

Powered by youth, basketball season tips off tonightBY KEITH THOMAS
SPORTS EDITOR

After an impressive fourth-place finish at the State tournament last year, the St. Louis U. High basketball squad and head coach Erwin Claggett are hungry for more this season.

The team opens its season tonight against CBC, an MCC powerhouse and fierce rival. The Jr. Bills return their two top scorers from last season, junior Brandon McKissic and senior Matt Nester, for a team that is poised for yet another Final Four run. SLUH will return most of the team from last year, losing only two players to college—Hunter Schmidt and Spencer Stapf.

With that being said, the team's youth will be a key component towards the team's success this season. Returning players like Nester—who has started all four years for the Jr. Bills—look to lead the team yet again, but with a clean slate.

"The main thing for me is trying to get the guys to understand that it's a brand new year," said Claggett. "Whatever successes or failures happened was last year. We have to come with a different mentality because we're a different team from last year: a year older, and we lost some parts, so it's a new journey."

Guard play for the Jr. Bills will be led by McKissic and Nester. The shifty 5'11" Nester averaged 11.8 PPG last year, while McKissic had 13.8 PPG. Most of the Jr. Bills' scoring last year came from

the duo, and they will look to continue that trend in the coming months.

"Brandon is definitely one of the most important players on our team," said Nester. "He's our most talented scorer and player in general. When it's time to score, he'll get the buckets."

"They'll be our engine this year," said Claggett. "As far as leading, Matt's a little more mature, and Brandon leads by example: going out and making plays and scoring points."

Junior B.J. Wilson will also return to the court as a part of the team's starting five. The 6'7" center will take on an even bigger role in the post this year with Schmidt's absence. Helping out Wilson will be junior Brent Smith at forward, who played in 31 games last year as a sophomore.

"B.J. and Brent are vital if we want to win this year," said Nester. "The MCC is packed with skilled and dominant big men. In order to compete, they have to play at that top level at all times."

"We are missing Hunter, who was a big part of our offense," said senior David Jackson. "But we are expecting them to accept the challenge."

The rest of the team will be bolstered by its defense, the main focus of Claggett's game plan. Players like juniors Ryan Hebenstreit and Andrew Grassi, sophomore Matt Leritz, and senior twins David and Daniel Jackson will provide a well-rounded



Junior Center B.J. Wilson at practice yesterday. The Jr. Bills play at CBC tonight. PHOTO | BRENDAN VOIGT

defensive structure in the backcourt.

"They're an integral part to our defense," said Claggett. "Hopefully, our defense will be a little bit more up tempo than last year."

The MCC is, and always will be, a tough conference to win games in. There is, of course, CBC, whom the Jr. Bills haven't defeated in four straight games. Vianney and De Smet are somewhat weaker in comparison to CBC and Chaminade, though, and the Jr. Bills have had success against them in the past. The biggest challenge this year will be the Chaminade Red Devils, who are led by Duke commit Jayson Tatum, Iowa commit Tyler Cook, and Duquesne commit Mike Lewis.

"This is, by far, the most talented conference in the state," said Claggett. "Each game is going to be a war."

The good thing for us is that no team in our conference is in our district. We relish the challenge because we know how much good it's going to do for us."

Chaminade defeated the Jr. Bills last year in the third-place game at the State tournament. Fueled by the inter-conference rivalry and last year's results, the Jr. Bills are prepared to have another go at the Red Devils.

"We're all really close to each other and we love to joke around," said Nester. "But when it's time to get serious, we lock in. I think our team is extremely focused this year and ready to go."

Before the season even starts, though, the Jr. Bills have one college commit in Nester. He will attend Washington University in St. Louis to continue his playing career. Although he hasn't commit-

ted to a school yet, McKissic also picked up an offer to play at Missouri State in 2017.

"I'm super excited that I get the opportunity to continue to play basketball at such a great school," said Nester. "Coach Clagg and everyone on the staff have transformed me into the player I am and I have to give them credit for it."

Tonight, the Jr. Bills look to open with a win over an always tough CBC team.

"It's our first game, so we need to start off on a good note," said Nester. "We're all extremely focused and ready, so I think it'll be a good night."

"We have no idea what to expect," said Claggett. "It's not at home, so we can just go out and play. We use (the CBC game) as a measuring stick for the season... it's all about learning and getting better throughout the year."

XC sets mind on futureBY JOSEPH REZNIKOV
CORE STAFF

The 2015 St. Louis U. High varsity cross country season has reached its close, and though the 11th place finish at State was not the goal coming into the season, the coaches and runners know that they accomplished a lot and have a lot of things they can build off of for future seasons.

Five of the top seven runners on SLUH's second place state finishing team last season graduated in the class of 2014, so this year's team was fairly inexperienced with racing at the varsity level.

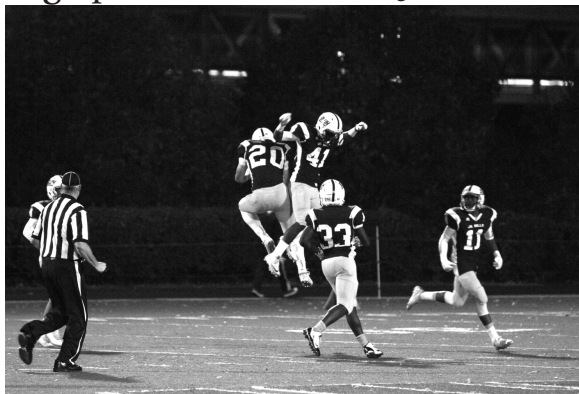
"The new guys had to learn how to race at a different level," said Porter. "But they really stepped up and got better and better at running in bigger races as the season went on."

The season got off to a slow start in September at the Forest Park XC Invitational, where SLUH placed tenth—a frustrating finish compared to their third place finish the previous year.

The runners' hard work finally started to pay dividends halfway through the season when they placed first at the MCC Championships. Senior Dustan Davidson finished first overall in the meet with a time of 16:16.

The MCC meet was arguably one of SLUH's two best

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High-powered offense led Jr. Bills to success in 2015

The Jr. Bills bumping chests. The team finished 8-3, winning twice in the MCC. PHOTO | DOMINIK SKROSKA

CHRIS KREINKAMP
REPORTER

Nearly three weeks after the final football game of the 2015 season, the St. Louis U. High football team is not disappointed in its finish. Though Hazelwood Central ended the Jr. Billiken playoff run for the second time in just as many years, the coaches and the players are in no way unhappy. SLUH held up an outstanding 8-3 record during a season despite all of its opponents being competitive except maybe one or two.

Nineteen seniors, 26 juniors, and eight sophomores formed the varsity team of 53 players. Six senior captains—Daniel Isom, Daniel Jackson, David Jackson, Joe Mattingly, Michael Niese, Anthony San-

sone, and Chris Stahl—led the team through each of the 11 battles. The team could not have been successful without the cohesion among the players. Though some players stood out, like junior Andrew Clair, the team was still strong when he was injured. They did not depend on one player but rose and fell as a team.

"We finished our season with an outstanding record and formed some great bonds and relationships among that team that I know will last a lifetime," said Niese.

Offensively, the top three scorers were Clair, David Jackson, and junior kicker Joe Rogan. Clair led the team in touchdowns with 21 and in rushing yards with 1,303. Clair averaged an impressive

8.9 yards/carry on the season.

Another junior, starting quarterback Mitch Batschelt, also found his way to the scoring summary often, finishing the season with 23 touchdowns for 1,985 yards. His favorite target was David Jackson, who recorded 694 yards and 12 touchdowns on 32 receptions.

On the defensive side of the ball, defensive lineman Stahl hogged most of the statistics. He led the team in tackles with 69, in assists with 31, and tied for first with junior Kameron Bowdry in sacks with six. His two fumble recoveries were just one short of Bowdry's team-leading three. Junior Tony Adams had the most interceptions with six.

Some highlights from the season include the 63-13 win on Sept. 18 at De Smet, the largest point differential in SLUH football in over a decade.

The Kirkwood victory on Oct. 16 was the final regular season game and also the first loss for the undefeated Pioneers. This is the second year in a row that the Jr. Bills ruined a Kirkwood undefeated football season.

"I believe our season went really well with what we were given at the beginning of the year," said Mattingly. "I think we really surprised a lot of people and were able to come back through. Beating Kirkwood two years in a row is a huge challenge, but our team was able to get through it."

Perhaps the most special moment was on Aug. 28 against Lutheran North when head coach Gary Kornfeld earned his 200th win as a SLUH football coach. With a few more wins before the end of the season, he became the winningest coach in SLUH football history. He came to SLUH in 1979 and became head coach in 1988, and he is coming back in 2015, 36 years after his first day at SLUH. Another season is in the books for Kornfeld.

"It's sad to see the season over but I think the team has a bright future for next year," said Mattingly.

Kornfeld comes back

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Swim ends undefeated in dual meetsBY PATRICK SCHULER
REPORTER

From the bowels of Forest Park Community College pool, the St. Louis U. High swim & dive team trained and in turn, churned out a successful season with a few lows and many highs.

The season began with two new coaches and a new mindset for the season. Last year's head coach, Joe Esposito, stepped down to take a coaching and teaching job at De Smet, and coach Kevin Moore retired after many years. Lindsey Ehret became the new head coach and chose Andrew Killenkeny as her assistant.

"Having Coach Ehret and Coach Andy in the lead this year has been really awesome," said sophomore John Burke. "They have taught me a lot about swimming and I think they handled the team really well this year."

Some highlights from the season include three individual winners, an undefeated dual meet season, and JV and Varsity MCC championship titles. The team qualified six individuals at the State Championship in 13 events, including all three relays, and finished 13th overall.

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Helfrey excels vs. Kirkwood

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Mueth. "He thought he could have easily beaten the guy he played."

This 3-2 win for SLUH is unofficial at this point because the No. 5 seed and doubles matches still need to be played because Kirkwood players were absent from the original match. However, since the team only has a one-point lead, if both No. 5 seed senior Jacob Longinette and senior doubles duo Vince Freeman and Andrew Thomas are unable to win their respective matches, it could end up being a loss for the team if the opponents are better than expected.

"Kirkwood is a great example of a team that is starting to figure out how to beat SLUH unlike most of the other teams we play," said Mueth.

The team now looks forward to an important tournament, the Winter Rollout, that started last night with a professional clinic and an appearance from the No. 1 ranked player in the world, Kane Waselenchuk, and is followed by the actual tournament starting tonight and continuing through tomorrow. The tournament will be held at the Missouri Athletic Club (MAC), and the first SLUH match starts at 7:00 p.m. tonight.

Around the Hallways

Nerinx and SLUH come together to discuss Teach-In

Campus Minister Meg Beugg, two seniors, and two juniors met with three teachers and six students from Nerinx Hall to reflect on the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice. At 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, the group gathered in Campus Ministry to talk. Among the topics discussed were the breakout sessions, speakers, senior Brendan Underwood, and the non-Jesuit perspective of the Teach-In itself. Nerinx students cited their Loretto values as aligning quite well with the Jesuits' in some cases. Although there were likes and dislikes among the group, both schools realized that the Teach-In inspired them to have conversations about different social justice issues at their schools.

Malcolm X Meeting

Brendan Underwood led another S.T.A.R.S. meeting yesterday where students of all age groups filled three tables to discuss chapters 14-16 of *The Autobi-*

ography of Malcolm X. The main topic was on the transition of Malcolm from a dependent follower of Elijah Muhammad to a more independent leader who stresses the value of acceptance to all. The club plans to meet Dec. 3 to talk over the closing chapters of the book, and to connect the main themes to social justice in our lives today.

Sterling Brown wins award

Sterling Brown was recognized as one of St. Louis' top 100 most influential African Americans at Delux Magazine's Power 100 banquet. He accepted the award Nov. 8 at the Lumiere Theater. The award honors black millennials who lead, inspire, innovate and demonstrate. Brown is the St. Louis U. High Director of Diversity, American history teacher, admissions team member, JV football and freshman basketball coach, serves on the Loyola Academy Junior Board at Priory, and volunteers for Boys Hope

Girls Hope.

Frosh Retreat Changes

In order to establish the identity of the freshman class earlier and allow senior advisors to share a more definitive goodbye with their freshmen, this year's Freshman Retreat will be led by the senior advisors on Monday and Tuesday.

Students for Life substitute meeting for morning rosary

Recognizing the lack of activity periods this week, Students for Life President Joe Laughlin decided to organize a time to pray the rosary during the block day schedule on Wednesday morning. From 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., five students—four juniors and one sophomore—gathered in the North American Martyrs' Chapel to pray the rosary, where Laughlin and Cannonball Club President Jacob Price read the Glorious Mysteries.

—Jack Casey, Sam Chechik, Aidan Moore.

Laughlin, Kelly to lead XC next season

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races all season; sectionals was the other.

"(Conference) was a day we thought could go any direction, and the guys really rose to the occasion," said Porter. "At sectionals, the pressure was on to try to qualify for state for the 22nd year in a row, and they really answered the bell."

The close of the team's season also marks the close of the SLUH cross country career for six seniors: Davidson, Billy Balossi, Joe Butler, Jake Lepak, Ethan McIntyre, and Sergio Goodwin. Butler, Goodwin, and McIntyre ran on the team all four years.

"It's sad that it's over now," said Butler. "I really enjoyed it and we were really successful, but it has to end eventually. One experience I'll never forget is freshman year when we won state. Even though we didn't race, the freshmen were

painted blue and were running around the course. It was a lot of fun."

Lepak in particular has pushed himself extremely hard over the course of the season, and his work has not gone unnoticed. Lepak put in over 800 miles during the season—the most of any runner on the team.

"I appreciate the hard work of Jake over the summer," said junior Will Kelly. "He ran over 400 miles which is super-impressive. He and all the seniors kept the mentality of the team high."

"The way to get better is to run more, and Jake did that," said Porter. "He showed a lot of leadership by putting in more miles than anyone else."

Porter hopes the seniors will never forget the experiences they had as a part of the SLUH cross country, whether they're planning to run com-

petitively in college or not.

"When they look back at the season years from now, they won't remember the races as much as they'll remember the training," said Porter. "We spend a lot of time our running at a conversational pace, so there's lots of time to hang out with teammates and build relationships."

"I don't think I could've have gotten through the workouts or the races on my own without my teammates," said Balossi. "It's sad that it's over now."

Looking ahead to the next season, SLUH will be returning with only three juniors—Joe Laughlin, Will Kelly, and Brad Gale.

Beyond the juniors, freshmen Patrick Hetlage and Reed Milnor, along with sophomore Paul Burka, have all competed with the varsity team on and off throughout the season, so they have a lit-

tle experience and Kelly sees them becoming an instrumental part of the team next season.

"I have a lot of confidence in the underclassmen," said Kelly. "They're hardworking and very committed, so I know that they will be definitely be stepping it up next year."

Though no offseason races are required, the coaching staff encourages guys to keep racing. Because there are no indoor tracks in St. Louis, some runners will travel to Principia college in Illinois as well as Mizzou for indoor meets. The 13-week winter is also filled with St. Louis races that include the Frostbite series and the Turkey Trot.

"We have a bunch of talent and guys that already have some experience," said Porter. "We're going to back to the drawing board, get guys out there in the winter, and try to get better every day."

15 selected for all-MCC

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because he is grateful to be at SLUH, just like Daniel Jackson.

"I'm happy to play with everybody from the team. I'm happy we had a great year. I'm glad that I got to teach all of these young guys something new. I hope that they go in the image of working hard, playing hard, and doing everything that they can," said Jackson. "I'd like to thank the coaches for every down that they allowed me to play. And I'm so glad to end my high school career as a junior Bill."

This year the following players were selected for the

all-MCC conference team:

Selected to first-team offense were Clair (RB), David Jackson (WR), Mattingly (OL), and Isom (Ath.). Selected to second-team offense were Batschelett (QB), Adams (WR), BJ Wilson (TE), and Niese (OL). Honorable mentions were Mike Ruggeri, Jake Henty, and Rogan.

Selected to first-team defense were Stahl (DT), Anthony Sansone (LB), Adams (S), and Daniel Jackson (CB). Selected to second-team defense were Ryan Hebenstreit (DE), Bowdry (DT), Jared Scott (LB). Honorable mention includes Tim Sansone (LB).

Ehret's first year a success

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"We got much faster throughout the season," said junior Thomas Nordmann. "It was really cool to set goals at the beginning of the season and then accomplish those as the season went on."

This year also included a new event for the Jr. Bills: a team open water swim. The entire team all swam at least a mile at Innsbrook one weekend, and some swimmers swam up to three miles in the lake.

"The open water swim was my favorite event," said Ehret. "(It was) something new, and got swimmers out of the pool. ... I had a great time in the kayak watching and cheering. I'm grateful to the Kreienkamps for all the help hosting the new SLUH tradition."

One of the lowlights for the season was the COMO Invitational at Mizzou.

"(We) did not perform well for the most part," Ehret said. "It just wasn't our best meet."

Despite meeting many of their goals for the year, the Jr. Bills did not meet all of them. After last year's fourth place finish at State, they hoped to finish top five this year. They also wanted to be the best

team in St. Louis, something they also accomplished last year, but this year took third out of the St. Louis teams behind Eureka and Chaminade.

There were also a few team problems during practice, including complaining, hiding in the locker room, and even a slip-n-slide that was created in the showers.

"There were definitely some rough parts in the season," Nordmann said. "We had a tough time concentrating at times, and also became a little unfocused with many practices in a row."

Ehret also made a big push this year to promote camaraderie.

"I tried to change the culture of swimming and that was a challenge," Ehret said. "I put an emphasis on the team aspect of a very individual sport (and am) hopeful for next year that everyone knows the expectations of SLUH swimming and they know I will hold them accountable for training well and seriously, because it leads to our success. Talent only takes a team so far ... the rest is really working hard. Collectively the team makes individuals better."

Overall, despite a few goals not being accomplished, the Jr. Bills had a very success-

Calendar

Friday, November 20 Regular Schedule

AP Sophomore Class Mass
Snack—Chicken Rings
LUNCH Special—Taco Bar
Vegetarian—Grilled Cheese
4:00PM C White Basketball vs. CBC @ SLUH
5:15PM C Blue Basketball vs. CBC @ SLUH
6:30PM V Basketball @ CBC
8:00PM V Hockey vs. CBC @ Affton Ice Rink

Saturday, November 21

4:30PM Alumni Remembrance Mass
10:30PM JV Blue Hockey vs. CBC Purple @ Webster Groves Ice Rink

Sunday, November 22

SLUHtique
Senior Kairos (until November 25)
CISL Speech (TBA)
8:00PM JV Blue Hockey vs. Oakville @ Fenton Forum
9:15PM JV White Hockey vs. De Smet Maroon @ Fenton Forum

Monday, November 23

Junior White House (until November 25)
Freshman Retreat (until November 24) No Classes

Tuesday, November 24

4:00PM C White Basketball @ Chaminade
4:00PM C Blue Basketball @ Chaminade
5:30PM B Basketball @ Chaminade
9:40PM JV Blue Hockey vs. Marquette @ Hardee's Ice Plex No Classes

Wednesday, November 25

No Classes

Thursday, November 26

No Classes

Thanksgiving Break (until November 29)
7:00AM Father's Club Thanksgiving Day of Service

Friday, November 27

No Classes

5:00PM Class Reunions ('00, '05, and '10)
9:45PM V Hockey vs. De Smet @ Affton Ice Rink

Saturday, November 28

Tim O'Neil's Birthday

Sunday, November 29

6:45PM JV White Hockey vs. Francis Howell @ Rec-Plex South
8:00PM JV Blue Hockey vs. Timberland @ Rec-Plex South

Monday, November 30

Regular Schedule

AP Senior Project Class Meeting
Snack—Bosco Sticks
LUNCH Special—Fried Chicken
Vegetarian—Black Bean Burger
6:45PM V Basketball vs. Maplewood-Richmond Heights @ Pattonville
Tournament
7:40PM V Hockey vs. Lafayette @ Hardee's Ice Plex

Tuesday, December 1

Regular Schedule

Advent Confessions (until December 4)
8:15AM Advent Adoration

AP All School Liturgical Choir Rehearsal

Snack—Mini Tacos

LUNCH Special—Chinese Special

Vegetarian—Penne Pasta

6:00PM V/JV/C Wrestling @ Hazelwood West

7:30PM C Blue Basketball vs. Webster Groves @ Webster Groves

Tournament

9:15PM JV White Hockey vs. Kirkwood @ Kirkwood Ice Arena

Wednesday, December 2

Regular Schedule

8:15AM Advent Adoration

AP All School Liturgical Choir Rehearsal

Poetry Out Loud

Snack—Cinnamon Rolls

LUNCH Special—Hand-Breaded Chicken Tenders

Vegetarian—Turkey Burger

C Basketball @ Timberland Tournament (until November 4)

V Basketball @ Pattonville Tournament

3:30PM Ignatian Evening and Dinner

4:00PM B Basketball vs. McCluer North @ SLUH

Thursday, December 3

Regular Schedule

8:15AM Advent Adoration

AP All School Liturgical Choir Rehearsal

Snack—Onion Rings

LUNCH Special—Domino's Pizza

Vegetarian—Grilled Cheese

4:30PM B Basketball @ Kirkwood

6:00PM V/JV/C Wrestling vs. Windsor @ SLUH

6:00PM C Blue Basketball @ Webster Groves Tournament

7:00PM Band Concert

Friday, December 4

Special Schedule

8:15AM Advent Adoration

AP Snack—Chicken Rings

LUNCH Special—Philly Cheese Steak

Vegetarian—Garden Burger

V/JV Wrestling @ Parkway Tournament (until November 4)

V Basketball @ Pattonville Tournament

CALENDAR | LIAM CONNOLLY

ful season. They have a lot of depth going into next year with a very strong freshman class, including Joe Feder, who qualified in two events for finals at State. Barclay Dale and Matthias Hostetler lead a sim-

ilarly strong sophomore class. The incoming freshman class also has a few strong swimmers, and the Bills are hoping to maximize their talent to its full potential.

Science Club Speaker

Science Club will host speaker Marcia Owens (RN, BSN, CCM). She will speak on the topic of health care professionals with an emphasis on the Care vs Cure model of health care in room 215C today.



ARTWORK | WILL KRAMER