

NT adding more seats to bleachers for next school year

Bleachers expected to increase student turnout for games

By Layla Saqibuddin

New Trier will be adding five hundred more seats to the existing bleachers in order to encourage more students to attend games.

“Students in the past may not have come to sports events because they didn’t want to be stuck all the way back towards the balcony area. Having more bleachers will for sure increase fan turnout,” said Green Team Captain Luke Lato.

However, some students believe New Trier should be using the money for clubs and equipment for the school.

“I’ve never been to a game therefore adding bleachers is completely unnecessary. Instead, the school should focus on what we really need like helping clubs and the environment,” said senior Mason Rodriguez who is a member of the Environmental club.

Athletes, on the other hand, believe having more fans encourage the players and make the game more lively. Varsity Junior soccer player, Sean Gooze, said, “As a student-athlete, the more fans present at games, the more exciting the games



Adding 500 seats to the bleachers is expected to make sporting events more inclusive for the whole school | NT

are. Having more room means more fans.”

Athletic Director Augustino Fontanetta believes that bleachers give an opportunity for more students to gather together and cheer on the team. “By increasing space, we feel we are able to get all of our students in one spot. Currently, we have a lot of upperclassmen in the bleachers, but the underclassmen just aren’t there. Additionally, the Pep Band will be into the stands. Now, we can be one big Green team,” he said.

Students believe that the freshmen complete the school, but at times they are not given the opportunity to understand what it means to be a part of Green Team.

“I think freshmen deserve a spot on the bleachers. New Trier gives

them a separate school, separate space, and yet the school wants them to feel more included,” said Mekah Brown.

Freshman Chris Balwa agreed. “By having more bleachers this would allow students to sit instead of having the inconvenience of freshmen standing.”

Assistant Athletic Director and Girls Soccer Head Coach, James Burnside believes gathering everyone together will give students a memorable experience. “By getting all of our fans together this adds to the experience of the players, the fans, rather than having everybody spread out,” he said.

Although, New Trier is one of the biggest schools in the CSL, it has the smallest bleachers in the League.

Kinetic Wellness Teacher and Football Coach Brian Doll, believes that “during the home opener games, we haven’t been able to get all the other students and fans into the stands, so it has been a real concern. Fans may not have come in the past either because they didn’t want to be there, the classes being separated, or even parents of our players not even getting a seat.”

Junior lacrosse player Maggie Samson believes that bleachers only get crowded during football games.

“At football games, more room is necessary, but it’s unnecessary to have more bleachers just for one sport,” she said.

Junior cheerleader Emmanuel Ruiz agreed. “I think more bleachers are unnecessary since most students

mainly come to football games. Sometimes even the bleachers at football games aren’t full. More bleachers could mean empty space. New Trier instead should focus on more programs for students and scholarships,” he said.

New Trier believes more bleachers will give students a memorable high school experience at big events. Not only will this give a better experience to students, but hopefully it will make the entire school feel more connected.

“Fewer bleachers limit student involvement. It would be great to fit everyone. New Trier hosts a lot of tournaments and in order to do that, you want to be able to provide enough space for plenty of fans to make the environment more exciting,” said Advisor Chair and Boys Lacrosse Coach Ted Koulentes.”

Koulentes isn’t worried about empty space in bleachers.

“As the advisor chair, we need to make sure that our students have a good experience at school. The more kids we can get to our games, the better their experiences are and they feel more included. This all contributes to the culture of the school. It’s important for us to support athletes and students who want this experience,” he said.

Controversial calls on and off the field mark an exciting Super Bowl LII

Backup Quarterback leads Eagles to stunning upset over favored Patriots

By Eli Lieberman

Super Bowl LII finished in spectacular fashion with the Philadelphia Eagles upsetting the New England Patriots 41-33.

The game was action-packed with yard and scoring records being crushed through all four quarters. However, as Philadelphians surfed cop cars and climbed motor oil greased street lamps, the rest of the world split into conversations regarding the various controversial and downright strange choices made off the field.

Many viewers were left feeling confused after watching Ram’s commercial set to the soundtrack of a Martin Luther King speech.

Although it is true the King family gave full permission for the speech to be used (and were given monetary compensation), a quick Google search will reveal these lines from later on in the speech, “Now the presence of this instinct explains why we are so often taken by advertisers.” said King in 1968, “In order to make your neighbors envious, you must drive this type of car...and you know, before you know it, you’re just buying that stuff. That’s the way the advertisers do it.”

Reactions to the commercial ranged from amused to infuriated, but we can all agree Ram’s advertising team could have at least read the rest of the speech before choosing this one.

Another Twitter storm emerging from the game surrounded the halftime tribute to the late music legend, Prince. Prince Rogers Nelson, born in the Super Bowl’s host city of Minneapolis, died last April.

As Justin Timberlake stopped his tightly choreographed dance to sit down at a white grand piano, behind



Zach Ertz scores game winning touchdown in Super Bowl LII | AP Images

him a projection of Prince danced and sang “I Would Die 4 U”.

Prior to his death, Prince notably spoke about his distaste for virtual representation of dead artists performing. Just days before the game Justin Timberlake had promised to not perform with a hologram of Prince, but this seemed awfully similar.

The tribute’s finale was an aerial view of Prince’s hometown of Minneapolis turning his iconic purple. It was an incredible sight.

Shockingly, there was a clearly worse hologram on display during Super Bowl LII. Hardly recognizable computer generated images of several players were featured prominently next to game stats during the broadcast.

In case you missed it, a particularly bad image of a fifty foot tall Tom Brady looked straight out of Madden 08’. Remember NBC, just because you can doesn’t mean you should. It seems like it would have been easier and less embarrassing to use a more accurate representation of the athletes- maybe, well, a picture.

Apart from the mishaps, the Super Bowl had some really great moments that will not be soon forgotten.

After starting the season as a backup quarterback, Nick Foles led his team to three straight underdog wins, culminating in his upset of five

time champion, Tom Brady.

Possibly an even bigger upset was the win Eagle fans had over both gravity and tons of motor oil as they scaled lampposts and telephone poles throughout their city.

While hit or miss, a few great Super Bowl ads arose out of the chaos. The world was privileged to not only Peter Dinklage convincingly lip syncing Busta Rhymes’ “Look at Me Now,” the verse we all tried and failed to rap as eleven year olds, but also Morgan Freeman killing Missy Elliot’s “Get Your Freak On.” Name a better duo, you can’t (please under no circumstance drink Mountain Dew Ice, I have serious doubts it’s FDA approved and there is a significant chance it’s just antifreeze).

Later in the night Odell Beckham and Eli Manning aced a rendition of the signature dance from “Dirty Dancing”, as millennials everywhere thought, “oh yeah, that’s from the movie with the dancing.”

Maybe the most memorable commercial slot of the night was the accidental thirty second black out. Super Bowl ads average around five million each, and this slip up ended up costing someone a ton of money.

The quality of entertainment, drama, and production on and off the field reminded us once again why it’s the most watched television event in the world.

Weekly Questions with Captain Connor Baldwin

First edition of our weekly interviews with a member of a varsity sports team

By David Heiman

This interview is with Connor Baldwin. Connor is a senior captain for New Trier Green hockey.

Q: How long have you been playing hockey?

A: I’ve been playing since I was three years old. My mom got me into skating so I could skate at birthday parties. Ironically, I’ve never been to a skating birthday party.

Q: Did you immediately feel a connection to hockey or did other sports occupy your time at first?

A: I grew up playing soccer and baseball, but I’ve always liked hockey the most.

Q: What age did you start playing competitive hockey?

A: I started playing at age 5, playing A-2. Then I played mite-2 and then mite-1.

Q: What’s it like to be a part of a New Trier team that has such a rich legacy of winning state titles and consistently being one of the top teams in the state?

A: You know it’s an honor and privilege to be able to carry on the legacy of the team. The teams have always been fun to play on and the guys always seem to come together and create a brotherhood.

Q: What’s it like to be a captain of the team and how did you get that honor?

A: Being captain has its challenges but it’s a great responsibility to lead a team to a state championship. The team voted for captains and Costa and I were lucky enough to be nominated. The alternates are Gavin Randle, John Robinson, and Hayden Wieczorek.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges that face the team this year?

A: A lot of different teams fed in this year so the team has had some rough times jelling this year. It’s really been a challenge to get the team to play well together but as of late we have really clicked and started to play to our potential.

Q: What are the ultimate goals of the team this year?

A: We want to work better as a team and to win the state championship for the third straight year, which is an obvious goal.



If you would like to be considered for athlete of the week, please send an email to ntnews@nth.s.net and include your name, sport, and grade level