

The struggle of being a White Sox fan at NT

Sox fans continue to be a minority in the hallways

by Jake Freedman

Most consider the White Sox and Cubs to be the ultimate rivalry, but at New Trier, there is no contest which team has more support.

Sox fans at New Trier feel isolated and sometimes lonely. Junior Jacob Bleiweis said, "It feels like everyone I talk to is a Cubs fan, so it's a big surprise when I find a White Sox fan."

Although there are few Sox fans, the small community has a bond that Cubs fans cannot boast. English teacher Paul Easton, said, "There are a few hardcore, dedicated fans to the White Sox, and outside of New Trier, there are hundreds of thousands of White Sox fans, you run across them everywhere."

Every year, the current staff and retired teachers board a bus down to U.S. Cellular field to take in a White Sox game. According to Easton, the trip ranges from 15-50 people, and the tradition has been going on for more

than 30 years.

The White Sox were founded in 1900, 30 years after the Cubs. The Cubs won the World Series in 1907 and 1908, going back to back, after the White Sox won in 1906, against the Cubs.

Early on titles were coming quickly for both teams, but after the White Sox won in 1917, baseball in Chicago went on one of the longest title droughts ever, finally ending 88 years later when the Sox won the series in 2005.

The Cubs are still looking for their redemption, 107 years later.

The title drought may be why there has been so much excitement about the Cubs over the past year.

"I think that a lot more Cubs fans have appeared recently due to their success," Junior Charlie Keller said "The percentage of Cubs fans and Sox fans is about 90-10, but the percentage of real Sox fans to real Cubs fans is about 50-50."

The success Keller is talking about is the Cubs making the playoffs last year for the first time since 2008 and winning a series, coming two steps away from making the World Series. There were noticeably more



Former White Sox catcher AJ Pierzynski famously fights Cubs catcher Michael Barrett (left) | AP Images

Cubs jerseys seen on opening day than in years past and for good reason.

Junior Tristan Jones said "It's great to be a fan of the best team in baseball" while also saying "Sox fans must feel like they're all alone. Cubs fans dominate New Trier." The amount of excitement north siders show is seen in attendance numbers at Wrigley. According to espn.com,

the Cubs averaged over 36,000 fans a game, good for sixth in the league, while the White Sox get about 22,000, 5th lowest in MLB.

Bleiweis, a self proclaimed avid Sox fan, said "It's hard to be a White Sox fan at New Trier because you feel like every time you say something about them, ten Cubs fans are ready to tell you why the Cubs are better."

While last year was a harsh one for Sox fans, this year is looking much better. Keller said "I'm excited about this year because we have a lot of new additions like Frazier and Lawrie."

Both the Sox and Cubs are off to strong starts, creating excitement on both sides and hope for Sox fans that a rivalry can be restored at what is a Cubs dominated school right now.



The rugby team fights for the ball in one of their games during their spring break trip to Ireland | Kindra

Rugby thrives in Ireland

The Trevs placed high in both of their tournaments

by Caroline Fix

While students traveled to warm places over spring break to relax on the beach, the New Trier Rugby Club took 32 of its 65 players on a pre-season rugby tour in Ireland.

"The trip was amazing and getting to go to a foreign country with some of your best friends and compete at a high level of rugby with other teams was incredible," said Senior captain Charlie Stimson.

"Not only was the rugby fun, but getting to see the country and learn about the culture was also a great experience."

Head coach Leo Sheridan said it was a good opportunity for the team to play with higher competition and in a place where people start playing rugby at a very young age.

Sheridan's brother and fellow coach, Tim Sheridan, added, "It was also the intent to show the players what rugby is really all about, and that it is the friendship and camaraderie that we all share as part of a rugby community."

Leo Sheridan explained the sport as having a continuous 80 minutes of play. "Rugby is a

continuous running offensive game with defensive tackling, comparable to hockey and soccer," he said.

The club left for Ireland on March 17 and returned March 25. The club has gone on trips to North Carolina and Texas a few times, but it has never ventured overseas.

The team's first game was against Clongowes Wood College in Kildare, Ireland on March 19. Clongowes won the game 37-7.

"After the first game we realized we needed to compete at a higher level and play a different kind of rugby than we're used to," Stimson said.

"It was a great learning experience seeing the way they played compared to the competition we had in the states."

Senior captain Peter Sorensen agreed. "After we lost our first match, we were discouraged and thought that the rest of the matches would be the same," he said.

"We learned a lot from the loss and came together as a team so we were able to perform well in the two tournaments."

While the team lost their first game, they were able to tie in the next tournament and win their final tournament.

Tim Sheridan said, ultimately, the boys played with a lot of heart and came a long way by the end of the week.

"At each club the captains exchanged club ties and New Trier presented each team with a

New Trier Rugby Club plaque to display in their clubhouses," said Tim Sheridan. "The home teams hosted New Trier with a meal and conversation, and in one town, even a little bit of song."

Senior captain Lucas Bartzis said, "It's always fun to play a game and have a social with the opponents afterward. In retrospect, I would not trade my experience in Ireland for a vacation elsewhere."

Besides playing rugby, the team also had the opportunity to watch an Irish National rugby team play Scotland in Dublin Stadium.

Captain Joe Lewis said it was entertaining to see professionals play rugby and it was an enjoyable experience.

After returning from Ireland, the club said they are looking forward to their upcoming season.

The rugby club has Tier 1 teams which consist of Tier 1 A and Tier 1 B. Tier 1 is considered the highest level. There is also a Freshman/Sophomore team that has their first game April 6. Tier 1 started April 10.

New Trier is one of the top teams in the state and was undefeated going into the final competition last year.

"I'm extremely excited for this season," Stimson said. "We have a lot of returning seniors and some of us have been playing together for four years. We expect to win the state championship this year."

Girls LAX shines at Ohio tourney

Strong leaders on team has Coach Collins ready for upcoming playoffs

by Daniel Fay

New Trier Girls Lacrosse has started off the season with a 9-2 overall record. Currently, they are 5-0 in conference ranking them at number one in the state and 54th in the nation.

The team has high hopes for the rest of the season on and off the field. "We don't only want to win games, we want to develop as a team and grow as individuals first and then the wins will start to come," said head coach Peter Collins.

The team's top scorer, Junior Katherine Gjertsen, already has an impressive 20 goals to her name, but the team's success can't be attributed to only one player.

Collins said, "We never know who is going to make the defining play of the game. Anyone on the roster could come up big. It is a huge advantage to have such a well rounded team."

When the season was just starting up, Collins insisted that the faces on the team might be new but the work ethic and "never give up" mentality is the same as in past years.

"In my opinion, the successful teams we've had in years past are the ones that play [well] together, never-give-up, and find ways to win," Collins said. "That is what I've seen out of these girls so far and I think that it will really show as the season goes on."

The team's goal is to constantly improve physically and mentally on and off the field.

Their hard work paid off this past weekend when the team came out of the preseason ranked 6th in the Midwest. This has put them on a course to play well into the playoffs.

But Collins remains cautiously optimistic; "It doesn't mean anything until we play in those games. That is when we get to show the hard work we put in and that is when it really counts."

Collins said the leadership on the team is what sets the Trevians apart from their competition. "We have seen girls stepping up without being asked and this is a trait that will help us on the field."

"We have many girls who help keep the team focused when something doesn't go their way. That is one of the great qualities of this group," Collins said.

Although the team hopes to achieve high levels of success on the field, Collins stresses that constantly winning will ensure a state win.

According to Collins, a successful season will include growth, hard work, and never giving up.

The goal is for each player to grow personally, and to bring that back to contribute positively to the team as a whole.

Collins explained that this is only achieved through working hard and never giving up during a game or practice. A player should never quit on themselves or their team.

"It's all about growth, putting in the work, and never quitting. If we can put those pieces together then it will have been a successful season no matter if we are state champs or not. That having been said, we are putting in the work to become better to have it show on the field," said Collins.