

Three stars of the week

Cassie Fix



Voted player of the girls basketball game against OPRF

Shannon Burgert



Scored a double high gamer in bowling sectionals

Tyler Janczak



Took first in wrestling regionals

Girls Bowling claims third place title at regionals

The girls bowl their way into sectionals for the fifth straight year in a row

by Matt Murray

The girls bowling team advanced to the IHSA sectionals for the fifth consecutive year by virtue of a third place finish in regionals on Feb. 2.

The Trevians made the cut along with Resurrection High School, Niles North, and Evanston, who finished 1st, 2nd, and 4th, respectively. New Trier's pin total of 5,039 was only surpassed by Resurrection's 5,409 and Niles North's 5,164. Despite not having any individual qualifiers for sectionals, the players in New Trier's lineup all excelled.

"It was really a team effort between everyone. Tilly Duffy, Sam Wert, and I knew what we had to do. [Wert] threw her personal best series. Sarah Hughes took her experience from last year and was ready to bowl," said senior captain Holly Fessler.

Fessler was the team's leading scorer with an overall output of 1,054 pins, while her fellow senior captains, Duffy and Wert, were not far behind with 971 and 998 pins respectively.

Hughes, a junior who returned from last season's team, accumulated a series score of 1,038 pins over the six games played, finishing as the team's second-leading scorer behind Fessler.

"We have a lot of solid returners who have been in this situation and know how to win," said head coach David Hjelmgren. "Even though we had [our] ups and downs during the year, I think that [our] experience

helped us."

Although the upperclassmen performed as expected, their secret weapon was freshman Shannon Burgert. Burgert, who came into the season with little experience in bowling, proved to be the final piece to the lineup as she had 978 total pins, which included scores of 193 and 215 in the fourth and fifth games respectively.

"It was up in the air, but we all bowled very strong games, especially [Burgert], who rolled two high games in a row," said Duffy. "Her bowling really helped secure the team a spot at sectionals. I don't think we could have done it without her."

Burgert became the first New Trier freshman to bowl in all six games of regionals, and her score of 215 was the highest single game score of any New Trier player.

Although Burgert exceeded expectations all season, her scoring explosion galvanized the team and instilled a belief that they could qualify for sectionals.

"I definitely think that her bowling pumped everyone up," said Fessler about Burgert. "It was really amazing to watch her and that energy carried into our bowling."

Although the team is making its fifth straight sectionals appearance, their journey to this year's sectionals was much more turbulent than the others. They had just six returning players from last season that went undefeated in conference play, and they entered regionals with a lackluster 6-7 record.

However, their performance at regionals extended their streak of sectional appearances to five, once again putting them on the brink of an appearance in the state finals.

"[Reaching] sectionals is a great accomplishment. We lost a lot



Members of girls bowling huddle together before IHSA sectionals | Rodgers

of great bowlers last year, and to go back to sectionals this year is a great accomplishment," said Hjelmgren.

Despite the new faces this season, the team's philosophy and demeanor has remained largely the same. The team's positive dynamic carried over from last season's squad, which paid dividends in the improvement of the team's newcomers.

"I really started seeing our potential to advance the past few weeks. I noticed rookies picking up spares, moving their targets effectively, getting their balls to hook, and really working to improve," said Duffy. "I realized they were taking this team seriously and were learning and improving faster than most freshman we have who have joined the team in the past."

On Feb. 9 at Poplar Creek Lanes,

the girls bowling team will attempt to do something that has never been done in their history: reach the state final.

After finishing sectionals in fifth place in 2017 and seventh place in 2018, they will look to use their momentum from regionals to end their string of sectional defeats and propel them to their first state finals berth.

"Our team is on a high that is working in our favor. We used our passion, motivation, skills, and teamwork to drive us through regionals," said Burgert. "Those are things that teams need to accomplish during their season and we definitely have."

Despite Brayboy injury, Boys Basketball defeats GBS

Osher behind the line, Boehm in the paint push Trevians past Titans

by Jack Soble

Despite a devastating injury to one of its star players, the Boys Basketball team picked up a win over Glenbrook South on Feb. 1 by a score of 57-45.

6'9" senior Ciaran Brayboy, a Harvard commit, suffered a concussion and had to get 10 stitches after falling head-first onto the court in the third quarter. With their star center out, the rest of the Trevians - specifically seniors Noah Osher, Chuck Sweat, and fellow big man Spencer Boehm - picked up the slack, leading the team to a decisive CSL South victory.

"I think we have a lot of weapons on the court as well as on the bench who are all really good at a few things which makes us deadly as a unit," said Brayboy, whose CT scan revealed that he had no brain damage. The team, led by head coach Scott Fricke, has done a fine job turning weapons into wins. As of Jan. 23, the then-18-3 Trevians (they have won each of their three games since then) were ranked 10th in the Chicago area by Michael O'Brien of the Chicago Sun-Times and eighth by Mike Clark of the Tribune.

"Our chemistry is off the charts right now," said Osher, a three-point marksman who led New Trier with 14 points against GBS. "Offensively, we



Boehm (33) and Silverstein (20) wait between whistles against GBS | Towers

move the ball really well and take a lot of high-percentage shots. No one is selfish and everyone understands their role on the court."

Also among the leading scorers was Boehm, a three-year starter at 6'8" who will be joining Washington University's team next winter, with 13. Sweat had nine off the bench, doing a job that he has done well all season.

"My role coming off the bench is primarily to shoot 3s and hopefully make more than I miss," said Sweat. "The guards do a great job of finding me on the perimeter and Ciaran and Spencer have a good eye for kicking the ball back out."

New Trier shot well in what was a chippy contest on Friday, including Brayboy's injury. Per Winnetka Current sports editor Michael

Wojtychiw, Titans head coach Phil Ralston demanded it.

"New Trier should expect games to be this physical from here on out. As long as I'm head coach," he said. This works well for the Trevians, who feature two giants in their lineup and pride themselves in aggressiveness, especially on the defensive end, as Osher explained.

"Defensively, our size and length causes a lot of trouble for most teams. Sam [Silverstein] and Pete [Burnside] are able to generate a lot of steals and finishing over Spencer and Ciaran at the rim has been difficult for opponents. It's a lot of fun to be a part of."

Although he wasn't among the top scorers against GBS, the 6'5" Silverstein has been a force on both ends this year, using his speed

to slash to the basket with ease. He was named to the all-tournament second team at the Pontiac Holiday tournament, at which New Trier finished fifth.

One week from tonight, New Trier will get another shot at one of the three bumps in the 2018-19 road, and the only CSL South team ranked ahead of them by both the Sun Times and the Tribune. The Evanston Wildkits defeated New Trier 54-46 on Jan. 11, forcing 19 turnovers in the process.

"We need to turn it over much less and be more aggressive against their pressure," said Brayboy. "We also need to transition back to defense more quickly if we do happen to turn it over."

In addition to a well-timed run for the Wildkits in the third quarter, Sweat also recognized that turnovers were the source of NT's demise that night.

"Most of them occurred on wing or post entry passes," he said. "When we make sharp passes, that's when we will start firing on all cylinders."

Evanston is a talented team with a diverse cachet of offensive weapons, and like New Trier, they have serious aspirations for a long postseason run. Last season, in fact, they were the ones to eliminate the Trevians. After a close loss last time, NT is confident that they'll fare better with a second chance.

"If we eliminate turnovers that gave them easy layups, I'm confident that we'll have the upper hand," said Osher. "I couldn't be more excited to get another shot at them and I'm sure our team will be ready."