

## Jr. Bills outswim rival CBC, fall to Lafayette

BY CULLIN TRIPP  
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High swimming team (2-2) split meets against the last two teams it faced, losing 112-74 at Lafayette and topping Metro Catholic Conference rival CBC, 123-62.

Although they suffered a loss to Lafayette, the Jr. Bills qualified a few new swimmers for State events. Senior Michael Hagerty qualified in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.95 and also helped two relays qualify. The 200-medley relay of freshman Luke Sloan, senior captain Steve Hoerr, junior Amir Paschal, and Hagerty qualified with a time of 1:45.54, and Hagerty, Paschal, junior Sam Erlinger, and Sloan qualified in the 400-free relay with a time of 3:26.68.

"It was a good challenge and I think it pushed our guys to swim hard. I also thought it was great to be able to enter more swimmers in this meet," said head coach Rachel Graczak. "We were able to put some new techniques we worked on in practice to good use, and I think we held our own against the

Lancers."

After the loss against Lafayette, the Jr. Bills bounced back Monday with a 123-62 win against CBC at Forest Park Community College. In this meet, they had the advantage the whole way and took two of the top three spots in almost every race.

State qualifiers at the meet included junior diver Michael Barry, who improved his State score for diving to a 253.75 (the State cut is 210) and Hagerty, who qualified in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 50.45.

"We had a lot of improved times in this meet. In addition to getting a win, we defi-



Junior Sam Erlinger emerges for a breath of air.

nately had better stroke technique, and our practice is starting to pay off," said Graczak.

The team hosted Jackson last night, and will compete at the DeSmet Invitational tomorrow at the Rec-Plex.

PHOTO BY TED WIGHT

## Underclassmen sports updates

Thursday, September 16

C Football (1-2)

SLUH 28, CBC 27

SLUH's offense looked sharp in the first half, leading 28-14, but it stalled after half and CBC gained momentum but missed the tying extra point.

—Robert Braddock

Friday, September 17

B Soccer (5-0)

SLUH 2, DeSmet 0

Sophomore Teddy Thorpe scored the first goal off a Matt Steurer free kick, and freshman goalie Colin Joern made an excellent save before Steurer volleyed in a corner kick for the Bills' fifth straight win.

—Justin Sinay

C Soccer (6-0)

SLUH 7, DeSmet 3

Freshmen Chris Berutti, Ed Howe, Chris Klipfel, and Tim Murphy each scored a goal in a solid victory for the Jr. Bills over the Spartans.

—Connor Madden

Saturday, September 18

C Soccer (7-0)

SLUH 5, St. Dominic 0

Freshman Tony Abbacchi scored twice in a convincing shutout for the undefeated Jr. Bills. Freshmen Tony Doelleseld and Chris Klipfel each added a goal as well.

—Connor Madden

B Soccer (6-0)

SLUH 4, St. Dominic 0

Sophomore Zach Hoffman scored the first goal off a beautiful cross from sophomore Mitchell Starrs and also scored the second, and sophomore Brian Dugan netted two goals in the second half.

—Justin Sinay

JV XC

1st place at Paul Enke Invitational The SLUH JV squad clawed its way to a 7 point victory over second-place St. Dominic up the famous Manmaker hill. Junior Nathan Fox took 5th in 20:02, and five other runners medaled in the top 25 of the race.

—Eric Mueth

B/C XC

1st place at Paul Enke Invitational Freshman Sean McLaughlin led the B and C Jr. Bill runners up and down the hills of Sioux Passage finishing second overall. He was closely followed by a hoard of other freshmen including Michael Swan, Tom Rubio and Peter Rackers, who all finished in the top 10.

—Eric Mueth

Monday, September 19

JV Soccer (5-0-1)

SLUH 3, CBC 3

The JV soccer team tied its last two games this week against CBC and DeSmet. Juniors Joey Gasperoni, Logan Welge and Joey Ferber contributed goals in the game against CBC.

—Evan Becton

JV Football (0-4)

CBC 43, SLUH 21

The Jr. Bills trailed early, but they came back with 21 in the second half. SLUH's late surge was led by Colin Barrett (85 rushing yards, 1 rush TD) and sophomore Jack Hovater (4 tackles and forced fumble).

—Drew Brunts

Tuesday, September 20

JV Soccer (5-0-2)

SLUH 1, DeSmet 1

Junior Joey Gasperoni scored the only goal in a tight defensive struggle on both sides of the ball. SLUH finished the tournament with two ties.

—Evan Becton

## XC shows depth as top runners get week off

SLUH finishes 7th  
in two races  
and 5th at Fox

BY GREG FISTER  
REPORTER

Though St. Louis U. High's top varsity runners did not run this week, the rest of the cross country team stepped up and filled the running shoes of the top seven.

The busy week began when a group of young runners were sent to Parkway Central last Thursday to compete in the Parkway Central Invitational. Freshmen John Esswein led the sophomores and juniors through the narrow, wooded course, staying in the top 20 of the race the entire time.

The rest of the team packed up the first two miles and blazed on the third. Sophomore Tom Laughlin broke from the pack and finished in 17:39, good for 24th, behind Esswein's 17:29 for 18th. Sophomores Joe Archer and Matt Nicholson medaled as well, and the team took 7th in the meet.

While part of the XC team competed at Parkway Central, the third varsity team raced twice in four days, braving the intense hills of Sioux Passage Park and the heated plains of Arnold Park and showing incredible depth, determination, and some promising new talent.

On Saturday morning, SLUH's third varsity, junior varsity and B/C runners arrived at the Paul Enke Invitational at Sioux Passage Park in North County, some of them seeing the park, and its legendary hills, for the first time.

Many students at SLUH have probably heard of the Manmaker, the immense hill that starts the course at Sioux Passage Park. It is a massive, grassy behemoth that stands as a sort of rite of passage for SLUH XC runners, and it is the first course most freshmen run for an official 5K.

SLUH finished seventh overall in the race with their third string. Despite the absence of their fastest 14 runners, SLUH revealed its impressive depth by placing next to such incredible teams as Jefferson City.

Junior Jack Milford, who played soccer the last two years but switched to cross country this year, came away with a then-personal best of 18:44, a 26th-place finish overall, and the highest finish for any runner from SLUH at the race.

Milford enjoys cross country because there's "no pressure of not making the team, because it's a no-cut sport. The atmosphere is more laid back, or at least that was my impression."

"But as one rises through the ranks, it gets a lot more intense, and then the pressure is on," said Milford of his rise to XC stardom. Milford's situation is somewhat similar to the situation senior Tim Rackers, SLUH's top varsity runner, found himself in last year around this time. Milford stated that assertions that he is the next Rackers are "outrageous accusations. I do not think (Rackers) can ever be replaced, but I'm trying my best to emulate him."

Senior Riley Konzen and sophomore Michael Dowd, who finished 46th and 49th, respectively, were the next SLUH runners to finish after Milford. All seven of SLUH's athletes finished in the top 85 of the varsity race on Saturday.

Three days later, SLUH's XC team raced at perhaps the polar opposite of Saturday's course—the sunny, hot, and stubbornly flat course at Arnold Park at the Ed White Fox Warrior Invitational. Most of the team agreed that race times were a bit slower due to the heat, which peaked around 92 degrees on Tuesday, and the fact that most of the team had raced just three days prior at the most physically demanding course on the schedule. The race was originally scheduled for this Friday, Sept. 24, but due to a disagreement about the name of the invitational, it was moved to Tuesday.

The course barely changes altitude at all for its 3.1 miles, circling three times through a sunny field, around a dog park, through a shady grove, and around a wide lake. Despite the heat, many runners gained personal records.

SLUH placed fifth overall, with Milford once again leading the SLUH pack. Milford finished in 12th place with a personal best time of 17:58, and junior Jimmy Griffard and Konzen finished in 21st and 26th with times of 18:24 and 18:32, respectively.

Milford's success in this race has established him as a truly formidable force in the SLUH cross country powerhouse.

Griffard, meanwhile, raced varsity in Thursday's Parkway Central Invitational and did significantly better on Tuesday than Thursday. Griffard asserted that the drastic geographic differences between Thursday's and Tuesday's races affected his, and many others', race performances.

"Terrain plays a big role in cross country, both mentally and physically. Mentally, if you see a flat course, you think it will be a PR course, and you'll do really well, and physically because I'm a flat-land kind of guy," said Griffard.

Griffard's goal for this season is to obtain a varsity letter, and to do so requires that he runs a 5K in under 18:15. His current PR is

18:24.

"I'm thinking that with a month left in the season, lots of hard work and dedication, and praise to the wise and quick-footed Mr. Gilmore, I can attain that goal," said Griffard. Head coach Joe Porter said that these last two races, by virtue of the absence of the top 14 SLUH runners, revealed just how deep the SLUH XC team is.

"At Fox (Warrior Invitational on Tuesday) we came away with fifth place, just barely behind Webster, which is a team that qualifies out of our district," said Porter. The team's depth means that many of SLUH's runners who are not on the top or second seven could easily run varsity for many of the other teams SLUH faces on any given day.

"Races like Fox really give our third seven an opportunity to shine and show they are really quality runners, because otherwise they just get left in the mud," said Porter. Running the third seven is also a look to the future.

"The other reason we do these races is to give these guys varsity experience so that when we do rely on them in later years, we are ready to step up with runners who do have varsity experience—they didn't just dominate JV every time, they were able to compete at the varsity level," said Porter.

Next, the SLUH cross country team will show off its top and second seven runners' hard work and intense training at Palatine High School in Palatine, Ill. on Saturday.

Tuesday, September 20, cont.

JV XC

2nd place at Fox Warrior Invitational High temperatures plagued times at Arnold Park for SLUH, but they pulled away with a solid second place behind Lindbergh. Senior Eric Mueth led the Jr. Bills in 9th, and was closely followed by senior Simon Clark and juniors Joshua Zink-Duda, Sam Bufe and George Carroll, who all placed in the top 15.

—Eric Mueth

B/C XC

1st place at Fox Warrior Invitational The freshmen and sophomores dominated the front of the race again, crushing the next closest team by 47 points. Freshmen Michael Swan, Peter Rackers and Tom Rubio finished 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

—Eric Mueth