

Bowling takes 9th at Glenbard East

Bowling closes out season with top ten sectionals finish

by Mack Guthrie

Boys bowling rolled its way to 9th place in Glenbard East sectional on Sat., Jan. 21. They scored 5540 points, ahead of Chicago schools including Taft, Mt. Carmel, and St. Patrick.

This came a week after New Trier finished third in the Chicago Taft regional. They finished behind Glenbrook North and Notre Dame high schools.

Only the top teams from each tournament move on. While New Trier advanced to sectionals, the team failed to advance to state, though team member Kalani Kona Rennoe qualified as an individual.

"Third place at regionals was expected for us. We had just won the Central Suburban League conference and were bowling some of our best games as a team," said Head Coach Andrew Juedes.

"We started the season not doing as well as we expected but towards the middle and end of our season we peaked and started to do great as a team," said senior Kalani Kona Rennoe. Rennoe came in 8th place, scoring 1237 points individually.

He explained that this was a great performance compared to previous years he has been on the team.

Despite this, Rennoe was mildly disappointed in his own final performance. "I didn't do as well as I hoped, [but] it was a fun experience being able to go."

Rennoe had moved to the area from Hawaii before high school, and joined the team as a way to make friends and get involved in his new school.

Junior Benji Buckner reflected positively on the season, "It was an amazing experience."

He also stated his eagerness to try out for the team next year, and his hope to do even better in the future.

Junior Ryder Vassilos felt similarly. He explained that the team



Senior Jordan Wilson competes at Brunswick Zone in Glendale Heights | New Trier

was very proud of Rennoe's, success, identifying him as the team's MVP. He summarized his experience this season saying, "the season was great."

Like Buckner, Vassilos seemed excited to try out again next year. He looked forward to rejoining the tight-knit community of the bowling team.

Despite being the top scorer at sectionals, Vassilos came in second out of New Trier students.

Scoring 1171 points, he was beat by senior Jordan Wilson (1147) and was ahead of junior Jeremy Cunningham Kasper (1147).

"Thirdplaceatregionals was expected for us. We had just won the Central Suburban League conference and were bowling some of our best games as a team."

Glenbard East is considered a "very competitive" IHSA sectional, and though the team did not advance to the state competition, the bowlers seemed proud of the results that the team was able to produce this year.

"This group supported one another in some very trying situations this year," said head coach Andrew Juedes.

In particular, he expressed his pride in one senior captain who came

to practice daily to help out despite being unable to compete for his second season as he recovered from illness.

Additionally, team cohesion was evident as seven team members drove in an RV for over five hours to cheer on Rennoe at the state competition.

Junior Jeremy Cunningham Kasper said that the season was a good experience all around, saying "I enjoyed every minute of it."

This was his first year on varsity, and he proved his worth with his performance at sectionals.

Juedes said "Jeremy really stepped up his game after bowling in leagues in the off-season" and that Kasper was a team member who performed particularly well this season.

"I feel that playing against these high ability bowlers has really pushed me to be my best and to compete every day as best I can," said Kasper.

Juedes also mentioned the improvement of seniors Jack Grosh and Dylan Santacruz after they sought out lessons outside of season.

Aidan Rico, a freshman, made the varsity lineup and competed in the regional and sectional competitions.

"Rico has a very bright future in front of him," said Juedes.

Despite not making it to state like last year, Juedes expressed pride with the term's performance this year and in all the bowlers.

"Although it still kills me that we didn't qualify as a team with this great group of bowlers, what they accomplished outside of the alley was more important."

Boys swimming beats Maine South before State

Swim team wins meet against Maine South in preparing for State competition

by Jessa Snower

Looking forward to state ahead, boys swimming won against Maine South on Friday, Feb. 3.

The meet was a good test for the team as they approached the end of their season. The team was able to win and swimmers were able to try out events they usually do not compete in. This meet gave them a chance to improve themselves as swimmers.

Junior Ean Vandergraaf explained how the meet was a good experience for the team because many of the swimmers had already started resting for the upcoming championship meets. "The meet was good for us because it was a good indicator for the end of the season," he said.

Also, some of the swimmers swam in the events they will be swimming in at the state meet. Many of the swimmers took this opportunity to tweak their techniques before the championship.

Before the meet, Coach Josh Runkle said, "As far as the Maine South meet, we really don't have much of a specific focus. Some guys will be swimming the events they will swim at their championship meet and fine tune things while others will be swimming in some off-type events."

Although the team won, the swimmers still felt they could have done better and are looking for ways to improve before the bigger meets.

Sophomore Topher Shepherd said "Even though we won and we are proud of that, we take swimming well much more seriously than winning."

The swim team now had a good season so far and as they finished the conference and headed to state, they looked to make their swimming as good as possible.

There have been good individual performances and improvements along the way. The team focuses on improving the little things to give them the best score possible.

These skills included starts, turns, and finishes. Also, individual events have different strategies that each swimmer takes the time to improve on their own.

Junior Charlie Morgan said, "I think our improvements both in and out of the pool are really starting to show, and both our times and our maturity reflect that of a team that wants to win a state championship."

The team doesn't only focus on improving their swimming, but also motivating each other. Vandergraaf said, "I think as a team we have improved the most by getting up and cheering for each other. It gets hard during long meets to get up and just scream, but we have figured out that you can really get a guy going just by screaming as loud as you can."

Shepherd agreed that the team has grown in more ways than one.

"The team has improved immensely. We have not only grown a lot as swimmers, but we have grown a lot as people, mostly due to our coach."

Runkle said, "The team improved from the start of the season. As swimmers developed, they put themselves in a position to help the team."

Runkle said "Our goals are the same as always. We want to finish off the conference season and defend our title. After that, we want to compete at the highest level and put ourselves in a spot to win the State meet."

Saturday, Feb. 11 is the team's CSL conference meet, which will take place at Niles West. The Trevians will be competing against Niles West, Evanston, Glenbrook South, Maine South and Niles North.

As the comes to an end, the team and coaches have many goals they would like to accomplish.

Charlie Morgan thinks the team will be competitive. "My goal for the rest of the season is to do everything I can to get my team to be in the best position possible to achieve what everyone knows this team is capable of," he said.

"Through all the blood sweat and tears, the season has been great. The past few months, I have seen my teammates more than my family and it's great to be a part of this team," said Shepherd.

NFL relies on Super Bowl to increase viewership

RedZone and fantasy football contribute to lowered NFL ratings

by David Heiman

Over the last couple of years, the NFL's viewer ratings have gone down enough to grab the league's attention.

Some reasons for the low viewership in recent years might be the rise of RedZone, Fantasy Football, and the new findings of health concerns.

Because of these recent occurrences, casual NFL fans might not have chosen to watch one game for three hours when they had the option to watch multiple.

Numbers indicated that Monday Night Football viewership was down 24% from last year, Sunday Night Football is down 19%, and Thursday



Patriots' James White goes for a touchdown against Falcons' Deion Jones | AP Images

Night Football is down 18%.

While there was no single answer for what caused the ratings to tumble, it has led many NFL fans and experts to speculate what could be the cause.

Junior Josh Alter said, "I think the low NFL ratings are because of all the concussion stuff going on right

now. It's shining a bad light on the NFL and that to me is the main reason the ratings are down."

Alter continued to say, "It surprises me that Monday Night Football and Sunday Night Football are down but not Thursday Night. The idea of Thursday Night Football was bad and bound to fail from the

beginning. It is just a bad day to have prime time football."

While some experts agreed with Alter's reasoning, there was still no clear cut answer. Bleacher report writer, Matt Miller, said that he thinks the rise of college football in recent years may be the biggest cause of the ratings pummel for the NFL.

Junior Lucas Gottshall countered this idea, saying, "I think RedZone is the reason it's so down. I like to watch the Bears play full games, but besides that, I am on RedZone because it is so much more convenient to watch all the games and see all the touchdowns."

However, both Gottshall and Alter agreed that fantasy football is not the main reason the NFL is struggling.

Alter said, "I don't think it's fantasy, yes RedZone is obviously huge for fantasy players, but I don't think that would hurt it. I think fantasy would help the ratings for individual games, especially the prime time night ones because it's only one game

and if you have a player in it or your opponent does, you want to watch and see what happens".

With the Super Bowl coming up with two of the NFL's best quarterbacks facing off, Matt Ryan of the Atlanta Falcons and Tom Brady of the New England Patriots, the NFL was hoping this game could turn around what has been a rough couple of years for the league.

The NFL hoped that the Super Bowl could maintain the NFL's position at the top.

Fortunately for them, the game made history this year by becoming the first Super Bowl to go into overtime. It also set an all-time television record of peaking at 172 million viewers during the event.

However, it wasn't enough to top the event's 2016 ratings. While the Patriots' last Super Bowl performance drew a record average of 114.4 million viewers, this year's average viewership of 111.3 million was the Super Bowl's lowest in the last three years.