. Bills to bury the hatchet on No. 11 seed Eureka this past Tuesday in a 11-7 victory.

Prior to the initial faceoff, the Jr. Bills had been regearing their play style to be better face off against a strong Eureka team. Most importantly was the issue of minimizing the danger of Eureka's Jeremiah Schumacher, a D-II committed attackman with a powerful left-handed shot. The Jr. Bills sought to counter this by preventing Schumacher from receiving the ball in the first place, assigning junior Joe Weiss to get the job done. The addition

of new JV call-ups to the roster also provided a shot of new energy for the team.

Preparation continued off the turf as players flocked to barbers and other electric razor-wielding teammates to get the traditional "playoff cuts" in the form of mullets and zero fades. However, possibly the most important addition to the game was the presence of fans. The Jr. Bills' final home game was the first athletic event this year where students were allowed to be present for the action, with around 60 students becoming an energizing presence in the stands.

"It's super cool and meaningful to be with you all in that stadium," said second team all-state goalie Bernie Kilcullen to fans after the game. "That kind of energy makes me ready to play hard and go guns blazing against CBHS."

From the first whistle onward, the Jr. Bills dominated the faceoff, winning 18 total and 75 percent overall. These wins, along with a scrappy riding offense, created the possessions

SLUH needed in the end.

"We won that game because of our riding," said head coach Andrew Toussaint. "It's that and ground balls that gave us the advantage."

This newfound effort on ground balls comes as a relief to the team as these stats have often been lackluster in the Jr. Bills score books.

In the first quarter, the offense established itself as dangerous from below the goal line, as a feed from all-state midfielder Bobby Conroy to sophomore attackman Walter Hurley put SLUH on the board. The defense initially struggled to force the Eureka offense down the alleys, giving up one point. SLUH maintained the lead as junior Ted Leritz found the back of the net in an unsettled offensive situation, ending the first with a score of 2-1.

Through the second and third quarters, the Jr. Bills offense continued to find gaps in Eureka's armor, pulling away to 9-4 thanks to two more goals by Conroy (for the hat trick), another

goal from Hurley, and junior Ted Leritz burning his man at X to finish a low to high.

Eureka attempted to close the gap in the fourth quarter, but the game was sealed when the Jr. Bills in the stands belted out "O When the Bills" as Conroy buried his fourth and final shot of the day. SLUH finished the game up 11-7, holding the previously mentioned DII attackman to only two goals thanks to lockdown defense from Weiss. Another player of note is junior defensive midfielder Jack Christanell, who totaled 12 ground balls throughout the game.

On the game, Toussaint concluded, "Our riding was what won us the game, and there were a lot of mistakes, especially our passing, but a win is a win. Our effort was there and now we need to bring that to CBC."

The Jr. Bills took yesterday to hone in their defense, passing, and full-team involvement.

The Jr. Bills face off against the Cadets today at CBC for semifinals. Fans are permitted.

Water polo beats Parkway Central for 3rd in State

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

After a season of 8:30-10:00 a.m. practices, bi-weekly COVID testing, pool closures, and only 12 games, the journey for the St. Louis U. High water polo team is over. Last Friday, the JV water polo team claimed victory in overtime against Parkway West to gain the title as JV State champions. The next day, varsity dominated Parkway Central to earn third place in the Varsity State Tournament.

"This year we were bouncing from pool to pool, the quality of the pools varied, but despite the conditions we were able to persevere and actually become a great team together," said sophomore JV captain Christopher St. John. "(I learned) that the facilities don't matter, it's really the people on the team that matter."

SLUH's JV water polo team had an extremely tough year. With 13 out of its 17 players being freshmen, about half being completely new to water polo, and none having ever played a high school game, the squad was more inexperienced than ever before. Additionally the team only had 10 games, far fewer than a normal year. Even with all of these challenges, the JV team emerged victorious against Parkway West, which was the only team they lost to during the regular season, winning 7-6 in overtime.

"Our season goal was to become the best team we can be. Under the circumstances, I am confident that (we did). Given the pool situation, the odd practice times, the few number of games ... I don't know what else we could've done," said JV coach Paul Baudendistel. "I think the JV players attended as faithfully as they could, listened well, tried their best, (and) I feel that I did a decent job of coach-

ing, so for the conditions we were in I don't know what else we could've done."

The two teams were seemingly evenly matched, ending the first two quarters of the finals game tied. The third quarter was where the Jr. Bills faced significant resistance, but thanks to three goals from sophomore Gavin Baldes, two goals from freshman Aidan Brawer, and one goal from Jack Hulslen the JV squad ended the fourth quarter tied at 6-6. The game moved on to overtime, where freshman Tommy Riley fired the ball into the net to score the game-winning goal.

While the goal scoring was fantastic, the unsung hero of the game was freshman goalie Josh Niermann. Niermann ended the game with a total of 10 saves and two assists, showing that he was not only impenetrable on defense but also a valuable asset to the offense. His shining moment came in the fourth quarter, when SLUH was down 6-5, and Parkway West received a penalty shot. Accomplishing a feat that had not yet been seen the entire year, Niermann saved the shot. The roar from the stands of Kirkwood's pool could be heard in St. Charles as the momentum of the game shifted. After the amazing save the Jr. Bills conquered the Longhorns to secure the state victory.

"The moment of realization that we actually pulled it off—because that was a long game that had gone back-and-forth—the whole team just looked at each other and we were so happy," said sophomore JV captain Brendan Schroeder. "We were all hugging each other and laughing ... it was definitely my favorite moment of the season."

The varsity squad also ended its season on a win, having faced off against Parkway Cen-

tral for the third time this year. The games against Parkway Central chronicle the rapid improvement of the SLUH squad, as they faced the same team at three completely different times in the season. The first time the U. High water polo team faced off against Parkway Central was the second game of the season, in which SLUH narrowly achieved victory in overtime. Its second matchup was in the middle of the season, where SLUH won 10-8, bringing the margin of victory up to two goals. In each team's final game of the season, SLUH dominated, resulting in an end score of 9-4, improving by three goals in just a couple of weeks.

"Just watching our team's improvement and seeing how much better we can always be getting (was my biggest takeaway from the season)," said senior Charlie Wills. "We could always improve ourselves and the progress was right there when we looked for it."

"My biggest takeaway from the season was that no matter how you start out there is always room to grow, and I know it's going to sound cheesy, but if you really believe that you can do (something) and you put forth effort you can do just about anything," senior Dominic Fiordelisi added.

The battle for third place saw a strong start from the Jr. Bills with a goal from Fiordelisi in just the first 16 seconds of the game. After a flurry of saved shots from the SLUH offense, sophomore Brandon Harris was able to put a goal in, giving the squad a 2-0 lead not even halfway into the first quarter. After two goals from Parkway Central tied the game, senior captain Carson Cornett skipped the ball into the net from the six meter mark to get SLUH back in the lead. Build-

ing off of the momentum, junior Zach Brugnara scored on a wide open goal thanks to a cross-goal pass from junior Cooper Scharff. As icing on the cake, with nine seconds left in the quarter, junior Connor Buehring lofted a perfect setup pass to junior Cooper Scharff for the tip in.

"The game against Parkway Central was fun," said head coach John Penilla. "At halftime the game was basically over ... we just dominated them, so that was a lot of fun. That was a team that we've played close (games with), so to (dominate) them was really neat."

The second quarter kicked off with a save from senior goalie Ben Geldmacher, followed immediately by a devious near-side-low skip shot from junior Sam French that slipped into the net. Continuing the trend of conquest, Brody Nester beautifully passed the ball across the pool to Scharff, who fired it right into the unprotected corner of the cage to bring the score to 7-2. After a goal from Parkway Central, sophomore Bradon Harris returned the favor by scoring a layout shot from the two-meter line, ending the half 8-3.

The second half of the game was far less eventful, with both teams scoring one goal each to bring the final score to 9-4, making the St. Louis University High water polo team third place in the state, gaining yet another new piece of hardware.

Even though third place was not the result the team was hoping for, the Jr. Bills ended the year on a high note. Their best three games of the season were their final three games, which is a powerful sign of how much the team grew throughout the season. The team's 7-6 semifinals loss against Kirkwood was tied until the final 90

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SLUH rugby defeats Chaminade for St. Louis Championship

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High Rugby team won the St. Louis Championship last Thursday against Chaminade with a final score of 49-5. The offense's ability to score quickly, convert consistently, and defend drive after drive made for a blow-out of a game, which has been commonplace for the team this year.

SLUH kicked off to start the game, and the Jr. Bill defense contained Chaminade to its side of the field. A penalty against SLUH gave Chaminade the kick. However, the kick went out of bounds and resulted in a scrum.

A line-out gave SLUH possession, and a penalty against Chaminade allowed senior Blake Collins to break through the defensive line and score a try for SLUH. The conversion from junior Max Sextro was good, making the score 7-0 early in the game.

"I've had three tries called back against Chaminade, so I came into the game ready to dominate," said Collins. "It felt

great."

Both teams had aggressive back and forth with good rucks. However, SLUH's offense prevailed after senior John Budd caught a pass in the try zone from senior Connor Gunn, giving SLUH five points. Sextro's conversion was good, making the score 14-0 SLUH.

Dulick received Chaminade's kick, drove the ball through the defensive line, and carried the ball to SLUH's 30-yard line. The Jr. Bills continued to work the ball to the outside all the way to Chaminade's 35-yard line, where Dulick reunited with the ball and broke through into the try zone for another score. Another successful conversion from Sextro gave SLUH a 21-0 lead with 14 minutes left in the half.

Senior Thomas Matyiko received the kick in touch, giving Chaminade a line-out in SLUH's territory. SLUH won the line-out, and Dulick managed to drive the ball deeper into Chaminade's territory before being brought down just shy of a score on the five-yard line. SLUH gave

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Tennis drops District Final to Burroughs as Tettamble advances to state singles.

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

The 2021 SLUH tennis season came to a heartbreaking finish last week at John Burroughs, where the Jr. Bills were beaten quickly by Burroughs's state-ready team in the District final. Losing 0-5, the match was a disappointing end to an otherwise impressive season put together by SLUH.

Before Districts began last week, the Jr. Bills finished MCC conference play with a dominant victory in the MCC tournament, which took place at Chaminade and CBC on May 6. Following a rain out for the first day of the tournament, SLUH headed into the tournament confident, and rightfully so. After beating all of their MCC rivals this year during the season, the varsity players were excited to compete for the trophy.

The results were just as SLUH had hoped, as singles wins from juniors Gus Tettamble and Henry Dowd and sophomore Luke Gund as well as a doubles win from junior Jake Marison and sophomore Josh Lombardi propelled the Jr. Bills to a first place finish. The tournament win was the second in a row for SLUH, who won in 2019 and likely would have won in 2020 had it not been for Covid.

After beating the MCC schools, next on the list for SLUH Tennis was Team Districts, where they admittedly faced an uphill

battle against some deep competition. After a first-round bye, though, SLUH hosted Lindbergh and dominated with strong net play and serves. The match got off to an especially hot start as the No. 1 doubles team of Tettamble and Dowd won 8-1. No. 2 doubles, played by Nadreau and Gund, and No. 3 doubles, played by Marison and Lombardi, followed suit, as the duos won 8-5 and 8-6, respectively.

After notching three wins in doubles, the Jr. Bills needed only two singles wins to get to the five needed to advance, and those came from Nadreau and Gund, who were the first of SLUH's six singles players to finish. The win was a big morale boost for the team.

"My favorite match for sure was districts against Lindbergh. It was big, we had the whole SLUH team cheering us on. It got intense and it got heated, but it was a really fun match and we ultimately came up with the win," said Dowd.

Next, though, was a much tougher challenge. When the Jr. Bills last travelled to John Burroughs weeks ago, they lost 1-8, carried by Tettamble's lone singles win. Even with that in mind, the team still had faith in their play.

Things got off to a rocky start, though. The Jr. Bills quickly dropped Nos. 2 and 3 doubles, losing 1-8 in both matches. Even Tettamble and Dowd could

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JV and varsity ultimate frisbee end season

BY GRANT GRABOWSKI
REPORTER

Varsity and JV ultimate frisbee played the first game in the SLUH State Tournament last week. JV took on De Smet's B team while Varsity headed over to Edwardsville for a rematch. Both games were elimination, raising the temperature for the players. De Smet and Edwardsville both proved difficult opponents and tested SLUH to a new level.

JV had an afternoon game against De Smet's B team. SLUH focused on defensive counters to deep cuts. De Smet came out strong to start the half with a more physical defense.

"They had one way of scoring points," said junior Alex Nance. "They had some impressive deep throws and we ended up getting in our own heads for a bit."

The physicality of the Spartans gave them the advantage going into the second half. Down 8-2, SLUH had a lot of ground to make up.

The second half continued with the Spartans maintaining control. However, the Jr. Bills shifted to a defense similar to De Smet's. The new defensive style slowed down the game and forced several turnovers from the Spartans. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to completely stop De Smet. The game ended in a loss for SLUH 15-4.

"I think that we as a team have improved greatly on our team's composition," said Nance. "For a lot of us it was our first year playing Ultimate, so I think with a whole season under our belt we can come back next year better equipped mentally, physi-

cally, and athletically for another State run."

The varsity squad took on Edwardsville in the evening. SLUH had played them the previous Friday and lost in a hard fought game and the Jr. Bills went in ready to win the game.

SLUH began the game and quickly found it to be an uphill battle against Edwardsville. The first half saw complete control by the Tigers with a halftime score of 8-2.

"We had played Edwardsville before and had been on a losing scenario at half before," said senior David Slama. "Our mindset was to come out strong and make it a close game."

The Jr. Bills entered the second half and looked to capitalize on all the offensive opportunities the Tigers were presenting them. However the Tigers' defensive setup was challenging for SLUH to overcome.

"We weren't swinging the disk between our handlers as much as we should have," said Slama. "As a result the stall counts started to get higher and higher which forced rushed throws to cutters who weren't necessarily open"

The Tigers' aggressive defense was the driving force behind their maintained control over the Jr. Bills and the final score of 15-3.

With both varsity and JV seasons over the team looks back on all the positive work that was done and what could be carried on into next year. The seniors of the team are all grateful for a final outing of frisbee and look forward to hearing about how their legacy will play out for the future seasons.

JV Water Polo wins State Championship

(continued from page 8)

seconds of the game, another sign of how much the team improved. Going from losing 16-8 during the regular season against Kirkwood to losing 7-6 in a game that could've gone either way is amazing. Third place is an extremely admirable achievement for the Jr. Bills this year.

"My favorite moment of the season was the Kirkwood game," said Penilla. "Just watching the Kirkwood game was fun. It was rough, not what we wanted, but it was pretty fun. I don't cheer too much during games, but when we were scoring goals I was screaming; I don't do that very often, so that was fun."

"My biggest takeaway from the season is that really nothing is guaranteed," Cornett added. "Especially playing water polo at SLUH you are kind of in that mindset that you are going to win every year, but that's obviously not the case. Even though we may not have won, I still really loved our season."



photo | courtesy of @SLUHathletics
The team before playing CBC.

Overall, something that made this year's water polo team truly special was the deep chemistry and friendship shared. Before each game, the players declare that they will "play fair, play hard, play for each other, and play," all of which they have taken to hard and accomplished to the fullest this year.

"My favorite (moments with the team) were the late night practices," said senior Andrew Trout. "I just felt like we grew a lot closer than we would've been (in a normal year)."

"I realized how close this team actually was. I knew we were a pretty close team my sophomore year, but I didn't realize how close the team actually was until this year and all of the stuff we went through with Covid protocols and everything else," Geldmacher said. "The team really stuck together, especially at the end. Everybody came together and really worked for this team."

Following District win, Tettamble eyes State

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not pull out a win against Burroughs' top two players, who are the favorite to win doubles at the individual state tournament this year. With their backs now against the wall, singles didn't go much better. Despite strong plays from No. 1 seed Tettamble and No. 3 seed Gund, decisive singles wins from Burroughs against Lombardi and Dowd ended the Jr. Bills hopes at a team state title this year. The loss was disappointing, but Dowd still appreciated the opportunity to play.

"It was a good season, with all the adversity this year it was good just to have something back to normal and I feel like tennis gave us that opportunity," he said. "It was a good year."

Not all of SLUH's players will be packing their bags after the Burroughs loss, though. Tettamble, following his win in the individual district tournament, will be headed to Springfield to play at State, which starts today.

At Districts, Tettamble faced Lindbergh's Brian Kim, who proved tough competition throughout this season. Tettamble ultimately won the District final 6-4, 7-5 pushing his record to 2-0 on the season against Kim.

"It was a good win," said Tettamble. "I had already qualified for state before that match but I treat every match the same: I'm always trying to win. I play (Kim) a lot, more than I would like to. He always plays really well when we play against each other,

we feed off each other so it was definitely a good win."

Heading into the State Tournament, Tettamble has been especially conscious about his body, as he has been playing through injury for much of the season.

"I'm excited and I'm ready. My muscles are feeling good, feeling nice and loose. I've been trying to do my best now to prepare so I have less things to worry about when I get to Springfield," he said.

Tettamble especially noted his wrist injury, which has forced him to change his play style significantly and even caused some concern for his state run earlier this season. Now though, he feels better about his chances.

"I hit backhands for the first time on Saturday, but I'm not hitting them hard yet and it's not my same swing," he said. "I've had to change a lot so my wrist can handle it but I still probably won't hit it in my matches because the new way I've been playing, without hitting backhands, has been throwing people off and it's been working"

If all goes well for Tettamble, he will play for the State championship this Friday. His team, meanwhile, will be supporting him from Oakland Avenue.

"I know Gus can do well," said Dowd. "He's just gotta keep playing like he's been playing all season and I have no doubt he can win State."

Baseball prepares for Districts against Kirkwood

BY COBY SPRATTE
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High varsity baseball team knocked off the Rockwood Summit Falcons in its regular season finale, and is now preparing for Kirkwood in the quarterfinals of the Class 6 District 2 playoffs.

On Wednesday, April 12, the Jr. Bills ventured to Fenton to take on Rockwood Summit in what would be their last regular season game of the year. The team anticipated relying on junior Jack DuMont to make his first start of the season on the rubber, but due to half of the team's Covid-19 test results not being back, the coaching staff was forced to improvise on the spot.

Looking to break the team's six-game losing streak, and now dealing with the unforeseen circumstance of ten players deemed ineligible, the Jr. Bilikens turned to freshman Andrew DuMont on the bump. DuMont answered the bell and stepped up for the Jr. Bills when they needed him most. Needing only 78 pitches, he tossed a complete game shut-out, surrendering only four hits and striking out five Falcons.

Senior Andrew Loeffelman delivered with a solo bomb over the left field fence in the top of the second inning, his second home run of the year, to put the Jr. Bills out in front 1-0 which proved to be all that DuMont would need for SLUH to edge past the Falcons.

The Jr. Bills added two insurance runs in the top of the seventh inning with RBI base hits from sophomore Henry Zenor and junior Tommy Etling. Junior first baseman Dennis Jakubik contributed a multi-hit day, and SLUH cruised to a 3-0 victory.

In a roller coaster of a season, the Jr. Bills have had their fair share of highs and lows, but they refreshingly snapped their six-game losing streak and closed out the regular season with a win and an 8-14 record.

SLUH (8-14; No. 4 seed) will look to ride this momentum against 11-14 Kirkwood (No. 5 seed) in a win-or-go-home district playoff quarterfinal game tonight at Sheridan Stadium at 4:30 p.m.

The Jr. Bills will approach the game with a small-ball mentality and will lean on sophomore Garret Shearer (1-3) to square off against Kannon Nesslage (2-3) in what should turn out to be a full-on pitcher's duel.

If the Jr. Bills advance past the Pioneers then they will face the winner of 19-10 CBC (No. 1 seed) and 2-12 Ritenour (No. 8 seed) in the semifinals tomorrow at Sheridan Stadium at 4:30 p.m.

De Smet (11-16; No. 2 seed) will face off against 6-10 Hazelwood Central (No. 7 seed) and 10-12 Pattonville (No. 3 seed) will face 5-20 Hazelwood West (No. 6 seed) to round out the other side of the bracket.

Track and Field dominates Districts

BY PETER JAMES
STAFF

The Saint Louis U. High track and field team won its District meet last Saturday, qualifying for Sectionals in 16 of the 19 events. The District Champions won with 198.5 points while the second place team—Ladue—scored just 120 points. SLUH also competed at the SLUH JV No. 3 meet last Tuesday.

"We were scheduled to score 190, so we outscored what we were even expected to do, which is good," said head coach Joe Porter. "They did a great job of just competing—that's what we kind of say going into it—just focus on ourselves, we know what competition is out there but we're instead going to focus on us having a good day by doing the things that we know we're capable of doing."

The SLUH JV No. 3 was the final meet of the season for athletes not racing at Districts. Most of the athletes competing at Districts were not placed in this meet, yet SLUH still had success because of its depth. Sophomore Sean Chaffee won the 100 with 11.74 and the 200 with 23.74, and sophomore Kameron Bailey scored third with 24.24. Junior Nathan Sewell was third in the 110 hurdles with a time of 21.14, and the 4x400—the only relay at the meet—resulted with SLUH taking second with

3:55.00. In the 800, freshman Dylan Freeman placed second (2:09.80) and sophomore Will Riggan scored third (2:11.40). Sixty athletes competed in the 1600, but SLUH athletes were in the top three: junior Francis Alford with 4:43.30, sophomore Nolan Meara with 4:48.10, and freshman Anthony Zangara with 4:56.80. In the 3200, sophomores Tim Greiner (first) and Nick Purschke (third) ran 10:23.70 and 10:59.60 respectively. For the high jump, sophomores Tristan Smith-Crowe and Wyatt Seal scored second (5-01.00) and third (4-11.00) respectively. For the pole vault, freshmen Eli Smith and Ben Kean won first (9-06.25) and second (9-00.25) respectively.

SLUH was assigned class five, district two at Francis Howell Central for the District meet. The meet lasted from nine in the morning to four in the afternoon with each event beginning with the girls heat before the boys heat. The meet allowed spectators with an admission fee. In districts, the top four finishers from each event move on to sectionals—two district champions then face each other in a sectional.

The meet kicked off with the 3200 with junior Sean Kellogg (fourth) and senior Daniel Hogan (fifth) sticking together throughout the whole race—finishing with times 9:52.75 and 9:53.64 respectively. The meet

then transitioned to the 4x800 where SLUH's relay team of sophomore Steffan Mayer, and juniors Justin Glass, Joe Labarge, and Baker Pashea won with 8:15.59—almost six seconds ahead of the second place team.

The team also did well with the other relays. SLUH won the 4x100 with junior Chris Brooks, sophomore Sean Chaffee, senior Aidan Byrne, and freshman Ryan Wingo, achieving a time of 43.40. Despite getting sixth place, the 4x200 relay team of sophomores Kameron Bailey, Sean Chaffee, and juniors Keshon Parker and Joey Meehan sprinted a 1:34.69. In the 4x400, the relay team of Pashea, Byrne, Mayer, and Meehan finished second with a time of 3:31.81.

"Ryan's pretty darn special when he's on those two relays and obviously Baker in the four by eight as well—it's nice to have one of the fastest 800 runners in the state as your anchor. But that shouldn't take anything away from the other guys," said Porter. "The four by two without Ryan ran a second faster than they had all year when Ryan hadn't been on it. So that was a really good race for them. You know the four by four, without Ryan, running 3:31 is pretty darn tough."

Juniors Connor Greninger and Keshon Parker matched up again to conquer the hurdles: Greninger won the 110

hurdles (16.37) with Parker getting fourth (18.80), and later Greninger won the 300 hurdles (43.03) with Parker in second (43.91). After the hurdles for the 110 were cleared off the track, Ryan Wingo dominated in the 100, winning with a time of 10.89 before returning to repeat the win in the 200 with 22.37. Despite running a 23.82, Aiden Byrne took seventh in the 200. In the 400, Joey Meehan (third) ran a 52.33 followed by Steffan Mayer (sixth) who ran a 54.44. Baker Pashea scored second in the 800 with 1:57.60 with Joe Labarge in sixth with 2:08.30. In the 1600, Daniel Hogan finished fourth with 4:36.84 and Justin Glass finished right after with 4:39.64.

SLUH also had great success in the field events. In the high jump, junior Eric Piening won with 6-04.75 and Chris Brooks scored eighth with 5-07.00. In the long jump, Piening achieved second with 20-02.50 and junior Andrew Harris scored sixth with 18-08.00. In the triple jump, Piening and Harris won first and second with 42-08.25 and 41-01.25 respectively. Junior Sam Kean won the pole vault with 11-05.75 and freshman Eli Smith scored fourth with 9-06.25. In javelin, juniors Andrew Renaud and Corey Luaders won first and second with 127-08.25 and 123-07.50 respectively.

Cornett, Sussman, Fix struggle on second day at Sedalia; finish outside of top 10

BY LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

The 2021 St. Louis U. High golf season has officially come to a close. Following the State Tournament this past Monday and Tuesday, the last three players for the Jr. Bills packed up the sticks for the season. Junior Louis Cornett and seniors Sam Fix and Grant Sussman were the three players who qualified and traveled to Sedalia Country Club, where they competed against 76 other players in the Class 5 State Championship. Cornett fell from tied for first through his first eight holes to finish tied for 39th at the end of the two days. Fix tied for 32nd. Sussman was just two shots away from All-State and finished tied for 21st.

Arriving Sunday, May 16, the players and head coach Dan Reardon attempted to play a practice round before competition on Monday and Tuesday. Thunderstorms caused a delay in the practice rounds, but after an hour hiatus, the Jr. Bills were able to get back onto the golf course. A strong day on the course along with a team dinner

at Freddy's pumped the players up and prepared them for the biggest competition of the year.

"We go out and play as individuals but we still want our teammates to play well," said Sussman. "It is good to have fun with the guys, sitting at Freddy's with the coach and it just adds to the good memories of golf beyond just playing the sport. It helps us relax and realize we are just there to have fun."

Cornett was the first player scheduled to go off on Monday at 8:27 a.m., but another rain delay caused tee times to be postponed 90 minutes. After the wait with the course soaking wet and rain still coming down, Cornett came out with cylinders burning. He birdied holes 12 and 13 and was 2-under through his first 8 holes. However, Cornett clearly felt the pressure and choked, topping his drive on the 9th hole, and tried to hit the ball right-handed which eventually led to a triple-bogey (8). He was unable to regain his confidence after this hole and finished with a first day 79.

Sussman was the second player to tee off for the Jr. Bills. A strong showing from the cap-

tain, Sussman fired a three-over 73 and was in great position to move up or down on the leaderboard.

"I was doing everything pretty well," said Sussman. "I had a few bad shots which led to my bogies but I had three birdies and managed to shoot 73 so I was happy with my score. I did not think I would shoot that good of a score going in and it was a fun experience having everyone watching."

Fix was the final Jr. Bill to tee off in the wet and miserable conditions. A couple mistakes on the greens, such as a few three putts, cost Fix a truly electric round and he settled for a six-over 76.

"Terrible conditions, pouring sideways rain. I just tried to keep the ball on the course for the first couple of holes until it cleared up. I did not manage to do that," said Fix. "I was able to turn it around at the end of the back 9 and turn in a decent round, and made some putts."

On the second day of the tournament, Fix was the first to tee off at 8 a.m. Fix played another strong round and finished with a five-over 75 in his final competitive round of Jr. Bill golf.

"I felt much more relaxed going into the second day," said Fix. "Weather conditions were much better. I was able to put together a decent round, I did not putt as well and was not able to adapt as well as I wanted to when the greens firmed up."

Sussman teed off knowing he needed another strong performance to make the top 15 and finish All State. With a 74, he just missed out on the top 15 by two strokes and finished in a tie for 21st, the best finisher for the Jr. Bills with a two-day total of 147.

"There was definitely some more pressure," said Sussman. "I definitely wanted to be All State, but I was just going to enjoy my last round of high school golf regardless. I was even through my first 9 holes but struggled with my chipping on the back and missed All State by two strokes. I wasn't anywhere near as nervous and happy with how I played."

Cornett was the final player to tee off on the second day for SLUH. Unable to warm up his putter and go deep, Cornett had seven straight pars to open the round before struggling a little on the back nine holes. However, his performance was a good

bounce back from the day before and he finished with a 74, and a two-day total of 153, to tie for 39th.

Overall, the team was happy with their performances. Only competing as individuals not as a team relieved some pressure from the Jr. Bill golfers and allowed them to enjoy the tournament. Cornett will be hoping for redemption next year while Fix and Sussman move on from their careers in high school golf.

"This year, I thought it was a success. I had a good season, and wish the season lasted longer because I was playing my best golf later in the season. We as a team played very well," said Sussman. "For four years of golf, I got to meet great guys in my class and in other classes. Golf has been a huge part of my life since I was 9 to 10 years old. I'm sad that it is over now but am happy to look back at my successes and SLUH's golf successes."

"This was my first year finishing a full season on varsity. Sophomore year broke my wrist and junior year COVID. It was definitely a good ending to what some might say was a short and unsuccessful career," said Fix.

"However, I think looking at my career, I am happy with how I ended up and making it to State senior year, even though my game was not necessarily where I wanted it to be. Overall, SLUH golf did a lot for me, shaping me as a person and a golfer. I cannot thank the coaches and the people enough, Grant, Louis, Joey, and Thomas, especially this year, help me along the way to become a better golfer and a better person."

Although their careers came to an end this week, Fix and Sussman will leave a lasting impression. Fix, with his comic golf terms and earning the reputation as the disputed "Bryson of SLUH" will be hard to replace next year as well as Sussman, with his slow backswing and constant exaggeration of "Joeeeeey." The two seniors end their careers on a high note, leaving one piece of hard-earned wisdom to next year's team.

"Hit 'em straight," said Fix. "To all the future golfers, hit 'em straight and keep the ball in the fairway."

"Enjoy it," said Sussman. "Just go deep. It's going to be electric."

Rugby blows past Chaminade 49-5, prepares for Kansas City Tournament

(continued from page 8)

the ball to Collins who trucked Chaminade's entire defensive line for his second score of the game. With another successful conversion from Sextro, SLUH was up 28-0 with seven minutes remaining in the first half.

A short kick from Chaminade gave SLUH solid field position on its 30-yard line. SLUH, still working the ball to the outside forwards, proved unsuccessful as Chaminade recovered the ball. The Jr. Bills' defense continued to pin Chaminade's offense to the 35-yard line, disallowing any kind of forward momentum from the Red Devils. Several more rucks and line-outs between the teams tested both sides of the ball, and a mountain of penalties against SLUH gave Chaminade the chance to score. The Red Devils slowly crept its way downfield, and eventually managed to find the

try zone for a score. Chaminade's conversion was no good, making the score 28-5 SLUH going into halftime.

"It was hard to start quickly against Chaminade after Aquinas because Aquinas was on a whole other level," said Budd.

Coming into the second half, SLUH received but couldn't make any major plays to keep its foot on the gas. Chaminade regained possession in SLUH's territory and the ensuing possessions consisted of back and forth play with no scoring. But, SLUH's defense slowly gained the upper hand by continuously pushing Chaminade deeper into its territory.

Junior Jack O'Keefe got under Chaminade's next kick-off, and managed to carry the ball to the halfway down the field before being brought down. The SLUH offense handled the ball with speed and

pushed towards Chaminade's try zone.

A penalty against Chaminade gave the Jr. Bills 10 yards. SLUH elected to kick which landed in touch, giving the line-out to SLUH. However, an illegal move from Chaminade gave SLUH the free-kick. The Jr. Bills capitalized on this opportunity and found the try zone again. Sextro stayed perfect in his conversion attempts, and the score was 35-5 in favor of the Jr. Bills.

"SLUH's ability to adapt to penalties is unrivaled in the state," said Gunn. "Our ability to capitalize on penalties through lineout or scrums is also basically in-counterable in the game we play"

Chaminade kicked to SLUH, once the Jr. Bills received the ball they kicked it back into Chaminade's territory, giving Chaminade the line-out on its 15-yard line.

Chaminade won the line-out and kicked it back SLUH senior Henry Bourneuf, who returned it to the 20-yard line. After a Chaminade injury, SLUH won a scrum and closed in on the try zone yet again. The Jr. Bills won the ruck, and SLUH senior Joey Knese took it home for another score. Sextro, with his sixth consecutive conversion, gave SLUH a 42-5 lead

After sophomore Nick Devoti received the next Chaminade kick, senior Graham Johnson got the ball from the ruck and scorched through Chaminade's wall of defenders to the 40-yard line. Another major run from Sextro put SLUH five yards away from another trip to the try zone. Chaminade, who managed to keep Sextro off the ground which resulted in a maul, causing a scrum on Chaminade's five-yard line.

Volleyball breezes through first round against Fort Zumwalt West

BY JACOB SPROCK AND
GEORGE HENKEN
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

As SLUH enters its final week of classes, we at the *Prep News* are reporting on our last games and writing out our last articles of the year, but the varsity volleyball team is not done yet. Over the last week, they've played two games in preparation for their battle for the state title, winning both.

The first of these games was against CBC last Thursday, May 13. As the last home game before districts, the team took the time to recognize the seniors on the team with funny anecdotes to introduce them, candid photos of them to pose by, and bouquets of flowers to give to their parents. It's a sweet ceremony that most players look forward to throughout their SLUH careers.

Following the short celebration, the Jr. Bills were thrust right into the action, allotted a limited time to warm up to prevent the

game and ceremony from going long.

SLUH quickly got off to an early lead following a 5-point service run from junior setter Ben Harmon. This run from Harmon would end up being the longest run from SLUH in the set; a long, bumpy road paved the rest of the game.

Most of CBC's early points came from SLUH offensive errors, CBC lacking the needed offensive labero for a decent chunk of the set, and their scrappy defense tended to keep the ball live just long enough to return it over to the SLUH court. In the meantime, SLUH made sure to offer their seniors a chance to serve. Both senior middle hitter Michael Krausz and senior right side Ben McCabe were able to get some points in, McCabe forcing a timeout from CBC after hitting two consecutive aces and putting SLUH up 14-7. CBC came out of the timeout strong, scoring several consecutive hits against SLUH. But it wasn't

enough. Senior outside hitter Brendan McLaughlin made sure of that, intercepting a ball that got a little too close to the net and effectively cinching the win for SLUH with a final score of 25-20.

The start of the second set saw the starters back in their usual positions with SLUH hoping to establish authority early on. CBC won the first three points of the set, but it didn't take long for SLUH to catch up, and a 7-point service run from senior Peter Quinn set them up with a strong lead. SLUH gradually increased its lead as CBC struggled to even touch the ball. A pipe from McCabe and successful joust from Quinn made the score 18-9. In the blink of an eye, it was 20-10, and SLUH was ready to close out the set. CBC didn't like that. After a jump serve into the net from Krausz, CBC began to close the gap. Soon they were within six points of SLUH, but it wasn't enough. SLUH closed out the set quickly,

finishing 25-18.

CBC started strong again at the start of the third set, again winning the first three points. SLUH, like in the previous set, closed the gap.

Thankfully for SLUH, CBC forgot their rotation order and was penalized. A series of ties ensued until CBC pulled ahead at 12-10. They kept the lead until a timeout from SLUH at 12-15 energized the Jr. Bills and pushed them to a 4-point run. CBC called timeout. SLUH kept its lead, finishing it out at 25-22. The sets were surprisingly close in comparison to prior games against CBC, which may have been due to the energy on both teams. Throughout the game, CBC celebrated every single point. Every. One. In contrast, SLUH seemed consistently calm throughout the whole ordeal, neither over-energized nor deflated. The energy didn't end up doing CBC much good as SLUH walked away with another win, yet to sport any losses—in sets

or games.

The Fort Zumwalt South game was less close. There's really only one word that could be used to describe SLUH's play during the game: dominance. Taking place this past Monday, May 18 at SLUH, the game was the first district volleyball game.

Throughout the entire first set, SLUH's play was impeccable. It started like most sets where SLUH plays well, Zumwalt calling a timeout at 10-2, but things really started cranking up when junior libero Craig Ortwerth got up to serve. He went on a 12-point run—the longest of the year. Junior outside hitter Philip Bone ensured the run stayed alive with his attacks. Zumwalt's play was poor, but in the final points, they started to get a hang of their blocking. SLUH won the set 25-5.

The first tie of the game took place at the beginning of the second set at 2-2. SLUH kept up the dominating force, but Zumwalt's blocks forced SLUH to scramble

to recover. The first timeout from Zumwalt was at 12-3 SLUH, but it proved unhelpful. A save from PQ on a botched block set SLUH ahead 19-7 eleven points later, and some brief back-and-forth points ended the set 25-12.

In the final set, SLUH continued its strong play, taking an early lead. The only big run Zumwalt had was due to SLUH errors, putting them five points behind. SLUH, in all sets, made Fort Zumwalt West look like an 8th grade team playing at the high school level. As 25 points neared for SLUH, the seniors played their last points at home and a JV player had a chance to take the court, now full of the juniors who will inherit the team next year. The set ended 25-13, and the win-loss ratio of SLUH's sets increased to 68-0.

The next game is Saturday, May 22 at SLUH. The team they will play has yet to be determined, but one thing's for sure: SLUH is ready.

Commentary

Teachers of SLUH inspire teacher of the future

BY SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

Editor’s Note: Features Editor Sam Tarter hopes to be a teacher one day, so as a “Thank You” to all the inspiration the teachers of SLUH have given him, he wrote this reflection piece to share with the SLUH faculty.

SLUH is amazing, but at its core, it’s the teachers that make it so special for me.

The first class I ever had at SLUH was Algebra 1 with Mr. Deves. After that first period on my first day of school, I knew I was in for a good time. Mr. Deves brought a passion to the classroom which made me excited each day to enter the classroom and learn something new, despite my initial fear of math. As my math education at SLUH continued, I realized that this passion was prevalent throughout the entire department, and that each teacher engaged the class and brought their own excitement into learning each day. So, whether it was starting Mr. Becvar’s Algebra 2 class with a classic song to get us amped up, closing Ms. Lyons’ Prob. and Statistics class with trivia or kahoots, or simply having a fun time and making fun conversations with Mr. Deves, Mr. Corley, and Mr. Flanagan, I want to thank the Math Department for making me realize that teaching (and learning) can be fun, and making me see it as a career path that will bring me much joy in years to come.

In a similar way, I would like to thank the English Department for instilling a different passion of mine: storytelling. For as long as I have wanted to be a teacher, I have also wanted to be a writer, and I am grateful that I was given an opportunity to tell stories through the English classes I have taken at SLUH. Not only have I been given a model for the types of stories and books I want to write when I am older, but I have mentors, lifelong friends, and even

more memories to hold onto, to inspire me, and to keep me motivated when storytelling seems like a lost cause. In particular I want to thank Mr. Hussung for being both a mentor and a father figure when I needed one most, for giving me faith to write stories and essays that were outside of my comfort zone, and for letting me give a presentation at the end of the first semester that allowed me to actively experience teaching in a hands-on way.

Speaking of getting outside of my comfort zone, I want to thank the Art Department for the impact they have had on me in my senior year. I am by no means a singer, an actor, a public speaker, or an artist of any form by nature, but after many semester’s long classes during my time at SLUH, I can at least admit that I gave it my all. I would like to thank Mrs. Akin, Ms. Whitaker, and Mr. Powers for expanding my horizons, for challenging me to try something different and completely new, and for opening me up to aspects of art that I didn’t even know existed. In particular, Mr. McKernan’s Oral Communications class awakened something powerful in me, and I am grateful for all the speaking skills and tools that I will surely use in my future career as a teacher.

I would also like to thank both the Science Department and the Foreign Language Department for helping me overcome challenges, and learning to accept failure as an opportunity for growth. Much like math, science is not my strong suit and I struggled through all three of the classes I took at SLUH. In a similar way, I felt lost during my Spanish classes. When it comes to learning a new language, I am a slow learner, and in combination with a lot of self-doubt, I felt like I didn’t belong in the classroom.

Thankfully, all of my teachers for my science and Spanish classes embodied a quality that each and every SLUH teacher does:

empathy. Through the hard work and dedication of Mr. O’Keefe, Mrs. Chott, Mr. Mueller, Sra. Alvarado, Sra. Toussaint, and Sra. Aliste towards making me a better student, I learned that failure is an amazing method of learning, and that it is more than okay to pick yourself up after you fall, and try again. I know I wouldn’t have passed any of those classes without the extra work you all put in, and I know that in my future career as a teacher, I will model myself after you all for the support you gave the entire class, especially myself.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Theology and Social Studies Departments for what may be the greatest gift of all: my foundation of learning how to teach. In many ways, these two departments embody every positive aspect that I mentioned above, and they brought it to me on a level that was understandable, passionate, exciting, and inspiring. Watching teachers like Mr. O’Connell, Ms. Becvar, Mr. Wehner and many more come into class every day excited and enthusiastic about passing on their knowledge—and their passion—to the class warmed my heart, and it made me want to teach before I knew it was a reality. Forming friendships and having the mentorship from many teachers—including Mr. Claggett, Mr. Navarro, Mr. Ott, Mr. Hubbman, and especially my dear friend (and person I model myself after the most) Mr. Gilmore—made me want to come to school each and every day no matter what outside or internal forces were telling me not to.

I know that I won’t be studying most of these subjects or materials in the future, but I want to thank all the teachers of SLUH for inspiring me to come to school each day, for providing me with the mentors and friends that kept me going, and for letting me know that teaching can be a passion, a career, and a vocation.

A Prep News sign off: PN 85 enters the Pantheon after Covid year

Four years ago, the Editor in Chief of *Prep News* 81, Samuel J. Chechik ’17, wrote a final reflection on his time with the newspaper. I have felt a connection to Chechik for some time. He too was someone who had a fierce love for the tradition of this great institution and the history it represents. It is the same love that every editor feels. It’s what keeps one going during the late Thursday nights, in the midst of AP exams or, in the unique case of this year, a global pandemic. Even though the pandemic stole four papers that we otherwise would have made, forced two papers to be produced virtually, and caused us to be distanced for the entirety of the year, in a twisted way, it has made the *Prep News* even stronger.

Friends of the *Prep News* are often quick to tease us for some of the motifs of this year. “Due to Covid, despite Covid, amidst the Covid-19 pandemic,” are just some examples of the clauses tacked on to headline after headline when activities inevitably had to “pivot” because of safety concerns. What News Editor Noah Apprill-Sokol and I realized when writing our end of the Covid school year feature was that everything that has happened since March of 2020, despite our best efforts to center the piece on anything but the pandemic, has revolved around Covid-19. In no other year has something so pervasive

captured the minds of so many students and faculty members.

The *Prep News* was no different from practically every other activity at the U. High in that there was no playbook in addressing a global pandemic. However, there was an 84-year-old archive filled with stories from the top editors from years past. Their legacy and the lessons they provided would prove vital as we, editors who had missed the formative fourth quarter, tried to catch up on all that we weren’t able to learn.

Perhaps the greatest image from Chechik’s article is that of a Mount Olympus-style “*Prep News* pantheon” where all of the greatest editors live in our minds, pushing the paper forward and preparing it for the hardships that every editor faces. It has helped us to not feel alone, and to feel ready when there isn’t a precedent set. I like to think that the work of pioneers like Volume 2 Editor in Chief John J. Jackson, Volume 65 Editor in Chief Tim Elfrink, Volume 70 Editor in Chief Tim Huether, Volume 72 Editor in Chief Jim Santel, Volume 75 Editor in Chief Nick Fandos, Volume 82 Editor in Chief Jack Schweizer, Volume 83 Editor in Chief Paul Gillam, or Volume 84 Editor in Chief Johno Jackson has inspired me and other editors to weather the Covid-19 storm, to keep the tradition alive even if, at times, we felt woefully unprepared.

With tradition in mind, we felt ready to pivot our craft to make it able to survive such a tumultuous year. An improved website, moving away from paper editing, and an expanded social media presence were all ways we tried to stay engaged with the audience that has always been our primary focus: the students.

In addition to adapting old traditions, we took on the added responsibility of a brand new section, the entertainment section, focused on making the paper more enjoyable for the students with an emphasis on the crossword puzzle, satires, and food reviews. To the amazement of our fearless moderator, we even normalized finishing before 10:00 p.m., a feat that would stun past leaders.

When you, the reader, are looking at this, my final dance will be over, marked only by the broadsheet newspaper which sits before you today. However, I am confident that after a crazy, frustrating, long-winded, rewarding, life-changing, successful year we have earned our place in the pantheon of *Prep News* leaders and that my lessons and love for the *Prep News* will live on. Next year’s leaders have a big responsibility in front of them, but there is no better group of men that I would choose for the role.

Signing off for the final time,
Carter J. Fortman,
Editor in Chief of PN 85

Varsity Football Captains 2021

Phillip Bone - WR/DB

Chris Brooks - WR

Luke Johnston - QB

Dontavion Sullivan - LB/WR

Issac Thompson - RB/DB

Kylend Watson - OL/DL

Decision for all semester plans to come late this summer

(continued from page 1)
be in our rearview,” he said. “My hope is that masks, distancing, contact tracing, quarantines, and all these things will be pieces that start to fade out when we can safely and impactfully make changes in the school.”

For President of SLUH Alan Carruthers, the key to the end of restrictions at SLUH lies with vaccines.

“I think eventually (no masks) would be the goal, but I don’t think we all have clarity on that right now. I think we’re close in the adult community, but we’re certainly not close because a lot of students haven’t been able to access it yet because of the age restrictions. This is not going to go away on a specific date, but I certainly do feel as vaccination rates increase particularly within the walls of this community as we see infection rates remain low. We certainly will be able to open up protocols and work towards our new normality,

whatever that may be.”

Following the FDA’s emergency approval of the Pfizer vaccine for anyone older than 12 on May 12, all members of the student body are now eligible for the vaccine, and SLUH almost immediately jumped on the chance to distribute shots. In collaboration with Loyola Academy in St. Louis, SLUH will host an exclusive vaccine clinic on May 26, specifically targeted at freshmen and sophomores who were just recently eligible.

“Obviously the May 26 vaccination clinic and the follow up to that will hopefully get a good response,” said Carruthers. “(Vaccinations) helps us with everything from social distancing to testing to potential service opportunities to service trips to international trips, and so I really hope that both our families and our students take the opportunity to get vaccinated.”

Even though they will con-

tinue to push vaccinations, the administration does understand potential areas of concern regarding the shots. Students will not be required to receive the vaccine over the summer, even though local colleges like Washington University have required it.

“We are a private school so we do have more leeway than public institutions, but by the same token we are aware that this is an emergency approval vaccine and we have to find balance in that,” said Gibbons. “We are strongly encouraging the vaccine, but I would say there’s not a high degree of likelihood (we require vaccines).”

Instead, Carruthers hopes to appeal to student’s role as responsible citizens both in the SLUH community and in the larger world.

“We’re hoping that people will work on behalf of the common good and (get vaccinated),” he said. “There will be more opportunities if you have

been vaccinated and we hope that people will see that but also see that it’s better for the common good, as well.”

In the meantime, the school continues to return to the way things were before the pandemic. This summer will feature the return of in-person summer classes, the Upward Bound program (which will be limited in capacity), and also work grant opportunities. In addition, mandatory Covid-19 testing for spring sports teams was recently lifted. The tests are still encouraged, though, as they will help prevent ineligibility for district and even state tournaments.

As for next Fall, few things are certain.

“We are looking at what our safety protocols will be in the Fall and a lot of that is dependent upon numbers of vaccinations as well as case counts and the spread within the regions. Like everything within the pandemic, the horizon for making

plans is about two months. So those pieces will be coming over the course of the summer, during July and early August,” said Gibbons.

One confirmed part of next year, though, will be the block schedule. SLUH’s pandemic response team has already proposed a schedule for next year, and it will continue to be revised over the coming weeks.

“A lot of (next year’s schedule) will feel familiar,” said Gibbons. “There will be some newer pieces to it and I think it will give us a better way to be together as a school in the end of the pandemic times.”

The Administration also hopes that global education opportunities, service opportunities like Senior Project and more normal retreats will be a part of next year. Once again, though, vaccines will mean a lot to those events.

I think we will require (the vaccine) for certain situations, at least that’s where the discus-

sion is moving towards,” said Carruthers. “International travel and service for example: I mean you know if you’re working at a elderly care home, they don’t really want you in there unless you’ve been vaccinated and I think that’s probably the case with a lot of vulnerable communities. So, there will be more opportunity if you have been vaccinated.”

As the options for next year continue to be considered, Carruthers simply asks for patience.

“A lot of people think it’s like flicking a switch, but pivots take time,” he reflected. “Pivoting and changing and responding immediately is not always possible with scale the size of ours. We will continue to respond based upon the information we have in front of us. I encourage people to continue to be patient, and to understand that there’s a lot of people who work extremely hard to try to create the best possible safe experiences that we can.”



LEFT COLUMN TOP TO BOTTOM:

Juniors sing their first “Oh When the Bills” of the year.

Freshmen play Bashball on the soccer field.

Junior Class President AJ Thompson leads the junior class in another cheer.

RIGHT COLUMN TOP TO BOTTOM:

Freshmen enjoy a game of soccer on their fun day.

Sophomore Isaiah Hinkebein plays flute at the band concert.

All Photos by Mrs. Kathy Chott

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