

2010 SLUH Water Polo – Varsity Game Recaps

Preseason Outlook

The decline of SLUH's Varsity Water Polo Team has been confirmed: For the first time in the four-year history of the coaches' poll, the Jr. Bills were not voted #1. They were voted #2. The 2010 squad is led by senior tri-captains Dan Goeddel, Rob Golterman, and Daniel Pike. Dan is the team's best two-way player, Rob steps in as the primary defender, and Daniel provides impressive depth at 2-meter.

Additional seniors are goalie Pat Archer, the team's most improved player since last spring, 2-meter Ben Castro, and utility player Dan Schmidt, the most talented and inexperienced player on the roster. Junior 2-meters Michael Hagerty and John Lewis return for their second Varsity seasons, this time as starters, while fellow juniors Nate Burggraf (utility), Jake Chisholm (goalie), Eddie Harris (defender), Joe Kabance (defender), Mitch Kramer (defender), and Bill Luhmann (driver) join Varsity after leading last year's JV team to a spotless 15-0 record. Sophomore 2-meter Sam Erlinger and freshman 2-meter Michael Sigman are present contributors and future stars. After three weeks of mostly encouraging practices, the boys will find out what kind of team they can be, beginning with three games against teams in the top ten of the preseason poll. Compared to the successes of the past few years, a drop-off should be expected. But don't tell that to this team.

Game 1 – March 15, 2010

W (1-0) – 21-5 vs. Ladue

The Jr. Bills opened their season against the Rams, ranked sixth in the preseason coaches' poll and featuring one of the strongest players in the area, Hayden Yancey. And Ladue got on the board first, scoring on a 2-on-1 counterattack 45 seconds into the game. But SLUH responded forcefully, scoring the next nine goals and rolling to an easy victory. In only the first game of the season, each of the Jr. Bills fourteen field players found the score sheet, led by Dan Schmidt's five points (three goals, two assists) and Daniel Pike's four goals. Game highlights consisted of a smart lob from Dan Goeddel, a three-save sequence from Pat Archer, and a left-handed sweep shot from Michael Sigman. Player of the Game Rob Golterman notched eight steals, an assist, and two goals, including his first of many backhand wrist shots.

Game 2 – March 17, 2010

W (2-0) – 17-2 vs. Kirkwood

The Jr. Bills ultimately overwhelmed the shorthanded and ninth-ranked Pioneers, scoring the first eleven goals and cruising to another victory. But not without some struggle; despite missing four starters, Kirkwood's sloughing defense goaded SLUH into twelve turnovers in the first half alone. Still, seven Jr. Bills managed three or more points, led by Sam Erlinger (three goals, four assists) and Dan Goeddel (three goals, three assists). Game highlights included Dan Goeddel's ejection for entering the water by diving in the deep end, an impressively patient pass from Michael Sigman to Nate Burggraf for a tap-in goal, and Player of the Game Mitch Kramer lodging the ball in the netting on a long perimeter shot.

Game 3 – March 19, 2010

W (3-0) – 11-3 vs. Chaminade

Despite their worst performance of the season to date, the Jr. Bills still controlled the fourth-ranked Red Devils. Like Kirkwood two days earlier, Chaminade was missing several key players, including former club teammate Ed Rose. But SLUH struggled to generate any half court offense due to poor spacing and worse passing. However, the Jr. Bills carried the day, due to an effective press defense and counterattack. Dan Goeddel managed two goals and two assists, Dan Schmidt notched four more goals, and Player of the Game Pat Archer posted nine saves and an assist. Game highlights included Chaminade conceding the last two swimoffs and two more 6-on-5 conversions, bringing the team's season totals to eight goals in nine opportunities.

Game 4 – March 23, 2010

W (4-0) – 16-6 vs. Parkway West

After another sluggish first half, the Jr. Bills played their best quarter of the season, overwhelming the Longhorns 8-0 during an eleven-goal outburst that blew the game open. Daniel Pike (four goals, one assist) and John Lewis (three goals, two assists) led the offense, while Dan Goeddel, Rob Golterman, Michael Hagerty, and Mitch Kramer posted four steals each. Game highlights included a beautiful turn and goal by Sam Erlinger to open the second half and Player of the Game Nate Burggraf's assist on the goal of the year, a tic-tac-toe passing sequence which ended with another left-handed tally by Michael Sigman.

Game 5 – March 26, 2010

W (5-0) – 17-2 vs. Conant

At the end of a disjointed week, the Jr. Bills faced a daunting challenge: a five-hour van ride followed by back to back to back games in an all-deep pool. Adding to the challenge was the unexpected absence of backup goalie Jake Chisholm due to illness. But the Jr. Bills met little resistance in the first game, scoring the first seventeen goals of the game before the Cougars managed two late. Player of the Game Dan Goeddel, Sam Erlinger, and Dan Schmidt tallied four points each, while Rob Golterman and Mitch Kramer notched six steals apiece. Game highlights included SLUH scoring eight goals off of nine Conant personal fouls and Schmidt's meager attempt to play goalie during the waning minutes.

Game 6 – March 26, 2010

L (5-1) – 6-8 vs. Mundelein

Over the past three springs, the Jr. Bills amassed a perfect 15-0 record in the Midwest Classic. But this spring, for the first time in its history, SLUH Water Polo lost a game played outside of Missouri. A combination of the Mustangs' intensity and the Jr. Bills' lack thereof led to a 0-3 deficit only three minutes into the game. But Dan Schmidt, Michael Hagerty, and Daniel Pike found the netting to even the score, Hagerty's goal coming on a quick tip off a long pass from Schmidt. Unfortunately, SLUH gave up a goal with only 3 seconds remaining in the first quarter and would never see a tie score again. Repeated turnovers allowed Mundelein to muscle its way to a 7-4 lead after three quarters. The Jr. Bills fought valiantly from there, twice trimming the lead to two goals, but never got over the hump. Representative of the game was SLUH failing to convert a 6-on-4 advantage; indeed, the Jr. Bills scored no goals with the man advantage after scoring at least two in each of this season's previous five games. Sam Erlinger earned Player of the Game honors for his two goals and dogged efforts to play offense during the fourth quarter.

Game 7 – March 26, 2010

W (6-1) – 12-10 vs. York

Though drained physically and mentally, the Jr. Bills jumped on top of the Dukes with two early 6-on-5 goals. When Rob Golterman slipped in a long perimeter shot two minutes before halftime for a three-goal lead, the game seemed in hand. But York hung around, SLUH's defense tired, and the teams traded myriad goals. Golterman's career-high fourth tally with just over two minutes to play again seemed to secure a win. Yet again the Dukes stormed back, tying the score with two goals in only 60 seconds and seizing all of the momentum. But after three consecutive hours of intense water polo, Dan Schmidt apparently had had enough, fighting through a double-team and pounding the ball cross cage for the lead. On the ensuing York possession, Pat Archer redeemed an earlier gift goal, making a remarkable save with his suit out of the water and feeding the counterattack for a John Lewis goal to clinch the victory. While eight players scored points and two more recorded steals, Schmidt and Archer shared the Player of the Game award for their late-game heroics.

Game 8 – March 27, 2010

L (7-1) – 6-1 vs. Lindbergh

After a deserved rest, the Jr. Bills played perhaps their best defensive game of the season in controlling the Flyers. Dan Goeddel, Rob Golterman, Dan Schmidt, Michael Hagerty, and Michael Sigman posted multiple steals, and solid press blocking forced Lindbergh to dump the ball several times. Offensively, SLUH started slowly but improved over the course of the game. Player of the Game Sam Erlinger managed two goals and an assist, including a beautiful turn and goal to begin the second quarter. And goalie Pat Archer returned to form, tallying eight saves while allowing only a single goal. With the win, the Jr. Bills earned a berth in the tournament title game and an opportunity to avenge the previous day's loss to Mundelein.

Game 9 – March 27, 2010

L (7-2) – 6-7 vs. Mundelein

For the fourth consecutive year, the Jr. Bills played in the finals of the Midwest Classic at Schaumburg. But for the first time, SLUH came away empty-handed, falling to Mundelein in a copycat performance of their game during pool play. The Jr. Bills scored a pair of first quarter goals but had no answer for the Mustangs' ball side drives and layout shots. Missed chances, including no conversions of three 6-on-5 opportunities, held the SLUH offense in check, and Mundelein led 7-3 entering the fourth quarter. But the Jr. Bills put together perhaps their best quarter of the season to close out the tournament. John Lewis scored with 4:33 left to give the team life; Player of the Game Dan Goeddel scored with 2:41 left to give the team hope; and Dan Schmidt scored with 1:48 left to give the team reason to believe. SLUH managed a couple chances late, including a backhand by Sam Erlinger with under 20 seconds, but could not find the tying goal. Still, the Jr. Bills got to glimpse their ceiling, dictating play over the final six minutes against a quality opponent, and look forward to playing up to their potential more consistently.

Game 10 – March 30, 2010

W (8-2) – 16-5 vs. Lafayette

The Jr. Bills jumped on top of the Lancers 6-0 after one quarter and cruised to victory. Player of the Game John Lewis, Sam Erlinger, Dan Goeddel, and Daniel Pike tallied at least four points apiece, as SLUH compiled a season-high 32 shots. At the other end, Pat Archer and Jake Chisholm combined for twelve saves to offset a season-high 24 shots against. Game highlights included a smart steal and counterattack goal by Joe Kabance, Michael Hagerty and Dan Schmidt exchanging assists on long cross-goal passes, and impressive patience before finishing by several players. The Jr. Bills converted six of eight 6-on-5's to continue a trend: in eight wins, the team has scored on 26 of 40 man-advantages; in two losses, the team has scored on zero of seven.

Game 11 – April 7, 2010

W (9-2) – 9-5 vs. Parkway Central

The schizophrenia continues. The Jr. Bills came out flat once again. The anemic SLUH offense mustered only three goals in the first half along with nine turnovers and thirteen missed shots, few of them quality chances. And the defensive end was hardly better, as the Colts were allowed to pass and shoot the ball with their strong hands and swim freely to the goal. A Parkway Central tally 50 seconds into the second half put them ahead 5-3. Then the "other" SLUH team showed up. The Jr. Bills began winning 50/50 balls, covering defensively, and finishing counterattacks. When the water finally calmed at the end of the third quarter, the Jr. Bills had put together a 5-0 run and seized control of the game. The fourth quarter featured a dominant performance from goalie Pat Archer, who recorded six impressive saves and handled pressure after most of them. For the second straight game, SLUH allowed a season-high in shots against, 28. For the third time in six games, SLUH trailed at half due to a lack of early-game intensity. But when the Jr. Bills found themselves, they were a juggernaut. John Lewis and Dan Goeddel scored two goals apiece, and Dan Schmidt notched three assists, but Player of the Game Rob Golterman stole the show with three goals, four assists, six steals, and repeated exhortations of his teammates.

Game 12 – April 9, 2010

W (10-2) – 12-8 vs. MICDS

Despite a plethora of JV mistakes, the Jr. Bills controlled the scoreboard throughout against the fourth-ranked Rams. Although the teams combined for 20 goals, neither team scored more than two consecutive, indicating the back-and-forth nature of the game. Sam Erlinger, Michael Hagerty, and Dan Schmidt each notched two goals and one assist, and Dan Goeddel had a hat trick among his four points, but again Rob Golterman earned Player of the Game honors for his five points, two steals, and leadership efforts. Game highlights included the MICDS coaching staff exhausting their game's supply of three timeouts within two minutes of the second quarter, another "man-goal" from Erlinger, and sharp passing from goalie Pat Archer.

Game 13 – April 10, 2010

L (10-3) – 10-11 vs. De Smet Jesuit High (82 game win streak vs. MO teams ends)

On October 15, 2005, Chaminade defeated SLUH 9-4. The Jr. Bills then ran off 82 consecutive victories against teams from Missouri. The streak was bound to end eventually, and today it did. Twice already this season, SLUH started off with some loose defense and had to play catch-up all game. Twice the Jr. Bills stormed back and came close to tying the score in the fourth quarter. But twice the

comeback ultimately fell short, and SLUH lost. Make that three times. The Jr. Bills played lousy counterattack defense during the first half, surrendering five goals during the first quarter and three more during the second. When the Spartans scored with 2:15 remaining in the third quarter to restore their four-goal lead, the outcome seemed decided. But SLUH stormed back, trimming the lead to two with 4:14 left and, after several missed opportunities, one with :26 left. The Jr. Bills regained possession with under 3 seconds remaining, but no miracle occurred, and again the early deficit proved too much to overcome. Still, for the first time all season, SLUH put together four quarters of intensity and hopefully figured some things out for future contests with DeSmet. Dan Goeddel recorded a goal and three assists, Joe Kabance gamely played all 28 minutes and notched five steals, and Pat Archer made several impressive saves. But for the third straight game, Rob Golterman garnered the Player of the Game award, this time for perhaps the most outstanding statistic of the season: In a mostly head-to-head match-up with reigning Player of the Year Matt Stipanovich, Rob outscored Matt 4-0.

Game 14 – April 13, 2010

L (10-4) – 4-7 vs. Parkway North

Another early deficit built on turnovers and poor transition defense, another comeback attempt that trimmed the lead to one in the fourth quarter, another hole too big to climb out of, and now a losing streak. The Jr. Bills spotted the Vikings a 4-0 halftime advantage by repeatedly having the ball stolen from them out on the perimeter. In the second half, better ball protection led to longer possessions, fewer counterattacks against, and quality offensive chances. Goals by Dan Goeddel out of 2-meter, Sam Erlinger off a quick feed from Michael Hagerty, and Hagerty off a corner throw brought the Jr. Bills back. Following a long Parkway North sweep shot, Erlinger scored a second time with 2:37 remaining to again bring SLUH within one. But the Vikings scored on the ensuing possession, and the Jr. Bills could generate no more against their club teammates. Player of the Game Pat Archer kept SLUH in the game early, tallying nine saves in the first half and twelve total.

Game 15 – April 16, 2010

W (11-4) – 11-6 vs. Marquette

The Jr. Bills again improved as the game went on, leading only 5-4 at half but winning going away. Marquette star Jake Miller managed four goals on a staggering twelve shots, but SLUH remained out front due to five of six 6-on-5 conversions. Offensively, Dan Goeddel's four for four shooting performance was upstaged by Player of the Game Sam Erlinger's four goals, three assists, three steals, and two field blocks. Defensive standouts were Joe Kabance, who recorded nine steals, and Pat Archer, who notched nine saves and three assists in his best passing performance of the season. Game highlights included Erlinger's three lobbs and a wraparound, John Lewis's underwater backhand that barred across but not in, and Nate Burggraf's 6-on-5 goal off a 5-2 pass mandated by the coach.

Game 16 – April 17, 2010

L (11-5) – 8-11 vs. Ladue

If you weren't at the game, you still know the story. The Jr. Bills followed their recent trend of starting slowly. And, unfortunately, the hole they dug for themselves proved to be too deep, as they couldn't overcome a mistake-filled game against the Rams. SLUH peppered the goal with shots but couldn't finish, ending with an almost unbelievable 28 misses for the game. A second half push allowed the Jr.

Bills to get back even at 7-7, but a Ram goal on the next possession seemed to deflate the boys, and they could not recover. Player of the Game Joe Kabance led the way defensively with five steals.

Game 17 – April 17, 2010

L (11-6) – 5-8 vs. Stagg

In a throwaway game against a team from outside the area, the Jr. Bills decided to merely play keepaway during the first quarter rather than try to score. The Chargers expressed no frustration and scored two late goals to jump on top. The SLUH coaching staff hoped the emphasis on reducing turnovers would last, but it did not, as the Jr. Bills turned the ball over on their first five possessions of the second quarter. Again SLUH displayed its resilience, coming back from a 6-3 halftime deficit to within one goal in the fourth quarter. But again the Jr. Bills could not get over the hump and lost for the fourth time in five games. Sophomore Michael Savio made his Varsity debut, playing in three quarters, and Player of the Game Michael Hagerty recorded two goals, one assist, and three steals.

Game 18 – April 17, 2010

W (12-6) – 5-8 vs. Oakville

Looking to end the weekend on a positive note, the Jr. Bills changed their defense, running a drop against the Tigers for most of the game. Oakville was content to shoot from the perimeter rather than drive to the goal, but Player of the Game Pat Archer was up to the task, recording fourteen saves and an assist. The outcome was still in doubt early in the fourth quarter, as SLUH led by only one, but two Dan Schmidt goals and a penalty shot drawn and converted by John Lewis allowed the Jr. Bills to win comfortably. Other game highlights included four of five man-up conversions and Michael Savio's first Varsity goal.

Game 19 – April 19, 2010

W (13-6) – 4-2 vs. Stagg

The Jr. Bills seemed to have an easy game ahead of them, and it seemed even easier when the team found out that Patriot sniper Thomas Morgan was out with a shoulder injury. But nothing is coming easy this season. SLUH played passable defense against a limited Parkway South offense but generated very little offense of its own. Top to bottom, the Jr. Bills refused to work hard to protect the ball and attack the goal, which added up to only fifteen shots and a staggering 25 turnovers. Backup goalie Jake Chisholm played the full 28 minutes and earned Player of the Game honors for his seven saves and assist.

Game 20 – April 29, 2010

W (14-6) – 12-9 vs. Marquette

The Jr. Bills solved some problems but discovered others in a win over the Mustangs. Instead of lagging early, SLUH jumped on top 5-2 after the first quarter, and the five goals scored exceeded the output for the previous game in its entirety. Featuring sophomore Sam Erlinger as the primary 2-meter, the Jr. Bills played their best half court offense of the season, scoring eight goals and drawing seven ejections after setting up. Unfortunately, at the defensive end, SLUH could not refrain from fouling on the perimeter. Marquette's shooters took advantage of their uncontested attempts, scoring four goals off of

free throws. Still, the Jr. Bills controlled the scoreboard throughout and managed their third win in a row. Game highlights included two first quarter tallies from John Lewis, a smart feed from Bill Luhmann to Daniel Pike for a goal, and two long scores from Rob Golterman. Golterman and Dan Goeddel notched four points each, but Player of the Game Erlinger recorded six goals, four kickouts drawn, and three steals.

Game 21 – April 30, 2010

W (15-6) – 15-5 vs. Chaminade

The Jr. Bills played one of their best games of the season, overwhelming the seventh-ranked Red Devils. Again Sam Erlinger led the offense, scoring four goals out of 2-meter, and Dan Goeddel contributed a goal and five assists. Player of the Game Rob Golterman posted four steals, three assists, and two goals on two shots. But more important was the example Rob set defensively, consistently applying pressure without fouling and baiting Chaminade into low-percentage shots. Game highlights included goals from ten different players, a "just like we practiced" fake and perimeter shot from Joe Kabance, and John Lewis chasing down a breakaway to force a ball under.

Game 22 – May 1, 2010

W (16-6) – 7-5 vs. Lindbergh

The Jr. Bills played a terrific first quarter and hung on to beat the typically physical Flyers. During the first seven minutes, SLUH drew and converted two kickouts and a penalty shot while shutting out Lindbergh, and Michael Hagerty scored a long skip shot with 1 second remaining to stretch the lead to four. After a scoreless second quarter, the Jr. Bills slowly unraveled, turning the ball over on offense and making a variety of mistakes on defense. But after a Flyer goal with 1:14 left in the game trimmed the lead to one, Rob Golterman drew an ejection and scored off a smart pass from Dan Goeddel to secure the victory. Player of the Game Pat Archer tallied nine saves, two steals, and an assist.

Game 23 – May 1, 2010

W (17-6) – 14-4 vs. MICDS

The Jr. Bills extended their winning streak to a season-high six games against the fourth-ranked Rams. SLUH fell behind 2-0 after 5 minutes but responded with an 8-0 run before halftime, built mainly on three goals and two assists from co-Player of the Game Dan Goeddel. Backup goalie Jake Chisholm was called on early, after starter Pat Archer suffered a cut foot, and responded with three shutout minutes during the crucial stretch. Game highlights included goals from eleven different players, including a long perimeter shot from Nate Burggraf, and a post-to-post two-save sequence by Chisholm. Co-Player of the Game Joe Kabance notched six steals, two assists, and a goal after stealing the ball and swimming the length of the pool.

Game 24 – May 1, 2010

L (17-7) – 7-13 vs. De Smet Jesuit High

For the first time all season, SLUH lost a game without threatening in the fourth quarter. The Spartans started on fire, scoring on their first five possessions, while the Jr. Bills were missing decent shots on the offensive end. Switching from a drop defense to a press, SLUH stormed back to within 7-5 on the

strength of five goals from Player of the Game Dan Goeddel and John Lewis. But with two minutes remaining in the first half, the Jr. Bills failed to convert a three-on-one break, and the tide changed. A tip-in goal at the buzzer stretched DeSmet's lead to three, and two silly fouls outside the 5-meter line gave the Spartans two uncontested goals. Both teams substituted liberally over the last quarter and a half to set the final score.

Game 25 – May 12, 2010

W (18-7) – 10-3 vs. Ladue (State Quarterfinals)

Area coaches voted the Jr. Bills their lowest seed for the Missouri District Tournament since 2004: third. And with the bottom nine teams participating in the second-tier Challenge Cup tournament, SLUH reached the state quarterfinals without playing a game. Sixth-seeded Ladue reached the same point by defeating Parkway West 8-6. The Rams promised to be a dangerous opponent, having upset the Jr. Bills 11-8 less than a month prior. And SLUH was further hampered by the absence of primary 2-meter Sam Erlinger due to flu symptoms. But defense wins, and the Jr. Bills played one of their best defensive games of the season, limiting the Rams to only fifteen shots. Pat Archer notched seven saves and Joe Kabance recorded seven steals, but co-Player of the Game Rob Golterman did the heavy lifting, tolerating Ladue bully Hayden Yancey and posting three steals and two assists. On the offensive end, balanced scoring turned a 2-1 deficit after one quarter into a 4-2 halftime lead and a victory going away. Kabance, Nate Burggraf, Michael Hagerty, and John Lewis tallied three points each, and co-Player of the Game Dan Schmidt dominated the 2-meter position during the second half. The highlight of the game occurred immediately after a SLUH goal was called back due to a "clock error" which was not actually an error. Instead of a 3-2 lead, the score remained tied, and SLUH received possession of the ball and merely 8 seconds left on the shot clock. With four players rotating back to defense, the only two Jr. Bills playing offense ran a pick, and Rob Golterman found Michael Savio for a swimming backhand which surprised everyone in the building and put SLUH ahead to stay. With the win, the Jr. Bills advance to the final four for an astonishing 23rd consecutive season.

Game 26 – May 14, 2010

L (18-8) – 6-9 vs. Parkway North (State Semifinals)

For the second time this season, the Jr. Bills were outplayed by their club teammates and lost to a solid Viking squad. Yes, SLUH missed primary 2-meter Sam Erlinger again due to illness, and at least five times a shot barred down or across without crossing the goal line. But defensive lapses and a lack of offensive awareness ultimately cost the Jr. Bills the game. The Vikings scored two goals off of fouls at the 5-meter line, one goal off of a back-court ejection, and a backbreaking goal off of a restart. And at the other end, SLUH did not begin forcing Parkway North's weaker defenders to guard hole until the second half. Trailing 6-2 with only nine minutes remaining, Rob Golterman scored two goals before the third quarter ended, and Player of the Game Dan Goeddel scored on the first possession of the fourth quarter to trim the deficit to one goal. But on the ensuing restart, the Jr. Bills failed to match up, and the Vikings received a gift goal. With 3:35 left, John Lewis coolly converted a penalty shot drawn by Goeddel to bring the score to 7-6. But that was as close as SLUH would get; Parkway North defended well down the stretch, slipped in a goal with 2:28 left, and scored again in garbage time to set the final score.

Game 27 – May 15, 2010

L (18-9) – 6-10 vs. Parkway North (3rd Place Game)

The Jr. Bills ended a good season with an uninspired effort in losing to the Tigers. Seniors Ben Castro and Daniel Pike responded well to their increased playing time, with Castro notching an assist and Player of the Game Pike scoring four goals on four shots. But everyone else on SLUH combined to score on two out of seventeen shots, not nearly good enough to overcome their lax defense, as Oakville broke through in the third quarter for four goals to break open a tie game. Highlights included a smart switch and field block by Michael Hagerty to shut down a 3-on-2 counterattack and a long bar-out from goalie Jake Chisholm.