

Hrep



News

"If nothing else, value the truth"

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SPECIAL ISSUE

Water polo sinks MICDS for back-to-back championships *Victory marks sixth undefeated season in team history*

Ray Kreienkamp
Reporter

With nearly one minute left Saturday evening in the Missouri District Water Polo Tournament Championship game, head coach Paul Baudendistel called a timeout. The Jr. Bills had the ball, and the lead was securely in their hands. With a pack of cheering fans to their back, the starters, including six seniors, made their final exit from the waters of the St. Peter's Rec-Plex and emerged with wide smiles, hugs, and faces full of joy. These faces confirmed the Jr. Bills had repeated their state championship with an 11-6 victory over the talented MICDS Rams.

Saturday proved to be a magical day for the Jr. Bills, as the Jr. Bills ended their season with an undefeated 25-0 record, their fourth victory during the season over MICDS, and

the 11th state title in school history.

"We played one of our best games of the year," remarked Tom Tandler. "Everyone came ready to play and really stepped up for us."

"We played very well," said Baudendistel, citing again the fact that the Jr. Bills had beaten the Rams for the fourth time in the season.

The Jr. Bills won the title in the same way they had had success during the rest of the season. A solid team effort with contributions all over the pool propelled the Jr. Bills' forward to success.

The Jr. Bills got off to a blistering start, as co-captain Jim Heafner slipped the ball by an unsuspecting MICDS goalie on a splen-

did backhand just 1:40 into the match. The Jr. Bills did not relent on offense, as John Heafner and Tandler scored to make the lead 3-1 after one quarter.

"I knew if we played our game, we would beat them," said Jim Heafner. "So I came pumped up and ready to play. I was definitely more pumped up than nervous."

In the second, the Jr. Bills added goals from John Heafner, Tim Dale, Ray Kreienkamp, and

Jim Heafner but also allowed two goals to MICDS' star player Wes Mellow as time wound down in the second. After two, the Jr. Bills held a commanding 7-3 lead.

At half, the Jr. Bills knew they needed
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Junior Tim Dale hurls a shot against MICDS on Saturday night.

Volleyball lances Lafayette in title game *Championship is team's first since 2003*

Kevin Steitz
Reporter

The St. Louis U. High volleyball team traveled to Vianney last Thursday to attempt to do what SLUH hasn't done since 2003: win a state title in volleyball. An overpowering SLUH student section dominated the Vianney gym as the Jr. Billikens continued to provide the same positive results they have all year. Lafayette turned out to be a worthy state contender throughout the game and forced the Junior Bills to play with passion and skill.

The CYA!bills came out strong in the first game, with important kills coming from junior Anthony Hock. Hock, in the regular

season, broke the single season kill record formerly held by Joe Guntli, '04. The Jr. Bills took the first game with reasonable breathing space, 25-19

The second game proved a little more difficult for the Spikebills, as the Lancers took an early lead. However, long-denied Murphy Troy spearheaded SLUH's counter-attack with multiple digs and kills. Thanks to the late run, the Jr. Bills took the second game 25-21, and were crowned state champs.

Defense played an important role in the playing an important role in the state cham-
see CHAMPS, 2



Murphy Troy fully extends to spike the ball against Lafayette last Thursday.

deciding second game after the Lancers jumped on the Billikens and got an early lead. However, the Statechambills regained the lead with a 6-0 run.

"We played really good defense, we were able to pick lots of balls up so we could get the ball out to our big hitters to put the ball down," said junior Justin Cole, who served a crucial ace in the game's final moments.

Rory Faust and Troy led the team, combining for 10 kills in the critical second game. Also

REPEAT

(from 1)

to score more goals to cement their title. MICDS opened the third by cutting the lead to 7-4, but then Jim Heafner stepped in with two goals, and Mike Sizemore and John Heafner added one each.

The Jr. Bills protected their 11-6 lead en route to a state title. Throughout the game, a major key to the Jr. Bills' success was their fantastic defensive play. The defense, led by captain Kerry Read and Kreienkamp, pestered the Rams with an aggressive press, among other defensive schemes, throughout the game, leaving MICDS with very little room for any quality offense. In the end, MICDS just could not generate enough offense to outscore and defeat the Jr. Bills.

"We knew who their players were," said Read, "and we came out and did a very good job of stopping them."

One of the major keys to the success of the defense was the stellar play of Jason Appelbaum, the Jr. Bills' goalie who had impressed opponents and fans all season with his unbelievable range and anticipation in the net. Appelbaum single-handedly kept the Jr. Bills' lead intact at many points, as he stopped multiple 1-0 drives. He finished with 11 saves.

CHAMPS

(from 1)

championship was school spirit.

"The crowd helped us get pumped up and made us want to win that much more," said Cole.

Overall, it was an impressive win by the determined SLUH volleyball team, and a loss in the finals last year to Vianney made this year's state championship all the sweeter. The new state champions were rewarded with individual medals, and the iconic Missouri-shaped championship trophy.

Congrats Volleyball and H2O; good luck to the rest of Spring Sports!

"Not only did Jason have some incredible saves, he was key in helping our counter-attack because of his great passes," said Jim Heafner.

When time ran out, the Jr. Bills had accomplished a special feat. When the Jr. Bills stepped up to receive their state title, they became the first team in Missouri since 2000 to go undefeated and the first Jr. Bills team since 1996 to accomplish this feat. It was the sixth undefeated record in SLUH Water Polo history (1989, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2007) and only the third time in SLUH history that both the varsity and JV teams went undefeated (1992, 1994, 2007).

Baudendistel cited the work the team put in as being an important part of the success this team had, saying, "The work that this team put in for the last 20 months, not just the last three months, was something extremely impressive, especially for adolescents."

Jim Heafner said, "This has been the most enjoyable team I have ever been a part

of. Not only did we work very well together in the water, we were friends out of the water.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY SIGILLITO



Assistant coach John Penilla, in his last seconds of dryness.

The connections made us more than just a team."

Appelbaum said, "It was just awesome how the whole team came together and worked hard to make (the state title) happen."

Although assistant coach John Penilla had been thrown into the pool after other championships, he said, "It was definitely more special getting thrown into the pool this year (because these were) all guys I really respect. We were all in the pool together (after we had

won) as friends."

Besides the players, two of the best coaches in the area, Baudendistel and Penilla, made the H2Obills' title possible.

Read said, "It wouldn't have happened without them."

Captain Jake Roeckle said, "It just feels awesome to go out as a senior having won a state championship. It was just so cool as a senior to win and feel like you had ownership in something so special."

CELEBRATION!

PHOTO BY MATT SCUITO



A jubilant Jr. Bills volleyball team celebrates its State Championship victory over Lafayette last Thursday night at Vianney.