



Senior Katie Shia (right) talks to opponent after match | Varsity Views

Fencing gets second in state tournament

Fencing reaches goal with eight fencers placing in top eight in their divisions

by Robert Pettas

Survive and advance: a fitting description for not only college basketball's March madness, but the Illinois state fencing meet as well, where the Trevians took second.

The meet took place on Jan. 28 at Glenbrook South High School. New Trier sent their Varsity team and a few JV players to the meet.

Eight New Trier fencers placed in the top eight of their pools.

In men's foil, Aryoman Patel placed 5th and Alex Loundy placed 8th. Samantha Fountain took 8th in women's foil.

Matthew Kim was the only New Trier fencer to place in men's sabre, earning 2nd. Danielle Sirivat was 6th and Juliette Speck was 7th in women's sabre.

Some of the team's most impressive performances in the tournament came from Katie Shia and Lisa Vetyuhova, who placed 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in women's epee.

"It is the culmination of all the meets, it all builds up to this moment," said Sophomore Sophie Beitel.

The drama of the state meet is not overstated by Beitel, as New Trier will send eight fencers in each category, along with many other schools to make up a total of about 50 fencers competing to be in the top eight in each category.

The fencers in the top eight received medals and earn "points" for world championship events. The state meet is also an individual competition, which differs from the

regular tournaments, which are dual meets.

Meaning, teams of three fencers compete in a round robin with teams from other schools. The winners in these meets determine the overall season championship team.

However, in the state meet, the fencers are first put into a pool of five, and based on those results they will be ranked and put into a bracket. From then on, it is single elimination, the first fencer to get five touches survives, and advances.

Understandably, these sudden death rules make the matches much more intense, and the fencers must do their best to deal with the pressure and anxiety.

Senior Daniel Fay said, "At practice we try to treat it like any other meet and not to psych ourselves out, but I know from past experience that when we show up and competition begins the intensity becomes impossible to ignore, and you try to let it fuel you."

Fay is one of New Trier's top fencers in the foil category and "is a true student of fencing. He trains all year, not just during the high school season. He is easy to coach, and he moves very well on the strip," said assistant coach Don Badowski.

As far as his game plan going into the meet, Fay says, "I focus on using my timing and blade work to keep larger opponents guessing. Although it's an individual sport it is impossible to mention any personal accomplishments without acknowledging the support and help of the team and coaches."

Although the state meet is an individual competition, coaches and teammates are important to success, according to Junior Liam Guthrie.

"They are there to remind you of your strengths and weaknesses, give moral support, and give corrections before you get on the strip."

Gymnastics sets season record despite loss

In loss to Carmel, Trevians beat their previous record high with a score of 149.3

by Amelia Lytle

New Trier succeeded at their meet Tuesday, Jan. 24 against Carmel, beating New Trier's previous record.

The team had standout gymnasts at the meet, including freshman Maeve Murdock who scored a 9.65 on beam, freshman Avery Faulkner with a 9.7 on floor, and senior Ally Smith who competed in all around for the first time.

Although the team was defeated by Carmel by .25 points, the Trevians scored 149.3, up from their previous high score of a 147.5.

The team was happy with their score because Carmel is a difficult team to beat.

Murdock said, "We were looking to have fun and just do our best. We knew we had a chance but at the same time we didn't want to put too much pressure on ourselves, so we tried to have a lot of fun with it, especially because it was senior night!"

Murdock had an outstanding performance at the meet, scoring a 9.65 on beam and 37.5 all around.

The team's head coach Jennifer Pistorius explained, "Our routines were better and we knew scores would reflect that, but we didn't think we would smash the school record like we did. We knew it would be close since Carmel is competitive with us."

This was New Trier's second competition against Carmel, and captain and senior Ally Smith said, "We have improved tremendously since the beginning of season but so has Carmel so it was a really fun meet to see everyone sticking their skills."

The meet against Carmel was also Senior Night for the Trevians. This is a night where the Seniors are celebrated for their commitment to the team and their accomplishments



Senior gymnasts are honored with parents at Senior Night | NT Gymnastics

over past four the years.

"Going into Senior Night was emotional because we all love our seniors. The experience was so fun because everyone wants to end on a high note, especially the seniors," Murdock said.

Senior night provided Smith with time to reflect on her past years with the team. She explained, "Gymnastics is a very particular sport because you practice with the same group of girls freshman through senior year regardless of what team you're on."

"The transition to senior year has added a lot of responsibility because you become the moral and emotional support for the younger girls instead of being the ones needing it."

Murdock shared her enthusiasm and love for the captains, "they both do small things to help people do the best they can, for example always talking to underclassmen. They make it so clear that people from all grades can be good friends, so everyone on the team is really close."

Pistorius reflected on the bond this team shares and said, "Smith and Keehn are fantastic captains and

we are one team together. Our team is different in the fact that out of the seven girls on the Varsity team, four are freshman, so it took a bit for all the freshmen to adapt to high school gymnastics, but we seem to have the team bonding down."

Along with the strong bond of the team, hard work and dedication drive the gymnasts to success. "Our success has come from dedication before our season even started."

We practiced Monday-Friday four hours each day and all that time before season as well as the passion and dedication during season is accumulating awesome success!"

Their coach also shared her feelings about the hardworking team.

"This is probably the hardest working group top to bottom. In years past, there were girls who were a little more social and didn't work as hard, but the coaches haven't had to tell someone to get back to practicing."

The girls' hard work has been paying off with a new team record of 149.3. With a few weeks of season remaining, the team is optimistic given their improving performances, all time high scores, and team cohesiveness.

Falcons upends odds with Super Bowl appearance

NFL aims to boost ratings with unexpected Falcons v. Patriots lineup

by David Heiman

On Feb. 5, in Houston the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots will face off in the 51st Super Bowl.

"I'm very excited for the Super Bowl. In my opinion, these are the two best teams in football and to me it is the clear best matchup," said Junior Lucas Gottshall. "I will be rooting for the Falcons like most of the country outside of the New England area."

At the beginning of the season, very few predicted a Falcons vs Patriots Super Bowl.



The Super Bowl will be held in Houston's NRG Stadium | housuperbowl.com

While the Patriots are used to playing in the big game, they were not considered the team to beat coming into the season.

Many thought that with star quarterback Tom Brady suspended for the first four games, this wouldn't be the Patriots' year.

However, future hall of fame coach Bill Belichick and a defense led by a lot of unknown players kept the team afloat until Brady came back and they ended up with a 14-2 record and the best record in the AFC.

Not one NFL expert predicted the Falcons to be in the Super Bowl,

and very few expected them to win their division.

Led by possible MVP Matt Ryan, NFL sack leader Vic Beasley, standout receiver Julio Jones, and a dangerous running back combo of Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman, they finished with a 11-5 record and the second best record in the NFC in head coach Dan Quinn's second year in Atlanta.

Junior Izzy James said "Even though I just moved to the United States a couple of years ago, I have taken a liking to American football. I'll probably be rooting for the Falcons because I want to see someone else win. It was a tough choice though, since Tom Brady is a real cutie."

This belief is shared by many students. Junior Ted Conklin said, "I am rooting for the Falcons. I'm sick

of seeing the Patriots win. Not only do they always make it far in the playoffs, but they have cheated in the past too, and that gets on my nerves."

When asked what he will be doing for the Super Bowl, Conklin said, "I will be ordering Chick-Fil-A and watching the game with friends."

Gottshall agreed with Conklin. "I'll just be hanging with friends and taking in the game. The Super Bowl for me is one of the best days of the year. The only day that rivals Super Bowl Sunday would be Christmas morning."

After the championship games concluded, the initial line was Patriots favored by 3 points.

The NFL hopes the Super Bowl will turn around their previous decline in ratings.