

Busenbills splash into state semis

Jeff Dueker
Reporter

The Speedobills have come alive early this playoff season, with two spectacular wins and high hopes for the upcoming rounds. Winning these two games puts SLUH in the semi-finals, giving them at least a fourth place finish in the state. While this might be the pinnacle of some other club's season, this taste of state has only driven SLUH Polo to press harder towards a more lofty goal.

As Karl Marx once said, "Water Polo is the opium of the people." Regardless of whether or not Marx actually said this, the point is that SLUH Polo kicks it, and kicks it hard. The first team to get the boot was none other than John Burroughs. Burroughs could only sit back and watch as U. High spanked them 6-2 last Saturday.

SLUH swam out strong, scoring four goals in the first quarter while allowing one. The only other goal allowed was scored off a Burroughs free shot, the result of a "questionable" (horrible, odious, rancid) call against junior goalie Mike Peterson. But no matter, because it was



Kevin Price looks for an open man during his free throw against Ladue

obvious that SLUH was the better team, although many felt that SLUH did not perform as well as they should have. It is always hard to tell how well you are playing when you defeat a team you were supposed to beat, but problems were still easily noticed by those most attuned to the game.

"We played great defense as usual, but shaky offense," said head coach Charlie Busenhart after the game, a problem which has been plaguing SLUH for a while. But as was stated earlier, if SLUH is going to take it all the way this year, the big goal scorers are going to have to carry the team on offense. And it seems that a giant has awakened from his oh-so-temporary slumber.

That giant is Senior Charlie Maitz, and what an awakening it was. Charlie scored half of SLUH's goals Saturday, dominating the hole like he used to back in the good old days.

"I think Charlie is massive," said brother tower of power Zach Hartwig, "massive like Chewbacca, a big Wookiee." Busenhart could only nod in agreement.

Those fools who thought that the Jr. Bills would stop there were much disappointed by SLUH's punishment of Ladue last Saturday, 10-3.

The team accomplished something they haven't done in a while: playing great defense while still producing a wealth of goals. The Polobills also played equally well in every quarter, displaying the consistency that wins championships.

SLUH Polo's next challenge will be Marquette, a team that edged out SLUH 10-9 very early in the season. This will be the first time in the playoffs that SLUH will play a team that they have not beaten this year. However, based on this past game and the John Burroughs game, SLUH looks more ready than ever to stand up to Marquette and take what ma-

see BUSEY, 8

Runnin'bills #1 at sectionals, look to state

Tom O'Brien
Core Staff

Under slow conditions Saturday at Sioux Passage park in North County, SLUH cross country ran in their sectional meet. Against much of the same competition from previous weeks, SLUH reached a very different result. In a race that featured cross country powerhouses SLUH, DeSmet, and CBC, the Jr. Billikens emerged victorious.

SLUH had good races from their one and two men Tom O'Brien (6th, 17:22) and Ryan Hatch (7th, 17:22), as well as an excellent last mile from Pat Leinauer (17:31), who rose to twelfth place. Dan Leinauer (15th, 17:41) and John Parr (29th, 18:07) completed the scoring five for

SLUH. Also running on the squad for the sectional champs were Andy Skosky (30th, 18:10) and, returning from a hip injury and in his first race back, Dave Godar (31st, 18:11).

SLUH was able to inch out DeSmet for the first time this season by one point. The Sioux Passage course is considered a very slow course because of its many hills, namely the "Manmaker," a hill that must be traversed twice by runners. The "Manmaker" seems to erupt from the ground and rise up into the stratosphere. While it may not truly be that large of a slope, it certainly feels like it going up the second time. The course was made even slower by the previous rains and the tall grass, which, together with the hills, hurt everyone's times.

Because SLUH qualified for state through their sectional race, their next race will be the state meet in Jefferson City tomorrow. They will face at least ten good teams, including Liberty, Lee's Summit, DeSmet, and West Plains. To succeed against these teams will take a total team effort, and a tougher race from four and five.

Tomorrow's state race will be the first time that SLUH has brought all of its horses together for a race. Due to injuries sustained by Dave Godar and Tom O'Brien, and due to previous uncertainty in the seven spot, this team has never really run together on all cylinders. This fact gives the Varsity squad greater faith and confidence that they will indeed run well.