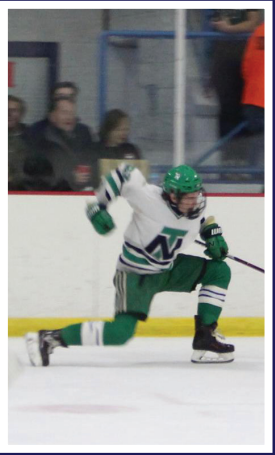


Three stars of the week

Tommy Kempf



New Trier Hockey

Scored two goals vs. Loyola, but one was overturned

Penelope Tir



Victory Views

Finished 4th in state for girls golf

Jack McGranahan



Victory Views

Saved 3 of 4 penalty kicks to win CSL crossover game

# Girls volleyball defeats Evanston going into conference

Win over ETHS fuels team for tough slate of CSL South games

by Millie Winter

New Trier girls volleyball won 25-19 and 25-14 against Evanston on Oct. 9 in a hard fought game.

With conference right around the corner for the girls, this win helped propel them towards the important games coming up. "This win gets us closer to winning conference," said head coach Hannah Hsieh.

As this was the second time around for the team playing ETHS this season, their goal was to improve from their first win. In fact, it is important to the girls for them to improve each time they play a conference team for the second time.

"Our goal is to improve our play each time we see the conference teams the second time, and I felt the girls did that against Evanston, it was a better victory than the first," explained Hsieh.

Senior Maddie McGregor added, "These last few games before playoffs are super crucial to working out last minute kinks." Since the conference games are more important than the ones leading up to it, "we focused on crisping up our game before crunch time," she said.

To perform their best, the girls need to get into the right mindset, especially against a competitor like Evanston.

"We sit in a circle and set out personal and team goals, visualize



NTVB celebrates after beating Evanston for the second time | Victory Views

certain outcomes or plays, and then do our cheer. That hyped everyone up and got them in the mindset to play," said Junior Catherine Flood.

ETHS is known for having strong serves that tend to get them points on the board.

"Leading up to the game we focused on getting them out of their system with our serves. We sharpened up our serves and receiving," explained McGregor.

Although the team did focus on improving their serves for Evanston, McGregor claimed the team "didn't adapt anything major, the main focus was staying mentally strong against a very strong competitor."

Hsieh added, "In volleyball,

anyone can win on any given day."

Although most teams consist of players sitting out on the bench, the girls volleyball team makes sure their bench players still contribute to the game. Whether it be cheering or writing down important plays, everyone is engaged.

Most of the team would agree that the bench players added a much-needed role in the Evanston game.

"When we are able to get everyone contributing to the win on and off the bench, it is a good confidence builder for the team," explained Hsieh. "Our players on the bench did a great job adding to the level of intensity."

With a solid amount of wins

under their belt, it is clear the team is very well rounded. Hsieh said, "All the players off the bench did a great job adding to the level of play."

McGregor continued by saying, "We were able to succeed because everyone got to play and contribute to the win."

While the team played with cohesion and presented as a tight knit team, there were some players who performed especially well during the ETHS game.

"Gillian [Klise] had a good game and made a lot of good blocks," said Flood. "Britt [Soudan] has been working especially hard in practice and it showed with her serves. She went on multiple runs that helped her build our lead and created opportunities on our side of the net," explained McGregor.

With aggression being a key element against Evanston and their increased success in serves, they were able to improve on their second game against the Wildkits.

"We were aggressive with our serving and more accurate with our location, so we were able to keep them out of system for a better part of the game," said Hsieh.

Being able to knock a competitor even slightly off their path, takes intelligence and patience. The girls have mastered Evanston's system and it showed in the outcome of Tuesday's game.

"This win brings our team one step closer to accomplishing two of our goals from the beginning of the season," said McGregor. "Going undefeated and eventually winning conference."

# Wirtz, Esposito sign books for charity in Winnetka

Owner and Hall of Fame goalie support team's foundation, booster club

by Jack Soble

Blackhawks chairman Rocky Wirtz and legend goaltender Tony Esposito made a stop near New Trier last week, holding a book signing at the Maze Home shop on Elm Street in Winnetka.

They were promoting "The Breakaway" by Bryan Smith, a nonfiction story that details the history of the Wirtz family's ownership of the Blackhawks. It spans from Wirtz's grandfather Arthur and his father William to the present day, where Wirtz has helped lead the Blackhawks to three Stanley Cup Championships since he took over after his father's death in 2008.

"Bryan wanted to write a book and he talked to me," said Wirtz, explaining how Smith gained such an insider perspective on the family. "I said that I'd be happy to collaborate with you on the book, under two circumstances. One, it has to be accurate. Two, any money we make off of it has to go to the Chicago Blackhawks foundation."

The second ultimatum is especially important to Wirtz and Esposito. The Blackhawks foundation works with both the team and the community to make sure the former makes a positive impact on the latter.

For example, very often you will see current players and coaches visit area hospitals to "participate in games and interact with children." They have visited, among others, NorthShore University HealthSystem, Lurie



Tony Esposito (left) and Rocky Wirtz (right) sign copies of "The Breakaway" at local Maze Home store | Trovato

Children's hospital, and Ronald McDonald Children's hospital of Loyola University Medical Center, according to their website.

The book signing was hosted by Maze Home, a home supply store in Winnetka, where Wirtz grew up (he attended North Shore Country Day). While all of the book sales go to the Blackhawks foundation, 10 percent of the non-book event sales go to the New Trier Booster club.

"We wanted to work with a local high school and a big hockey program and had enjoyed working with the NT Booster Club for an annual fund raiser, so we thought they'd be a great fit for 'The Breakaway event,'" said Sara Kratz, manager of Maze Home.

The crux of "The Breakaway" deals with the Blackhawks' revival under Wirtz and team president John McDonough, after William Wirtz's death. The team was an annual last-place finisher in the most recent pre-Kane and Toews years, and that was the least of their problems. The elder Wirtz had developed a stingy attitude towards his players and fans, refusing

to even put the home games on TV.

"I think the biggest thing [when I took over the team] was reconnecting with the fans, which are the customers," said Wirtz. "And the players, which are your employees. We had burned so many bridges and if we could reconnect them, I knew we had a fighting chance."

Esposito was one of the former players who the team had to reconnect with. He is a record-setting goalie who entered the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988, and he was at the book signing because he wrote the foreword for the book.

"Rocky Wirtz asked me to [write the foreword], and I agreed because I thought it was an honor to do it. I read the book and it's quite enlightening. It was fun, and I enjoyed doing it," he said.

He wrote in the foreword how thrilled he was to get a call from the Blackhawks to "come back," to join the organization as an ambassador instead of in isolation from the team because he, like many former Hawks, did not leave the organization on

good terms.

"They make it friendly now! When you're done playing, they don't treat you like an afterthought," he said in comparison to their old practices.

Esposito said that the darkest era for the Blackhawks was in the 1990s, when star players like Jeremy Roenick and Steve Larmer left after ownership wasn't inclined to pay them, hence the "Dollar Bill" nickname.

Consistently during that time, about eight thousand people would be in the stadium for games, compared to a normal sell out of 20 thousand today, according to Esposito.

Esposito is also involved in the Blackhawks foundation, as are many former players. "I do whatever they ask me to do," he said. "Like the golf outings, and functions to help kids. And I think that's really important, because then the community gets to know you, the hockey player, as a person."