

SPORTS

Wolves optimistic despite falling to .500

W **Adriana Zalloni**
World Editor

It was a lost weekend for the boys varsity basketball team, as the Wolves lost back-to-back games last Friday and Saturday.

After Saturday's 70-59 loss against Morgan Park in the North Park University Shootout, the boys varsity basketball team stands at 9-9 (0-4 and sixth in the Central Suburban League South), but team members continue to be optimistic about the end of the season.

"We have had some recent setbacks," junior forward Patrick O'Connor said. "As a team, we are determined to be more disciplined and success will follow."

On Friday, the Wolves lost to New Trier 54-49. The Wolves held a 10-point lead on three different occasions, but the Trevians came back in the fourth quarter to win the game. Tony Pierce led Niles West with 15 points.

On Jan. 16, West beat St. Patrick's 66-65 on senior guard and co-captain Lorenzo Fiol's buzzer-beating three-pointer. Fiol paced the Wolves with 19 points.

On Jan. 9, the Wolves beat Buffalo Grove in a tightly contested battle, eventually prevailing 50-48 in overtime.

"One of our best games was when we defeated Buffalo Grove," head coach Bob Williams said. "We battled the entire

game and executed well at the end of the game under pressure."

Williams stressed that he feels that the team has a chance to do well in the coming games.

"We are working diligently to be the best team that we can be," Williams said. "With the proper focus we can compete with any team in the state."

Senior (F) and co-captain Boris Cayemitte attributes the team's positive attitude to the faith that Williams puts in his players.

"[Coach Williams] is more determined and has a lot of faith and trust in our team," Cayemitte said. "He makes us want to work harder, which helped us improve as a whole."

According to Fiol, the team has a long way to go, but they can make it.

"We have hit some rough patches during the past few weeks but I think we are in the right place to making things a lot better," Fiol said. "Our record still isn't where we want it to be, but these next few games will be a huge test for us. We are playing some of the best teams out there, which is great for us."

Williams hopes to continue on the path that Fiol described as "making things better."

"We hope to continue to improve throughout the season



Boris Cayemitte defends against a New Trier player.
Photo by Sarah Espinosa

to become the best team possible by the end of the season," Williams said.

The Wolves play in the Contest Gym tonight at 7:30 p.m. against Glenbrook South.

Wrestlers take down foes in midseason reversal

W **Rexly Penaflorida II**
Editor in Chief

In his inaugural season at the helm, head wrestling head coach Anthony Genovesi and his team finished the dual meet season with a record of 16-11 (4-1 and second in the Central Suburban League South).

Led by senior co-captains Ben Rosen (112 pounds), Eric Ronning (152) and Michael Bahrmassel (135), the team has battled the injury bug all season. However, with major cogs having returned or on the fast track to recovery, Genovesi expressed his excitement for the postseason, which begins with the Central Suburban League Crossover tonight at North at 6 p.m.

"The number of injuries have decreased, and we have been healthy for the past week or so," he said. "The team is healthy at this point in time which is important for the final stretch of the

season."

Bahrmassel concurred with Genovesi and said that "it was cool to have a full lineup. At least five of our losses this season could have been avoided if we had a full lineup."

Genovesi, Rosen and Bahrmassel all agreed that the best meet of the season so far was the 33-27 victory over Wheeling, which, according to Genovesi has "a great wrestling program."

"We beat Wheeling and that never would have happened without a full lineup," said Rosen, who intimated that the team's record would be much improved without numerous injuries.

All four agreed that hard work was a crucial part of overcoming adversity.

"As a captain, you really have to push your team and we have morning practices and I try to encourage the wrestlers to push themselves during practices," Ronning said.

As for the subject of Genovesi's tutelage, the wrestlers had nothing but praise.

"I didn't know what to expect from him, but I really like him

as a coach and a person," Ronning said.

Rosen and Bahrmassel mentioned that Genovesi has a different coaching style than the team has experienced previously. They said that the practices were varied and relaxed.

"The practices were not routine and [changed] every day. I think laid-back is the best way to put it," Rosen said.

As for the postseason, the three captains look to succeeding at all the tournaments.

"We want to be regional champions and definitely about three to four state qualifiers and maybe some who will place in state," Rosen said.

Genovesi agreed and said that his goal is for the team to be in the top five at conference and in the top four at the regional championship. However, there is still one more event that Genovesi thinks that is important.

"The ultimate goal is for everyone to be a state qualifier or even place in state," he said. "More important, everyone wants to be in the state finals."

Girls basketball team dribbles into state-ranked season

W **Zoe Ljubic**
Editor in Chief

Despite failing in its quest to sweep the season series from New Trier last Friday, the 11th ranked girls varsity basketball team continues to soar with a record of 20-5 (4-2 in the Central Suburban League South).

The Lady Wolves fell behind by 18 points at the start of the third quarter against the Trevians and never recovered, losing 63-47, despite sophomore guard and co-captain Jewell Loyd's career-high 40 points.

In earlier action, the Lady Wolves defeated Maine South (61-51) and Deerfield (68-39) Friday, Jan. 15 and Saturday, Jan. 16.

"On a night when our outside shots were not falling, we

still put up 61 points," head coach Anthony Konsewicz said, regarding the victory over Maine South. "The difference was our willingness to take the ball to the basket creating opportunities to score."

Against Deerfield, the Wolves outscored the Warriors 24-4 at the start of the third quarter.

Konsewicz attributes the team's poise as the key to its success against Deerfield.

"The girls did a great job against pressure, and we were able to find [senior (G) Jennie DiJohn], [who scored] eight big points," he said.

Senior center Michelle Poskrobko did a "nice job cleaning up the boards," he added.

The 62-26 non-conference victory over the Central Suburban League North's Glenbrook North on Jan. 5 pleased Konsewicz as well.

"It was a good chance for our girls to impose their will on

another team, and we did that early," he said. "We controlled the game and dictated the tempo, subsequently giving our whole bench time to play quality minutes against our crossover conference opponent."

The team's strategy?

"The start of the second half we established a goal of communication, and we achieved that goal starting the beginning of the third quarter," senior (G) and co-captain Allie Guiang said.

Senior (G) and co-captain Kelly Kleppin concurred.

"Everybody was talking, which was what we needed to improve our defensive intensity. Every single person contributed something in this game," she said.

Versus the Spartans, Loyd tallied 18 points, supported by Kleppin and fellow senior forward and co-captain Jackie Gremley with 15 and 10, respectively.

The team defeated what Konsewicz called the "vastly improved" Waukegan Bulldogs once again on Jan. 8, 56-36, despite losing Loyd at the outset of the fourth quarter, with a scratched cornea.

Despite the injury, Konsewicz said that he was happy to "see the girls rally around her. We extended the lead and beat [the Bulldogs] by 20 points," he said. "It gave the girls the confidence that if something happens where their lead scorer moves out, that they can continue on and keep playing."

Loyd's injury was not serious, and she played in the next game.

The Wolves brought home another victory on Jan. 9, defeating Lincoln Park 52-50 in a non-conference tilt. The "hostile" environment of the host's small gym didn't stop the team from "playing hard," Konsewicz added.

The Lady Wolves will face off against their last conference rival Glenbrook South this evening in the Contest Gym at 6:00 p.m.

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SPORTS



Activity alternatives to Super Bowl Sunday

w/ **Naomi Prale**
Sports Editor

Not a big fan of football? With the anticipation of the Super Bowl XLIV coming up on Sunday, Feb. 7, some people are just not excited to see the most-watched television program in history. Perhaps you don't want to root for any team other than the Bears. In case the Super Bowl isn't any fun, *West Word* provides a half dozen alternatives as a public service.

1. Watch the Puppy Bowl on Animal Planet

Don't like football? What about dogs? Animal Planet will be showing Puppy Bowl VI on Feb. 7, the afternoon of the Super Bowl. What sounds cuter than watching puppies run around in a model stadium? The puppies are given various toys with which to play, such as chew toys and bones. The puppies are free to tackle, bite and do as they wish. Football terminology is used to illustrate the puppy's behavior and actions. For example when a puppy drags a football shaped toy into the endzone, a "puppy touchdown" is scored. In the event that the puppy has an "accident," a penalty flag is thrown. This comes with commentary, although, sadly, the voice of past Puppy Bowls, legendary Philadelphia Phillies broadcaster Harry Kalas, died last year. Another highlight: the Bissel Kitty Half-Time show, featuring cats who come out to play with a variety of toys at the one hour and 15 minute mark.

2. Rent favorite football movies

Spend the afternoon watching favorite football movies. You can laugh, cry and watch some football all in one afternoon. Film choices include *The Longest Yard*, *We Are Marshall*, *Any Given Sunday* and *The Express*.

3. View past Super Bowl commercials on YouTube™

Some will argue that the best part of the Super Bowl is watching the commercials. Companies prepare their best commercials all year long, and pay billions of dollars to get their commercial aired during the Super Bowl. Why not view some of the greatest past commercials from the Super Bowl, including the granddaddy of them all, the 1984-inspired Macintosh Classic advertisement. Reminisce on past great moments in Super Bowl commercial history, and then when you log back on the next day, YouTube™ will have new commercials from the most recent Super Bowl.

4. Go Out to Dinner

For those wanting to have a nice, sit-down dinner with family or friends, the lines on that Sunday afternoon during the Super Bowl will be short. This is a great time to try out that new restaurant that always seems to be crowded, because on that Sunday, chances are that that restaurant will not be busy are likely.

5. Try Out a New Chili Recipe

Perhaps you still want to have friends over, or are already committed to attending a Super Bowl party, but really don't want to watch the game. While everyone is watching the game, why not try out a new recipe? Chili is great party food that is loved by most. Try out a new chili recipe, and then share it with everyone around the big screen.

6. Have a Foosball Tournament

Have a foosball tournament in the basement. In teams of two, see who can win the most out of ten games. Foosball is as entertaining as football without having to watch the game.

Swimmers and divers persevere

w/ **Kathryn Booker**
Staff Writer

The boys swimming and diving team continues the winter season with a 1-4 record (0-3 CSL South record).

Led by senior swimming captains Ben Rees and Stu Topp and senior diving captains Dylan Lovering and Brendan Melnick, the



Ryan Miller races to finish. Photo by Rexly Penafloida II

team has striven to live up to head coach Dan Vander Jeugd's high hopes for the team this season.

"We have the ability to get the most kids and the most relays down to state than we have ever had," he said.

Among those is junior backstroke Konner Scott has already broken the 200-yard freestyle varsity record.

"Every member of the varsity team has been working his hardest to both overcome these setbacks and improve his times," Scott said.

Vander Jeugd agrees that the team must practice hard for the end-of-season meets.

"Their goal is to improve their goal time for that last meet," he said.

Junior varsity swimmer Elliott Kerbel said that he feels the team has great potential.

"We are training really hard and setting some high goals for this season," he said.

Junior breaststroker Ryan Miller concurs, stating that he has achieved many personal accomplishments this season.

"My times are improving in all my events by a lot," he said.

The diving team has had its fair share of accomplishments as well. At the Bison Invitational at Buffalo Grove High School last Saturday, junior Zach Rothstein finished first place with a score of 333 after 11 dives and senior Ryan Zimmer finished third place with a score of 313 after 11 dives.

Another accomplishment for the team occurred versus Glenbrook South Jan. 15. At the meet, Zimmer finished six dives with a final score of 202.95, making him the only diver on the team who has scored over 200 points after six dives. Lovering came very close to 200 points as well with a score of 199.6.

According to Lovering, the diving team has become increasingly competitive as their scores steadily improve. He said that the best meet for the diving squad was against Glenbrook South Both diving captains acknowledge the dedication of the coaches as a factor of their success.

"Coach Vander Jeugd and coaches Macejak, Schmitt and Torres have all been committed to our improvement," Lovering said.

Team members agree that the coaches have prepared the team well for sectionals.

"He not only designs great practices and follows through with seasonal plans, but he also communicates with the swimmers," Scott said.

Rees agrees.

"He is there bright and early and after school with us, and he knows exactly what to do to make us faster," he said.

According to team members, there have been medical obstacles this season.

"We have experienced a few minor setbacks; a couple swimmers have been dealing with injuries," Scott said.

Kerbel stressed that the team must persevere despite its challenges.

"There are some injuries on the team which may be a slight setback but we are doing our best," he said.

Vander Jeugd expressed optimism that the team will be prepared in its final meet.

"You are just hoping that everything you are doing is right so that they all swim fast at the very end of the year," he said.

The team will face New Trier at home tonight at 5:30.

Gymnastics team breaks longstanding record

w/ **Naomi Prale**
Sports Editor

The girls gymnastics team recently completed a banner regular season, not only finishing the dual meet season with unblemished 6-0 record, but also breaking the school record for points at a meet.

The Wolves captured the Central Suburban League South (CSLS) crown with a 5-0 conference record.

On Jan. 16, scored 142.1 points at the Niles North invitational to break a 32-year-old record.

"This record hasn't been broken since 1978," head coach Pam Forech said. "The previous point score was 140.1."

At the North invitational, junior Katelynn Johnson scored 37.95 for the all-around for first place, and junior Callie Sher followed with 35.2 points. Junior Emily Fung scored 9.2 points on the beam, and senior Nadia Sarnecki scored with 7.9 points. Sarnecki also scored 8.4 on the floor. Sophomore Jenny Marin followed with 8.8 on the floor.



Junior Heather Funai demonstrates poise. Photo by Sarah Espinosa

The gymnasts finished fifth out of 22 teams at last Saturday's West Invitational, garnering 70.1 points. Notable performances include Fung who scored fifth on beam with 9.1 points, Johnson who scored 9.45 on the vault and placed fourth.

On the team's undefeated dual meet season, Fung expressed her excitement.

"This is a great source of pride for me and my team," Fung said.

Sarnecki said that she feels the team has potential to continue even further in the postseason.

"In the beginning of the season our team looked decent, but after we beat New Trier and kept winning, [the wins] gave us strength and desire. At that point, I knew our team had the potential to make it all the way to the state finals meet."

The team competes in the CSLS tournament at 6 p.m. tonight at Glenbrook South's Glenview campus.

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