

Three Stars of the Week

Mark Ashmore



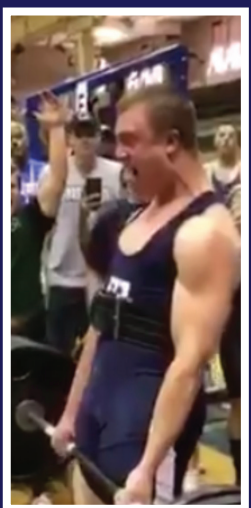
Tipped in title-winning goal for NTG at United Center

Emma Weaver



Named Player of the Game at Parkway College Showcase

Chamberlain Coffee



Won national championship in OKC with a 666 pound deadlift

BACK ON TOP

Watt's performance in net, timely scoring lead NTG to third title in four years

by Jack Soble

The puck was fought for in the left circle, with little chance to reach the net. A raucous student section at the United Center began to count down. Gloves flew into the air, and a dog pile at the net ensued.

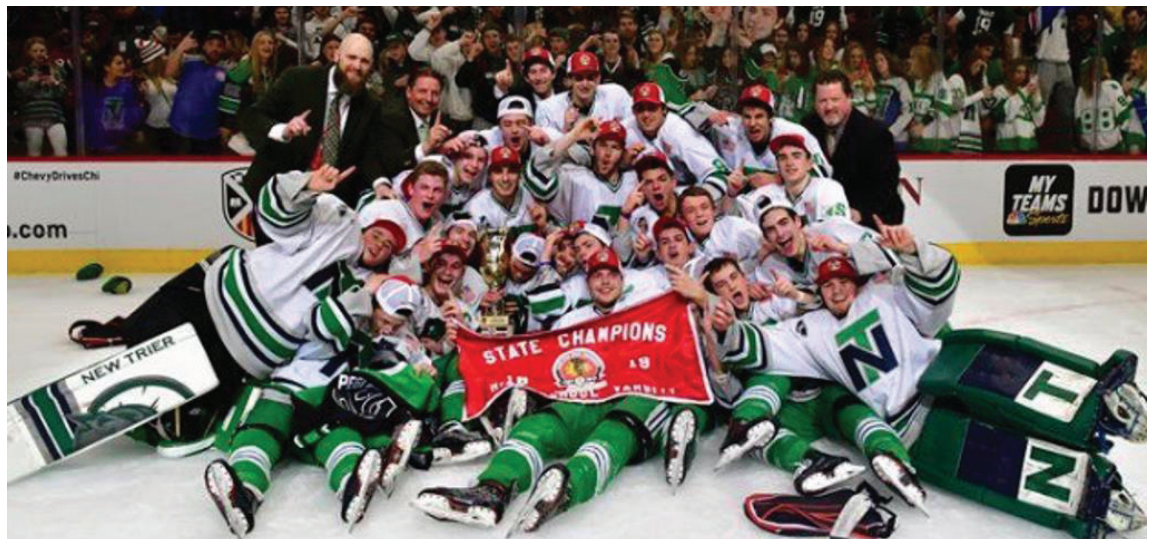
New Trier Green (finishing with a record of 64-4-1) was back on top of the IHSA hockey world, sealing a 2-0 victory over Loyola Gold on Friday, March 22 to win their third state title in the last four seasons.

The Trevians' victory this season was particularly sweet, as it came on the heels of last year's quarterfinal loss to Glenbrook South. Per Pioneer Press, head coach Bob Melton called the defeat in 2018 "unacceptable," as it was his earliest exit from the playoffs in his 21 seasons coaching New Trier.

"Last year, everyone knew we didn't meet expectations for New Trier Green, and that was one of the biggest motivators for our team this year," said senior forward Bobby Soudan, who led the 2019 Trevians with 82 points.

"The returning players had to experience the pain of ending a season short of the goal, and we knew we weren't going to accept anything less than a championship."

Soudan did his part to ensure New Trier's victory, scoring the second goal on a five-on-three power play late in the second period. He received the puck down low on the



New Trier's Green Team takes a celebratory photo after defeating Loyola in the state championship | New Trier Hockey

attacking Trevians' right side, circled behind the faceoff dot, and snapped a quick shot past waiting defenseman Nick Liebers and just over the glove of Loyola goaltender Matt Choate to extend NTG's lead.

"The five-on-three wasn't really a set play," Soudan explained. "We just got into the formation we normally did and moved the puck until something opened up."

New Trier's stars shined bright on Friday Night - both Soudan and senior forward Mark Ashmore, who finished his team-leading 44 goal season with a redirect in front that became the game-winner.

It was made possible by an excellent keep-in by junior defenseman John Kane, who batted down a clear attempt from Loyola with his glove. He settled the puck down, skated past Loyola forward Jacob Gonzalez, and fired a blast towards the net, where Ashmore stood unchecked.

He changed the shot's direction, tipping the puck from what would have been a routine save with the midsection by Choate to the inside edge of the glove-side post, where it hit and deflected into the net.

The game was kept scoreless early by two aspects, the first of which was a tight-checking mentality from both squads, coming to a fever pitch when senior Gavin Randle collided with Loyola forward Aidan Finnegan on an incoming rush late in the first period.

Randle's hip check sent Finnegan flying, and it set the tone for a physical contest.

Second, both goaltenders - Choate and New Trier's Preston Watt - played particularly well.

Watt, a sophomore, stopped multiple point-blank chances early in the game to prevent Loyola from claiming an early lead. He figures to man the crease for NTG for the next two years after a stellar 2018-

19 performance. Watt split time with senior Owen Reger throughout the year, but he eventually claimed the starting job with an astounding 36-2 record.

He stopped 91.7 percent of the shots he faced and allowed a miniscule 1.52 goals a game.

While much of New Trier's motivation came from last season's disappointment, they drew strength from rallying together after the sudden and tragic passing of assistant coach Alex Pegler in October.

During the celebration, they held up his jersey from his time as a New Trier Hockey player, giving it more reverence than they gave the trophy.

"Our team has thrived off our physical play all season, which we can attribute to the motivation that our late coach Alex Pegler inspired," explained Soudan. "They could've had Corey Crawford in net and it wouldn't have made a difference."

Fenwick's comeback leads to Girls Hockey loss at UC

Team brought high energy for repeat effort, but fell short despite early lead

by Millie Winter

On March 22, NT girls hockey took on Fenwick High School in the state championship game and lost by a score of 3-2.

This year's team had a number of strong players. One of them was Senior Maddie Babnik, who was named AHAI (Amateur Hockey Association Illinois) girls hockey player of the year. In the 2019 all-state game, NT girls hockey represented six players on the team.

Suffice to say, the girls were expected to make it as far as state.

The preparation was definitely not focused only on the day of the game, but "we prepared for the game all week by wearing spirit to school," said senior goalie Abby Weizeorick.

Senior Sarah Herd explained, "We had team meals the night before and the morning of our game to further connect as a team and make sure we were all on the same page."

As the warm-ups began, the United Center was packed with fans from NT. The girls continued with their normal routine, but the environment was different than any other game they played in their season.

"The energy was pretty ecstatic. Everybody really wanted to beat Fenwick," explained Weizeorick.

"The atmosphere at the United Center was really exciting and



NT looks to defend their net in front of a packed UC house | Fenwick Twitter

everybody had a lot of energy before the game but did a good job of staying calm," continued Herd.

This energy carried the team through the first period, with NT taking a commanding 2-0 lead.

However, because state is such an outstanding title to claim, Fenwick did not quit, and came back fired up to begin the second period.

"Fenwick then took that energy, gained momentum, and scored right into the first part of the second quarter," explain Babnik.

No matter how equally skilled teams can be, an untimely penalty call can largely change the course of the game. Fenwick's Ellie Kaiser scored to tie the game at two on a penalty shot.

"At this point we were tied and more nervous," said Babnik.

Although the girls kept their

fighting and won't back down," said Herd.

Not only did the Friars come back strong, but they had a certain tactic they used to catch NT's players off guard.

"They throw all of their players at you when you have the puck. This caused us to start rushing and forcing plays," said Herd.

"They really like to battle hard and try to get in our heads," continued Weizeorick.

While a lot of fans showed up to support NTGH, Fenwick had just as big of a fan section, which also helped pump them up when they were losing.

Although they did not claim the state title, the girls did reach their goal of making it back to the United Center.

"The whole experience was really memorable but the highlight was definitely getting to see the Blackhawks' locker room before the game," said Herd.

The girls season came to an end after this game, but even though it was a loss, the environment the girls got to play in was very memorable.

"Our season definitely had its ups and downs, but we had a really successful season together. I'm really proud of this team and this was one of our best seasons yet," said Herd.

Through a long season ending in the opportunity to play in the United Center, there is clearly a lot to be missed at the end of it all.

"I'm going to miss my teammates the most," concluded Herd. "It's crazy to think about how I won't be back with these girls next year."

"Fenwick always plays hard and they're pretty relentless. Even when the game is going our way, they keep