

After first-half fireworks, football avoids late collapse

BY RYAN DOWD
CORE STAFF

In essence, last week's game was simply a tale of two halves. Saint Louis U. High offensive fireworks dominated the first half, as the Jr. Bills jumped to a 28-7 lead. Then, mistakes, missed calls, and Chaminade grit defined the second half, where the Jr. Bills narrowly escaped with a 35-28 victory.

Late in the third quarter with a 35-14 Jr. Bill lead, senior quarterback Trevor McDonagh slid through a clean pocket and fired a dart to streaking senior Mitch Klug for his first touchdown reception of the year. With SLUH up 42-14, the fat lady had all but sung.

But as the offensive line surged up field to celebrate with their teammates, a yellow flag became visible. Apparently, at least according to the referee, a SLUH offensive lineman had continued to block his man after McDonagh threw the pass, which warranted an unsportsman-like penalty. The drive stalled and Chaminade had a second life.

The Red Devils took full advantage of that second life, marching down the field on a scoring drive aided by SLUH penalties. Then, on the ensuing SLUH drive, senior Chaminade safety Spence Byrne jumped a route, picked the ball, and raced in for a touchdown. In the blink of an eye, Chaminade was now down 35-28.

Head coach Gary Kornfeld said, "We have to hold on to the ball a little better. We fumbled the ball a couple times. We threw the interception. Trevor would be the first one to tell you that he should have thrown it away."

After the kickoff, SLUH had the ball deep in their side of the field with several minutes still on the clock. But on the arm of McDonagh and the legs of senior running back Terek Hawkins, the Jr. Bills marched their way to midfield.

After a questionable holding call set the Jr. Bills back to third and a mile at midfield, SLUH punted with 1:05 still remaining.

Following a long punt from



Senior receiver Mitch Klug tries to bust loose from a Chaminade tackler after one of his five catches on the night.

senior safety/receiver/punter extraordinaire Paul Simon, the Chaminade offense had a chance for some late game heroics.

Thankfully, the SLUH defense came up with the heroics. Chaminade converted one first down, but the SLUH defense tightened its vice grip. After the first down, with only seconds remaining, Chaminade quarterback Logan Hutson attempted a spike to stop the clock. Instead, he knelt the ball then tried to spike it. The refs should have ruled him down and the clock should have run out. Instead, they awarded the spike and stopped the clock. The play became a non-issue, though, when several SLUH defenders met at the quarterback, crushing the feeble resistance.

"It's a tough job to officiate high school football, and I just felt like we were on the wrong side of some of those calls and that helped Chaminade a little bit," said Kornfeld.

The Jr. Bill offense proved multi-dimensional and explosive once again. On SLUH's first two drives, McDonagh hit senior Stefan Sansone for the receiver's fifth and sixth touchdowns. Cha-

minade's defensive line barely touched McDonagh all night, and as the game wore on, creases opened for Hawkins to spill out into the secondary. Hawkins knifed through the Chaminade defense for 47- and 17-yard touchdowns in the second quarter and a 67-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

McDonagh said, "The offense has been doing great. We have playmakers all over, but it all starts with the line up front. They've been doing great."

Kornfeld said, "In high school you can take one phase and try to shut it down. If they try to shut the run down, we pass. If they back off and play cover two, then you have to start running the football, and I think we can do either phase really well."

The offense still needs to limit turnovers though. McDonagh has had a productive senior season so far with 1,392 passing yards, on pace for 2,320 yards. He has 14 total touchdowns, nine passing and four rushing, but has seven interceptions.

McDonagh said, "One thing I need to improve is taking care of the ball. At times, I've taken some

risks throwing the ball downfield, when I need to just take what the defense gives me and protect the ball."

While SLUH showed character in hanging in for the victory, both sides of the ball still want to fully develop the killer instinct of a great team.

Simon said, "I think we just expected them to roll over, which they didn't. We had a few big penalties extending drives, we need to learn how to keep our foot on their throat the whole game and keep our heads in the game."

SLUH travels westward tonight to tame the Eureka Wildcats. Eureka (5-1) plays physical defense with a strong running game, led by one of the area's top runners, Spencer Stein.

"Eureka is going to bring their entire city to the game. It will be a crazy atmosphere. SLUH students probably won't be there, because they don't seem to enjoy football for some reason, so we are at a big disadvantage there," said McDonagh.

Simon said, "It'd be great to walk off their field in front of all their fans with a W—that's what we're working for."

Swim gets third victory in a row

BY DAVID GREAVES
REPORTER

On Wednesday, the St. Louis U. High swim team traveled to Mehlville High School for its fifth dual meet of the season. Starting out with a string of crushing losses, the team suffered a lull in confidence.

"The first couple meets we lost, and that was a drag," said sophomore Joseph Edmunds.

That turned around last Tuesday when SLUH dominated the smaller team of MICDS. The Jr. Bills dropped many times and got some JV swimmers in as well.

Two days later, the team left school early and headed out to the St. Peter's Rec Plex to participate in a three way meet (or tri-meet) against Jackson and Ft. Zumwalt. Again, the size and skill of the SLUH team led them to a sweeping victory.

"It was really exciting because we won. We were able to get different people doing different things and still take the win," said head coach Rachel Graczak.

The swimmers are thrilled to see a turn in success in the last few meets and it has really reflected in the way they've performed.

When asked about SLUH's recent achievements, junior Cullen Tripp responded, "I'm really glad that we've been able to pick it up in the last half of the season. These three wins can begin building the confidence we need to go into MCC's strong."

Hockey team opens with victory

The St. Louis U. High hockey team began its season this Tuesday with a 4-1 win against Oakville in the annual pre-season Top Hat Tournament, hosted by Webster Groves.

Two goals from senior forward Trent Ludlow led the team, as senior Thomas Place, who replaces the graduated Justin Ragland as the starting goaltender, allowed only one goal in the start.

The Jr. Bills will be back in action next Wednesday for their second game of the tournament against Eureka. Game time is 7:10 p.m. Look for season preview in next week's PN.

XC's depth shows at Queeny Park

BY GREG FISTER
STAFF ARTIST

Everybody loves the cool, autumn air and the vibrant colors of the trees this time of year, but not everybody gets to run for miles through it all, six days a week.

The St. Louis U. High cross country team has such a chance, and they, the fleet-footed speed demons of the school, take full advantage of their running skills and the beautiful weather.

Last Friday, many of SLUH's varsity runners (excluding the top seven) and the entire junior varsity and freshman teams ran in the Ron Jorgenson Memorial Invitational at Queeny Park. SLUH's varsity team for the race, led by juniors Joe Archer and David Arredondo, finished fifth in the meet.

Archer came in 14th place overall, with a time of 16:51. Arredondo was close behind him in 24th place, with a time of 17:18.

Other notable racers from

Friday included freshman Shayn Jackson, whose talent has been noted by SLUH's coaches. This is his second varsity race this season.

Coach Brian Gilmore said, "Archer really learned a lot after the beginning of the varsity race; he asserted himself to show everyone what kind of runner he can be."

The rest of the team, mostly underclassmen, raced well, ensuring SLUH's chances at State titles in the future. The JV team also performed admirably, finishing in third place out of 15 teams.

The miracle of the day occurred when SLUH's freshman team discovered they had won the race. When the scores were added up, both SLUH and O'Fallon equaled 30. SLUH's team won the tiebreaker: the shorter time between the finish of their first runner and their fifth, which was much less than O'Fallon's, though the O'Fallon freshmen had a faster average time.



Senior Danny Gaines (left) and junior Brian Curran (right) pace each other stride for stride for the JV cross country team.

photo | Mr. Matt Sciuto