

A family united: final freshman to step foot on campus

BY JACK FIGGE AND
ELLIOT MOORE
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Over six months ago, most members of the Class of 2025 entered the hallways of St. Louis U. High for the first time as students over six months ago, partaking in live classes, meeting new friends, and immersing themselves in the vibrant community. But for freshman Nate Broyles, Monday, March 8 was his first day at school.

For the past 7 months, Broyles has been learning from his home over Zoom.

“I have asthma so I am at high risk,” said Broyles. “But since (the decline in cases) has gotten better and since my dad is a doctor, he’s gotten both of the vaccines, while my mom has gotten one ... all of that influenced my decision to return.”

Being a completely virtual student brings a variety of difficulties and struggles, especially when a majority of

the other students are in the classroom.

“One of the most difficult things for me was if I had a question during class and the teacher was explaining something usually I would have to schedule another time to talk to him over Zoom which was a pain,” said Broyles. “Also if there were internet issues and Zoom would bug out in the middle of class, that was annoying.”

Meeting friends and connecting with classmates can be a struggle for freshmen, as they navigate their way through their first year in high school. For Broyles, it was made ever more difficult being fully online since he could not have one on one conversations with his classmates or even meet them face to face.

“I was able to make some friends by texting them or by asking them questions about homework,” said Broyles. “But I wouldn’t really get into

continued on page 4

Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with authentic Irish recipes and popular local restaurants

BY SAM TARTER
FEATURES EDITOR

With the Covid-19 pandemic preventing large social gatherings and adjusting every in-door area, the annual celebration of St. Patrick’s Day in St. Louis will be far from normal: no parades for the Irish community to gather and share in their culture, no bars open for adults to partake in a hefty pint of Guinness, and no safe way to have large Irish family dinners or other annual celebrations for the holiday. While many will see Wednesday, Mar. 17 as yet another typical day due to the combination of spring break and quarantine, there is still one communal and accessible way to celebrate and share in Irish culture and pride: food.

For those who are currently quarantined or prefer a nice night in with a home cooked meal, I recommend corned beef with cabbage. A very simple but extremely flavorful dish, this meal is a staple

of Irish culture.

While many recipes of this Irish staple are the same, there are a few key steps that can set your corned beef and cabbage meal from the rest. Above all else, take your time. Whether you’re cooking in an old fashioned crock pot or a new and improved Instant Pot, your corned beef must be cooked low and slow. Corned beef can be a tough slice of meat, and it is best to take your time and allow all of the flavors to seep in, but to give it an easy, ten-

der feel. For the best texture of meat, cook for upwards of 8 hours; if you don’t have all day to cook, 3 hours at the minimum at a higher temperature.

The second most essential step for your corned beef and cabbage meal is your spices. Any store from Schnucks to Walmart to Whole Foods and even Amazon will carry something labeled as a “pickling spice.” For those who cannot find pickling spice at the ready or are not buying pre-packaged

continued on page 4



art | Charlie Bieg

No quarter exams, choice of assessment up to teachers

BY LUKE DUFFY
STAFF

Quarter exams have been a unique part of the academic rigor at St. Louis U. High for years. Most other high schools just have semester exams, but SLUH has quarter exams as well so that students are better prepared for college and beyond. However, the challenges of Covid-19 have forced the administration to address the necessity of these quarter exam weeks. The decision was to remove the formal week of exams, but allow teachers to choose how to assess their students at the end of the quarter.

“We’re very cognizant of classroom time and total instructional hours,” said principal Ian Gibbons, S.J. “We realized we needed to pick up some pieces just for our own internal goals for what we wanted to achieve academically for the year.”

One of the biggest factors that contributes to loss of class time is the block schedule. By design, the block schedule has less class time per week than having seven classes a day. One of the simplest ways to make up for some of this lost time was to cut quarter exam week.

“This gave us an opportunity to recover a significant number of days,” said Gibbons. “Because it’s a block schedule, if faculty members wanted to offer exams that week, the structure is in place to do so.”

With this flexibility, teachers had the opportunity to take their assessments in many different directions.

“It’s very mixed,” said Gibbons. “Departments that are not doing exams, departments that are doing some modified form, and some that are doing speed ahead exams.”

With this leeway, many

continued on page 4

The STEM club returns with busy schedule after months of inactivity

photo | courtesy of SLUH Facebook



Students celebrate their BEAMs results.

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

After several months of relative silence, the Innovation Lab has finally been humming, cranking, and whirring again this semester as SLUH’s STEM Club worked to put the finishing touches on projects for a busy competition season. Over the last two weeks, a flurry of im-

portant competitions ensured the space was in constant use.

First, STEM Club members participated in the annual Billiken BEAMs competition hosted by St. Louis University’s civil engineering program after school on Feb. 26. In the competition, students from local high schools put their building skills to the test by manipulating a few flimsy strands of balsa

wood into a structurally sound bridge capable of holding dozens of pounds.

The competition looked much different this year, as it was put on as a Zoom webinar instead of a live tournament, but for junior JP Torack, it was still just as fun.

“I really enjoyed it this year because the process felt a lot more complete. We actually put a lot of time into it and worked after school almost every day,” said JP Torack. “Plus, it was a great group of guys.”

After several admittedly poor results in this competition in years prior, the SLUH team was anxious to improve and put in significantly more work this year.

“Last year, we kind of just guessed on a design and built it in a week or two,” reflected ju-

nior Richard Taylor. “This year, we tested and left plenty of time to build.”

The work showed. This year the SLUH team’s bridge held 34 pounds, over 20 pounds higher than last year’s team. Still, the strong performance was not enough to win. However, even after missing the podium, Taylor is proud of the results.

“My goal for the weight was 20 pounds, but it held 34 pounds, so I was really happy with our performance,” said Taylor.

In fact, this year’s improved performance coupled with the significant loads held by the winning bridge this year only further inspired the team to try even harder next year.

“I’m really proud of our work because we learned a lot this year,” Torrack said. “I am

continued on page 2

Covid Numbers*

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| STUDENT CASES: | 1* |
| STUDENT QUARANTINES: | 1 |
| FACULTY CASES: | 0 |
| FACULTY QUARANTINE: | 1 |

*Numbers as of this Friday, March 11

*Student case rapid test, which, according to Director of Student Health Scott Gilbert, is more susceptible to false positives. The student is awaiting a more accurate PCR Test.

Spring break trips canceled, students left with no replacement

BY ROARKE UNRAU
STAFF

With spring break approaching, most students are looking forward to a much-needed and much-anticipated week off. A handful of students were planning on going on one of Campus Ministry's spring break immersion trips. This year though, all the trips have been cancelled due to health and safety concerns, leaving some students with more time on their hands than they previously planned.

At the beginning of the year, five trips were planned for spring break: one to Kansas City, one to the Appalachian region, one to Philadelphia, one to Honduras, and one to the Kino Border Initiative at the Arizona and Mexico border. But keeping SLUH's safety protocols while traveling proved to be too difficult to guarantee.

"Traveling right now is uncertain, and not a necessarily smart choice during a pandemic. We did hold off on cancelling them until we got closer and we got a sense of where our world was at," said Campus Minister Stephen Deves. "Three of our spring break trips are by plane, two

of them are by bus or by car, and at this point as a school we still don't feel safe or comfortable sending students on a plane, or putting a bunch of students in a car together."

Every year, Campus Ministry holds these trips so that the students who participate can learn about, and connect with, the people they are helping.

"The biggest difference in my mind between a service trip and immersion trip is meeting the people that you are serving, and interacting with them and getting to know them," said Deves. "Doing an immersion trip really helps students experience the act of meeting people that are different from them, and maybe sometimes you're serving them, maybe sometimes you're helping them but more importantly, you're humbling yourself and getting to know them. I think that's a powerful life lesson"

Since these trips cannot happen in person, some groups, such as the Kino Border Initiative, offered to host a virtual experience for SLUH students. But the same support for a virtual version of the trip was not there. Other plans were suggested, but nothing had the same impact

on students as the actual trips themselves.

"I think, understandably, some students are a little Zoomed out. And they need spring break to get off their devices. I don't blame them for that. So the idea of, on your spring break, doing more Zooming and more meetings type stuff was not appealing and I get that," said Deves. "We've thought about trying to do a local St. Louis immersion, which some schools do. But again, I think ultimately, it just came to letting students have a break and hopefully revamping and rejuvenating and coming back stronger."

Junior Danny Phillips was planning on going on a trip, and was not overly excited to spend his spring break in St. Louis instead of abroad, but wasn't surprised the trips were cancelled.

"This year, with the school year and everything starting out shut down, I kind of always expected the trips not to happen. So it wasn't that much of a surprise but it was still sad to see," said Phillips. "Every year since freshman year, my plan was to go on one of these trips every spring break. But now I'll probably just stay in St. Louis and work instead."

STEM Club makes up for lost time with flurry of activity

(continued from page 1)

confident we will continue to improve next year and hopefully even win."

After the rewarding results of the BEAMs competition, the STEM Club prepared for their next competition, TEAMs, which is a national STEM competition put on by the Technology Student Association. After completing an essay submission, the TEAMs group met on campus on Feb. 27 to complete the multiple-choice test and engineering challenge required for the competition. The multiple-choice questions focus on a variety of different science topics and are known to be difficult.

"The questions are quite challenging. Even though they give you most of the information, there's a lot of thinking involved. Luckily you're able to converse with your fellow teammates for help which took off a lot of pressure that we would have had otherwise," said junior Tom Nguyen, who led this year's TEAMs group.

The engineering challenge, which centered on how automation can help the Covid response, followed the test and applied students' knowledge to the real world by asking them to design and craft a model using everyday supplies like popsicle sticks and pipe cleaners.

This year, they still completed a build, but instead of displaying it live, they had to record a video showing off their prototype to judges.

To respond to the prompt, the TEAMs group built a mechanism out of cardboard and string that could successfully be used to transport paper from one box to another, an impressive feat given the 40-minute time limit. Even though results are still not out for the nationwide competition, Nguyen is looking towards next year's event.

"In the end, I feel decently confident about a performance," said Nguyen. "Hopefully, we can get even more teams to do this competition next year because I think it's a very fun competition, but you don't have to do much preparation for it."

Finally, after a busy string of acronymed competitions, the Robotics team capped off a project more than a year in the making last week, as they were finally able to compete with the robot that was so tragically put out of commission last year due to Covid quarantine. This year, the annual First Robotics Competition, the main event for SLUH Robotics, asked students to repurpose their robot from last year, which no school got to use, and record a video

of it performing certain tasks, like shooting a ball at a target or having the robot run through a course entirely from code, with no human control.

The robotics team finished filming last week, after many late nights in the iLab due to machine malfunction, and even though it was certainly better than nothing, many members noted their disappointment with how this year's competition shaped out.

"It was still cool to work on the robot, but we didn't get to build a new robot which was definitely less fun. Plus, because of Covid, we couldn't really meet as much," reflected senior Franco Schmidt.

"I didn't like it as much as the regular process," agreed junior Matthew Leight. "In the regular building process, you get to make your own idea and go through the testing and all that's fun. At least we got to do something this year."

Despite this and other setbacks, Robotics was still happy with their submission this year.

"I still think a lot of our challenges went well, even though it was sort of rushed at the end and some things fell apart that weren't supposed to," said Leight. "I think we got a good performance in, and hopefully we'll get something out of it."

YAHTZEE! Mother-Son trivia offers entertainment, fun, board games



art | Charlie Bieg

BY JACKSON COOPER
REPORTER

The Mother's Club at St. Louis U. High hosts a Mother-Son Trivia Night every year, giving an opportunity for students to take a break from their hectic school lives and spend some time with their families. This event is typically held in the Si Commons and draws a relatively large crowd, but, due to the pandemic, an in-person trivia night similar to those in years past would simply be unfeasible.

Rather than cancelling trivia night, the Mother's Club made the decision to move it to an online setting. The Commons were replaced by a virtual Zoom meeting room, allowing for one of SLUH's favorite traditions to

carry on in the face of Covid-19.

Trivia night took place on March 6, and, despite the logistical challenges of hosting virtually, attendance numbers are estimated to have stayed more or less consistent with those of previous years.

Going into the trivia night, some worried that traditions such as the decorating of tables would be unable to occur. Some, like senior Drew Walters and his family, were still able to make the best of the situation and with this fun tradition at home, choosing to decorate both themselves and their Zoom background.

"My mom kind of set it up that night," said Walters. "I was surprised but I liked the idea. My dad had a Mo-

nopoly Man costume, I was dressed like an Operation board, and my mom was dressed like a Twister board. We were kind of worried that people wouldn't be able to see our decorations because of the video quality, but thankfully that wasn't much of an issue."

Another aspect of the virtual trivia night that was consistent with previous years was the host. Math teacher Stephen Deves, who is well known for facilitating the trivia portion of Freshman Fun Day, curates trivia from various categories, and presents it on a slideshow. This year, Deves was set up in a classroom on campus, and screen-shared his presentation to the participants.

Interestingly, Walters actually preferred the virtual setting because of the lack of background noise, which allowed for trivia questions to be heard with clarity.

Said Walters, "I liked it more than the in-person trivia night because I felt like it was more organized. We knew when each round was starting and stopping, and you could actually hear what he was saying without people talking over him. I just thought it was really well organized."

Overall, however, the sentiment is that, should circumstances permit it, Mother-Son trivia night will return in-person during the 2021-2022 school year.

PN Policy and Platform

As the student-run newspaper of St. Louis University High School, the *Prep News* is a weekly publication that strives to inform the SLUH community about events and people, with its focus on those pertaining to the school, primarily through the written word.

The *Prep News* is neither the voice of the administration nor the students. Rather, the newspaper serves to gather and distribute information for the entire school. The *Prep News* editors and staff members make every effort to be objective in their news coverage and editing.

The members of the editorial staff are co-workers and share equally the duties of writing, copy-editing, layout, and staff management. All of the editors share responsibility and leadership of the paper. The editors are supported by a core staff of regular reporters as well as artists and photographers.

It is the role of the editors

to seek out and facilitate the reporting of all significant news at SLUH. While any faculty member or student is welcome to submit suggestions to the editors for potential articles, the *Prep News* is never obligated to publish any article idea.

Our primary emphasis as editors of the *Prep News* is upon clear and accurate writing and careful editing. We also attempt to include visual expression—photography, drawing, technical aids, etc.—in every issue and on our website. Despite our desire to make the paper visually appealing, we commit ourselves not to allow form to supersede substance.

The editorial staff will use social media to communicate with the paper's readership and to update students about SLUH events and highlight the paper's content, mainly in the form of Twitter. The editors will not allow their goal of speed and accessibility online to weaken their commitment to accuracy and depth.

The *Prep News* strongly encourages underclassman involvement, and our office on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing, room J220, is always open for involvement, criticism, praise, or suggestions. Contributed student opinions are also welcome under the *Prep News* Editorial Policy. Without student reaction and feedback, the *Prep News* could not function.

If the *Prep News* is inaccurate, we will correct any significant error in the following issue and on our web site as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the editors assume sole responsibility for the text of news and sports articles, features, and editorials. We ask faculty or students who take issue with the manner in which the news was reported or find an error to bring it to the attention of the editors, not the individual reporters.

This is the platform of the editors of Volume 85 of the *Prep News*.

**Interested in writing? Artistry?
Photography? Research? The *Prep News* is for you.**

**Any writers, artists, and/or
photographers who are interested
in participating in the *Prep News* are encouraged
to email prepnews@sluh.org**

PN “Character Study” Crossword

- ACROSS**
1. Clayton, but not South City, e.g. (abbr.)
5. 0
10. ,
14. One who needs to know these theme entries
15. Part of a Muslim household, or the women who live there
16. French friend
17. Indian dignitary
18. Acid in the human body
19. Liquid in the human body
20. /
22. ;
23. Encoding standard that recognizes these theme entries
24. 4
27. What Little Miss Muffet did
28. Recent Director of Communications on Downing Street
30. What 35-Across means
33. American soccer player Freddy who signed a pro contract at age 14
34. With 22-Down, what the Tin Man first said to Dorothy
35. =
36. 5
40. What this puzzle’s theme usually results in
42. Infinitive in the Prayer for Generosity
43. What Yahweh calls Himself in Exodus
45. Container for a doz. eggs
46. 7
47. State of exhilaration
49. Actress Carides, or the jaguar in Madagascar 3
52. Icy precipitations
53. 3
55. Hawaiian hello
58. 8
60. Indian domicile (var.)
61. Hot coal
63. Florida, in contrast to Mississippi
64. A origin?
65. ‘
66. 360 million year-old fossil source
67. Song by Elvis Presley or Ed Sheeran
68. Frontline worker
69. Lipid in the human body

- DOWN**
1. Garments for some Arabs
2. Chant heard in Miracle
3. Deny, as a field

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | | 22 | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | 24 | | 25 | 26 | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| | | | 33 | | | | 34 | | | | 35 | | | |
| 36 | 37 | 38 | | | | 39 | | 40 | | 41 | | | | |
| 42 | | | | | 43 | | 44 | | 45 | | | | | |
| 46 | | | | 47 | | | | 48 | | | | 49 | 50 | 51 |
| | | | 52 | | | | | | | 53 | 54 | | | |
| 55 | 56 | 57 | | | | | 58 | | 59 | | | | | |
| 60 | | | | | 61 | 62 | | | | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | | 65 | | | | | | 66 | | | |
| 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | | | 69 | | | |

Crossword | Mr. Paul Baudendistel

- goal attempt
4. Henchman Luca of The Godfather
5. Indian tea
6. The current fashion, to 16-Across
7. South American river popularized by Enya
8. Title for 100 people in D.C. (abbr.)
9. Overly sensitive, as a teen
10. Infinitive in the Prayer for Generosity
11. Distance runner
- Zátopek whose name was an anagram of “mile”
12. Building for grain or a missile
13. Punxsutawney Phil’s shadow, sometimes
22. See 34-Across
25. Nonclerical
26. Purple flowers
29. Thelma Harper’s daughter, played by Carol Burnett
30. Relative of this puzzle’s theme
31. Singer Lipa
32. Data service streamed through telephone lines
33. Often torn ligament, in brief
35. Rolling kitchen tool
36. Org. of adults who help school children
37. About three times the age of the fossils in 66-Across
38. Remove
39. Incapacitate using electrons
41. Semiconductor with more holes than electrons
44. Where the Transfiguration took place
47. Instruction in reading and writing, in brief
48. Useful things, such as Jason Bourne or Baby Yoda
49. Type of pig featured in Disney’s G-Force
50. 6
51. Adele’s last name, same as country singer Trace
52. Modifier that yields these theme entries
54. “You’re either on the bus _____,” - Ken Kesey
55. Little bit
56. Animated six year old Hawaiian girl
57. 9
59. Ring bearer?
61. Statement including = (abbr.)
62. When repeated, a garment for some Hawaiians

SATIRE

Students request fire alarm to speak up, can’t hear over dividers

BY JACOB SPROCK
NEWS EDITOR

The students eating lunch on Thursday, March 3 had to ask the fire alarm to raise its voice since they couldn’t figure out what it was wailing about due to the muffling caused by the plexiglass dividers between the tables.

“I heard someone over the intercom yelling something like ‘the school is for hire,’ but I didn’t know what the hell that meant,” said a freshman, yelling across the table at a classmate who had yet to participate in the clan war on Clash of Clans. “You know, when you think about it, this could be a huge safety haz-

ard. Like, what if we couldn’t hear the bells and were stuck learning about kleos for three hours?”

Following the mishap on

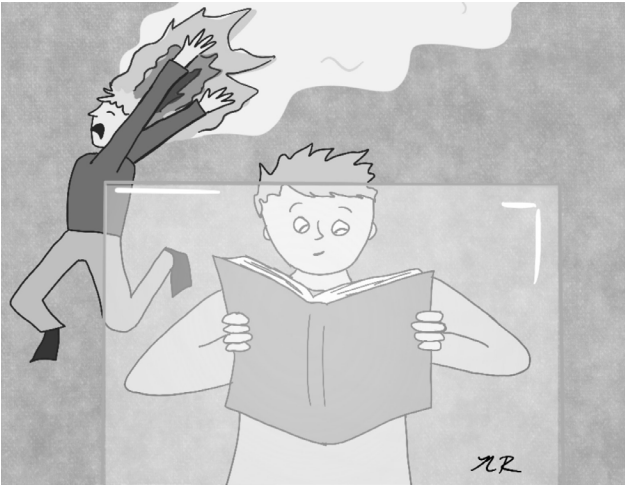
Thursday, students are calling for the removal of the dividers.

“I just think that the dividers are too much of a safety

hazard at this point,” said an anonymous senior. “I don’t know how much longer I’ll be able to live with having to repeat myself half a dozen times whenever I repeat jokes I stole from a comedy special on Netflix.”

“I’ve been working on my vocals in my free time until these dividers are down,” said the fire alarm. “I’ve been looking to change up my routine whenever the school is on fire, so this offers a great opportunity to try out some new material.”

At press time, reporters couldn’t hear anything the administration was saying due to the fact that the interviews were held at the lunch tables.



art | Nathan Rich

The Prep News staff sends its deepest condolences to the hair of these two fine gentlemen*



*To clarify, we do not send our condolences to the subjects, JUST their hair.

St. Patrick’s Day offers opportunity to create, experience various Irish dishes



The Blarney Stone calzone.

photo | Sam Tarter

(continued from page 1)

corned beef, your spices and seasonings mix should consist of a solid ratio of mustard seed, celery seed, coriander, bay leaf, dill seed, allspice, and peppercorns, with pinches of salt and pepper added along the way. For the best flavor, sprinkle or rub your cut of meat with the spices right before roasting.

Lastly, you can’t have a good corned beef and cabbage meal without the cabbage (and other vegetables). Obviously, you’ll need one large cabbage head, accompanied with ten small round potatoes, and five whole carrots shaved and cut into three inch slices (or baby carrots if that’s your preference). It is important to note that excess flavor and seasoning from the corned beef will cook into the vegetables, so there is no need for additional salting or flavoring.

The key step for your vegetables is to add them towards the tail end of your cook. Potatoes and carrots vary, but once your meat is under an hour left of cooking, you can throw them in until they’re tender. As for the cabbage, throw in the head (preferably halved or quartered at this point) into the pot when you have around 20 minutes left to keep it from getting mushy. Once the cook is done, remove the corned beef for slicing and prepping, leave the vegetables in the pot for easy removal, and enjoy!

My dear friend and fellow Irishman Luke Duffy recommends classic Irish soda bread as a side option, as the consistency is good to sop up any leftover broth from your crock pot, and the simple flavor works as both a palate cleanser and a utensil for your corned beef.

Any basic recipe for soda bread can be found online, but

Duffy recommends using three cups of all purpose flour, one cup of cake flour, two tablespoons of sugar, one and one half teaspoons of baking soda, one and one half teaspoons of cream of tartar, one and one half teaspoons of salt, two tablespoons of cold unsalted butter, and two full cups of buttermilk. With your oven preheated to 400 degrees Fahrenheit, whisk together your dry ingredients, and then work the butter into said dry ingredients, breaking it into smaller pieces.

Once mixed, pour in most of the buttermilk and form the mixture with your hands, later adding the rest of the buttermilk as needed to form the dough. From then on, transfer the dough to a baking sheet with parchment paper, cut a large X in the top of the unleavened loaf with a knife, and bake for 30 minutes, or until it starts to brown. With the flavor and consistency of an old fashioned Irish biscuit, your homemade meal will be complete.

While nothing beats a home cooked meal and essential family bonding time in the kitchen, there are more options for those who prefer to dine in or take out, including O’Connell’s Pub. Laden with green bricks on its exterior, dark green umbrellas for patio seating, and inside decor that looks as if it was plucked right out of the country of Ireland itself, O’Connell’s is a sight to see; you can’t go wrong with an in-person lunch or dinner. With an elegant indoor bar and table seating and a very simple food menu, O’Connell’s is a great place for comfort, nostalgia, and old-fashioned Irish food. Personally, I recommend choosing from their reuben, corned beef, roast beef, or salami sandwiches (or a good old-fashioned cheeseburger

which they’re especially known for) as your entree, and a slice of cheesecake or gooey butter cake for dessert.

Another one of my favorite Irish restaurants that I highly recommend is John D. McGurk’s Irish Pub and Garden (or as it’s simply known as, McGurk’s). I have only ever sat outside to eat, so I can’t say much about the decor besides the beautiful scenery and location. But what I can rave about is the food, which is all good. To celebrate in Irish culture, I recommend a plethora of menu items.

For starters, you can’t go wrong with their old-fashioned Irish chips or their Galway Bay crab cakes, which are so fresh and well seasoned that you’ll feel like you were sitting in a sea shack on the oceanfront while wearing a Gaelic sweater. For your main course, they have two traditional but very well done sandwiches, the corned beef and the reuben, neither of which dissappoint. For those who prefer to use a fork over their hands, they have the much raved about corned beef and cabbage and old-fashioned fish and chips.

But the cream of the crop, the best of the best, and my personal favorite menu items at McGurk’s is a tie between the Irish stew and the Guinness stew: the former is a traditional lamb stew with fresh vegetables and the latter consists of beef tips braised in Guinness stout with potatoes and carrots. Both are served in a hot and fresh sourdough bread bowl and are incredibly delicious and very soul-warming. If you still have room for dessert, go for either the Bailey’s cheesecake cooked with real Bailey’s irish cream—a dessert that tastes so good and homemade it will remind you of your favorite Irish grandma—or if you’re up for it, try the whiskey bread pudding, a more adventurous but mouth-watering, traditional Irish dessert accompanied by caramel and raspberry sauces and melted whiskey butter.

While it isn’t an Irish restaurant, there is one St. Louis based chain that will not disappoint this St. Patrick’s Day: Sauce on the Side. This March, their monthly special is aptly titled “The Blarney Zone,” and consists of corned beef and pastrami, accompanied by white wine braised onions, glued together with swiss and smoked gouda cheese, and

wrapped together in their famously good calzone dough. Whether you’re on-the-go, needing takeout, or simply in the mood for a delicious calzone, Sauce has you covered, as the Blarney Zone that I tried was a perfect mixture of tender, flavorful, smokey meat, which was complimented well with some of the best sauteed onions I have ever had and topped off perfectly with the sauce I dipped on the side: their new horseradish ranch, which was a great mix of unique spice and mellow flavors. If you don’t have the chance to eat out this St. Patrick’s day, I highly recommend getting the monthly special at Sauce on the Side for take out as it may be the very best menu item I will suggest for the annual holiday.

Lastly, I want to leave you with two Irish-themed options for ice cream. While everyone has surely heard of it by now, the Shamrock Shake at McDonalds is worth the hype. Nowhere else will you receive a better minty, sweet drink topped off with traditional whipped cream. It may be powder based and might just be their standard vanilla with green food coloring and mint extract, but McDonald’s has knocked it out of the park every year with their Shamrock Shake (so much so that I keep going back to it every year).

For those who prefer a more local take on dessert, the famous Ted Drewes will be offering a one day sale of green vanilla ice cream. You can never go wrong with Drewes’ standard vanilla, and all they do to switch things up is add green food coloring to it, which definitely gets the job done for being both festive and fun. Don’t let your eyes fool you though; this is not mint-flavored at all. It may look a bit odd to those of you who have it mixed into your concrete, but in a cup, cone, sundae or on top of a fresh hot brownie, the light green color of your sweet treat will hopefully put a smile on your face in the same way it did mine last year.

So there you have it, all of my recommendations and recipes for how to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day the best way possible this year. Stay safe and happy, and always remember: “For each petal on the shamrock which brings a wish your way, good health, good luck, and happiness for today and everyday.”

Faculty brings mixed approach to replacing quarter exams

(continued from page 1)

teachers have decided to assess their students in more informal ways than a traditional quarter exam.

“Instead of having a big exam with just everything going on and the fact that we have regular classes this week, I’m just giving regular tests in each of my classes to finish the quarter,” said Tim O’Keefe, who teaches freshman Biology and senior Anatomy and Physiology.

O’Keefe prefers to give his students chapter tests mid-semester and exams at the end of the semester. Julie Anderson, who teaches sophomore theology, is taking a different approach.

“We have a test on Thursday for the most recent sacraments that we’ve covered,” said Anderson. “It’s not going to be a formal exam, it will just be a regular test that has a small cumulative component.”

Like other teachers, Anderson wanted to see where her students were at concerning the work of the quarter.

“I didn’t want to make a big deal out of the fact that it’s an exam, but I did want to assess their overall knowledge and where they were at before spring break,” said Anderson.

In the English department, freshman teachers have opted out of a formal exam entirely, and are concluding the quarter with writing and discussion.

“For the freshmen, we’re basically not doing one,” said freshman English teacher Jennifer Carroll. “They’ve recently finished an essay on Romeo and Juliet, and we’re doing some summative work, we’re having a final spiderweb discussion, but it’s not a typical exam.”

Freshmen have had a very unique SLUH experience this year, and exams are no different. While teachers are trying their best to make the most productive decisions, there is a concern that the freshmen will have less preparation for the future due to their atypical exam experience.

“The timing of the pandemic and the nature of the hybrid, from my experience as a teacher of freshmen and juniors, has hit the freshmen the hardest,” said Carroll. “They missed out on the close of their eighth grade year, they missed out on those introductions to

high school; it made me appreciate just how key those moments are. They’re not quite acclimated and they’re not as far along that as I’d like them to be.”

Teachers of AP courses are also trying a wide variety of approaches to the end of the quarter.

“For my juniors, they basically have an exam on Wednesday or Thursday,” said Carroll, who also teaches junior AP English Literature. “Because it’s 80 minutes, that’s not that far off from a 90-minute exam time, so I’m just giving them an exam.”

Carroll decided to give her AP class an exam as a way to prepare for their AP exam at the end of the semester, but other AP teachers are approaching this issue differently.

“I’m just doing the unit test, I’m not really doing a quarter exam per se,” said Dan See, who teaches AP Stats and AP Computer Science to seniors. “This point of the year is kind of a good time to bring a lot of things together, but I would say the amount of material that I’m testing on the unit test now is not as much as it has been in the past.”

Instead of doing repeated practice AP tests, See reviews material with his students during the fourth quarter.

“That’s when we come back and we’re working practice exams and doing practice problems pretty much the whole fourth quarter,” said See.

In the Foreign Language Department, AP Spanish teacher Magdalena Alvarado had a different take on exams even before Covid.

“Language is a little bit different because the best assessment is done day-to-day,” said Alvarado. “In an ideal world, I would rather not give exams, so I’m kind of happy that we have that flexibility now.”

For her AP class, Alvarado is still intent on preparing students for the AP exam regardless of the circumstances.

“They have to practice for the AP exam, so I have them write an AP essay in class,” Alvarado said. “I wouldn’t necessarily need to have an exam week to do that, there is enough time since we have 80-minute periods that I could do that at any time of the quarter.”

Freshman reflects on experience starting at school in March

(continued from page 1)

conversations with them. It is definitely one of the biggest differences between being online and being at school is that at home you really can’t have those conversations.”

Despite being miles away from the SLUH campus, Broyles still felt the sense of brotherhood that the school is known for.

“At times it was hard to feel (like I was meant to be here), but when I would email or text somebody in my class a question they would always be quick to respond, and it

just made me feel like there were people that I could ask questions and they would help me.”

For most SLUH students, morning check-in has become a part of their daily routine, another item to check off their list, but for Broyles this was his first experience feeling like a true SLUH student.

“The first time I had felt fully included is when they had me download the Visitu App,” said Broyles. “That’s when I fully felt a member of the community.”

Attending his various

classes throughout the day was another influence that made Broyles feel like a high school student. One class that Broyles especially enjoyed was his freshman Latin class for its fun and engaging environment and that all of his classmates knew who he was.

“Latin class was amazing,” said Broyles. “Ms. Ice, she’s a really good—a really great—teacher. She just made me feel really welcomed and everybody knew who I was.”

Immersing themselves within the community and meeting people is a concern

for many incoming freshmen, but it was especially worrying for Broyles since all of his classmates have already become accustomed to the campus, and he was just starting out.

“I have been in the building a couple times, but not for classes,” said Broyles. “So I was still getting used to everything and everybody else already knew where they were going. That actually worked out for me because a bunch of kids in my class would help me get to my classes and find where I was going.”

Even with the help shown by his fellow classmates, Broyles often found himself overwhelmed by the chaos that ensued during the passing period and trying to navigate his way through the hallways which to new freshmen, sometimes seem like a maze.

“I was trying to find my math teacher for an academic lab, and though I had been given a tour in the morning, I was still roaming the halls and especially with the one way stickers on the ground,” said Broyles. “I spent like 20 minutes searching for my teacher

and eventually I stopped at the counselor’s office and asked for help.”

Being amongst his classmates and sitting in-person in his classes helped Broyles feel like a true high school student and Jr. Bill.

“Being at school was much better than being virtual,” said Broyles. “I can definitely feel the Brotherhood that SLUH is known for. Everybody welcomed me and made me feel like a part of the community by being able to participate in classes.”



Basketball falls short vs. Pattonville in District Title game to end season



art | Nathan Rich

BY CARTER SPENCE
WEB EDITOR

Seeking its first District title since 2016, the St. Louis U. High basketball team traveled on Friday, March 5 for a matchup with the Pattonville Pirates. Pattonville, which entered the game a near-perfect 21-1 and fresh off of a 35-point win in its semifinal game, edged SLUH 59-55 to continue in the State tournament, advancing to Sectionals. With the loss, the Jr. Bills closed the 2020-21 season with a 7-10 record, a product of a brutal schedule and a young team.

SLUH had no answer for Pattonville guard Alijah Carter, who erupted for 26 points—the second most of his career— and 11 rebounds.

Kellen Thames Jr., son of the former Mizzou standout, added 13 points and nine rebounds.

Junior guard Nick Kramer, SLUH's leading scorer with over 19 points per game, scored a team-high 22 points, and junior guard Luke Johnston tied his career high with 14 points, including a pair of three-pointers.

SLUH's three-point attack put Pattonville in an early hole. Connecting on seven triples in the first half, SLUH led by as many as five in the first quarter. But Pattonville responded by attacking the paint each possession, taking control of the game with a 20-4 run. Down by 11, it appeared SLUH would fall victim to another blowout at the hands of Pat-

tonville, which had decimated its last eight opponents by an average of over 34 points per game.

SLUH battled back, however, ending the half on a 14-4 run to trim the Pirates' lead to just one point. Kramer hit a pair of triples to close the deficit, giving the Jr. Bills signs of hope before the final 16 minutes of the game.

Kramer's success from beyond the arc was short-lived. Kramer, who entered the game a remarkable 47.5 percent on three-point attempts, was unable to convert on any of his four three-point attempts in the second half, putting SLUH's offense into a lull. After a tight third quarter, Pattonville capitalized on SLUH's offensive woes, using a 9-3 run to put the Jr. Bills down by nine midway through the fourth.

SLUH, again, did not shy away from the deficit. The Jr. Bills turned the tide with a 12-5 run to cut Pattonville's lead to just two points with under a minute to play. Forced to foul to send the Pirates to the free throw line, SLUH did not receive any help from Pattonville: Carter, a 59.8 percent free throw shooter, and Thames (71.9 percent), both connected on a pair of free throws to bury SLUH for the last time. The comeback bid was too little too late.

"I thought we played well," Johnston. "Unfortunately, we aren't perfect. We missed free throws and had some breakdowns defensively along with

some turnovers that are bound to happen in a basketball game."

It was an ending all too familiar for the Jr. Bills, who trailed by just one possession in the fourth quarter in six of its nine regular season losses.

The Jr. Bills' early three-point success was nearly enough to hand Pattonville its second loss of the year. The Pirates, which entered the game shooting 35.6 percent on three-point attempts, shot just 3 for 16 from beyond the arc, a relatively poor performance for them.

Despite the unfortunate ending, SLUH is set to return every single player from this year's roster, including seven who will be seniors next season. While the lack of experience and upperclassmen leadership at times held them back, the Jr. Bills will soon be one of the most experienced teams in the area.

SLUH's improvement next season will be dependent on how much Kramer's supporting cast steps up, especially on the offensive end. SLUH's offense lacked a clear number two option, with Johnston, junior Jaden McClain, and sophomore Aaron Walker Jr. posting similar scoring profiles, between six and eight points per game.

"We were comfortable with each other on the floor," Johnston said. "But we weren't consistent enough from game to game. We need to all come back bigger, better, and stronger next season."

Racquetball reflects on successful State Tournament campaign

BY JARED THORNBERRY
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High School racquetball season has finally come to a conclusion. The Varsity-1 team finished its season 10-0, defeating teams such as CBC, Parkway West, and Lindbergh to win the state title in February.

At the start of the season, the big question was who would earn the number one spot on the varsity.

"Going into the fall racquetball, I think it was interesting from our coaching standpoint because we didn't know or had any strong feeling as to who would be number one seed," said head coach Stephen Deves. "As fall racquetball continued, it was clear that it was going back and forth between Danny and Oliver and it was really close but I think the large majority of it showed that Danny was the more consistent player on top."

With it coming down to the deadline, the coaches decided that Juergens would be award-

ed the No. 1 seed for the season.

"When I got the number one spot for varsity, I was ecstatic. I was happy I got the spot, but I also knew it would come with a high level of competition and leadership responsibilities, said Juergens. "This year was difficult to actively be a leader, since going up to the courts and drilling outside of practice wasn't always an option. But I always tried to give advice and coach younger players whenever I could, whether it be when a match finished early or coming up to the state tournament to watch my teammates play."

As the season went on, the big story was the large number of juniors making the team. With five out of eight spots occupied by juniors, the outcomes of these players' seasons would determine the future for the racquetball program.

"It was very exciting to see that all of our gold medalists in state on the varsity level were juniors," said Deves. "It's exciting to see that our junior team is very strong and that there is



photo | Mr. Stephen Deves

Mr. Stephen Deves and sophomore Nick Heinlein.

a lot of potential not only at the varsity level but you had sophomores and juniors on JV-1 and JV-2 all very successful this season."

The future looks bright as the racquetball program starts

to look to the 2021-22 season. The biggest competitors will be Lindbergh, Kirkwood, and CBC as they have many returning players or a lot of young talent that will fill their varsity spots next season.

Rugby relies on senior experience heading into tough schedule



photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

Senior Blake Collins in game last March.

BY JACK RYBAK
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High rugby team has started practice for its season and the roster shows promise with a challenging schedule this year. Due to the shortened season last year, the games were numbered for the varsity and JV teams with a total of five games between them. However, with spring season regulations the Jr. Bills are looking forward to their season.

This year the Jr. Bills rugby team has several returning veterans to lead the team. Seniors Connor Gunn, John Budd, Blake Collins, Jackson Liebrock, Graham Johnson and Bryce McCool are leading the team as captains followed by an array of other players.

"The veterans have come to practice with their experience and leadership skills and have only gotten better since our shortened season last year," said Gunn. "We've also got some exciting underclassmen talent who have embraced the game and impressed at practice."

The Jr. Bills are looking forward to competing against Chaminade this year. Additionally, Germantown and Aquinas will be tough match-ups, but the players are confident in their ability to compete. Finally, due to a split between MESHA and Club sport forced the Jr. Blues to leave SLUH's

competition. Lindbergh will be the match to watch with them being SLUH's biggest competition in the league.

"We are always looking forward to playing Chaminade because they like to talk trash and that gives us motivation to push harder," said senior Nick Storer. "Lindbergh has always had a history of having a tough team and their coaches know the sport, but SLUH's coaches have prepared us to overcome them, they are just another obstacle for us."

Spring sports are still at the mercy of Covid restrictions and rugby is no exception.

"We test for Covid every two weeks and before we get our tests back, we have alternate practices with no contact that mainly consist of our catch/pass work and defensive structure," said Gunn. "The majority of practice has remained the same, the only differences are the fact that we have to have alternating practices after testing and wearing masks while we practice."

While the first game has been canceled due to Covid-19 concerns, the team expects to be back on the field after spring break.

"Even though we're only a few weeks into practice, I'm very confident in the team's form," said Gunn. "We feel pretty prepared for what we're up against and I'm fairly confident in our form and ability to play."

<

sluhprepnews

□ ...



37

Posts

371

Followers

35

Following

Follow

us on Instagram!

Spring Sports Previews

Baseball

Senior leadership, pitching depth set to highlight Ramspott’s first year as head coach

BY COBY SPRATTE AND
CARTER SPENCE
REPORTER AND WEB EDITOR

The 101st season of St. Louis U. High baseball: take two.

After a dedicated off-season of training and working out as a team in preparation for the 2020 season, the baseball program’s operations, along with the rest of SLUH’s spring sports, were halted due to Covid-19. The Jr. Bills were anticipating an exciting season, led by then-seniors Tony Lindwedel, now a catcher for Notre Dame, and Cade Hohl, now a shortstop for Purdue. Last season was also set to be the beginning of coach Ron Ramspott’s tenure as the head coach of the varsity team. Ramspott comes in more than qualified for this position, with a collegiate baseball career and a long coaching tenure, most recently at Parkway West, under his belt. He entered his new head coaching role eager to get going after a promising offseason of hard work from November to February, but the pandemic had other plans.

“We were really looking

forward to seeing all the results of our hard work,” said Ramspott. “So, yeah, seeing the season shut down was obviously disappointing ... it was a real bummer.”

Though he has yet to coach a game for the program, Ramspott has found other ways to get involved with the school community and familiarize himself with the student body. He has conducted temperature checks each morning, often cracking a joke or two as students walk up towards the Danis Lobby, and subbing for classes occasionally. Ramspott wants to take advantage of the Jesuit ideals and morals that he has observed in the SLUH community and translate them onto the baseball field.

“The culture and the model of Men for Others certainly plays very well into the game of baseball,” said Ramspott. “Sometimes (baseball) can be taken selfishly, but the Men for Others has been ingrained in the players to the point ‘we before me’ isn’t such a novelty to them.”

The expectations are high for the baseball team this spring, even as Ramspott has

assured his players that they would have the hardest schedule in the area.

“The strength of our program is definitely the depth of our positions. I’ve never coached a team like this that is three deep with talented players at each position,” Ramspott noted.

He believes that the hitting will come along as the season progresses, but, for now, the team will be anchored in its pitching and defense.

“We have three 6’4” lefties, (Jake) Noonan, (Jack) Dumont, and (Dennis) Jakubik, at the head of our rotation, and then nine or ten guys behind them that can relieve them with confidence and finish the game out.”

Along with its depth and pitching, the team is rooted in upperclassmen and senior leadership.

“We have really good senior leadership, but we also have some young guys that were really expecting to step up for us,” senior outfielder Tyler Ridgway said.

“Our rotation is very strong,” senior Andrew Loeffelman said. “If everyone plays at their top level, we will be



Senior Tyler Ridgway on the mound.

photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

hard to beat.”

The varsity team will begin its season on Saturday, March 13 in its opening jamboree at Lutheran South where they will play two four inning games against Parkway West and Lutheran South. The team will take a short leave for spring break and begin its regular season on Friday, March 19 with a doubleheader against Parkway West at 4:00

and 7:00 p.m.

The team’s hopes are high. “We hope to win our District Championship, but we also know that we have a tough road ahead of us,” said Noonan. “CBC is going to be a real powerhouse this year.”

Missing out on the 2020 season has made the players, especially the seniors, grateful to be playing baseball at all this year and ready to attack

this year with an aggressive mindset.

“Missing out on last year has given me extra motivation. Covid-19 has been tough to us all, and it’s a privilege that we’ve been given the gift of playing this year,” Noonan said.

“Anything could be taken away in an instant this year; we can’t wait to make the most of this season,” Ridgway said.

Lacrosse

Team plans to return to action with match against Webster

BY BERNIE KILCULLEN
REPORTER

After last year’s lacrosse season was cut short, the lacrosse team returns this year looking to continue what was to be a great season last spring. With the graduation of former stars Brendan Hannah and Nick McLaughlin, the team worked tirelessly in the offseason to ready up for a chance to resume play.

Despite the team’s struggle to meet and practice in the offseason due to Covid-19, the players worked individually to

make the most of their time.

“The team did their best with what we had this summer,” said head coach Andrew Toussaint. “We will improve a lot next offseason.”

This year’s team has a mixture of underclassmen and upperclassmen contributing to the lineup. Sophomore Danny Campbell will be returning for his second year on the team and his first full season. Campbell is known for his quick feet and his even quicker shot. Alongside Campbell in the midfield is four-year varsity starter Bobby Conroy.

Conroy’s goal is simple.

“I want to be on top and for everyone to play their best,” said Conroy.

Another player to highlight is senior attacker Luke Baumer, who has proven his wit, athleticism, and leadership on and off the field during his time as a Jr. Billiken. Baumer’s quick release will undoubtedly make him a top scorer for SLUH this year.

Finally, senior Luke Ratterman will stand tall on the defensive side of the ball. Ratterman hit the weight room this offseason and added seri-

ous force to his already ferocious stick checks.

“I took advantage of my free time and focused on eating better and lifting six days a week,” said Ratterman.

The team has a lengthy season ahead, with their first matchup against Webster on Thursday, March 11.

“Our goal is just to have a complete season,” said Toussaint.

Significant matchups this year for SLUH include CBC, Priory, MICDS, and De Smet.

“The Marco Cup has gone back and forth and we re-

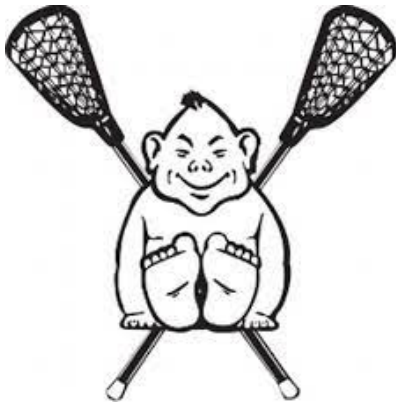


photo | courtesy of @SLUHLacrosse

ally want to beat De Smet this year,” said Ratterman. “Each game is just as important as

the next and the team is prepared for battle, week in and week out.”

Volleyball

Varsity ready to contend for third straight state title

BY JACOB SPROCK AND
GEORGE HENKEN
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

Following a year-long hiatus, the St. Louis U. High varsity volleyball team is ready to dominate the court once again, already preparing for what they hope to make a perfect, state-winning season.

The last time the team took the court was in May of 2019, when the Jr. Bills clinched a second consecutive state title against Vianney in two sets. And ever since the advent of Covid-19—which started in the first few weeks of practices in 2020—stripped them of a

chance to defend their title, SLUH’s best bumpers, setters, and spikers have been working overtime in the offseason to prepare for this spring.

The goal since last year for the team has not changed. Winning a State Championship is at the forefront of every player’s mind, and as they begin their first practices with the new lineup, that outcome is absolute to many on the roster.

According to right-side hitter junior Michael Yemm, the lack of a 2020 season has only served to make the team more determined this year.

“Covid really stunted the

season last year,” said Yemm. “We had a great group of guys that were all gelling together, and it took that away and I think that’s going to make us even hungrier this year.”

On top of its expected state run, the team has set very high expectations for itself in the regular season.

“The expectations are always high, but this year especially we hope to finish off with another State Championship win, and we’re looking to not lose a set,” said outside hitter and team captain senior Peter Quinn.

Head coach Jeff Cheak, despite expressing assurance in

the new team, thinks that they will have a ways to go if they want to replicate the flawless records of years past.

“I would say, normal for most of this program is ‘focus on getting better each day,’ but with the end goal of being to and winning state,” said Cheak. “(We’ve) got a lot of work to get there and we’ve got a lot of milestones to hit on a way to reach our goal, but one of the best parts of the program is our goal each year—is that state title.”

Cheak is returning for his 7th year as a volleyball coach at SLUH and is looking forward to getting back into

things.

Most of the roster already plays for High Performance, an elite volleyball club in the St. Louis area. The club-team life has many advantages—primarily the ability to refine skills against other top-tier players in the offseason, which is exactly what they have been doing. The club members have been practicing in the gym since August, so any rust that might have accumulated over the summer has already been sanded down and polished as the season approaches.

This year, the games are going to be a bit different. Since the team will end up

playing fewer total games, the set number has been increased to a max of five for varsity, allowing players to get a fuller experience out of the season.

For now, the team is just looking to foster a sense of love and community that’s always persisted throughout the program, keeping in mind their plans for the season.

“I think the expectations for our team are to definitely continue the love of the program down through the JV and freshman level—make sure that they understand how important this program is to the SLUH community,” said Yemm.

Golf

Team prepares for season with eyes set on first state title in nearly 60 years



Senior Alex Tarlas. photo | Mrs. Kathy Chott

BY LOUIS CORNETT
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High golf season came to an abrupt end just after tryouts last March when Covid-19 hit. However, a little under a year later, the

Jr. Bills are sweeping the dust off the old sticks and heading back to the links for the 2021 golf season.

Tryouts began on March 1 with a range day at noon and then later a nine hole round in which the Class of 2021 faced

off against the Class of 2022. In what is largely considered an upset, the juniors prevailed over the seniors, 239-247. Led by Louis Cornett and Thomas Ziegler who both fired one-under 34s, the juniors were more than happy with their statement win heading into the season while the seniors left the course a little disappointed after the first day of tryouts.

“I felt like I had 21 putts,” said senior Grant Sussman. “I let the senior team down. Loss is on me.”

After Monday’s competition, two groups rotated from hitting balls at the Highlands to playing rounds at Probstain golf courses, Dogwood and Hawthorne. After the week was up, cuts were made and the season expectations were high. As of last Sunday, five players had an average of under 40, a great

sign early on in the season.

“My expectations are very high. They are always very high,” said head coach Dan Reardon. “We have a lot of talented players, but the question is do we show up and perform well when we have an opportunity?”

Thirty-five players made the golf team this year and will be divided among three teams: Varsity, JV, and C-team. With a larger-than-normal team, Reardon is eager for his players to gain experience quickly. “Right now, I have only two players who have played in a Varsity match or tournament. I have three seniors who have never played in a match,” said Reardon. “My sophomore class and my freshman class are both first-year players.”

Along with the task of building experience, the star

performers—the core of the team from last year—have struggled to find their groove so far. Senior Sam Fix, arguably the best golfer at SLUH, sizzled in his junior year with a 36.8 average. However after the first week of tryouts, his average is up at 40.

“The season has started off a little bumpy for me,” said Fix. “However, as any golfer knows, you need to step back and remind yourself that you’re good at golf, that you’ve played well, and that you can play well again.”

Fix just was fitted for new clubs with longer shafts and looks to be returning to his old form, having fired a 36 this past Tuesday.

With a load of talent from the seniors as well as the whole junior class, the Jr. Bills have the bar set high for this year’s

golf season.

“Definitely a State Championship,” said junior Owen Rittenhouse. “At worst, we are going to definitely be there and place.”

Reardon is also ready to bring home a State Championship to SLUH in only his third year as head coach.

“As long as I am coaching SLUH golf, the goal will always be the same thing,” said Reardon. “The last State Championship in golf at SLUH was in 1952. I’d like to be around when the players go out and win the next win.”

With confidence, talent, and teammates who hold each other accountable, SLUH golf looks dangerously like a title contender, with its sights already set on May 17 for the State Tournament at Sedalia Country Club.

Track & Field

Runners set to begin season on March 25

BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL
AND PETER JAMES
NEWS EDITOR, STAFF

Having participated in not a single meet last season, the Saint Louis U. High track and field team is hungry for competition after last year’s season was cut short. Busy these past two weeks training, with the first day of practice last Monday, the team has already demonstrated its tremendous depth and talent while preparing for the first meet of the season on March 25.

Although the track and field team will race this year, it will do so in smaller meets

with no spectators in order to align with safety regulations in the city of St. Louis. Team members will not have to test every two weeks due to the low contact nature of the sport.

“There’s no reason why guys who are waiting to do a long jump need to be within six feet of each other. Our throwers, when they’re waiting for their turn to throw, are gonna stay six feet apart and keep that separate distance, and that will help us in terms of contact tracing should anybody unfortunately test positive. So, we’re going to try and keep guys as separate as they can,” said head coach Joe Porter.

Last year’s season (or lack thereof) has had lasting consequences for the track and field program. Many track events, like pole vaulting, require a high level of technique which can be mastered with practice. Missing last season has negatively affected returners who need precious time to practice the demanding skill and technique that an event like pole vaulting requires.

“It was disheartening because we had so much potential last year,” said senior Robert Stevenson. “As a junior last year, I was really hopeful that I could improve on my previous times. With the season cut

short, it was a little frustrating.”

However, not all threw in the towel last season when the season ended. For some, the time offered a chance to continue focusing on their training and persevere despite the lack of practices. Now, as it has been over two years since a track competition, these members are excited to show off all the countless hours of training and dedication that they have put in during the off season.

“It was really rough not having anybody to run with or compete against. There was not a lot driving me,” said senior Daniel Hogan. “I think that it was definitely important to

continue training. I know other teams that their training was more sporadic. But we really stepped up, and I think that is why we have a history of doing well and why we continue to see success.”

Already the team has performed well. Last Saturday, the distance team ran a 1200-meter time trial, and yesterday, the sprinters ran a 200-meter time trial. These two races resulted in a lot of quick times and has made many hopeful for the up-coming season.

“We’ve got a lot of fast guys sprinting this year including one really good freshman, Ryan Wingo who already has

a D1 offer,” said senior Aidan Byrne. “We haven’t been too good at sprints in the past but this year things are starting to look pretty good.”

Despite the pandemic and the difficulties that it has brought for the SLUH track team, Porter is hopeful that this season will be a strong and successful one.

“Our goal is to focus on how good we can get every day,” said Porter. “If every day we just improve just a little bit more, by the time we get to the late season meets in late April and May, we’ll be looking to have our best performances.”

Water Polo

Water Polo in search of new hardware this season

BY LUKE ALTIER AND ALEX
WENTZ
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

Returning to defend a five year State Championship winning streak after only a three-week season last year, the St. Louis U. High water polo team is back in the pool. Though the State Championship is important, the players are more focused on making the most out of the time they have.

“Starting the season at all

was a goal, and we hit that,” said head coach John Penilla. “Making it to the fourth week will be another goal, since we were stopped after three weeks last year.”

This year’s team is unique due to the fact that it is composed entirely of players who have never played a full high school varsity game. Last year’s early end meant that the seniors and juniors on varsity never got a chance to play a game, and the rest of the team was on SLUH’s junior varsity

squad last season. Though the roster may lack varsity experience, it boasts five senior leaders. The team’s captains for this season are seniors Carson Cornett (attacker) and Ben Geldmacher (goalie).

The team’s game schedule will be far more inconsistent and shorter than previous years, with only about 12 potential games lined up from March to May. But the players will still be kept on their toes by the unique practice schedule; the team practices

at three different pools at three different times.

“The players have a greater understanding of the team and the community and a greater appreciation for being able to play,” said Penilla.

Being in the “high contact” Covid category means that the restrictions for water polo are the maximum possible for a sport in the St. Louis area.

“Covid is omnipresent. It started with having to find a pool so that we could prac-

tice. That took a lot of energy and effort before the season even started. Now that we’re at three different sites, it’s getting used to the expectations at all those pools,” said Penilla. “We’re slowly getting there though. We’re also getting into a rhythm of check in, spacing, how to be careful at practice, etc., but that will be something we are mindful of all year. Then, once games start, we’ll have to get used to those protocols. It’s not a lot, just different and requires ev-

eryone to be mindful.”

With the knowledge that this year’s season is still not guaranteed, the SLUH water polo players have been trying to make the most of every moment they have in the pool, working as though each practice could be their last.

“The goal is the same as every year: play the best we can possibly play,” said Penilla. “That’s possible with focused commitment to practice and getting better each day.”

Tennis

Tennis rebuilds after lots of roster turnover from last year

BY NATHAN RICH
CORE STAFF

After a disappointingly short season last year, the St. Louis U. High tennis team is finally back on the courts at Dwight Davis and its ambition has not wavered. One year ago, SLUH tennis had it all: a deep, experienced roster, a clear shot at a state title, and even two nationally-ranked standouts. Then, Covid-19 exploded through the country and struck down the team’s high hopes.

“It’s just disappointing, especially for the seniors that we

had last year because we were the favorites to win state and several guys were probably going to do well in individual (matches) as well,” said head coach Brian Kirk. “I mean, we had 11 practices and we were looking really good, but it is what it is.”

Instead of wondering what could have been, though, the program is keeping its focus on this season, and working with a much different team. The varsity squad lost three seniors from last year, and would-be senior Leo De Silva’s departure from St. Louis left many of the team’s

top spots available.

“We’ve got a lot of open spots on varsity and I’m hoping to help the team out and get us back to state just like the last season we had before Covid,” said senior Thomas Binek, one of only two seniors on the tennis team.

“Every season is different,” said Kirk. “We were expecting some people back, but my philosophy is: I coach who’s here. We’re not going to expect certain people to be here; whoever shows up to play tennis, that’s who we’re going to coach.”

However, despite many

other departures, the team is lucky to have No. 1 seed Gus Tettamble returning to the courts. Tettamble, ranked in the top 400 junior players in the country, looks to lead the varsity squad through tough competition this season.

“We have a tough non-conference schedule, there will be 11 varsity matches and two varsity tournaments but I’m still trying to add more,” said Kirk.

Kirk doesn’t discount the team’s talent this year, though, which is mostly made up of last year’s JV standouts. He does, however, recognize the chal-

lenging prospect of certain conference powerhouses.

“We’re still going to be good. Ladue’s going to be really tough this year, John Burroughs is going to be really tough this year, they have won state five years in a row. But we’re going to be very competitive,” said Kirk.

Binek hopes to back this push to state by helping to lead the young team, which has not one, but two grade levels with no in-season experience due to Covid-19.

“I think this year leadership is going to be pretty important,

we lost two seniors last year and we had Leo move which really leaves only two seniors on the team. We have a lot of sophomores this year and with the season getting cancelled last year, it kind of feels like a lot of the team is distant.”

Luckily for the upperclassmen, with matches not beginning until the very end of March, the team has ample time to practice and get everyone up to speed. In the meantime, several players will be fighting hard battles to determine the seeding below Tettamble.

Around the Hallways

Fandos Zooms in

Continuing in its Zoom features for prominent figures students would normally interact with during the annual D.C. trip, New York Times congressional correspondent Nick Fandos (also a former *Prep News* Editor in Chief) Zoomed in to a small crowd of students on Tuesday to talk about his experience as a reporter.

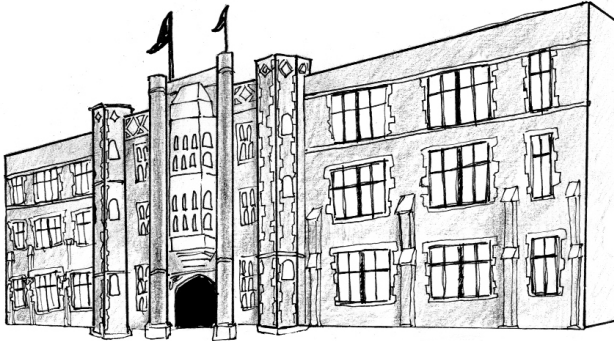
Spring Sports testing

A large portion of the student body has been out this week due to spring sports testing. Most rugby, baseball, and lacrosse players walked up to

school on Monday to get their tests before immediately returning to their cars and hurrying home to hop on Zoom for the day.

Mini Libraries

Ms. Ann Dockery from the St. Louis Crisis Nursery is calling on Jr. Bills to help build little libraries for nurseries in St. Louis. The libraries serve as a way to get children in nurseries excited about reading and is a great way to get good books into their hands. If you would like to help, you can contact Dockery at ann@crisisnurserykids.com.



Philia Retreat

The Philia Retreat, a retreat that focuses its lens on diversity and inclusion, is starting today after school. They will be heading to Pallottine Retreat Center and will stay there un-

til the retreat comes to a close tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. While there, students will share personal experiences with fellow students.

— compiled by Jacob Sprock

SLUHSEERS: RHETORIC AND YOU!



art | Jude Reed

Prep News

Volume 85, Issue 20

Credits:

“What’s your favorite thing about March?”

Editor in Chief

Carter “Albert’s birthday party” Fortman

News Editors

Noah “the nones” Aprill-Sokoll
Jacob “the ides” Sprock

Features Editor

Sam “Shamrock Shake” Tarter

Sports Editor

Luke “the flowers” Altier

Web Editor

Carter “people sleeping on Gonzaga” Spence

Core Staff

Jack “changing my layout...” Figge
Jack “the end of February” Rybak
Nathan “ginger appreciation day” Rich
Louis “wasn’t here...again...” Cornett

Staff

Roarke “the month” Unrau
Luke “gardening weather” Duffy

Peter “my mom’s birthday” James
Nick “firing up the grill” Campbell

Staff Artists

Charlie “I got it...my birthday” Bieg

Reporters

Jackson “Duke getting knocked out of the tourney” Cooper
Jared “Racquetball natties” Thornberry
Leo “quarter exams” Wagner
Bernie “Lent” Kilcullen
George “slightly warmer weather” Henken
Coby “Spring training” Spratte
Alex “St. Patrick’s Day” Wentz
Elliot “Daylight Savings” Moore

Advisors

Giuseppe “March 31” Vitellaro

Guest Moderator

Stephen “moderating the *Prep News*” Deves

Moderator

Steve “my break from moderating” Missey

Calendar

Thursday, March 11

B Day

Philia Retreat
3:15-5:15PM Freshman Service
5:00-6:30PM JV Blue Lacrosse vs Webster Groves
7:00-8:30PM Varsity Lacrosse vs Webster Groves

Friday, March 12

No School

Philia Retreat

Saturday, March 13

11:15AM-1:45PM Varsity Baseball Jamboree

Sunday, March 14

Daylight Savings Starts
Pi Day

Monday, March 15

Spring Break

Spring Break Immersion Trip

Tuesday, March 16

Spring Break

Spring Break Immersion Trip

Wednesday, March 17

Spring Break

Spring Break Immersion Trip
St. Patrick’s Day

Thursday, March 18

Spring Break

Spring Break Immersion Trip

Friday, March 19

Spring Break

Spring Break Immersion Trip
1st Possible Contest for MSHSAA Spring Sports
11:00AM-3:00PM B-Team Baseball vs Parkway West
4:00-8:00PM Varsity Baseball vs Parkway West

Saturday, March 20

Spring Break Immersion Trip

Monday, March 22

A Day

3:15-5:15PM Freshman Service

Tuesday, March 23

B Day

Grades Due
4:15-6:15PM C-Team Baseball vs St. Dominic

Wednesday, March 24

A Day

Thursday, March 25

B Day

3:15-5:15PM Freshman Service
5:00-7:00PM B-Team Baseball vs Francis Howell

Friday, March 26

A Day

2:45-3:15PM MAGIS Parents Prayer Group
3:00-8:00PM MC Mom Prom Set Up
4:30-7:30PM Volleyball (JV/V) vs St. Charles Lutheran
4:30-6:30PM C-Team Baseball vs Summit

calendar | Jack Rybak



Follow us on Twitter:
@SLUHPrepNews