

Cross country's top 14 travel to Chicago for Palatine Invitational; jump nine places from last year's performance

MATTHEW QUINLAN AND
JUSTIN KOESTERER
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

All aboard! A split cross-country team traveled down two different courses against tough competition from in and out of the state, as the top 14 varsity runners raced at the Palatine Invitational in Chicago and the rest of the team raced at the Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks.

The top 14 runners on the team ventured up to Palatine, Ill., a northwestern suburb of Chicago, to race in the Palatine Invitational that took place on Sep. 23. The runners left school after first period on Friday, and after arriving in Chicago, they ate dinner and planned on how they would be racing the next day.

On Saturday morning, the Varsity 1 squad raced first, and placed 12th out of the 29 teams that participated in the meet.

"We were trying to be top ten, but we were five points away," said head coach Joe Porter. "330 was tenth place, and we were 335, so we were right there where our goal was. We also had the goal of having five guys in the top 100, and our fifth guy was 105th."

The biggest opponent the team had to overcome



Junior Patrick Hetlege at Palatine Invitational

photo | Mr. James Hetlege

though was the heat. The city of Chicago broke a record that weekend, with the most consecutive days (6) where the temperature was over 90 degrees. Naturally this posed a significant obstacle to the runners.

"The heat was definitely a factor, but not only physically, but mentally as well," said senior Paul Burka, "Since we knew it was hot we knew that we couldn't be able to run a personal record. We also had started to tire physically

before the gun even went off." Despite the heat and tough competition, the team still managed to average 16:06 for the three mile race, which when converted to a 5K pace, was 16:40.

"We wanted to average a time of 15:30, but the course was about 30 seconds slower than it has historically been, and a lot of that was the heat," said Porter.

The team also managed to improve on the gaps between individual racers, most

notably between the number one man, senior Paul Burka, and the number five man, sophomore Adam Mitten-dorf.

"Our one to five at Granite City was 45 seconds, and 1:09 at the Festival. now we're back to 45 seconds which is a good sign as we move forward," said Porter.

The team also raced a JV team at Palatine, which was made up of many runners on the Varsity 2 squad. They end-

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Turnovers punish football against CBC

NATHAN LANGHAUSER AND
TONY LINDWEDEL
SPORTS EDITOR, REPORTER

for a touchdown to make the score 21-0 within seven minutes.

"We have to do a better job, coaching-wise, of emphasizing the importance of ball security," said head coach Mike Jones.

The SLUH run game came out strong, as seniors Jared Scott and Daniel Terry consistently took handoffs through the tackles. However, the passing game was limited to just 70 yards on 13 attempts, making the run plays less effective.

"With them shutting

down the pass game, it's hard when they only have to focus on one element of the offense," said Evans.

The Cadets scored again on a 60-yard touchdown pass just before the end of the first quarter to make it 28-0 CBC.

To open the second quarter, SLUH got the ball moving on a big pass play. Looking for another big completion down the field, senior quarterback Austin Hannah let the ball fly, but Boyd Jr picked it off before it could reach its target and weaved his way through traffic to the house, increasing the lead to 35-0.

"It's hard enough to beat a team that is average when you make those mistakes, but against a good team, it snowballed," said Jones.

The second quarter slowed down, as CBC held possession and ran a lot of time off the clock. For a 41-yard touchdown pass Gabbert lobbed the ball deep, finding his receiver in the end zone with 2:45 left in the half.

Throughout the game, the Jr. Bills had a tough time pressuring Gabbert—the team did not record a sack—giving him time to make decisions in the pocket.

"Their line was really impressive," said senior Sean Bender, who led SLUH with

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Soccer handed first losses of season, against Kirkwood and CBC



Seniors Cam Verzino and Alec Meissner at Soccer Park last Friday.

photo | Maeve Bradfield

STEPHEN OCAMPO AND JACK
CALLAHAN
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Skrrrrrr! This past week, the Kirkwood Pioneers and CBC Cadets put the brakes on the St. Louis U. High soccer team's undefeated run. The 1-0 semifinal loss to the Pioneers this past Friday not only knocked the team out of the Bob Guelker CYC Tournament, but handed the Jr. Bills their first loss of the season. The following Tuesday, the Jr. Bills could not bounce back in a 3-1 loss against the

Cadets.

The Pioneers came in with an 11-1-1 record—the only blemishes came from a loss to Ladue, another semifinalist in the tournament, and a tie to CBC. After scoring 13 goals in three games in round-robins, the Jr. Bills hoped to continue their dominant play.

"We knew it would be a tough battle because they only had one loss of the season," said senior Dan Frein. "But we had a good first three games of the tournament so I think we were confident com-

ing into the game."

Early in the game, both teams seemed evenly-matched as they found limited chances to score. Midway through the first, though, the Pioneers were awarded a free kick on their half. After a hard kick towards the goal, players of both teams were in a frenzy in pursuit of the ball, but Kirkwood's Cam Saunders located it right in front of the net to chip it in, giving the Pioneers a 1-0 lead.

In celebration of the goal, Saunders ran in front

of the SLUH student section, shushed the crowd, and raised both middle fingers up as he ran towards center field.

"It definitely showed the gap of class between SLUH and Kirkwood," said senior keeper Alec Meissner. "It was a stupid thing for him to do since he got suspended the next game. I don't think he was thinking in the moment."

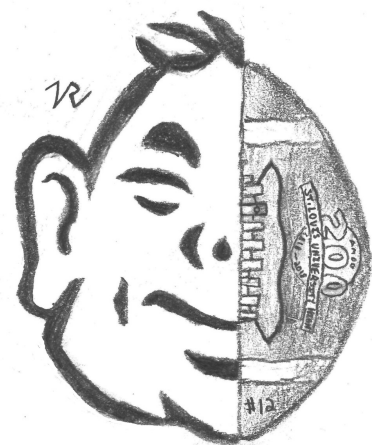
For the rest of the game, the Jr. Bills looked dominant as they controlled possession and tried to tie up the game, but many shots were either off target or the Kirkwood keeper saved everything that came his way.

"I think we played well and dominated most of the game. However, when we created chances, we didn't put them into the back of the net," said captain Will Rudder. "They had two chances the whole game and found the goal. That's the way it goes sometimes."

"Was I disappointed? Yeah," said head coach Charles Martel. "Because I thought we could have beat them, no doubt about that."

With this loss, the Jr. Bills' undefeated streak ends at 15 games, but they still remain hopeful as they head to

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art | Tommy Rogan

CBC offense overpowers Jr. Bills; team looks to bounce back against St. Dominic

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wards playoffs.

"I think it's probably a good thing our undefeated streak came to an end. It brought us back to the ground kind of," said Rudder. "Now we know that we have to work harder and approach every game like it's our last."

"Every good team has to lose once," said Frein. "Even the U. Conn women's basketball team."

After the loss to the Pioneers, the Jr. Bills looked for redemption on Tuesday when they faced off against the Cadets. Earlier in the season, the Jr. Bills had defeated CBC in the CBC tournament, 3-0. This game, however, CBC came back for revenge.

"When you beat them the first time they're going to come prepared the second time," said Martel.

Early on, the Cadets looked like a completely different team than the one the Jr. Bills played, creating many chances to score. Towards the

end of the first half, one of CBC captains, Jack Edwards, dribbled through the Jr. Bills defense to score off the right post.

"It was a rough game. The atmosphere around the game didn't feel like we were playing a soccer game; it was all dead," said Meissner. "Everyone on the field, when there's no real atmosphere, it's hard to amp yourself up."

CBC's dominance continued through the second half as they allowed zero shots on goal while scoring back to back goals off breakaways. With the 3-0 lead, the Cadets were able to play a more defensive style, halting any Jr. Bill attempt to score.

"They countered well and I don't think we were ready for it. I don't think we've seen a dynamic attack like CBC's all year," said Rudder. "They made some adjustments from last game and they worked. They never allowed us to play our game."

"We didn't play consis-

tently for the full 80 minutes; they won a lot of 50-50 balls, they ran at us in the second half, and I think they just played better," said Martel.

The Jr. Bills' lone goal came from senior captain Cam Verzino, who scored on a set piece with eleven seconds left in the game to end the game 3-1.

"They wanted it more than we did. It's as simple as that," said Rudder.

Despite the losses, the team emphasized the lack of school spirit at the games.

"I mean (STUCO) gave out tacos. I don't know what else we need as motivation," said Frein.

SLUH hits the road this Saturday to take on St. Dominic, the No. 3 small school soccer team according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"We can't take them lightly. They're a good team," said junior Alex Lehmann. "We need to bounce back and go on a winning streak again."

Tough MCC schedule proves challenging; 1-2 in MCC

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four tackles. "Our defense wasn't used to that because the offenses we have played did not have lines as big as CBC's."

The second half moved quickly with a running clock. The Cadets tacked on another touchdown in the third quarter with a short run from junior running back Bryan Bradford.

On SLUH's fourth quarter drives, the Jr. Bills found room to run, slowly driving up the field. A pass interference penalty on an attempt at the end zone with 5:45 helped SLUH get within striking distance. Down on the goal line, Terry punched the ball in from short, making the score 49-7 late in the fourth quarter. Terry racked up 77 all-purpose yards on catches and runs, including his touchdown. The only other productive rusher was Scott, with 78 yards on 17 carries.

CBC struck back quickly on a 75-yard touchdown rush, with the clock running down before the extra point was attempted. The game ended 55-7 CBC.

SLUH's defense was unable to force a punt, but on

kickoffs, sophomore Kellen Porter averaged just over 20 yards per return on five returns, a promising sign for the future of special teams.

Because CBC scored quickly and often, their offense was barely on the field, totaling just under 15 minutes of possession time compared to SLUH's 33 minutes.

Friday night, the Jr. Bills look to continue their road win streak against a tough Vianney team. SLUH is 3-0 on the road and 0-3 at home, unusual for most teams.

"We are a lot more focused I believe," said Jones of road games. "We are going into an environment where

it's us against them and their fans. It's a different focus that we have to find a way to get at home."

Vianney is ranked No. 1 in the state, and reigning Class 5 state champions.

"If everyone does their jobs, we will do well against Vianney," said Evans.

"We can't turn the ball over, we have to tackle well, they run the ball extremely well, and we have to execute on offense," said Jones.

Kickoff is 7 p.m. at Vianney.

"We want to get to the best record we can, which is 6-3, but first we have to get to 4-3," said Jones.



SLUH defenders last Friday against CBC. photo | Dominik Skroska

V3, JV, and C cross country race at Hancock amidst tough competition

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up finishing ninth out of the 25 teams, which was a very surprising result for the team. Sophomore Joe Callahan led the team to such a good finish, with a 3-mile time of 17:14, which when converted to a 5K time, ended up being 17:53.

As the top 14 on the team travelled to Chicago, the rest of the cross country team stayed in St. Louis, and raced at the 55th Annual Hancock Invitational at Jefferson Barracks Park.

They faced some of the best competition from the St. Louis area, including teams like Parkway West, which was formerly the No. 1 team in the state, Kirkwood, and Lafayette.

"We ran pretty well," said assistant coach Tom Flanagan. "Everyone was under 20 minutes and (junior) Jack Sommers was our first guy, came in 52nd."

The team also faced difficulties from as a result of the heat, and the natural difficulty of the course at Jefferson Barracks, a hilly course with an especially daunting hill within a couple hundred meters of the finish line.

The varsity team at Hancock managed to finish 11th, led by Sommers with a time of 18:39. Sommers was followed by senior John Thomas, who finished with a time of 18:47. The entire varsity team averaged a minute faster than in 2016.

"For us, we ran about a minute faster per guy," said Porter. "Last year's average time was 20:02 and this year all seven guys were under 20 minutes, and they averaged 19:07, which again shows our depth."

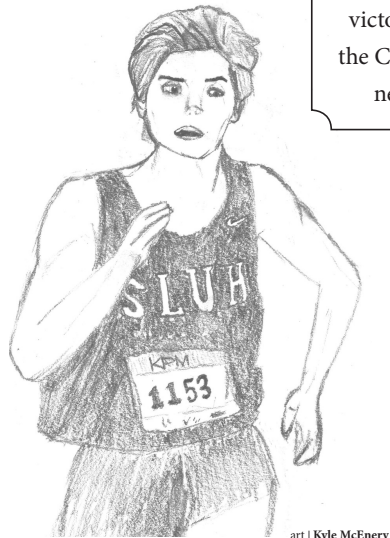
The JV and freshman teams also raced at Hancock. The JV team finished 9th, led by sophomore Garrett Seal, who finished 19th with a time of 19:07, and was the first SLUH runner to medal at Hancock since 2013.

The freshman team also showed out, being crowned meet champions with a score of 74, which resulted in a tie between SLUH and Lafayette, which was broken by SLUH's sixth finisher Noah Apprill-Sokol, who beat out Lafayette's six-man.

The freshmen were led by Reid Jackson, who finished ninth with a time of 19:57 and

was the second medalist of the day.

The team will take on some of the best competition in the St. Louis area at the Parkway West Invitational on Saturday.



art | Kyle McEnery

Head soccer coach Charlie Martel achieved his 500th win on Sept. 5. The milestone victory came against St. John Vianney at the CBC tournament by a score of 4-0. See next week's issue for the full article.

C Football groups as team

CARTER SPENCE
REPORTER

The disappointing season for C football continued with a blowout loss Monday to CBC, that dropped the team to 1-4 on the season.

It is safe to say that this is not the season the football team had in mind. After finding itself on the wrong end of a 20-0 game, the team lost to fellow MCC competitors De Smet 36-0, and the following week Chaminade, 45-20. The Jr. Bills picked up their first win against Bayless in a close 21-19 victory.

The Cadets dominated from the start en route to a 48-0 victory. They set the tone early, with a quick fumble return for a touchdown, a long touchdown pass, and an 85-yard touchdown run. The Cadets held a 35-0 lead at the half, and tacked on a pair of touchdowns in the second half.

Head coach Adam Cruz isn't letting the record fool him, however. Playing teams with more experience together, he doesn't expect the record to be perfect.

"For freshmen it's not so much about the wins and losses," Cruz said. "We're playing teams that not only have people who have played before, but have played together. That's tough to overcome."

Currently, the freshman team has only a handful of players who have played with prior experience. One of those is Bobby Conroy, whom Cruz said has been a great leader for the team.

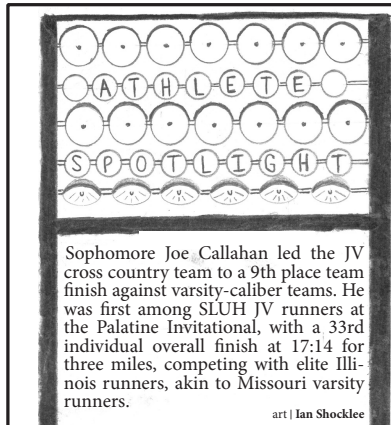
Even with the poor start, Cruz has high hopes for his squad moving forward—not just this year, but as the years progress. Certain players have really caught his and opposing teams' coaches eyes. Left tackle Zach Stevenson and left guard Jackson Liebrock, playing with no prior experience, have been outstanding for the team.

"Coaches after games will always tell me, 'That left side on offense is great.' That's huge. Having guys with no experience playing this well is a big plus," said Cruz.

Freshman Andrew Trout kept a positive attitude going forward with the season.

"We're still working to bond together and grow as a team," said Trout. "We've struggled to communicate and that's something we need to be better at to play at the level we want."

The C football team will look to bounce back at Vianney next Monday at 4:30. Similar to SLUH, the Vianney C football team has struggled, to the tune of a 1-3 record.



art | Ian Shocklee



Sophomore Joe Callahan last Saturday.

photo | Mr. James Hetlage