

# Boys, girls golf finish top 10 in state tournaments

Both teams reflect fondly on 2019, hopeful about 2020

by Matt Murray

The boys and girls golf teams both capped their 2019 seasons with top 10 finishes in their state tournaments on Oct. 18 and 19, placing third and eighth respectively.

Although the boys golf team placed in the top three for the first time since 2016, their bronze medal was a bittersweet accomplishment.

After finishing 20-over par between regionals and sectionals, the team finished 35-over par in the two-day state tournament, placing them two strokes behind conference rival Glenbrook North and ten behind newly-minted state champion Lake Forest.

“Our number one goal was to win state, so any time that you don’t reach that number one goal, there is some disappointment,” said Boys Golf Coach Pete Drevline. “Overall, though, I thought that this was a very successful year considering that we won many tournaments and came home with hardware.”

The team’s third place finish at state was a somewhat disappointing ending for what was undoubtedly a dominant season.

After capping off the regular season with a first place finish at the CSL South tournament on Oct. 2, the team found continued success in the postseason by winning regionals

on Oct. 7 and sectionals on Oct. 12, edging out Glenbrook North for first place in both events.

“This is the best season that I’ve had as a golfer at New Trier chemistry-wise with my teammates, golf-wise, and performance-wise, so it was an incredible opportunity to be a part of this team,” said senior Brian Joseph.

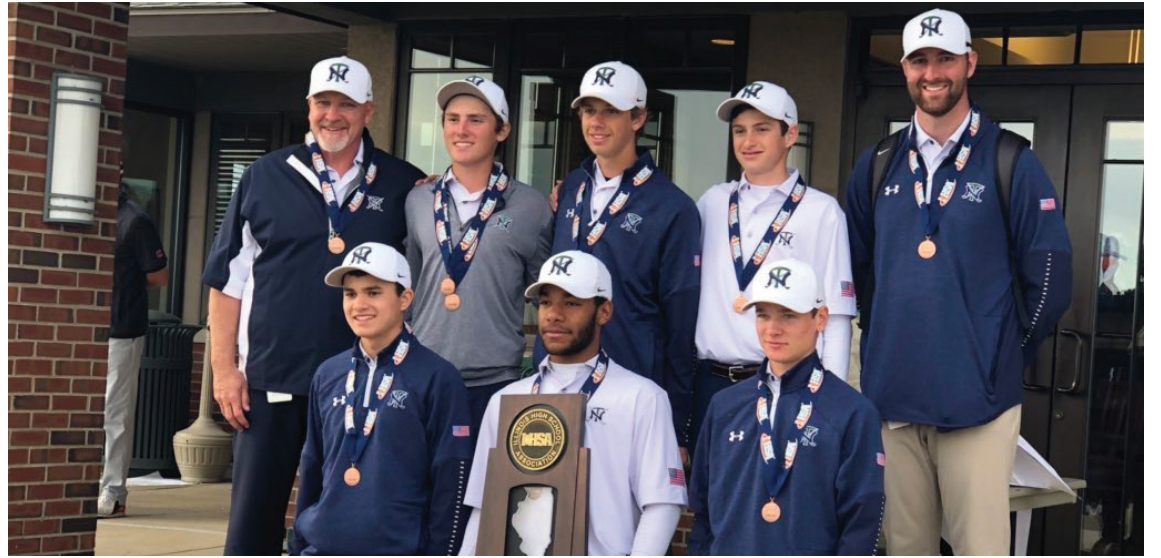
While the team’s play on the course this season proved to be some of the best in their history, Drevline felt that the off-course bond between the players also set a new standard for excellence.

“I’m very proud of the fact that they [the players] played together as a team. The chemistry was outstanding and they’ve been pulling for each other throughout the year, so this is definitely a team that I’ll never forget,” said Drevline.

Despite the fact that the team will enter the new decade without seniors Daniel Tanaka, Sam Weber, Brian Joseph, and Davis Johnson, the team is well-equipped to make another state title run in 2020.

Junior Charlie Creamean will look to build on his ninth place individual finish at state alongside junior Michael Rudnick and sophomore James Pryor, who both became regular starters this season and seem poised for leadership roles in 2020.

“Next year, I think our expectation is the same as it was this year: win state,” said Creamean. “We have a very solid team, and even though we are going to lose



The boys golf team poses with their bronze medals after state on Oct. 19 | New Trier Athletics Twitter

some seniors, I think a lot of people will step up and play well enough to where we will have a chance to win.”

While the boys golf team steamrolled their competition on the way to a bronze medal at state, the girls golf team completed a successful season of their own, finishing undefeated in conference play and winning sectionals by a staggering 20 strokes.

However, unlike the experienced core of players that comprised the boys team, the girls team rattled off victories with a cast of underclassmen.

“Last season, we had a group of seniors who were four year starters and we lost them, so this was a team that lacked experience,” said Girls Golf Coach Scott Fricke. “We [the

coaches] knew that the team was going to look a little differently than last year, but I felt like we had a great season.”

While juniors Audrey Tir and Olivia Siebert were in familiar roles as starters, the players surrounding them were new to the spotlight.

Sophomores Peyton Sichel and Carter Sichel each had just one year of New Trier golf experience entering the season, and the team’s other two starters, junior Elise Parker and freshman Amy Beanblossom, were new to the school’s golf program altogether.

Because of their inexperience, the team struggled on the first day of state, posting a team score of 43 over par, but they rebounded in round two, posting a 12 stroke improvement

behind Tir and Parker’s scores of 79 and 78 respectively.

“I think that the [first day] of state was rough, but I think that we pulled it together and ended up playing one of our best rounds at state on the second day,” said Tir.

With the entirety of the roster expected to return next season, it appears that the girls team could stretch their streak of consecutive top 10 state finishes to 22, and the improvement they showed this season could lead to even greater success in 2020.

“We have every player coming back, so that’s a great sign. I think that they got a lot of experience this year, and all of that experience is going to help them going into next year,” said Fricke.

# Rowing ships up to Boston

Boys place 13th, girls 25th at Head of the Charles

by Connor Caserio

On Oct. 19 and 20, varsity boys and varsity girls rowing both turned out strong performances at the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, MA.

The boys varsity eight rower crew placed 13th in the boys championship, and the girls varsity eight placed 25th in the girls’ championship. While neither crew came close to winning, considering the elite caliber of competition at the regatta, they both rowed well.

“It was a great weekend for racing in Boston,” said varsity boys head coach Nathaniel Kelp-Lenane. “Our varsity eight has been rowing very well this season, and I was happy to see them put out their best piece of the year on the Charles River.”

The regatta marked a tremendous step forward for the boys varsity eight. Their finishing time of 14:57.09 put them near the top of 85 of the world’s most formidable youth crews, and they posted one of the competition’s fastest times from the last time marker on the course to the finish line.

“I left everything I had out there in that eight, and I’m confident that every other guy in that boat did too,” said senior Jack Lightfine.

Despite this strong performance, Lightfine and his teammates went home from the regatta hungry to improve, having finished a mere 8.5 seconds behind 5th place crew Marin from California.

“The only direction we can go from here is forward. This lineup will get faster and stronger, [so] I’m really optimistic,” said Lightfine.

The Trevians also felt they rowed well on the girls’ side of the competition. While the girls’ varsity



The girls varsity eight rowing at the regatta | NT Rowing Twitter

eight placed 25th overall, the all-senior crew’s time of 17:40.23 was 1:35 minutes faster than last year’s 22nd place finish.

“New Trier’s Girls Youth Eight rowed a solid race among a field of 85 crews,” said varsity girls head coach Rose Marchuk. “I am very proud of how aggressively they rowed and to the best of their ability in a field that continues to get faster.”

Because the Trevians’ girls varsity eight is comprised of all seniors, their solid performance at the regatta was especially meaningful.

“It was a senior eight, which was super special because it felt like a culmination of all the years we’ve spent together,” said senior Kelly Hagedorn.

As a result of many of the crews at the regatta being club teams created from larger talent pools, the Trevians’ performance at the regatta is perhaps best understood in comparison with other high school teams. In this regard, Marchuk and Kelp-Lenane felt their crews did an excellent job.

“There were few high schools that ranked higher than New Trier’s 25th place [girls’] finish,” said Marchuk.

Kelp-Lenane added that the Trevians’ boys varsity eight placed 2nd among boys high school crews at

the regatta.

Despite the Trevians’ current strength compared with the other high school teams in the country, both the boys and girls varsity eight crews are committed to improving during the offseason.

“As a team, we will train this winter to compete in sprint races in the spring. Our goal is to become faster and create successful lineups for each category at our race,” said Hagedorn.

The boys’ team is also dedicated to becoming faster this winter, but their training will emphasize gaining muscle in particular.

“Our main goal is to put on some pounds,” said Lightfine. “Heavier lineups are less affected in windy situations, so our focus is to bulk up and put some faster scores on the ergs.”

In the end, both the boys and girls teams hope their efforts will help them realize their main goals: to win the Midwest Rowing Championship and to medal at the Scholastic Rowing National Championship. If the teams continue to improve, these goals will be achievable.

“Both [goals] are within reach. If the girls row to the best of their ability, that is all we can ask,” said Marchuk.

# Field hockey shuts out Glenbrook South

Team advances to state semifinals with 8-0 victory

by Cleo Pool

On Oct. 27, New Trier Field Hockey crushed the Glenbrook South Titans 8-0 in the sectional game. With this win, the team will advance to the state final four on Oct. 27 in Oak Park.

5 of the 8 goals were scored by senior, Kate McLaughlin. As for the best goal, senior Grace Harris noted McLaughlin’s first goal.

“One of the highlights would be the first goal. Kate McLaughlin tipped it in from Amy Griffin’s shot at the top of the circle,” said Harris.

The team as a whole stepped up their game due to the significance of the win. Head Coach Stephanie Nykaza, is proud of how the team performed under the pressure.

“They were great, they were ready to go, they played strong, they were relentless.”

The team’s center back Hillary Cox noticed a great difference in this game from games earlier in the season.

“During this game, we definitely stepped up our play from the last time we played GBS, since the pressure is on leading into the semi finals and state. Our passing and attacking positioning were really good in the game,” said Cox.

The playoff season can be a stressful and intense time for the team. Nykaza saw this weekend, that the girls are ready to take on state.

“At this time in the season, during playoffs, is when all cylinders need to be going, and they need to be working hard and they need to be clicking and they were. I told them

they had to push everything aside and everything has to work,” said Nykaza.

The team has since begun switching gears to focus on state. State is extra competitive for the girls, since in the off season many players from the area practice together on club teams.

“Many of our players play on the same travel teams as their players, so we get extra competitive against people we know,” said Cox.

The girls have had a very successful season. According to MAX Field Hockey, the team is currently ranked 1st in the West/Midwest region and 15th in the country; and senior Kate McLaughlin is currently the 22nd-ranked player in the country.

This season consisted of many impressive wins for the team. Over the season, the girls have gotten first in the Gateway Classic, the Oak Park tournament, and finished 2-1 in the National Field Hockey Tournament.

Harris sees coming in first at the Oak Park tournament as the team’s greatest accomplishment.

“The greatest accomplishment for the team in my opinion would be winning the Oak Park Tournament. This is because we competed against Lake Forest, our biggest rival, in the championship game and we won 3-1,” said Harris.

Harris credits this win to the high energy brought by the team.

“My team was encouraging each other (tons), staying calm throughout the play, and overall trying their hardest to win. From this, I believe we played our best game in the whole season,” continued Harris.

“This team has accomplished more than all my teams over the past 30 years as far as what they have achieved,” said Nykaza.