

Three Stars of the Week

Max Bengtsson



Took down #1 singles player from Hinsdale Central

Andrew Kost



Threw 5 scoreless innings, picked up 4 Ks to shut out Barrington

Heidi Bianucci



Scored the game-winning goal on a penalty kick in win over Stevenson

Water polo leaves Michigan undefeated

Girls team cruises through tournament with three straight victories

by *Mattea Carberry*

The Girls' Water polo team won all three games in the tournament that took place in Michigan on April 20.

They won the first game 6-3 against Jenison, the second 7-6 against the top-ranked team in Michigan, Grand Ledge. They closed the tournament with a 9-2 win against West Ottawa.

Both the team and Head Coach Matt Wendt thought that the change in competition challenged them for the better.

"It was nice to see and play against some different teams," Wendt acknowledged.

Senior Carly Jennings agreed that the opportunity to play against different teams helped them communicate with each other more efficiently so that they could play a more unified game.

"The team as a whole did a very good job of adapting to the different playing styles of each team after struggling for a short period of time," said Jennings.

Junior Kasey Umlauf mentioned she felt the team played better in some areas during this tournament.

"It was really cool to see how we got into our groove as our games went on, fixing our mistakes and playing better," she said. "I think our passing was better than usual,



Girls Water Polo defeated the top-ranked team in Michigan | **Rodgers**

and [that] opened up a lot of scoring opportunities for us, so that was really cool."

The close bond the team shares has given them what they need so that they are able to work together the most effectively.

"We're really close as a team, and that close relationship allows us to read each other's next moves, and make a good play," said Umlauf.

This strong communication allows them to excel in various areas of the game, most noticeably on defense.

"Our defense is amazing and can shut down almost every team because

we have such great communication," said sophomore Emily McKenzie.

While their defense is strong, there is room to improve on offense as a lack of awareness can be cause for some missed opportunities at times.

"A weakness is awareness. There have been a couple of times when a player on the opposite team has been cherry picking and we didn't go back with them to defend them and they end up scoring off a one on no one," said Jennings.

Wendt agreed that there are components of their offense that could use some improvement.

"Our passing under pressure needs to improve, and defending against drivers has been an Achilles heel," said Wendt.

So far the team has been performing well this season, their strong communication playing a key role.

"We have been playing really well together. We are a very close-knit team which helps us because we all know each other quite well, allowing us to know where everyone is and to run plays efficiently," said Jennings. "The whole team feels like a family of sorts."

In addition to their unity as a team, their range of skill sets and strengths have aided them in their successes as a team.

"We are improving and learning how to play together as a team. We have a lot of depth and if someone is not having their best game, their teammates are there to pick up the slack," said Wendt.

Having only lost to two teams so far this season, the girls are building the strength and confidence they need to work towards getting to state later on.

"I think that we have a great chance of making it to state and a good chance to make it to the state final if we keep on working hard and adjust our offense," said McKenzie.

Other teammates share that hope and feel that some hard work can do a lot to further their success.

"The potential of our team is unbelievable. If we play the best that we can, I sincerely believe that we can put up a fight against, if not beat, any team in the state," said Umlauf.

GLAX success at home extends outside state lines

NT Girls Lacrosse dominates E. Grand Rapids in 13-goal win

by *Millie Winter*

On April 14, Girls Lacrosse took on an out of state team. They came out with a hefty 18-5 win against Michigan's East Grand Rapids High School.

Most of NT's sports teams only play schools within our region during the mid-season time, but girls lax has been playing a handful of teams from out of this area.

"We play out of state teams a lot. This weekend we are traveling to Michigan to play two other teams too. This is for better competition," explained Senior Captain Lucy Murray.

Because of the girls strong season, they seek better competition out of their region. Another added factor to playing out of state teams is that the players don't know what the competition will be like.

"Playing an out of state team is always a fun challenge," said Junior Captain Claudia Shevitz. "East Grand Rapids was our best team game so far, and I think that is because we didn't know much about them so it left no room to get in our own heads and make mistakes."

For the entire game, NTGLAX was winning.

"From the first whistle we competed hard and knew we had to show them how strong we are," said Murray. "I think this game was the first game that our offense finally clicked. We played as a unit and not as individuals. More than half of



Sophomore Izzi King going in for a shot in NTGLAX's game against East Grand Rapids High School | **Rodgers**

our goals were assisted goals," she continued.

Although the offense racked up major points, the defensive line was not to be forgotten in this game.

"Our defense played unreal. They were in both a man and zone D which caused many turnovers. It was a game changer. We capitalized on the other teams turnovers and that made a big difference," explained Murray.

"Our transitions from turnovers were spot on. We never seemed to panic with the ball, we just got the ball up the field as fast as possible," added Senior Madison Smith.

Playing an out of state team emphasized to the girls the need to show them what they are all about.

"We hustled after every ground ball, communicated with each other, and made sure to be poised on the attacking end," explained Junior Mary Burke.

It's safe to say the girls proved they were strong competition even to

an out of state team. They maintained skill and ease in both their defensive and offensive lines.

"We were expecting this team to be a lot better than they were," said Murray.

With only one loss and a tie, the team has had a very successful season thus far.

"We still have a lot of work to do if we want to make it to the end, but I really think this team has so much potential," stated Murray.

Shevitz said that the team is getting better every practice and you can see that on the field.

"Our team is also super close and hangout a lot outside of practice," she said.

There is always room for improvement and the girls are keen on what they need to do to reach their end goal for the season: winning state.

"We still have so much work to do. That includes beating both Loyola and Hinsdale who are our biggest

competition," said Murray. "We are trying to focus on being our best and if we do that I truly believe we will be playing in the state championship on June 1."

"We really want to push ourselves in practices to make sure we're getting everything we can out of them. We also are trying to change the way we approach some of our more difficult games by just clearing our minds and just playing the way we know we can," said Shevitz.

With a bright outlook on the rest of the season, a win against an out of state team really helps improve their game.

"It was so fun and exciting to play a team we weren't familiar with. It gave us a chance to adapt to our opponent and show them what NTGLAX is about," explained Burke.

"The season so far has been a blast. Everyday is a new opportunity to push each other to get better," concluded Smith.