

Swimming continues success after busy week in the pool; Blue Crew shows out

NICHOLAS DALAVIRAS AND JOE FEDER
REPORTERS

The Swim and Dive Team dove into the start of its busy weekend with a dual meet against De Smet at Forest Park Community College last Friday. The Bills had a different approach to this meet than its meet last week against CBC because De Smet has a smaller team, so many varsity swimmers swam in events that they don't typically swim. The team swam better than they expected, and SLUH coasted to a commanding 145-41 win. In seven of the nine individual events at the meet, including diving, the Bills swept first, second, and third place, winning every event in the meet.

Highlights included a four-second drop from junior Carson Massie in the 100 Butterfly and a five-second drop by freshman Jack Figge in the 100 Freestyle. Sophomore Eli Butters (100 Butterfly) and senior captain Will Slatin (200 Freestyle) posted impressive wins in their first swims in those events this season.

Swimmer of the Meet honors went to senior captain Joe Feder, who earned state qualifying times in the 100 Back and 200 Individual Medley; both currently rank as the sixth fastest times in the state in that event this year.

"It was kind of an easy win," said head coach Lindsey Ehret. "We didn't stack our events, and we still won by a lot of points, so



The swim team after its victory at Marquette Relays.

photo | Mr. Michael Slatin

that was good."

On the diving end of the pool, underclassmen divers had a chance to shine. Freshman Sebastian Lawrence and sophomores Owen Cooney and Theo Stephens swept the top three and freshman Miles Schulte dove in his first meet as the consolation diver.

The Blue Crew stopped by Forest Park for its first appearance of the season, creating an electric environment in the stands which contributed to the team's big win.

"The Blue Crew was lit," said senior Luke Brawer. "I felt their energy rushing through me. At most swim meets, it's only our family there, so having our classmates there too makes you want to do even better to

impress them."

The varsity squad faced a quick turnaround, as Saturday morning marked the team's first major invitational of the season: Marquette Relays.

The meet, a refreshing break from a dual meet, takes each event and places it into a relay format. For example, the 100 Backstroke becomes the 3 x 100 Backstroke Relay, with three swimmers racing as a team.

"The guys really stepped up and swam for the team and not themselves," said Ehret.

Their focus on team produced some astounding swims. During the first event, the 200 Freestyle Relay, freshman Cooper Scharff, junior Andrew Zimmerman, Slatin and Feder posted the fastest time in Mis-

souri so far this year by over a second with a 1:29.89, only two seconds off of the school record.

In the 3 x 100 Butterfly Relay, Junior Josh Brown, freshman Jonas Hostetter, and exchange student Mikhail Shulepov nabbed second place, with Brown, as the leadoff swimmer, narrowly missing his individual state cut by just .03 seconds.

After an unfortunate disqualification in the 3 x 100 Backstroke Relay, the pressure was on the 3x100 Breaststroke Relay team of senior Garrett Baldes and juniors Nicholas Dalaviras and Evan Lu, as well as the 200 Medley Relay team of Lu, Brown, Zimmermann, and senior captain Jarrett Schneider, as SLUH aquatics rival Parkway

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Soccer chances but no finish; can't find win in CBC tournament

BY CHRIS STALEY AND BLAKE OBERT
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High soccer squad continued its season of "almosts" this week against CBC and Vianney. The team missed opportunities to secure victory in both games and left the week with two losses.

The Jr. Bills (3-6-1) played their third game of the CBC tournament against the Vianney Griffins last Thursday night. After a loss against De Smet Jesuit last Tuesday, the boys hoped to bounce back against an evenly-matched Vianney team.

"We were just coming off losing 2-0 to De Smet," said senior Reid Horton. "I think everyone was ready to go against Vianney."

SLUH had a couple of good chances that could have given them an early goal, but they just missed the mark. Horton dashed past Vianney's right back and crossed the ball into the box, but no one was there to finish. Junior Charles Neuwirth booted a free kick that missed just wide.

"I would say the first half, we were probably the better team, but we just couldn't finish any of our chances offensively," said Horton.

Playing into the second half, the team started to look flat. As time ticked away, the boys took fewer shots and

allowed Vianney past the defense more easily.

"It just seemed that the energy wasn't as high as in the first half," said Horton. "I don't think we played badly, but we seemed to tire as the game went on, and it led to them scoring."

With only four minutes left in regulation, a Griffin pass threaded SLUH's defense for an early shot past junior goalie Peter Herrmann. The Jr. Bills couldn't come back in the few minutes remaining, ending the game in a 1-0 loss.

"I saw 0-0 written all over it," said head coach Bob O'Connell. "I don't think we created enough chances to win and I don't think they created a whole lot of chances to win."

After a close game against the Griffins, the Jr. Bills took on the CBC Cadets in the final game of the CBC tournament. The Jr. Bills started strong with a close shot from Horton that the goalie just saved, followed by a spectacular diving stop from Herrmann.

The rest of the first half was not in SLUH's favor. Fifteen minutes in, CBC was able to get past the defense and score the first goal. Seven minutes later, the Cadets got the ball into the open, with only Herrmann to beat on the right side of the net, fired

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"Program day" for XC; underclassmen fill big shoes in Paul Enke Invitational

BY JUSTIN KOESTERER AND PETER LABARGE
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High varsity cross country top seven runners, in the wake of a stellar performance at its home Forest Park cross country (FPXC) meet, traditionally take a week off of competition to prepare for a race the next weekend.

The rest of the team does not.

The week after the Forest Park race has annually been an off week for the top seven runners, allowing the Varsity 2 runners—the next seven best runners—to compete against varsity teams from around the area.

Five runners that head coach Joe Porter deemed worthy will accompany the top 9 from FPXC, to run as the JV squad at the Palatine Invitational just outside of Chicago this Saturday. Instead of running the Paul Enke Invitational on the

Sioux Passage course in St. Charles, they used the hilly terrain as a hard workout spot to train for the upcoming race.

This meet has been much-awaited because Sioux Passage is consistently ranked as one of the toughest cross country courses in the state, and last year's race was canceled because of protests about the verdict in the Jason Stockley case, which had been announced the day before last year's race.

Sioux Passage, bluntly stated, is brutal. As much, if not more, a mental race than a physical one, the monstrous hills give the average runner a jaw drop. The aptly named hills—"Manmaker," "Confidence Breaker," "Roller Coaster," then "Manmaker"—once more gave the Jr. Bills a run to remember.

Racing V2, the varsity took fifth out of 16, junior

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Lackluster offense continues to hurt Jr. Bills; varsity football still looking for first win



Freshman Isaac Thompson running the ball against Jeff City.

photo | John Hilker

BY NICK PRAINITO AND BRAD PIKE
STAFF

The middle of the gridiron season has approached for the St. Louis U. High varsity football team. With last Friday's loss to Jefferson City High School, the Jr. Bills have played four of their nine regular season

games and have yet to earn a victory. The loss continued this season's pattern of both lackluster offensive performances and ineffective defensive play.

The game was initially quiet, with both teams trading turnovers on downs for the majority of the first quarter. Besides a few rushes of 10 to 15 yards

there were no offensive fireworks.

But with three minutes left in the quarter, the Jays struck first. After a long drive that balanced passes and runs, Jefferson City reached the SLUH end zone, but missed the 2-point conversion.

On the ensuing drive,

though, the Jr. Bills showed resilience. To open the second quarter, junior quarterback Brendan Hannah threw a 27-yard pass to junior Kellen Porter, Jr. On the next play, Porter showed his versatility by pushing into the end zone behind the line to even the score. After senior Joe Gilmore's extra-point kick was blocked, the score was even at 6-6.

"We just realized they weren't very good tacklers, so what we did was ran more off-tackle plays to get me out into space," said Porter.

This was Hannah's second full game at quarterback for the Jr. Bills.

"We will continue to add plays with Brendan," said head coach Mike Jones. "We didn't want to give him too much too quick."

The remainder of the second quarter didn't go well for the boys in blue. After Gilmore kicked off following the SLUH touchdown, Jefferson City star running back, senior Maleek Jackson, took the ball over 90 yards to the house for another touchdown.

On the next offensive drive, the Jays offense showed their pa-

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V2/JV/C XC battle hills of Sioux Passage; varsity preps for Palatine

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Peter Dillon (20th) and sophomore Reid Jackson in (24th) medaled. Dillon ran 18:55.3, and Jackson 18:59.9, very good times for the hilly Sioux Passage course. Both Dillon and Jackson used the varsity experience to learn what it is like to run in a more competitive race, something that Porter was hoping would happen.

"It was a great oppor-

run against Lafayette and Parkway West. We really got to see how deep we are compared to other teams. I think it was a good day overall and a really good program day," said Mitten-dorf.

JV finished second out of 18 teams, and sent six over the hills and onto the non-existent podium. The Jr. Bills' one-to-five gap was 52 seconds, the best in that

extremely well," said Porter. "For the freshmen, we are very impressed to see them getting near the front of races and not being intimidated."

This weekend, the team will be racing in two separate races: the top 16 runners will compete at the Palatine Invitational outside of Chicago, and the remaining runners will run at the Fox High School Invitational.



art | Emmanuel Akpan

tunity to throw some of the guys who have never raced varsity before into a varsity race and allow them to compete with some of the these schools' best guys," said Dillon.

Jackson appreciated the experience.

"The style of racing was very different in the varsity race. In varsity races, there are many more individual moves than in JV races, and you really have to know what's going on around you to be able to respond to those moves," said Jackson.

Varsity 2 finished 16 points ahead of Pattonville and five points behind Francis Howell High School, both of which ran their varsity seven and will face off against SLUH's varsity seven at the district race. To recover junior Adam Mitten-dorf, who ran varsity last year and watched the race Saturday, it spoke volumes to him about the depth of SLUH's cross country program.

"We had some good guys up top. It was really good to see some guys who don't usually run varsity

race, with the first JV runner, senior Jack Buehring (third, 19:11.8) finishing 52 seconds before the fifth SLUH finisher, junior Peter LaBarge, who came in 12th at 20:03.9.

"I got in a great position and had the opportunity to get out in front and stayed strong through two and half miles. I had run this course before, and I definitely knew where to accelerate on the turns and burst a little harder, adding to my confidence," said Buehring.

SLUH finished second in the race with Sean Kellogg coming in first at 20:03 and Eli Dernlan in fourth, trailing by fifty seconds (20:53.4).

"I got a great start, and the hills were tough. But, I was really able to roll the downhill, and that allowed me to compete till the end," said Kellogg.

Porter was impressed with the day's performance.

"Our goal was to put some of our top JV guys in a varsity race and see how they respond, and they did

The group travelling to Palatine will look to keep up their recent success, this time against some of the top teams in the country. The course for Palatine is flatter and faster than the ones they have been racing the past few weeks, changing the style of the race.

"Usually Illinois takes it a little bit harder out on the first mile, and it will be good for us to get accustomed to a different style of racing," said Porter.

In the race on Friday, SLUH will be running a Varsity 3, since the top 16 runners will be traveling to Palatine. Still, Porter has high hopes for the team at the meet.

"We have a lot of juniors and seniors who want to prove they are running at a high level, so our expectations are to go out and compete in the front and it wouldn't be surprising for us to do very well in that meet," said Porter.

Football unable to stop relentless Jeff City offense

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tience again. Taking their time, they slowly but surely made their way downfield, and with five minutes remaining, ended their drive with a touchdown.

Finally, with two minutes to go until halftime, a 92-yard rush by Jackson put Jefferson City on top and the game virtually out of reach for the Jr. Bills. The half ended with the Jays ahead, 27-6.

"We ran the ball well. We moved the ball from (our 20) to (Jefferson City's 20)," said Jones, on what the team did well in the first half.

As for things that weren't going so smoothly, Jones mentioned that both sides of the ball for the Jr. Bills could've been better.

"We are giving up too many rushing yards and (too) many points. We aren't scoring enough," said Jones.

As for the offense, the linemen a play big part in creating holes for the running backs, but have been struggling with this task.

"Without (seniors) Dan Sharp or Mikes (Tritter), there is a lot of pressure for our younger linemen to step up and play at the varsity level," said senior Nick Lang.

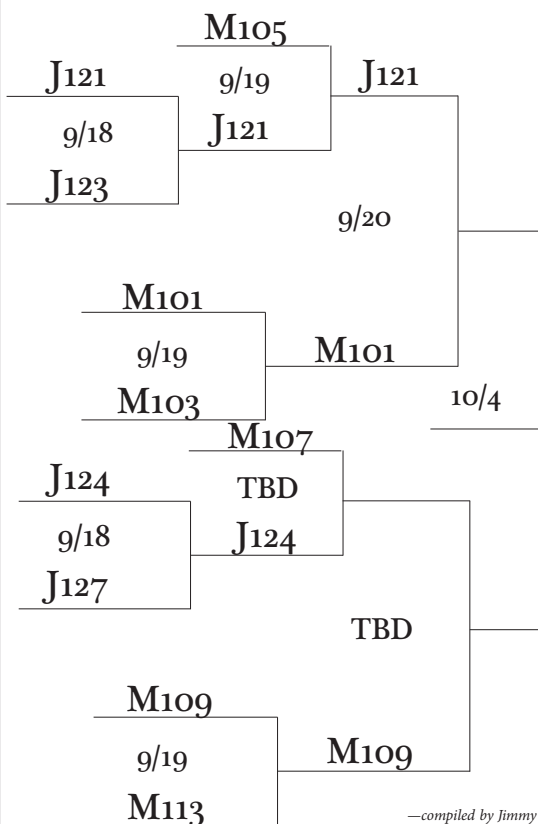
The third quarter went by scoreless, as did much of the fourth quarter. With 4:31 left in the game, though, Porter ran through the offensive line heading right, then cut it back across field and followed a couple SLUH blockers who paved the

way to a 48-yard touchdown, and SLUH trailed 27-13. After a failed onside kick attempt, however, Jefferson City put the game away rather easily, adding another touchdown to win 34-13.

Looking ahead, SLUH plays three Metro Catholic Conference (MCC) opponents in a row: at CBC tomorrow, then home against Vianney and at Chaminade for the next two weeks. Tomorrow's game is at 7:00 p.m. at CBC's field.

"We have to continue to get better within the scheme of our defense. We have seen some good plays, but the good plays haven't been consistent," said Jones on the defensive strategy for the CBC game. "We need to play hard and smart every single play."

Freshman Bashball Brackets



—compiled by Jimmy Stanley and Chris Staley

Divers clutch; domination in Tri-Meet

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West was cutting away at the Jr. Bills lead.

Both relays featured strong splits from each member, but the Breaststroke Relay team was named Relay Team of the Meet for their grace under pressure and season-best splits from all three swimmers. Individual Swimmer of the Meet was awarded to Butters for three fast splits and two photo-finish wins.

Strong swims across the board were enough to secure "the dub" for the U. High by a margin of 16 points, a feat that could not have been accomplished without a second place finish from junior divers Gabe

and Max Manalang and Lawrence in the Diving Relay. This win puts the team on its path towards its goal of top three finishes in all invitational.

After two days away from competition, the Oakville/Lafayette Tri-Meet drew the Aquabills out from Forest Park Community College this past Tuesday. The top 16 varsity swimmers and divers once again dominated their competition, taking first in each event and finishing one-two in ten of the 12 events. The most notable swim from the Lancer Natatorium was the state-qualifying 200 Medley Relay team of Scharff, Lu, Brown, and Zimmermann.

This cut is an achievement because it means that SLUH has qualified each of the three swimming relays for state.

"We feasted in the thrashing waters of Marquette and Lafayette like a pack of hungry piranhas," said Zimmermann.

Looking ahead, as this week marks the halfway point of the season, the team will continue its feast at pasta party which will serve as a team bonding opportunity. This Saturday at 3:00, unsuspecting prey from Kansas City and Columbia, Mo. will test the stamina of the Swim-bills in the De Smet Invitational at St. Peters Rec Plex.

Underclassmen Briefs

B Football (0-4)

9/14 - Jefferson City

SLUH 0 6 0 0 F:6
Jeff City 6 8 0 8 F:22

Luke Ratterman: 40-yard TD reception

C Soccer (5-1-2)

9/17 - De Smet

SLUH 1 1 F:2
De Smet 1 0 F:1

Connor McCullar: 1 goal
Matt Klubka: 1 goal

B Soccer (4-1-2)

9/15 - Gateway Christian

SLUH 1 0 F:1
GLC 0 1 F:1

Michael Heinlein: 1 goal

9/18 - Collinsville

SLUH 3 0 F:3
Collinsville 1 0 F:1

Michael Heinlein: 2 goals
Michael Hiblovic: 1 goal

JV Soccer (3-3)

9/13 - CBC

SLUH 1 0 F:1
CBC 1 1 F:2

Juan Hernandez: 1 goal

9/15 - Gateway Christian

SLUH 1 1 F:2
GLC 4 1 F:5

Austin Bievenue: 1 goal
Ben Thomas: 1 goal

9/18 - DeSoto

SLUH 1 4 F:5
DeSoto 3 0 F:3

Amar Mujezinovic: 1 goal
Juan Hernandez: 2 goals

Austin Bievenue: 1 goal
Thomas Reilly: 1 goal

—compiled by Jimmy Stanley and Jared Thornberry