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Junior Billikens
picking up pace

By Joe Harris
Staff writer

It has been the best of times and the worst of times this season for the St. Louis University High cross country team.

While the team has struggled, especially with the losses of its top two runners in junior Alex Muntges and senior Andrew Linhares, the Jr. Billikens have gotten several pleasant surprises.

"I have a big team, a young team and a talented team," said SLUH coach Jim Linhares. "Literally, there hasn't been one race all season where we've seen all of the cards on the table."

Instead, SLUH's gotten an ace here, a pair there, but never a royal flush. Sophomore Ben Murphy-Baum and senior captain Chris Arb have been consistent this season and junior Joe Carlson has impressed.

Sophomore Michael Jonagan is SLUH's biggest surprise. Jonagan has shaved nearly two minutes off of his time from last season.

The surprise performances have helped the Jr. Bills offset the losses of Muntges and Andrew Linhares. Muntges has been snakebitten this season, having been involved in a couple of accidents during races, which caused him not to finish. Linhares hurt a nerve in his back during SLUH's season-opening race.

Both Muntges and Linhares are back now, so Jim Linhares is hoping to get dealt that royal flush soon.

"We've never had a team as deep as this," Linhares said. "We're feeling great about our depth... we have 90 kids out."

Unfortunately for the Jr. Bills, depth does not guarantee results. SLUH struggled in its conference meet, finishing third to Chaminade and DeSmet and it also struggled in meets at Hancock and Jefferson City.

"Our conference is tougher than ever," Linhares said. "Chaminade has its best team

CROSS COUNTRY POLL

Boys (Last week)	Points
1. St. Louis U. High (T-4)	38
2. Ft. Zumwalt South (T-1)	34
3. CBC (6)	31
4. Parkway South (T-4)	23
5. Edwardsville (7)	22
6. DeSmet (T-1)	21
7. O'Fallon (9)	17
8. Chaminade (3)	13
9. Hazelwood West (NR)	9
10. Kirkwood (8)	6

Girls (Last week)	Points
1. Marquette (1)	40
2. Eureka (2)	31
3. Lafayette (3)	27
4. (tie) East St. Louis (6)	23
4. (tie) Ft. Zumwalt South (4)	23
6. O'Fallon (5)	22
7. (tie) Edwardsville (T-8)	10
7. (tie) Washington (NR)	10
9. Francis Howell North (10)	5
10. (tie) Parkway South (NR)	4
10. (tie) Pattonville (NR)	4
10. (tie) Cor Jesu (NR)	4
10. (tie) Duchesne (NR)	4
10. (tie) Borgia (NR)	4

The Journals cross country poll is voted on by a cross section of metro area coaches.

ever and DeSmet has really upped the ante. For us, the byline should be that we have a lot of potential, not yet realized, but we still have some time."

The Jr. Bills qualified through districts Saturday in a tough field at Parkway Central. SLUH and CBC finished in a first-place tie with 57 points each. MCC rivals Chaminade and DeSmet were third and fourth, respectively, with 72 and 77. Those four squads will compete at sectionals on Saturday at Sioux Passage Park.

With a good performance this Saturday, SLUH will find itself in a familiar place - at the state meet, despite all of its struggles. But Linhares is refusing to count his money while he's still at the table.

"We don't want to look past anybody," Linhares said. "When the gun goes off, you don't want to be caught watching."

Attarian

Former DuBourg

By Jason Reckamp
Staff writer

This year's version of the "Early Out" game between Archdiocesan Athletic Association rivals St. Mary's and DuBourg had a little added incentive.

It appeared in the form of Mary's DuBourg after a freshman year. Attarian, who the Cavaliers with five goals a freshman in 2001, just so happened to head into Friday afternoon game at St. Mary's leading Dragons with 19 goals and assists. And it was safe to say Attarian would be ready for his mates.

"It's just such a big game everybody," Attarian said. "A bunch of the players know each other and all the (students) out and cheer. I guess I just like I wanted to step up as my old team."

And step up Attarian finished with a goal and a and teammate Scott Filler two goals and an assist. Mary's walked away with victory.

With the win, St. Mary's claimed another AAA league and improved to 12-8-1 overall in AAA play. DuBourg (1-3). The Dragons will regular season tonight at Whitfield at 7 p.m. and Class 3 District 6 play at on Monday. Oakville Lindbergh and Webster also in the district.

"He's such a low-key St. Mary's coach Jeff Attarian. "He doesn't thing on his sleeve, but down this game had something for him.

"And he's such a player. He is explosive ball and it got to the point think a lot of the guys watching and watching him field. I think our guys are done watching him and h