

SPORTS

Young girls pull through for varsity

by **Adriana Zalloni**
Staff Writer

Heading into today's dual meet vs. Highland Park, the girls' swimming and diving team sports a 2-0 record. Jason Macejack, head coach of the girls' varsity swimming team welcomes back senior swim captains Jessica Hegberg, Maureen Gullen, Beccy Shukman and dive captain Jasmine Ramahi, all of whom expect the girls swim and dive season to be a great one.

"This season, we have a great group of girls who are all working extremely hard. However, we will have some tough meets ahead of us," Gullen said.

Macejack agreed. "We have one of the toughest conferences in the state, with schools like New Trier, Evanston and Glenbrook South. These three schools will place as a team for years to come." Every year, Niles West and Maine South battle to the last event, and Macejack expects nothing less this year as the varsity swims there for Maine South's senior night. West also competes against Highland Park, Niles North and Waukegan, and if all goes well the Wolves will beat all three, according to Macejack.

With last year's captains' sprinter Danielle Schaffrath and sprinter/backstroker Lauren Moy gone, Macejack hopes that some of the younger talent can help fill the holes in the sprinting events. Juniors Emma Gorski and Raquel Marcos and sophomores Lauren Wilkin and Callie Sher may be prime contestants.

The event in which the swimmers are youngest, however, is the 100 breast stroke, with returning sophomore swimmers Jessica Nianick and Jaci Moy. Macejack also hopes to update the record board this season. He mentions that sophomore Alexis Yusim is eyeing both sophomore and varsity records for West's 500 Freestyle.

Gullen will swim the 200 freestyle, hoping to set the school record and qualify for the state meet in November. Ramahi hopes to become one of the top 48 divers in the state and to qualify for the state meet. The other varsity divers are doing fantastic

Ramahi said.

"This year has kicked off to a great start. It was amazing to have all three divers in the top six at our invite," she added.

Macejack also expects great things from the rest of the varsity team, including seniors Sarah Collen, Tamara Klincewicz, juniors Carolyn Masterton, sophomore Holly Norberg and divers junior Amy Heller and sophomore Emily Fung.

Macejack also has team goals outside of breaking school



Junior diver Amy Heller tries to keep her feet together before entering the water.
Photo by Rexly Penaflores

records and performing well in meets. He stresses the importance of staying healthy throughout the season. "We have some girls who are battling shoulder and knee soreness. This is something they have been dealing with since before they came to high school," Macejack said. "Trying to keep them healthy is a big key to their success, as well as the teams." He expects the girls to work hard and deposit time, and to love being part of the team. "If all this happens," Macejack said. "The results will take care of themselves."

The girls' swimming and dive team will compete tonight against New Trier at New Trier.

Boys' cross country team hopes for state

by **Helen Salamanca**
Staff Writer

The boys' cross country team began its season with an overall record of 2-1 (1-0 in the Central Suburban League South).

Head coach Vanchee Loughran is pleased with this year's team. "This year we hope to improve and with our captains and returning members, [we expect them] to continue to lead the team this year [to great success]," Loughran said.

This year's captains include seniors Alex Zasso, Bobby Fahey and junior George Davros.

Zasso and Fahey have high expectations for the team. Zasso leads by example through running 700 miles this summer. "The more you put [into running], the more you get out of it," Zasso mentions. "We plan to make it to state."

According to Loughran, the team placed first for the two mile run at the Ron Campbell and Waukegan invites. Loughran also mentioned that Zasso finished first at both invites, Davros finished second and third respectively and Fahey finished seventh and fourth respectively.

According to Loughran, Zasso is a potential athlete to make it down state. "We anticipate Zasso will fulfil our dream of going down state for the third year in a row," Loughran said.

This season's most challenging competitors are New Trier, Maine South, Evanston and Niles North, according to Loughran.

Additional members of the team include; seniors Jose Rodriguez, Andres Osorio, Aris Theotokatos, Brent Carducci, Christian Dioso; juniors Daniel Friedman, Jorge Quiroz, William Scheurich, Anthony Suarez, Zachary Warso, Bum Su Kim, Michael Bahrmassel, Jimmy Rosati, Matt Miller; sophomores Zachary Koukious, and Lionel Munoz.

The boys' cross country team will compete at the 37th annual Pat Savage invite on Saturday Oct. 4.

Girls' volleyball team stats spike to the top

by **Hira Malik**
Staff Writer

The girls' varsity volleyball team's goal to win the conference and regional tournament rests on the shoulders of several returning seniors.

With an overall record of 13-8 (2-1 Central Suburban League South), head coach Stacy Metoyer is expecting the season to go according to plan. "We have a lot of good hitters, passers, and setters this year. [There is not] any one position [in which] we are really weak," Metoyer said.

Although the season began ominously as the team lost its first game against Lane Tech, Metoyer emphasized the Wolves' success since.

Leading the team this year are senior captains Elise Lee with 107 digs, Jayne Kim with 88 digs and Nicole Rusek with 148 digs. "I plan to lead the team mostly by example and working hard every day at practice," Rusek said.

Lee is optimistic about the team's chances.

"We are doing a lot better this year. Our team chemistry seems to be working well. We want to make history this year," Lee said.

That could be a tall order. Although Metoyer said that she hopes that the team finishes at the top of the conference, she cautioned that "every team we play is good because we have a tough conference."

Junior Jaclyn Gremley (1.41 blocks per game) expressed confidence that the team can reach its goals. "I think this year will come together really well if we work together and play as a team rather than as individuals."

Leading the team with the most kills per game are: Rusek leading with 3.81 kills, junior Lauren LaGioia with 2 kills and Gremley with 1.50 kills.

Other varsity volleyball players include seniors Jackie Rodriguez, Kelly Plach, Alex Heidtke, Janine Wilkin and Devin Kwiecinski; juniors Allie Guiang, Kelly Kleppin, Christine Campo and Jenny DiJohn; and sophomores Olga Kutkovska and Jordyn Toia.

The girls' next game will tonight at Regina Dominican at 6 p.m.

WestWord



Hip hip hurray for instant replay

by **Sarah Espinosa**
Sports Editor

Major League Baseball (MLB) has existed as an association for over 80 years, and it has experienced plenty of moments in which instant replay would have made or broken a team's fortunes if only controversial plays could be reviewed.

From the famous "Jeffrey Maier" incident in 1996 involving the New York Yankees and Baltimore Orioles to the phantom home run at Wrigley Field during this year's Cubs/Sox series, umpires have shown themselves to be fallible in making calls.

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As a result of the controversy over such calls, MLB recently joined the National Football League (NFL), the National Hockey League (NHL), the United States Tennis Association and the National Basketball Association in adding instant replay on a limited basis.

The new replay system may render decisions on a limited range of scenarios: fan interference on home runs; balls hit over the fence that fly close to the foul pole; fly balls that bounce above or below yellow lines designating home runs; and (in Wrigley Field) fly balls that fly into the outfield wall basket and bounce out.

Instituted on August 13, 2008, the new system was first used on Sept. 3, 2008. Third baseman for the New York Yankees, Alex Rodriguez hit a ball over Yankee Stadium's left field fence that, to the naked eye, could have been called fair or foul. According to the third base umpire it was fair. In the past on such a close play, the umpires convened to make a group (and sometimes wrong) decision. In this historic case, instant replay validated the ump's call, and Rodriguez's hit was declared a home run.

I feel that instant replay is a great addition to the game and is long overdue. Some may say that instant replay will cause the game to move even more slowly than it already does. However, A-Rod's disputed homer took 2:15 to resolve, much shorter than the umpire's huddle, followed by the inevitable argument from the manager whose team comes out on the short end of a group umpiring decision. Furthermore, unlike the NFL, the decision is not made by the officials on the field. Rather, similar to the procedure in the NHL, the video is sent to a veteran official

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in New York City, and he makes the determination, further eliminating on field arguments.

The advantages of instant replay far outweigh the disadvantages. For some fans, like me, instant replay will add even more excitement to the game. Those two-five minutes can hold so much suspense and tension for the watcher, not knowing if it will be a favorable call or not. It also can assure a team into the great month of October, or have them say goodbye in September.

Another some fans may lament that baseball is losing its sense of tradition or eliminating the human element. Former ESPN analyst and ex-player Harold Reynolds summarized such sentiments, saying, "I don't like it. Human error is part of the game in my mind. I think it makes people lazy when you have replay. I think it keeps everybody accountable, and it keeps everybody on their toes when you don't have replay."

This may be true, but everyone wants a fair game. The only way to ensure this is to use instant replay. As the White Sox' recent three-elimination-games-in-three-days ordeal proves, one call can change a game, and one game can mean the difference between going to the playoffs and going home. The time has come for instant replay. It is the right thing to do.