

Boys bowling strikes the competition

Bowling's record of 4-2 in conference yields high hopes for state

by Lindsey Burns

Despite having lost three seniors from the state team last year, boys bowling boasts a winning record early this season and placed 18th at the Rockford Invitational Tournament on Nov. 18.

This recent milestone brings the team's record to 4-2 in conference

"The Rockford Invitational is a rite of passage for our varsity program. It is some of the best bowling in the state only a couple of weeks into our season," Coach Andrew Juedes said. "Our guys get a glimpse of what it takes to make it out of regionals, sectionals and to get to state."

Dylan Santacruz senior bowler said at tournaments, "We play teams from all across Illinois who play bowling year round and are very good at it."

Tournaments usually consist of six games, with each team trying to get the highest cumulative score. Six team members attend a tournament for varsity, with five starters and one sub.

The Conference competition includes Evanston, Vernon Hills, Deerfield, GBN, Niles West and Niles North. "Our conference matches are where we do our best," Santacruz said.

Locally, Stevenson is the toughest competition, and the NT team will face the Patriots on Jan. 4.

"Even though they're not in our conference it's a great experience for the team because we know that's the toughest it gets with them having won state last year," senior captain Jordie Wilson said. "So far our season is going very well, we have gotten off to the best start in New Trier bowling

history in conference play," Wilson said.

Santacruz agrees the team is on the right track. "We are continuing to get better from match to match. I feel like the start has been a success considering we lost three seniors from our varsity team that went to state," he said.

"Our collective goal is to finish top 3 in conference and top 3 at the Conference Tournament. We then hope to advance as a team to State relying on some of our bowlers who have been there before," Juedes said.

"We can rely on our experience and veteran leadership. Overall, our guys simply need to put in the time at the lanes to improve their game. We tend to be a late-season team and rely on momentum carrying us into the end of the year tournaments. Our guys have to be firing on all cylinders to advance."

The boys also have the advantage of competing in a conference with many teams in a rebuilding mode, Juedes said. "This season we have a

chance to do better in conference than ever before with a team made up of returning Varsity and JV members."

At least one boys bowling team member wishes the sport would get more attention. "I feel like bowling isn't as respected as many of the other major sports," Santacruz said. "Everyone sees it as the sport where you just sit around a lot and eat food, but it is a lot of work to get good at it."

Smart bowlers need to pay attention to the condition of the lanes, which can vary even during a match, he noted. "The conditions you play on are always changing and you have to make a lot of adjustments in a game and from game to game. So not only do you have to have good form but you have to understand how your ball is going to move through the oil on the lanes."

Wilson has noticed more interest in bowling among fellow students. "People are starting to ask me how the team is doing and more and more people are starting to try out," he

said. "We feel we have really been progressing to put New Trier bowling on the map these past couple of years in terms of recognition. People are beginning to understand how fun it is and how competitive it is to bowl. People will only understand how amazing the culture is when they come out to see it for themselves."

Teammate Kalani Rennoe got involved when he took Coach Juedes' biology class as a freshman, and he plans to continue with the sport after New Trier. "He asked me to try out and I did and I ended up loving it," Rennoe said. "If I get into a college that has bowling I will try out for the team."

He agrees with Wilson that New Trier bowling is attracting more interest. "I do think bowling is respected as a sport. It's a lot harder than people think," Rennoe said. "I think people should try to understand the fun parts and the competitive parts."

College football reaches a close as teams compete for championship

Washington, Ohio State, Clemson and Alabama are left to compete for the championship

by Charlie Burton

As the college football regular season dwindles to an end, the college football selection committee decided that Alabama, Ohio State, Clemson, and Washington were the teams that earned a spot in the four team playoff for the National Championship.

No. 1 Alabama will play No. 4 Washington on December 31 in the Peach Primesport Bowl and No. 2 Ohio State will play No. 3 Clemson in the Fiesta Bowl. It was an unusual year in the world of College Football considering Alabama is the only undefeated team remaining, but most New Trier students agree the selection committee got it right.

"I think every team in the playoff deserves to be there," said Junior John Robinson, "Maybe Michigan or Penn State could have a chance to play for the National Championship, but it's hard to make it there if a team has two losses."

Alabama is the clear favorite to repeat as champions considering they haven't been challenged by any SEC team this year. Even though Alabama has seemed unbeatable this year, Washington could be the team to overthrow the defending National Champions.

Washington doesn't have the strongest schedule, but they have dominated opposing teams including an impressive 41-10 romping of Colorado in the Pacific-12 Championship game.

"The Alabama and Washington game will be exciting," said Robinson, "It will be Washington's first true test this year and it will be interesting to see how the handle Alabama's tough defense."

The driving force behind Washington's offense this year has been heisman contender and quarterback Jake Browning.



Alabama and Texas A and M battle in a college game

Browning has been electric this year for the Huskies throwing for a total of 3,162 yards with 40 touchdowns.

The other semifinal will be a battle between two veteran quarterbacks. Ohio State's JT Barrett and Clemson's Deshaun Watson are both heisman contenders with experience in big time games.

"Clemson vs Ohio State will be a far better game than the other semifinal," said junior Costa Pavlopoulos, "Each team has an extremely high powered offense that I bet the game will come down to the last play."

Ohio State is coming off a huge 30-27 win against a very talented Michigan team and Clemson hopes to make it to the National Championship for the second straight year after a 42-35 victory against No. 18 Virginia Tech.

College football has had the Bowl Championship system for over a hundred years, but this is just the third year where there has been a playoff to determine who reigns supreme in the world of college football.

Every year the college football selection committee has to make the tough decision of determining which teams have earned a spot to play for the National Championship.

The committee is made up of

twelve members. They make their decision based on criteria including strength of schedule, head-to-head competition, and comparative outcomes of common opponents.

Many people believe that the college football playoff should be expanded to six or eight teams so more teams have a chance to win a National Championship.

Senior Kyle Retondo claims that an eight team playoff would be far more entertaining than a four team playoff.

"If there was an eight team playoff there would be a chance for an upset instead of seeing the same four teams win the championship every year."

Robinson disagrees claiming that college football is special because every regular season game matters.

"College football is entertaining because every team has so much to lose every single Saturday. It is nearly impossible to make the playoff when a team has one or two losses so it makes every game a must win."

The National Championship will be played on Jan. 9 after the semifinals on Dec. 31. Other exciting games include Penn State vs USC in the Rose Bowl, Florida State vs Michigan in the Cotton Bowl, and Auburn vs Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl.

Gymnastics beats GBN

Girls gymnastics is pleased to start off the season with a win.

by Emily Wong

Thurs., Dec. 1, girls gymnastics started off their season with a win against Glenbrook North, beating them 139.40 to 130.80. The Trevars scored higher than the Spartans in every event, including vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor.

The team was very satisfied with their performance. "We won by almost nine whole points. That's a pretty significant amount, especially in a sport where a tenth can be a determining factor in winning or losing," senior Hannah Richard said. Sophomore Emma Rohrer agreed. "We exceeded expectations and did very well for our first meet," she said. "It was a huge improvement because we scored ten points higher than our first meet last year."

Although they were excited about the victory, it came as no surprise for the gymnasts.

"GBN has some really good girls as well, but I think our team has more consistently great gymnasts on every event," Richard said.

"We knew that GBN was good, but we were confident in our skills and routines," freshman Avery Faulkner said.

The competition came just a few days before a more intense meet against Glenbrook South that Saturday, acting as a sort of practice run to boost team spirit.

"We had to get our 'first meet jitters' out before our big competition against GBS," Faulkner said.

Even though the meet against Glenbrook North was their first, it was still a relatively low-pressure environment.

"It was a non-conference crossover meet," said head coach Jennifer Pistorius. "Our girls know several of the girls from GBN, so it's always nice to see them at a meet."

As the team tried to start the season in the best condition position,

avoiding injury was a main priority in Thursday's meet. "Our goal was to do our best, see what we need to focus on for the future, and stay healthy," Pistorius said.

Rohrer even notice how the team had improved in this area from one year to the next. "No one got seriously injured compared to last year, which was definitely a highlight," she said.

Although gymnastics injuries can be serious and even season ending, the athletes continue Pistorius was excited to see one gymnast come back from her injury at this meet. "Zoey Spangler was injured all season last year, and it was great to see her healthy and competing again," she said.

Spangler, a sophomore, competed in the floor exercise, scoring a respectable 8.50.

Pistorius also recognized the efforts of a couple more gymnasts. "Maeve Murdock stood up her double back on floor, and Avery Faulkner had a 9.5 on floor," she pointed out.

Despite the team's dominant performance in the meet, many gymnasts still found a few areas in which they could improve.

"We can certainly do better," Richard said. "Some of the girls fell or didn't do a skill as well as they could have, so many of them will be honing in on those skills to really make them solid for competition."

Senior Elise Ashford had a similar vision for the team. "We will be improving on current skills and learning new ones to raise the difficulty level of our routines in practice to better prepare ourselves for the next meet," she said.

Their practice has so far been paying off, as they won Saturday's meet against Glenbrook South 143.20 to 142.70. "That was a huge meet and win for our team," Pistorius said.

They will be competing against GBN again on Friday, Dec. 9.