

# the NEW TRIER NEWS



New Trier Field Hockey lost in the State Championship... Varsity Views

## Empty bleachers add to a disappointing playoff loss

Multiple factors contribute to low spirits after final game of the season

by Emily Wong

On Friday, Nov. 4, the football team lost their IHSA regional game against St. Charles East at the Northfield campus with student attendance at an all-time low.

According to student social media, a possible reason for this was the breatherlizer tests at the gates leading into the stadium.

However, Assistant Principal Scott Williams didn't see a connection between the breathalyzer test and the sparse turnout. "Maybe the attendance was less because there were so many students who weren't at school that day because of the Cubs rally," he said. "I can understand how somebody could make that correlation, but I have no knowledge of that."

Regardless of the reason, the difference in attendance was apparent to those who did make it in. Senior Emma Hoholik, a spectator at the game, was disappointed by the lack of energy in the crowd.

"The audience seemed a little downtrodden," she said. "With the amount of people there, the student section wasn't as outgoing as it's been in the past."

The football players were dismayed by the lack of students as well. "We thought that because it was



New Trier fans, filling minimal seats, cheer on the Trevians in the IHSA Regional Final on Nov. 4 | Varsity Views

our last home game it would be the best fan turnout of the year," said senior Chris Notari. "As our team ran out onto the field our hearts sunk looking into the student section and seeing seven fans."

Notari was also discouraged by St. Charles's spirited student section. "The Saints' student section was completely filled, blasting music and yelling chants," he said. "The worst part about it was reading the sign they hung on the fence. It read 'Saints Territory,' and that's exactly what it felt like to our team, like we were playing at their house."

Hoholik also noticed the energy in the opponents' crowd. "The St. Charles student section was super prepared. They definitely had a lot

more people than us," she said.

The team lost the game 17-10, which may or may not have been connected to the lack of attendance that night.

"With the lack of energy and support, our team was not able to recover from turnovers and other big plays," said Notari. "If we had our student section, my teammates and I believe that we would have won that game."

However, junior Jacob Levy, a wide receiver and defensive back, didn't see such a correlation. "We shot ourselves in the foot," he said. "When you practice four days prior, it's hard to make the excuse that it all came down to fan attendance."

Both players believed that this

situation could have been avoided by the school administration. "This whole year students have come to our games without being hassled, but the New Trier administration decided to change all that right before our last home game," said Notari. "They could have sent out an email to the students or made some announcement prior to the game."

Levy agreed. "It's a fair thing to do, but obviously it reduces turnout, which was disappointing to us, especially if the students weren't going to pose a threat to anyone," he said.

Another decision that potentially lowered spectator attendance was the enforcement of a new rule that kids in 8th grade or below had to have

parent supervision while attending the game.

Although many may not think of middle school fans as a critical source of energy for the game, Notari said that the team missed their spirit.

"The players on the team love giving the kids high-fives as we run off the field at the end of the 2nd quarter and onto the field before the start of the 3rd quarter, but that didn't happen," he said. "Because of two new rules that the New Trier administration implemented, we lost fans, support, and energy."

Williams stood by these decisions. "We have the right to create a safe environment for every event, and we wanted to make sure we did that at this event," he said.

Despite the setbacks, the team still played strong in their last game of the season.

"Our defense played the best game we have played our whole year," said Notari. "We had four turnovers and held them to a season low of 17 points."

He attributed the result to a weakness in the team's offense that day. "Our offense struggled," said Notari. "We can't put the blame on them, but in order for a team to win a game like that, we need to excel on both sides of the ball, and that just didn't happen."

Levy was also disappointed with the end to the team's season. "That wasn't how we wanted it to end," he said. "We were a much better team than that."

## Trump elected, contrary to seemingly reliable polls

Unexpected voter turnout has pollsters wondering what happened

by Georgia Caras

Regardless of political affiliation, the unexpected results of last Tuesday's presidential election left the nation with a sense of unanticipated confusion.

AP Political Science teacher Alex Zilka remarked that this was most likely due to polling before the election because, "people very much did not expect Trump to win based on the polls."

Examining some of the most credible names in polling made such a truth evident. A multitude of sources, including Five Thirty Eight and the New York Times, predicted Clinton winning by a landslide.

Five Thirty Eight predicted Clinton's chance of winning was in the 71st percentile, while the New York Times predicted the possibility of Clinton's victory to be in the 85th percentile.

Even the popular sketch comedy series Saturday Night Live predicted a Clinton victory, as they referred to her as "president" in one of the many satires of the presidential debates.

Looking at each state individually gives a clear indication of the unpredicted majority Trump received. Not only did he take home the electoral votes from most

battleground states, including Florida and Ohio, he also took the majority in states that historically vote democratic and were projected to go for Clinton.

In the end, these states, specifically Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, are what determined Trump's victory over Clinton.

Given the unanticipated results of these states, it is easy to question the polling that many of us sought out to determine the probability of our candidate's chances.

However, Zilka said, "Generally polls are pretty accurate. Thinking about the polls in 2012, Obama won in most of the states that he was projected to win in."

The reasoning behind the inaccurate polling remains ambiguous for most.

*"Pollsters across the board underestimated the participation and enthusiasm of a particular set of the voting population for Donald Trump."*

In terms of why he thinks the majority of polls were so mistaken, Zilka said, "Pollsters across the board underestimated the participation and enthusiasm of a particular set of the voting population for Donald Trump. Specifically, this population is



President-elect Donald Trump meets with President Barack Obama on the Thursday after his victory | AP Images

comprised of white, working-class people and whites without a college education. Looking at the data, it seems that that group in particular had overwhelming support for Trump beyond their support for Romney in 2012."

Considering that polls are specifically crafted to represent our nation's demographic as a whole, it seems odd that the majority of polls omitted a good portion of this year's voting population.

"My assumption is that when pollsters were weighting the results of their polls, they minimized the impact of that group in the overall poll. Or, another option is that they didn't reach those people in polling, both of

which are problematic. I suspect that it's actually a combination of the two issues," Zilka said.

In the end, regardless of anticipated results, Trump took home 290 electoral votes, putting him well over both Clinton's 232 votes and the minimum of 270 to win the presidency.

Clinton, however, won the popular vote, by the margin of 48% to Trump's 47%. Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson finished with 3% of the popular vote, while Green Party's Jill Stein finished with 1%.

In addition to the presidential race, Republicans also won control over both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

They will now hold a majority of 51-48 in the senate, and 239-192 in the House. The last time Republicans controlled all parts of the Executive and Legislative branches was in 1928, almost a full century ago.

For Illinois specifically, Democrat Tammy Duckworth beat out Republican incumbent Mark Kirk for one of Illinois' Senate seats, and Democratic incumbent Jan Schakowsky beat out Republican Joan Lasonde to represent the 9th district in the House of Representatives. In a very close race, Democrat Brad Schneider beat out Republican incumbent Bob Dold in the 10th district.