

Three Stars of the Week

Michael Napoleon, Coach



Napoleon, the head baseball coach, won his 800th career game in a 5-4 victory against Deerfield on Apr. 14

Sydney Parker, Sophomore



Parker, a defender for the girls soccer team, scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win against Loyola in the PepsiCo Showdown on Apr. 24

Niko Gjaja, Junior



Gjaja, a junior setter for the volleyball team, helped NT beat Evanston 25-20, 25-17 on Apr. 9

Ban lifted on tank tops at NTGT&F practice

A petition started by members of the girls team caused the change

by Jasmine Gonzalez

With a liberal dress code and the introduction of areas such as gender neutral bathrooms, New Trier is generally regarded as an accepting school that promotes equality.

However, a recent issue within the girls' track team made some people question just how far that equality stretches.

It's not uncommon to see New Trier students wearing clothing that would get students to most schools sent home or a least in the principal's office.

Many schools across the country are known for implementing dress code rules that are seen as harsh and unfair, especially when they almost always target female students. In that sense, New Trier gives its students more latitude.

That attitude was recently called into question by many members of the Girls Track Team.

The issue was over the fact that the girls on the team were not allowed to wear tank tops to practice. According to various girls on the team, this seemed unfair to them not only because the rule restricted what they could wear, but also because their uniform for competition consists of a fitted tank top.

In addition to that, various girls were also upset over that fact that, according to them, the boys were allowed to run shirtless.

The majority of the girls on

the team were in agreement the rule was both unfair and unnecessary.

According to Natalie Marsh, a junior on the team. "It just seemed illogical to me that our uniforms are tank tops but we couldn't even wear tank tops to practice," she said.

Change began when the girls started voicing their concerns to their coaches, eventually setting up a meeting with head coach Robert Spagnoli to have a proper discussion on the topic. According to Spagnoli, he was happy to sit down and listen to the girls' concerns.

Spagnoli, who is only the second head coach since Girls Track became part of the school's athletics programs in the early 1970s, inherited the policy from the first head coach. To him, the policy seemed reasonable.

"Asking an athlete to wear a t-shirt to practice was always something that was practical and easy for athletes to do," said Spagnoli.

However, as Marsh pointed out, the policy was only enforced on them; it didn't apply to the cross country girls or any other sport. The girls wanted the opportunity to practice in more comfortable clothes, especially as the days began to get warmer.

A runner on the Boys Team, Junior Noah Flanagan, agreed that they should be able to practice in whatever clothes the girls chose.

"I feel like they should be able to at least wear what their uniforms are and they should be able to wear what's most comfortable to run in," he said. In addition to that, he confirmed that the long distance boys had run shirtless before.

The girls decided to start a petition, which eventually got to



athletic director, Randy Oberembt. Tank tops are now worn often in girls track and field practice. According to Oberembt, although he felt that the t-shirt policy was reasonable, he also understood the girls' concerns. | Blickstein

athletic director, Randy Oberembt. According to Oberembt, although he felt that the t-shirt policy was reasonable, he also understood the girls' concerns.

He also made it clear that, although it may have happened, the boys team was not allowed to conduct practice shirtless. Still, Oberembt said he met with two girls and a teacher/adviser and discussed the issue with them.

After taking what was presented to him into consideration, Oberembt decided to change the policy despite the fact that he felt that the existing one was fair.

"I felt the existing policy was reasonable; however, in the interest of equity and maintaining equity in both the track and field programs at New Trier, the policy was changed," said Oberembt.

As for the what will come from

the change, Oberembt hopes that it will have a good impact.

"I'm confident that our efforts to continue to maintain equity and make reasonable decisions regarding our current policies and future policies, is an approach that will yield good results," he said.

"I think that this will lead towards other policy changes in New Trier athletics. With parental involvement, I think that some other unfair policies will be repealed after this precedent," said Woolford.

As of now, the change seems to be having a positive impact. "I'm happy that the rule has changed. I notice people wearing tank tops to practice more so I think everyone is pleased with the increased freedom," said Marsh.

Boys volleyball sneaks past Stevenson



Soph. Joe D'Attomo (middle) celebrates winning a point vs. Evanston earlier this month | Varsity Views

The Trevians hold on for the win because of missed serves

by Tia Rotolo

New Trier Boys Volleyball won against Stevenson with 27-25 and 25-19, setting the tone for the rest of the season.

Stevenson missed eleven serves, allowing New Trier to slide ahead. Kieran Hutchinson, junior and outside hitter for the team, attributes the missed serves to a lack of focus. "Serves are the one part of the match a player has 100% control

over. The only real excuse for missing a serve is because you were going for an ace. The team must have been thinking too hard about the serve or have not been focused enough," Hutchinson said.

Yet, the big winner for the first set was a killpull from junior, Billy Fauntleroy. "It was my first time in that position, so the swing was new to me. I made an error, but my teammates kept me positive. Thanks to great sets from Niko Gjaja and Alec Chang, I was spiking the ball for days," Fauntleroy said.

Stevenson held on to a strong start at beginning of the game, leading 18-13, nearly unheard of for a team with so many players injured. However, they couldn't

hold out for long. "We were down for a while, but we rallied together and won which really showed our dedication," Fauntleroy said.

With the missed serves, Stevenson didn't gain any aces. One of the few times they made a point was the result of an error from New Trier. While the error allowed Stevenson to gain the lead momentarily, Hutchinson believes that an error can't hold the team back collectively.

"Having a next point mentality is crucial. A bad hit should never dictate the rest of your game," Hutchinson said

With the final win of the first set landing New Trier at 27-25, the second set began. The two teams

battled for the majority of the set. It was due to serving errors on Stevenson's part that New Trier was able to gain the lead with a 25-19 win.

"Our whole team contributed a lot. In the second game, we won by six points," Fauntleroy said.

Even with the win, Hutchinson was able to recognize some of the weaknesses they had. "We managed an ugly win with many unforced errors. The lineup was diverse, allowing many people to get in and play. Unfortunately, we never really found a groove," Hutchinson said.

While one of New Trier's greatest strengths is the variety of positions that each player can play, it can also negatively affect the team.

"We have difficulties assigning a player to one position. When game time comes around, we are focused on many positions rather than just one," Fauntleroy said.

With the lack of concrete positions, New Trier makes up for it in height. This year, the team is one of the tallest it's ever been. Height not only contributes to an intimidation factor, but impacts the team's playing as a whole. "Other teams immediately panic when they see us warm up. Our height enables us to block and get kills easier which is extremely important when trying to win a match," Fauntleroy said.

With the added height and versatility, Boys Volleyball was able to beat Stevenson, an infamously good team. "The fact that we beat them shows our future," Fauntleroy said.