

Upcoming
Varsity Games

Friday Sept. 30

Boys Soccer @Niles
West

Football @Niles
North

Girls Swimming vs.
Niles West
Girls Volleyball

@McAuley High
School

Saturday, Oct. 1

Boys Golf @
Winnekta Golf
Course

Field Hockey vs.
Loyola

Boys Cross Country
@Leroy Oaks

Girls Swimming vs.
Naperville North

Girls Tennis @Lake
Forest High

Girls Cross Country
@St. James Farm

Football supporters see no decline in sport

Decrease in numbers not due only to concussions, say coaches

by Nora Crumley

Despite evidence of damaging concussions and low enrollment, football and sports enthusiasts see no future impact on the game.

Athletic director Augie Fontanetta noticed the decrease in participation but believes the decrease is not due only to fear of concussions.

"In the suburbs and across the state there has been a decline in football participation," Fontanetta said, "but the decrease is a combination of parent's concern over injury and the reality of specialization in sports.

"Specialization in sports has contributed to less kids playing football. Twenty five years ago if you were a football player and a baseball player you would play football in the fall and baseball in the spring. Now you can take baseball and play it 12 months a year. Football is the only sport where there is not a 12 month continuum for play."

Though there is not one cause of the decrease in enrollment, participation in football at New Trier is down. According to Fontanetta, in 2011, 78 freshman tried out for football, this year only 54. A 35% decrease in five years.

"The numbers are down, but the decrease begins in junior high, it doesn't necessarily begin in high school," Fontanetta said.



Sports collisions can cause brain trauma and are causing some parents to rethink their sons' participation | AP Images

Gordon Montgomery, the president of the Jr Trevian Youth Football organization, disagreed. Montgomery did not notice a trend of decreased enrollment in youth football.

"For example, the sixth graders could have very low numbers one year but the next class there could be more," Montgomery said. "There are no noticeable drops or trends in enrollment."

Since 2005, football and other high-impact sports are in the spotlight for their high risk of traumatic brain injury and how they handle these injuries. This recent concern and caution surrounding concussions comes after Dr. Bennett Omalu discovered Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy or CTE. CTE is a disease of the brain found in many athletes with a history of repetitive brain trauma. CTE was

previously believed only to be found in boxers until Dr. Omalu connected the disease to deceased professional football players. CTE was then later found in former high school and college athletes, according to Boston University studies.

The discovery caused a wave of procedure changes by the NFL, including new return-to-play guidelines, and more brain injury and concussion awareness.

Not only was the NFL forced to address head injury concerns, but youth and high school organizations were also shaken up by the new discovery, creating new safety procedures and campaigns. USA football launched a new concussion awareness initiative called "Heads Up Football," promoting safe techniques.

According to Fontanetta, the IHSA has adopted new procedures for dealing with injury concerning

both returns to the field and the classroom.

"We are very diligent about dealing with injury," Fontanetta said. "We would never let a kid with a torn ACL go out and play, and now it's the same or even heightened concerned with head injuries."

Kelly Trainor, a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Concussion Program Coordinator at Illinois Bone and Joint, also stressed the importance of addressing head injuries.

"One of the most important measures is being able to recognize injuries and immediately remove the injured athlete from play," Trainor said. "Youth who are removed from play because of concern of a concussion should never be allowed to return to play the same day."

The frightening effects of head

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Cubs enter postseason ready to make history

Cubs win their 100th game in best season since 1935

by Connor Josellis

This season, the Cubs are entering the postseason with a vengeance after being eliminated last year. The Cubs have high expectations, and students are getting ready for October baseball.

The Cubs went into Sep. 27 with a record of 100-56. The Cubs were the first team to clinch their division to advance into the postseason. They have 5-2 odds to win the coveted World Series, according to the Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook.

The Cubs are a special team in that they are housed in Wrigley Field, the second oldest stadium, and that they have the longest streak without a championship in all of professional sports.

The Cubs now have their most wins since 1935 and their promising start is all thanks to the new start constructed by President of Baseball Operations, Theo Epstein. He came on board during 2011 after breaking the Red Sox championship drought and utilized the Cubs farm league to create arguably their best team in over 100 years.

Students are sharing the enthusiasm that the north side of Chicago is. Every day it's almost guaranteed to see more than ten Cubs shirts or jerseys throughout the hallways, this reflecting the support

of the Cubs in their monumental year. However, some students are wary of their chances this year, but feel they will definitely win it in the next few years.

Senior, Maggie Desmond said, "I really do hope they make it far, but I'm not getting my hopes up that high because I think they will make the World Series in less than five years, but I think they need a little more practice."

Avid Cubs fan and senior, Daniel Fay shared her sentiment, but had high hopes for this year: "Within the next three years we will definitely win it, this year, I predict, we win the world series in 5 games."

The postseason starts October 4th, with high expectations, but feelings are still raw after last year's trip to the National League Championship Series (NLCS) was cut short by the Mets, after the Mets swept the Cubs in four games.

Reflecting on that loss is senior, Niko Gjaja: "It's gonna depend on the pitching, the reason we lost last year to the Mets, is because they had the best pitching during the championship series."

This looks to change with two of the Cubs pitchers, Kyle Hendricks and Jon Lester are in the running for the NL Cy Young Award, with the two lowest Earned Run Average (ERA) in the league. This is only the beginning of the Cubs depth, their bench players are just as good as their starters and are ready to fill in when called upon.

Some players the Cubs can expect to do well are some of the less known role players. New Trier junior



Fan holds up sign symbolizing the hope for a World Series win. | AP Images

Marty Tatosian said, "Kyle Hendricks is gonna do great, and so are Javier Baez and Addison Russell."

However, those role players aren't even the best the Cubs have to offer. The first and thirds baseman, Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant are two fan favorites that are competing against each other for the National League MVP award.

Kris Bryant is a favorite at New Trier for many reasons said senior Caitlin Chapman, one of them being,

"not only is he an amazing player, but he plays almost as good as he looks."

The Cubs are a team that knows how to have fun, too, with manager Joe Maddon having pajama parties for road trips and inviting the local zoo for bonding and levity.

Combined with the fun playing style and the focused intensity to break the streak and end the curses, the Cubs are a must watch these next couple weeks.