

Gridbills Squeak By Harriers Spartans In Districts Storm

BY MIKE GEISS
SPORTS REPORTER

"Where do we go from here?"

The question that was a theme for last year's sectional champions was raised again during film practice on Monday. After the tenacity displayed Friday night, the Gridbills seem poised and ready to answer. The team opened their "second season" of play in dramatic fashion by defeating the De Smet Spartans by a score of 27-20. Sloppy field conditions and temperatures in the low 50's provided the setting for the annual battle between the two conference foes, who were both undefeated in conference play going into Friday night.

The Junior Bills took the opening kickoff from their own 20-yard line and marched down the field, eating 11 minutes off the clock. Senior tailback Dan Harvath, using three of his 119 yards on the night, capped off the drive with a plunge into the endzone. After senior kicker Chris Linck chalked up the extra point, the Junior Bills looked to be in control.

Undaunted, the Spartans came right back. Spartan junior Donald Steeples started the drive by running the kickoff back 35 yards to give DeSmet excellent

field position. Four plays later, Steeples found the endzone, and the battle was on.

Senior receiver Josh Desfalvy and sophomore quarterback Mark Kornfeld connected late in the first half on the first of three big touchdowns between the dynamic duo. Desfalvy snatched Kornfeld's pass out of the hands of the waiting DeSmet defender and sprinted in for a 45-yard touchdown. The Gridbills owned a 14-7 halftime lead, but the Spartans struck next. Quarterback Matt Ortballs connected with receiver Dallas Hartman on a 56-yard strike, to knot the game yet again.

The Footbills struck again when Kornfeld to Desfalvy hooked up seven seconds into the fourth quarter on a perfect 40-yard pass, but Linck's extra point was wide, and the score was now 20-14.

The Junior Bill defense, led by senior linebacker Matt Liebert, who had 12 tackles on the night, stepped up in the fourth quarter, stopping the Spartans four times within the SLUH 40-yard line. Senior strong safety Chris Mudd had an interception and sophomore punter Joe Thaman punted the ball away with less than a minute left.

The Spartans drove however, and with 14 seconds left in the game. Ortballs connected again with Hartman, this time

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Through Competition

BY SCOTT LAUER, JOHN RAMSEY,
AND BEN ROSARIO
SPORTS REPORTERS

This past Saturday the varsity cross country team won the district championship for the sixth year in a row, handily disposing of its rivals without difficulty. The team placed six runners in the top ten, defeating CBC for the second week in a row and advancing them to the sectional race tomorrow at Sioux Passage Park.

The lack of any real competition besides CBC allowed the team to hold itself back and save its energy for the sectional and state meets in the coming weeks.

"We knew coming in that we would have a good race," said head coach Jim Linhares. "We were mentally ready and that mental preparation is something which we need to have in our last two races."

The top seven ran a strategic race, running a conservative first mile, and then moving up as a pack through the field. By the end of the first half of the race, SLUH's pack had surrounded CBC's runners, and then broke them with a strong surge in the third mile. Despite going out at a slow pace, many of the varsity ran surprisingly fast times. Senior tri-captain Ben Rosario jogged to a second place finish in 17:08, allowing McCluer North's Andy Doering to take home the district crown. Rosario said that he "would have liked to have won," but felt that winning the race was not as important as performing well at the state meet.

Like Rosario, the rest of the team was able to relax and enjoy the race. John

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Martelbills Falter In MCC Final

BY MARK GREBEL
SPORTS REPORTER

The SLUH varsity soccer team tangled with top-ranked Chaminade on Saturday, but became tied in a knot.

The game, which was supposed to be played at the SLUH stadium, was moved to the Anheuser-Busch Sports Complex because of field conditions. This took away the home field advantage and forced both teams to play on the astroturf field at

the A-B Sports Complex.

Chaminade stunned the Jr. Bills by scoring a goal early in the first half. This goal only motivated the Soccerbills to tie the game before the end of the half. On the goal, Joe Orso put on dribbling clinic for the Chaminade defense and then placed a shot by the far post, leaving the goalie with no chance to make the save.

The game remained tied until the Flyers pulled ahead when a shot sailed

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over goalie Brian Missey, who had wandered out of the net to clear the ball.

Even though SLUH outshot Chaminate, 22 to 6, the Flyers came out on top by a score of 3-1.

Coming back home on Monday, the team played against Rosary. Although the outcome of the game was disappointing, it did not reflect the style of play. SLUH controlled the ball most of the game and had numerous scoring chances.

Three quick goals in eight minutes in the second half for Rosary proved to fatal to the Jr. Bills, and the team could not recover.

The Jr. Bills led the game in the first half; however, when soccer phenomenon Taylor Twellman, scored. He blasted one in the net again in the second half to cut Rosary's lead to one, but it was not enough, and the Soccerbills had to accept to the loss.

The team plays MCC rival CBC on Saturday. The last contest between the two teams was in the finals of the Hudson Memorial Tournament when SLUH prevailed 3-0. This is the last regular season game, as districts start on Monday.

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Christie placed fifth with a time of 17:16, followed by Scott Lauer in 7th with 17:19. Junior Ken Reichert, sophomore Ted Snodgrass and senior Chris Graesser finished 8th, 9th, and 10th, respectively. In his varsity debut, Alex Speiserran a strong race to d out the top seven.

The always modest Reichert was pleased with the team's performance. "We looked real good out there, especially me."

Capping off the day was an excellent performance by the JV team, whose runners took the first six places in the race. Many of these runners were competing for the five alternate spots on the team that will travel to the state meet in Jefferson City. Leading the pack was sophomore Murphy O'Brien, followed by Luke Schultie, Mark Mondala, Matt Crow, Dave Godar, John Ramsey, and Tim Huegerich.

The varsity squad will next try to perform their best on one of the most difficult courses in the St. Louis area for the Sectional race at Sioux Passage Park.

Polobills Ready For Playoffs

BY SEAN ZUCKERMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Due to a water main break at Forest Park Community College on last Thursday, the junior varsity match against Mary Institute-Country Day School was cancelled. It was rescheduled for last Monday at MICDS.

After a scoreless first quarter, it was evident that defense was going to win the game. Sophomore co-captain Steve Luebbert made an excellent crossing pass to freshman Zack Hartwig who slipped the ball by the goalie.

MICDS tallied three unanswered goals due to the Baudenbills inability to return to defense quickly. Coach Paul Baudendistel summed the game up.

"We made only a few mistakes in the game. The one that cost us three goals was not getting to defense early," said Baudendistel.

The JV team plays again tonight against MICDS for the conference championship. Game time is set for 8:30 p.m. at MICDS.

The varsity team played Lafayette last Monday at MICDS due to FoPoCoCo's closure. Senior tri-captain Jeff Maitz tallied six goals and juniors Ryan Keefe and John Penilla scored two apiece to combine for 10 of the Jr. Bills' 13 goals. Senior tri-captain Justin Woodard and juniors Jack Wideman and Aaron Christoff scored the other three goals. The Jr. Bills drubbed Lafayette by a final score of 13-3.

Next up for the team was Parkway West on Wednesday. It took Maitz only 13 seconds to score one of his three goals and push his season tally to 60. Keefe led the scoring with four goals, while Woodard, Penilla, Christoff, junior Pat Mullen and seniors Sean Zuckerman and Tony Erker all contributed one goal apiece. When the waves cleared, the Jr. Bills came out on top of the tussle by a score of 13-3.

The team plays again Tuesday night at 9 p.m. at MICDS again winner of the U City-Clayton match.



JUSTIN WOODARD

Coach Busenhart provides words of wisdom to Ryan Keefe and the boys.

Busenbills Leave Kiel After Disappointing Afternoon

BY RYAN GLEASON
LAYOUT EDITOR

In hopes of repeating their runner-up performance of last year, the SLUH varsity hockey team opened the Third Annual Pucks Of Power tournament at Kiel Center against the defending champion Vianney Griffins, the defending champions. As surprising as their finish was last year, their first round defeat this year was equally as stunning. The Pucksters were eliminated in the first round of the tournament after losing 4-3 to the Griffins.

The Jr. Bills gave Vianney a run for their money. They got on the board in the first period with a goal by senior winger Ryan Barry. Also contributing to the Jr. Bill effort was sophomore forward Chris Wirtel with a breakaway goal. Senior centerman Josh Franklin scored their third and final goal with less than one second remaining in the game.

Despite the intense work of the Puckbills, they could not overcome the play of the Griffins, who were eliminated in the following round by the DeSmet Spartans. DeSmet ended up placing second after losing to the CBC Cadets.

Although the season may have started

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on a 15 yard loft pass. The Spartans lined up to kick the extra point, but Spartan punter Rob McWilliams' kick was blocked by defensive end John Shen, and the game headed into overtime.

The Junior Bills started off with the ball on the 25 yard line going into the intense overtime. However, having failed to move the ball, and being sacked for a loss, the Gridbills faced a crucial fourth and 15 situation. Kornfeld's pass found its way into the sure hands of tight end Bill Hippe for a nineteen yard gain and a first

off on a rocky note, the hockey team shows great promise for the upcoming season. Included on the roster are six returning senior forwards, who compose the first two forward lines. The top line, which ranks among the best in the area, is composed of center Franklin and wingers Barry and Gerry McNeive. The second line, also considered a scoring threat, is anchored by seniors Tim Bruno, Tim Hoehn, and John Glennon.

Rounding out the forwards are juniors Eric Wood, Paul Fedchak, and Pat Barnidge, as well as sophomore Chris Wirtel.

On the defensive side of things is third year varsity player Gus Papagianis, as well as junior Blake Schaefering. New to the varsity team are sophomore defensemen Joe Pallazolo and Mike Rengel as well as freshman Todd Turner. Between the pipes for the Jr. Bills will be junior John Senn as well as sophomore Adam Thompson.

With 10 returning varsity players, and six seniors, the Pucksters show great potential for this season. The newcomers to the team will add to the already potent offense as well as help stabilize the defense, hopefully taking some of the pressure off of the goaltenders.

down. Two plays later SLUH was in the endzone, as Kornfeld hooked up with Josh Desfalvy one more time for the game winner. The defense still had to pass one more test, and they did, when facing a DeSmet fourth and six from the eight yard line. Mudd broke up a pass in the endzone, and the victory was sealed.

The Junior Bills look to improve on their extravagant performance last Friday, when they travel to Gateway Tech this Saturday at 1:30 to play their second game of their "second season." Come out and support your Junior Bills and their drive towards a State Championship.

Freshmen Runners Give Coaches High Hopes

BY RAJ JOSEPH
SPORTS REPORTER

The 1997 freshman cross country team closed out the season with a bang this Wednesday at the Findley Invitational in Forest Park. The Invitational capped off an incredible season with only one loss to De Smet in the third race of the season.

The team has won six of the seven freshmen-only meets including the MCC Championship. Head Coach Jim Linhares praised the team saying, "They've exceeded my expectations."

Linhares also commented on the superiority of this year's team,

"This group is head-and-shoulders above the rest, and not because of any individual, but because of their incredible depth," said Linhares.

This depth was evident as the second team beat De Smet's and CBC's first teams.

Dave Godar finished first on the team this season with a time of 17:57. He will attempt to qualify for the State Finals as an alternate by racing in the Open Sectional Meet at Sioux Passage State Park on Saturday, November 1.

Adam Chadwick claimed the second place slot on the team with a time of 18:33. Jason Towers captured the third spot at 18:53. Fourth and fifth places belong to Chris Crews and Jason Roer with times of 18:58 and 19:07, respectively. Ben Gray, 19:12, and Pat Knudson, 19:19, rounded out the top seven.

With talent like this, Linhares thinks these Freshmen are sure to be seen crossing the finish lines first in the years to come.