

Jr. Bills feast on Hawks, run to a 56-14 victory

BY MARTY JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The only thing hotter than the upper-90s temperatures Friday night was the St. Louis U. High varsity football team. Led by senior running back Andre Colvin's four touchdowns, the Jr. Bills ran all over the Hawks of Hillsboro, winning 56-14.

The game started off slowly, with both teams having to punt on their first possession.

"First game, there is always first game nerves," said head coach Gary Kornfeld.

But after senior punter Will Komos' 49-yard punt, Hillsboro found themselves pinned on their own 1-yard line, where the Jr. Bills' defense pounced on the Hawks' poor field position. A couple of plays into the Hillsboro's drive, the Hawks' quarterback botched a handoff to his running back, and the ball hit the turf. Junior defensive end Anthony Sansone got to the backfield, scooped up the ball, and ran it 31 yards for a touchdown, giving SLUH a 7-0 lead.

Sansone's fumble return seemed to ignite the Jr. Bills on both sides of the ball. For the rest of the game, SLUH dominated in every aspect.

The next strike came with 1:24 left in the first quarter when Colvin rumbled 45

yards up the middle, scoring to give the Jr. Bills a 14-0 lead.

"I usually start off nervous, but after the first hit I was ready to go," Colvin said.

But SLUH was only getting warmed up.

With about three minutes left in the half, sophomore quarterback Mitch Batschelett kept the ball himself and ran into the end zone from a yard out to increase the lead to three touchdowns.

Less than a minute later, set up by senior defensive back Danny Tarlas' first interception of the year, Batschelett found junior receiver David Jackson for a touchdown. Adding injury to insult, Colvin powered in from four yards right before half to give the Jr. Bills a 35-0 lead.

Due to the large lead, Kornfeld decided to give freshman quarterback Christian Perez his first varsity experience, putting him in the Jr. Bills' first offensive series of the third quarter. Perez ended up playing two series, completing one pass for 13 yards.

"It was a good experience, I did pretty good," Perez said.

"He went in and wasn't fazed by (the situation)," Kornfeld said. "He did a nice job."

The Hawks didn't get on the board until after Colvin had scored his third touchdown of the game and the score was 42-0; after a suc-



photo | Mr. Matt Scituso

Junior defensive end Anthony Sansone runs for the end zone after recovering a fumble at Hillsboro last Friday night.

cessful two-point conversion the score was 42-8. Early in the fourth quarter Batschelett's pass was intercepted, the Hawks returned an interception 65 yards for a touchdown, but failed to convert their second two-point conversion try.

But that's all the Hawks could manage. The defense, led by seniors Brian Edwards,

Spencer Chipley, and Perri Johnson shut the Hawks' offense down, allowing only 8 offensive points in four quarters. Edwards led the way with four tackles and senior defensive end Jack McCarthy added a sack.

"Statistically, this was a team that put up a lot of points last year," Kornfeld said of Hillsboro. "I thought all in

all, (the guys) did a great job of shutting them down."

Colvin and junior Rob Caldwell both added rushing touchdowns late to make the final score 56-14.

Colvin finished the game with 109 yards on 15 carries and four touchdowns. However, Colvin credits his offensive line for his success.

"(Christian) Stewart

blocked his butt off," Colvin said.

The Jr. Bills are off tonight, but will host Vianney next Friday in their first home game of the season. The Grifins routed Francis Howell North in their first game 42-13.

"They're a big power (running) team," Kornfeld said.

O'Connell hired as head coach at Kennedy

photo | Dauphin Yearbook



Bob O'Connell coaches a B-Soccer game last fall. This fall, the O'Connell takes over as head coach of Kennedy High School's varsity soccer team.

BY MARTY JOHNSON
SPORTS EDITOR

At St. Louis U. High, Bob O'Connell wears many different hats: social studies department chair, history teacher, JV basketball coach.

This year, he has added

yet another hat to his collection, only instead of being blue and white, it's green and gold. Instead of coaching SLUH's B-team as he has done the past nine years, O'Connell will be the head coach of Kennedy High School's varsity soccer team.

For several years, O'Connell has been interested in coaching at a varsity level. This June, his opportunity came.

"(Athletic Director Dick) Wehner sent me an email about the opening at Kennedy to see if I would be interested,"

O'Connell said.

O'Connell called Kennedy, got an interview, and shortly after the interview was offered the job. Kennedy Athletic Director Joe Walterbach knew immediately that O'Connell was the kind of person he wanted to lead his soccer program.

"(The biggest thing) is his attitude," Walterbach said over a phone interview. "He pushes the guys hard, but the players all really respect him."

"I like coaching soccer no matter what level it is," O'Connell said.

During the school day, O'Connell will continue to work at SLUH, but leaves after announcements to go to practice.

O'Connell will take over a team that has won its district three of the last five years. This year though, they jumped to class 2 after MSHAA redrew districts. This means that the Celts will face larger teams such as Ladue as well as powerhouse St. Dominic, but O'Connell isn't worried.

"I like the opportunity to try and win something," O'Connell said.

Kennedy senior captain Andrew Rogers believes that O'Connell gives the Celts a great chance to go far.

"I like the level of intensity he brings; it really brings up our game," Rogers said. "He's gonna lead us far."

XC endures bad weather, unusual practices before 1st race

Lafayette will be biggest challenge Saturday

BY KEVIN MURPHY
SPORTS EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High cross country team is looking to "Defend the Tradition" at its first race this Saturday, but are doing so after a week of abnormal training.

"We've been training pretty hard, but this week had been pretty rough," said senior Matthew Hennessey. "We were forced to practice indoors on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week because of rain and heat."

The unusual weather has affected the practice schedule and kept the team from doing its hard workout this week. Instead, runners completed their runs on a Danis Field House loop. This loop is different than their usual second floor loop in the main school building, which went over well with the runners because of the longer distance.

The last workout done by the team was on Saturday, which was a time trial for JV and freshmen, and a fast-finished long run for varsity.

"We were looking for improvement from the alumni race for the guys that ran it,"

said head coach Joe Porter. "For guys that came out after soccer tryouts, that was their first race, so we're trying to get a little bit of experience before we open up on Saturday"

The team faces a challenge this weekend on Saturday, competing against a returning rival from last year's State Championship meet, Lafayette.

"They're returning a lot of their runners from last year," said Hennessey, "but we are as well, so we are hoping to put up a good fight against them."

"Our preparation for the next race has been about getting tough," said junior Joe Butler. "We are aiming in every workout to do better than the last, and we do that by staying healthy and being in the right state of mind."

"For us, the focus is seeing where we are at," said Porter. "We're not turning this into anything more than a starting point for us to learn where we can improve, what are our strengths, what are our weaknesses, and trying to get ourselves ready for later in the season."