

Low temperatures cancel competitions, fill fieldhouse

Cold weather wreaks havoc for spring sports schedules

by Millie Winter

This spring, the long lasting cold weather has made scheduling practices and games difficult, as there is limited space and limited time for the teams to play.

Players, coaches, and the athletic department have had to be flexible with the cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain through March and April.

Junior Madison Smith, a varsity lacrosse player, said, "It's freezing, I am always having to bundle up for games and practices. I wear gloves, hats, and pants to try to stay warm."

Players are having to bundle up to keep warm during practices and games.

Josie Crumley said her JV soccer team had to, "play an hour away and it was snowing."

While the weather has been far from ideal, rescheduling cancelled games has been even more of a problem.

Jim Burnside, the assistant athletic director, said, "It has been a challenge, but the coaches really work with me."

The challenge is being able to fit all teams somewhere and with equal time. When it comes to deciding what team gets certain fields or locations,



Coaches work together to find space for all the spring teams to practice, giving priority to varsity teams | Shoup

Burnside said, "Generally varsity teams get priority and then we fill in."

Another factor is, "The priority of competition of varsity teams first and then practice falls in after that." Whichever varsity is playing a more important game (conference) than the other, gets to be the best field.

The teams themselves get to decide what the field looks like, meaning, if they want their own field or are okay sharing one. "They have the freedom to decide if they want to have two times at one time on a field." Augie Fontanetta, the athletic director, said.

Since the weather conditions (snow and rain), have made the grass fields almost impossible to play on, a lot of times the only way for teams to get practice time is combining fields. "Having to run in the mud makes practicing a lot more difficult, and ends up just ruining the field conditions even more," Crumley said.

Rebecca Goldman, a varsity track runner, explained, "We have had to run in freezing weather, and when it gets really bad, we run in the field house, which is always cramped."

Fontanetta claimed, "Most varsity teams have been allowing

other teams to join on their fields because the grass fields have been so bad."

Practices locations are being rearranged constantly due to the weather. But, game cancellations are happening more often than ever.

"We have had at least 3 meets cancelled so far this season," Goldman said.

Smith explained, "Our team hasn't gotten to play as many games as we would like to, we have had 5 games cancelled."

The current problem is that now teams have 4-5 games a week. On

Saturdays, some teams are playing back to back games, too.

For baseball and softball, Fontanetta explained, "With a lot of non-conference and conference games cancelled, we have to lose some of the non-conference games with conference games as a higher priority game."

He continued by saying, "The teams are playing almost every day because they are trying to get in as many games as they can."

Usually during spring sport season, the cancellations tend to be from storms, but recently it has become cancelling game for snow and generally freezing weather.

"When we got turf we solved the problem of avoiding bad weather conditions like rain and snow, but the cold weather in the 30's has taken the advantages of turf as not relevant," said Smith.

All spring teams want to have a strong season, but with the weather, it makes it hard for the teams to get proper playing time and prime locations.

With the work from the athletic department, their scheduling has made it so teams have been able to have places to practice and games to play. Although a lot of condensing had to be done, the department did it the most efficient way in order for the spring season to keep progressing for the teams.

Green Team captains work alongside coaches to promote athletic events

Captains encourage student attendance at games to unify senior class

by Layla Saqibuddin and Darcie Kim

Green Team has become a defining aspect of New Trier, and one could argue that it has become a sort of culture.

Picking a Green Team name and proudly wearing it on Friday game days has helped bring every senior class together, and at the center of this tradition are four senior Green Team captains.

The captains for the Class of 2018 consisted of the two first female captains, Abby Schinderle and Courtney Kaskey, as well as Luke Lato and Mac Lamason. They, along with Varsity Football Coach and Kinetic Wellness teacher Brian Doll and various athletic coaches, recently chose the captains that will represent the class of 2019.

Lucy Kreisa, Olivia Zaban, Aaron Schatz, and Brian Sitzer will be the captains for next year, and Coach Doll has already expressed high hopes for these upcoming seniors.

"Next year I'm looking forward to our captains; they all stand out and are very positive. Their main role is to be excellent communicators, help out with social media, and pick out Green Team apparel for seniors to purchase," said Doll.

Sitzer hopes to emphasize inclusion of more students next year.

"My goal for next year is to get as many students as possible at games. Not only seniors, but underclassmen too. Games are much more fun for



The student section at games is full of Green Team gear | @AthleticsNTHS

both the players and the crowd when Green Team is in full force and brings the energy."

Green Team captains are tasked primarily with forming a connection between the students and coaches to promote athletic events.

They help to foster a relationship among athletes and the student body.

"We want [captains] who are committed to making a good experience for everyone. To me, it doesn't matter if [the captains] are athletes; we just want everyone to feel represented by the school spirit," said Coach Doll.

A large part of the responsibility of being a Green Team captain comes from attending and supporting athletic events. Captains are expected to lead the student cheering sections

and provide motivation for the competing athletes.

Captain Courtney Kaskey said, "I want the crowds to live in the moment and appreciate and support their school, while also having fun with friends. My biggest goal as a green team captain was to go to as many events possible, because each sport should get recognition for their hard work."

Junior Maggie Graves agrees that the captains have been successful in engaging the crowds and creating a more positive, cheerful environment.

"In football and Hockey games, the captains do a great job of getting underclassmen and upperclassmen into the games by doing the different cheers when the team scores or if they need support," she said.

Weekly Questions with baseball player Griff Ryan

Ryan talks about being a multi-sport athlete and how he would change baseball

by Lexi Shoup

Q: How long have you been playing baseball, how did you get into it?

A: I've been playing baseball for as long as I can remember. My older brother played pretty much every sport out there, so I just followed whatever he was doing, which included baseball.

Q: How is NT baseball's season going so far?

A: We've had some good wins against tough opponents, but the whole team knows we haven't really hit our stride yet. We're working to get to that point.

Q: What position do you play? If you could play any other position, what would it be and why?

A: I play outfield and first base. If I could choose I would probably play shortstop or second, they always seemed like exciting positions to play.

Q: What's the weirdest thing that's ever happened during one of your games?

A: Just last week there was a hard line drive foul ball that was headed right for our first base coach. He took it straight off his arm. Didn't even flinch.

Q: Who's your favorite MLB player and why?

A: Javier Baez is one of the most exciting players I've ever seen. He brings a lot of fun to the game.

Q: If you could change the rules of baseball, what would you change and why?

A: I would make anyone who hit a home-run bat again right away. I'd love to see someone go yard two or three times in the same ten minutes. It'd give the game a lot more scoring if you have your best hitter up to bat two or more times in a row.

Q: If you could play any sport other than baseball what would it be and why?

A: I've already played football and basketball, so I'd have to try out volleyball. The rest of my family always played, but I never got into it.



Victory Views

If you would like to be considered for athlete of the week please email ntnews@nth.net or send us a tweet at the New Trier News twitter and include your full name, grade you are currently in, and what sport(s) you play