Sports October 13, 2006

Martelbills win tourney, suf-fer first loss of season to Oakville

Kevin Gier Reporter

his past week has been quite a Dick-Lensian one for the St. Louis U. High soccer team: it was the best of times (winning the inaugural Jr. Billiken Classic tournament) and it was the worst of times (suffering their first loss of the season, dropping them to No.10 in the nation and No. 2 in the region, losing their ranking place to Morton H.S. of Chicago).

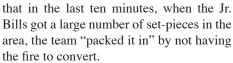
On Thursday night, the Jr. Bills faced off against the No. 5 Oakville Tigers looking for an important win entering the tough second half of the season. However, a fluke goal from Tiger forward Peter Hwang opened the game on a sour note. Midway through the first half, following a sustained attack, Hwang chipped a ball over junior keeper Zane Reifsteck, who managed to tip it. The ball bounced off, hit the crossbar and went in, provoking surprised celebrations from the Oakville bench and confusion from the SLUH players.

The game that followed could best be described by players, fans and head coach Charlie Martel as frustrating: Oakville pushed all but one center-forward into the penalty area to bottle up attacks, all-state goalkeeper Ken Cooper made 15 saves, SLUH was denied

on three penalty appeals, and essentially, SLUHcould not convert.

Martel said "We could have e a s i l v scored five or six goals had all these factors not been there."

Some SLUH players thought



Looking to bounce back, the Bocabills played Jefferson City in a game that required SLUH to win and get at least two bonus points for goals or a shutout. They got their first bonus point from a goal by Jack Twellman early in the first half. The goal came off a Matt

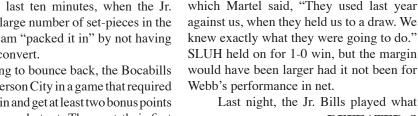
Leinauer PHOTO BY MATT HUBBARD pass that he was able to put past Jays keeper Taylor Webb.

However, Jeff City barely allowed SLUH to get another shot, putting all its men on defense, a

Chris Haffner takes the ball against the Oakville Tigers last Thursday. strategy of which Martel said, "They used last year

against us, when they held us to a draw. We knew exactly what they were going to do." SLUH held on for 1-0 win, but the margin would have been larger had it not been for

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Cross country sweeps

John Clohisy Reporter

Noming off of a huge meet at the Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence, Kan., the Jr. Bills stepped to the line at the MCC meet Saturday at Chaminade with high expectations. All of the hours of hard work continued to show as the XCBills swept the meet, winning on the varsity, JV, and C levels.

Despite the poorly made (and slightly short) course that had to be changed in the early hours before the races, the team also left the meet with two first-team all-conference runners and three second-team all-conference runners in one of the toughest conferences in the state.

Matt Lawder continued to prove that he

is one of the state's top runners as he led the varsity to victory, crossing the line in second place with a time of 15:33.

Dan Viox ran a breakthrough race, staying strong when others fell back, coming in second for SLUH and sixth overall with a time of 16:14.

Viox recalled, "I didn't know the course had been changed before the race, so I was hoping on sticking with the pack and not getting separated in the woods. After we found out about the changes, I decided to try and stick to the pack and then move on up through the field."

Viox continued, "The pack got out kind of slow... and held together really well. I saw some of the lead runners go past and took off after them."

MCC meet

Junior Mike McCafferty came in eighth in 16:16 and Nate Banet finished tenth in 16:26.

Juniors David Kucieczyk-Kernan, John Clohisy, and Chris Murphy rounded out the top seven.

Junior Steve Schumacher led the JV to a win, winning the race in 17:09, and freshman Caleb Ford won the freshman race in 17:11.

Upcoming races are the Borgia Invitational at Big Driver Golf Center in Washington, Mo. on Saturday at 10 a.m., and the Hazelwood Central B and C meet next Wednesday at the notorious Sioux Passage at 4:00 p.m. Feel free to come and support the team as they set their sights on the biggest races of the year.