

## Three Stars of the Week

**Oona Jung-Beeman, Senior**



Jung-Beeman, a senior, won the 300m hurdles at the Trevian Invite on April 30.

**Ben Brecht, Senior**



Brecht has been dominant on the mound this season and will play at UC-Santa Barbara next season.

**Alicia Bagan, Junior**



Junior Alicia Bagan went 3-4 with two RBIs in a 10-6 win vs. Glenbrook South on April 26.

# Recruits take next step in athletic careers

58 seniors will play collegiate level sports  
by Connor Josellis and Georgia Caras

Among the 1000 students approaching graduation, a select few plan to take their athleticism to the next level and play their respective high school sport in college.

According to athletic director, Randy Oberembt, around 65 athletes go on to play at the collegiate level each year.

Although potential recruits can use sports to “bump up” their application and increase their chances of getting into their reach school, the main reason that these students choose to stick with their sport through college is because of the love they carry for it.

Senior rower Bella Miller said, “Right now, I can’t imagine my life without rowing. I’ve always known that senior year can’t mark the end of my rowing career, and I love it too much to let it go. Collegiate rowing is also so exciting because I’ve come so far already, and I know that it will push me to new levels.”

Senior lacrosse player Tyler Seminetta said, “It’s just a huge part of my life and I wasn’t ready for it to end.”

Due to intense college regulations, the college recruitment process can be hard and complicated. The NCAA has regulations determining the length and frequency of contact between coaches and the athletes.

The process, although it carries the same end result, varies in execution. Some students begin by

emailing the coach of a college in which they are interested, or make accounts on recruiting websites like Hudl or Be Recruited. Sports, like soccer and baseball, have “showcase tournaments” that are held by local colleges.

Junior soccer player, Natalie Laser, committed to USC her sophomore year. She said that she was first recruited after going to the Surf Cup showcase in San Diego with her varsity team.

Coaches from all over attend to find potential stars for their team. The USC coaches asked her to stay in California for another week to attend another camp and soon after invited her on a unofficial visit.

Three weeks later she was going to be a USC Trojan.

Showcases allow the athletes to be seen and recruited by college coaches; although seeming old-fashioned, they are often the best outlet to get recruited. Showcases happen during the summer, and when each school has a camp or a showcase it can be hard to decide which one to go to.

Junior football player Max Rosenthal has been attending showcases and expressed the importance and how difficult it is to decide which to go to: “The coaches work with you in person and so I have to narrow it down to five that I am really interested in and attend their camps.”

However, social media and apps are becoming increasingly popular recruitment devices.

“Social media is a big part of recruiting. Twitter is probably the biggest app for communication because coaches aren’t allowed to text you, so they will DM (direct



Senior Grace Joyce (right) will compete next year at UW-Madison | Dreyfus

message) you,” Rosenthal said.

Rosenthal regularly retweets and tweets at colleges to show interest. He also expressed that you have to be careful, because there are people from colleges that’s job is to follow your social media.

Social media is also a parent-approved way to reach out to a school. NT athletic director Randy Oberembt said he talked to a parent who made her son get social media accounts just to reach out to schools.

The most popular way to reach out to a school and start the recruitment process is to email coaches at schools of interest.

Isabelle Tashima, who will play volleyball at Harvard next year, said, “I started by sending out emails to around 25 schools, introducing myself and sending out my schedule.”

Junior rower Eden Rane also did that: “I sent emails to over twenty schools to cast a wide net and to see which schools and coaches would be potentially interested in me.”

The long recruiting process,

although rewarding, can seem a frightening for those who don’t have experience with it.

Sophomore rower Duncan Healey said, “I’m considering rowing in college, but since I’m the first rower in my family, I have no idea where to even begin.”

Seniors, who can empathize with the difficulty of the process, were more than willing to help out younger athletes and share their advice.

Senior soccer player Bina Saipi said, “Self-advocating is key. Go after what you want and go your hardest every minute you’re on the field.”

Miller said, “Buckle down and train like crazy so that by your junior year, you’re ready to kill it and impress coaches.”

Senior rower John Dolan said, “Make it your goal to get the best grades you can, while also being a good teammate and successful athlete. Overall, though, make sure you really enjoy what you’re doing.”

# Six badminton players advance to state



Ele Scalia serving vs. Prospect at sectionals on Thursday. She is one of six Trevs going to state | Zervas

The girls head to state with only one loss as a team

by Emily Wong

The girls badminton team hosted and won their sectionals match on May 5.

Six teams competed in this tournament of the 23 across the state. The top two singles players and top two doubles teams will go on to compete in the state tournament at Eastern Illinois University May 13-14.

The team has a competitive record this season, having won the majority of their games. In fact, head coach Deborah Ofcky said that their season highlight was winning Featherfest, a 16-team tournament that New Trier hosts each year.

They also won their conference tournament the week before, placing first of nine teams.

“Individually, we all placed pretty high,” Captain Kaylin Steinberg said.

Singles players who will be competing at state are junior Julia Matyas and sophomore Ele Scalia. The first doubles team is made up of seniors Kaylin Steinberg and Natalie Mardoian. The second is made up of seniors Sarah Zhang and Emily Wisner.

Qualifying for state is entirely dependent on placement in the sectionals tournament. “You have to finish either in the top two of the winning bracket or the top two of the consolation bracket,” Steinberg said.

Even though most big tournaments feature only a small portion of the team, most of the season is equally focused on the rest of the athletes.

Junior Caroline Christopher said, “I think a major team goal was to really focus on everyone on the team, not just our top six players. We really pride ourselves on having a ‘deep’ team, and so it was important for us to cater practices to the whole team instead of just our top lineup.”

Since the players can constantly

move up and down in the roster, it’s usually strategic to train all of them equally.

Junior Julia Matyas talked about some players’ improvements over the past couple years, saying, “This season, I have been playing at the #1 rank for singles, where last season I played at #7 overall and #4 at tournaments, and there have also been other players moving up in the ranking as well.”

Although the team has accomplished several victories this season, winning is not their main goal.

According to Ofcky, “We play a very strong schedule and going against the top players every weekend you will face opponents that are just better on occasion.”

“So a loss can happen, but we always take something away from that loss and get better, often beating that same opponent later in the season,” Ofcky said.

The players try not to feel defeated by their losses, instead using them as motivation to play better in the future.

“Usually when we lose, it’s not really about the other team. It’s just that we weren’t playing our best,” Steinberg said.

As the season comes to a close, many players are looking forward to continuing off-season training. The season only lasts from March until May, so many girls play in clubs outside of school over the summer and throughout the rest of the year.

“Otherwise, more mental preparation is needed,” Steinberg said. “Because the season is so short and we want to do the best we can.”

As for graduating seniors, there aren’t too many future opportunities for badminton. While it is played as an Olympic sport and has been since 1972, only 16 US colleges sponsor varsity teams. “[Colleges] don’t have teams usually, but they usually have clubs or some way to get involved,” Steinberg said.

The seniors’ graduation will also have an effect on next year’s team. “I don’t know what I’m going to do without our amazing seniors this year,” Christopher said. “I don’t even know if I want to think about next season.”

As this year’s team is made up of mostly seniors, eight spots will be left when they leave. “It will definitely be a lot of underclassmen,” Christopher said, “which might be a little chaotic but also a ton of fun.”

Despite the changes to come, the team is still looking ambitiously to next season. Ofcky said that her goals for next year are to “continue to be a strong force in the CSL, work hard in the off-season and enjoy the game.”