

Possible State
Playoff Games

Monday,
May 22

Girls Lacrosse
Sectional

Baseball Vs.
Mundelin

Tuesday,
May 23

Girls Soccer
Sectional @
Glenbrook North

Boys Lacrosse
Regional @ New
Trier

Boys Volleyball
Regional @ Maine
South

Wednesday,
May 24

Softball Regional @
Glenbrook North

Boys Volleyball
Regional @ Maine
South

Baseball Regional
@ Kerry Wood
Stadium

School rivalry put aside for greater cause

Varsity lacrosse teams raise money for Misieracordia

by David Heiman

Last Saturday, New Trier played Loyola. While NT lost 7-6, the game was overshadowed by a bigger cause.

At the game, the rivalry was overshadowed by both the New Trier and Loyola lacrosse teams raising money for Misieracordia.

Misieracordia is a non-profit organization that helps adults with developmental disabilities live in a community together. It also helps them get jobs to assimilate them into their communities. The two teams raised a combined \$35,356.

"It was an amazing opportunity to raise money for such an important cause. Each player made a Facebook page with a direct link to where you could donate the money," Handwerker said.

Another lacrosse player, Junior Connor Baldwin, added, "To give such a large amount of money to such a worthy cause that helps so many people was an amazing and enriching experience. It really felt like we were bringing a whole community together.

"The best part was that two teams came together to raise money. We may be rivals on the field, but off the field, we worked as one team to raise money for an amazing cause."

Once the game started, New Trier came in strong. Senior John McCain had 4 goals in the game, and



Despite their recent loss, boys lacrosse is having an overall successful season with a record of 12-4 | Varsity Views

Gavin Randle and Nelson Geachter scored.

Junior Blake Handwerker said, "He played awesome. To see John score 4 goals was just really cool. Sadly, we lost, but the game was an awesome one to play in."

Handwerker continued to say, "It was cold and raining that day but when you're playing Loyola none of that matters."

For the year, the team is 12-4 and the team keeps improving on and off the field as the season continues.

"Our record is good and as the season goes along the chemistry of our team keeps improving. On and

off the field we are gelling as a team at the perfect time," Baldwin said.

Baldwin continued, "At this point, it just feels like playing with my brothers and not my classmates on the field right now. That just shows how far we've come since the beginning of the season, it truly is a special group that we have."

Handwerker continued "When we work as one unit we are really unstoppable. I know that's a very cliché thing to say but it's really true with this team."

While New Trier maintains a winning record, they have also shined in some high profile out of state game.

The team has traveled as far as Detroit and St. Louis for tournaments. The team is also planning on traveling to Indiana over the next couple weeks for a tournament. This year Senior Nelson Geachter leads the team with 33 goals.

"We are hoping to reclaim the state title after we lost last year," said Baldwin. This would continue New Trier's dominance in boys lacrosse over the last 15 years.

"Winning the state title would be an awesome way to send off our seniors and to give us momentum heading into next year," Handwerker said.

Softball team prepares for upcoming playoffs

Despite a challenging season, the team is hopeful for the future

by Ben Morrissey and Charlie Burton

With just a few games left in a challenging regular season, the softball team is gearing up for the playoffs after a sub .500 regular season.

Although their regular season wasn't phenomenal, their record didn't reflect the team's talent, according to head coach John Cadwell, because a lot of their losses came against tough competition.

"It's tough because we play a hard schedule and take some on the chin because of it, but I think the players are better because of it," Cadwell said.

The team had some trouble early in the year, but senior Caroline Kelly thinks that the tough schedule has helped the team out in the long run.

"At the beginning of the season we got stumped when other teams would get ahead of us on the scoreboard. However, these final games we have played in the conference we played better than we have all year."

She credited the mindset of the team that allowed them to steadily improve.

"Progressively, we have gotten more aggressive as a team," Kelly added.

Once the regular season ends, the team will go into a long and challenging series of playoff games. There is a semifinal and a final round for the regionals, sectionals, and super sectionals until the teams that have a chance to compete for a state



New Trier team convenes during their successful game against Niles North, where they won 7-3 | Varsity Views

championship are decided.

256 teams enter the regional tournament but only 4 get to go to state. The games are single elimination.

According to Senior Alicia Bagan, the pressure of the playoffs will only help the team play better.

"As a team we thrive in pressure and I can see us getting excited for the playoffs because of the pressure," Bagan said.

Junior Keeley Utz expressed how well the team is playing right now and believes the team will be difficult to beat in the playoffs.

"At the moment we are in a very good spot. As long as we keep up our energy and have the confidence going into the playoffs we are unstoppable."

According to Cadwell, it is important to make adjustments between playoff games both offensively and defensively to have the best chance to win every game possible.

During practices they work on all

phases of the game including batting drills, pitching drills, fielding drills, and practicing difficult situations.

According to Cadwell, every practice is different and it is important to work on necessary improvements in all phases of the game.

"We juggle different interests to make sure all of our players get what they need to prepare. There are some days where we have to focus on one area more than another. We adapt based on how we were playing going into that practice," he said.

Beyond the practices between each game, the players rely on each other to boost performance and challenge one another in order to get better.

According to Kelly, it is extremely important to motivate others to work on things that they struggle with rather than reinforce things that they are already good at.

"Everyone naturally wants to practice what they are already good at, but to become a stronger player

you need to work on the skills you struggle with." Kelly said.

Cadwell praised how hard the team has worked this season and says that he believes in his team to make the adjustments they need in order to do well for the rest of the season.

"This is a great group of players and they have a great work ethic. I wish we were doing better on the field but this group is motivated to get better and fix those mistakes," Cadwell said.

Bagan said that she is ready for the playoffs because it will be an opportunity to show how hard the team has worked this year and what they can accomplish when they are playing Ibest.

"I'm excited to see how we do in the playoffs because it'll be the test of how much we improved since the start. I can't wait to see us come alive during the playoffs and shock everyone with how great we can be," Bagan said.