

## After winless CBC tourney, soccer defeats Webster in OT

photo | Mr. Matt Scuito



Junior Tommy Hill seizes the ball in a scramble against Vianney during Saturday's game.

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The St. Louis U. High varsity soccer team closed out the CBC Tournament last Saturday with a 2-2 tie against Vianney. The team beat Webster 2-1 on Tuesday night for its first win since its second game of the year.

After junior John Espenschied put the team up fifteen minutes into the Vianney game, the Griffins scored two consecutive goals to take a 2-1 lead. But senior Nick Kocisak netted his third goal of the season to tie the game up before half.

The second half went scoreless as the teams played to a draw, extending SLUH's winless streak to five games.

Head coach Charlie Martel said, "It was kind of an average game. Both teams battled really hard, and I do think a tie was a fair result."

Archival CBC, whom the Jr. Bills narrowly lost to 2-1, won their tournament for a record 20th time.

Martel said of the CBC Tournament, "We learned a lot about our players. We learned a lot about the way they play, which is going to dictate what we do in the future."

Tuesday night the Jr. Bills faced off against district foe Webster Groves on home turf. The Bills were touting a new formation, adding a fifth defender on the back line.

Senior Joey Fisher said, "In order for us to win we have to let up less goals, so we went with another man in the back."

The first half was pretty well fought, but neither team could take a lead.

Kocisak said, "In the first half we played really well defensively, but we weren't finishing our chances."

In the second half both teams began to move the ball around exceptionally well, and both teams were creating more scoring opportunities.

However, Webster struck first in the middle of the half and the Jr. Bills were forced to play from behind. Reminiscent of their loss to CBC exactly a week earlier, the Jr. Bills created ample scoring op-

portunities, but couldn't put one past the goalie.

In danger of dropping yet another game, Kocisak saved the day with minutes to play by putting away a rebound after senior Joe Grady's shot went off the right goal post, forcing sudden-death overtime.

Fisher said, "We definitely thought we had the momentum going into overtime. We knew we were going to win."

However, Webster quickly pushed for that game-winning goal, hitting the crossbar and the post twice in the first overtime period.

Kocisak said, "After they hit the post and crossbar, it was a little scary."

The game looked to be heading to a second overtime period when freshman Matt Frein played a ball to senior captain Zach Hoffman, who put it away with five seconds left in the overtime period to give the Jr. Bills a much-needed win.

Fisher said, "It was good for us to get the win. We hadn't gotten a win in a while."

Martel added, "It was a great effort, a great ball by Matt Frein, and Zach did a nice job of putting it into the net. The win was fantastic."

Martel gave the players the day off on Wednesday after the team had competed in six games in twelve days.

"I think they're tired," Martel said. "We have some guys that are really tired principally because of the way we play. We may have to give them more days off in the future."

When asked further about formation adjustments, Martel said, "We're rethinking again. We're constantly looking for the right mix of guys and the right formation. We're still in the process of figuring that out."

On Saturday at noon at SLUH the team takes on undefeated St. Dominic, ranked number one among small schools by stlhighschoolsports.com. St. Dominic already totes an impressive victory over defending Class 3 runner-up Oakville this year.

Martel said, "We're getting as much information as we can on them."

## XC takes third as top seven pace squad

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photo | Austin Striffler



Senior Matt Nicholson races toward 17th place finish at Forest Park XC Festival.

The St. Louis U. High cross country team had an impressive showing this weekend at the Forest Park Cross Country Festival, finishing third overall in the large school division.

The meet, organized by SLUH, was one of the largest ever in the seven-year history of the festival, with 3,604 runners registered from 209 teams around the Midwest.

"From an administrative side, I thought things went really smooth," head coach and meet organizer Joe Porter said.

Besides providing a fun atmosphere and a big-time meet experience, the Festival, with its large field, provided several tactical challenges to the runners.

"I normally don't like to get out in front early on because other runners get out too fast, but with a field this large I made a conscious effort to make sure I was in the top 25 before the first turn at the top of the field," said senior Matt Nicholson.

Nicholson led the way for the varsity squad with a personal best 5K time of 16:08, good for a 17th place finish in this year's very fast field.

"I was happy with my performance overall. The girls broke the meet record by about a minute, so I was expecting the race to be very fast," said Nicholson.

Nicholson's stellar performance led the team to a third place overall finish with 160 points. However, the team finished second among all Missouri schools, a good early indicator of how competitive the team will be at the State meet in November. O'Fallon (Ill.) dominated the meet, finishing with two sub 16:00 runners and a paltry 66 points (the team with the fewest points wins). Rock Bridge of Columbia, Mo. finished second with 141 points. Blue Springs, who were ranked ahead of SLUH in pre-season rankings, finished fourth, and Festus finished fifth.

The team had a very small and impressive time split of 43 seconds between the top five runners, better than all other in-state competition, with Rockhurst in 8th place being the only exception. Senior Joe Archer came in

28th overall with a 16:29 finish, a personal best by more than 10 seconds.

"A DeSmet runner briefly passed me on the second mile, which made me kick it into gear and spur ahead again," said Archer.

The top five was rounded out by a group of underclassmen. The third spot in the top seven behind the clear front runners, Nicholson and Archer, had largely been up for grabs in the early beginnings of the season, but sophomore Matt Hennessey staked his claim convincingly with a 16:38 finish, good for 36th overall.

"I thought Hennessey ran an outstanding race," said Porter. "In our workouts it had been Nicholson, Archer, Rubio, and we were wondering where our fourth was going to come from, and Hennessey passing Rubio to be our three man was outstanding."

Following Hennessey was another sophomore, Shayn Jackson, who ran a 16:46 and finished 44th overall. Junior Tom Rubio came in fifth to complete the scoring

for SLUH with a 16:51 and 48th place finish.

"I thought we had a great performance as a team," said Archer. "We had an incredibly small gap between first and fifth. We came in second among Missouri schools in the largest meet in the Midwest, so I think we're really nicely poised for State without having peaked yet."

"We're very young," said Porter. "We had three sophomores in the top seven, which isn't a bad thing since it's a lot of gaining experience. We're still eight weeks away from state and nine weeks away from Nike Cross Regionals, and I think we're at a great starting point for our season. I'm really excited for where we are at."

The top seven next compete at the Palatine Invitational outside Chicago on Sept. 22. Before then, the rest of the team will be running at either the Parkway Central Invitational Thursday or at the Paul Enke Invitational, home of the infamous "Manmaker," at Sioux Passage Park on Saturday.

### Top seven times

Place	Time	Runner
17	16:09	Matt Nicholson
27	16:30	Joe Archer
33	16:39	Matthew Hennessey
40	16:47	Shayn Jackson
44	16:52	Tom Rubio
83	17:19	David Arredondo
146	18:03	Tom Laughlin

## ACES presentation during AP

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continued to be segregated when segregation officially ended decades before.

Poverty and inability to move into better neighborhoods were one explanation, while others added that a "comfort zone" effect and reluctance to leave could be another.

"I feel like we had a great discussion, and we needed a little more time," said senior Michael Reese. "It got started very quickly."

"I did not know that (residential segregation) was so common in many cities in the U.S. I just thought it was something

unique to St. Louis," said senior Kenneth Warner.

As a resident of Belleville, Warner mentioned driving through East St. Louis to school on a daily basis, and was a little disappointed that the presentation focused solely on the Missouri side of the river.

Not all agreed with every idea presented. "It's more of an economic problem, not a racial problem," said senior Nick Hunsaker. "I'm going to be living next to people of my socioeconomic class, not my race."

The issue is not a simple one, said history teacher Tom Zinselmeyer. "(Kovarik) took a very

complex subject and organized it in a way that the audience—mostly students—could understand," said Zinselmeyer. "It was interesting ... to see the students discover the differences" between the wealthier and poorer neighborhoods.

While some students had already given the housing segregation issue considerable thought, they were generally the exception.

"When you grow up in (St. Louis), you might wonder about it when you're small, because that's when you're allowed to have those kind of thoughts," said Reese. "But as you get older, you kind of assume that's normal."