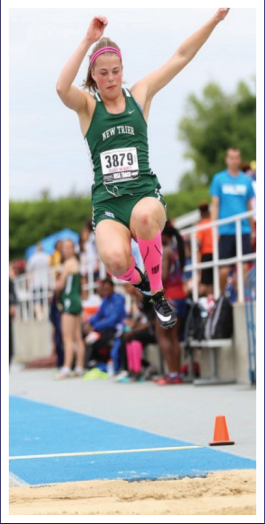


Three star players of the week

Sydney Kunkler



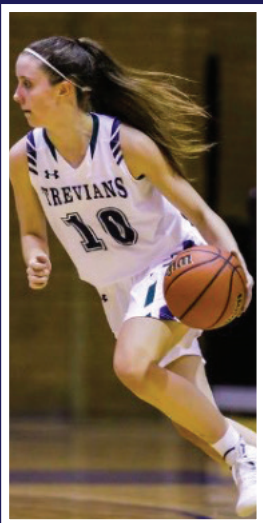
Won three events in track meet at York high school

Brian Dolby



Scored goal as well and provided key assist to beat Notre Dame

Rebecca Goldman



Named to Girls Basketball CSL South All-Conference team

# Gymnastics brings state (runner up) title home

Girls end successful season on a high note after several top placements

by Marne Sullivan

On Feb. 15 and 16, New Trier's gymnastics team geared up for their biggest event of the year.

The Trevians were ahead of their rival Maine South that scored 147.25 and Glenbrook South with 147.15.

This was the best finish in NT's program history. Months of hard work, dedication, and commitment helped New Trier place second overall as a team at the state meet in Palatine.

Senior Erin Murdoch acknowledged the team's hard work, "Everyone comes to practice everyday ready to run through routines, which definitely helped us at state."

Looking back, New Trier has only won trophies in 1992 and 1993.

In 1992, there was a tie for second which now stands as the school's second best finish. The Trevians took second place at the 2019 state meet at Palatine by scoring 147.525 following behind Glenbard West with a score of 149.025.

The gymnasts were even more driven and focused this season after placing fourth last season and fifth the year before.

"We were really happy with the outcome. For the past three years, our

goal was to make top three on the podium and the past two years we just barely missed it, so it was super exciting to get second and finally achieve that goal for the first time in over 20 years," said Erin Murdoch.

The State series began with the Conference meet, then the Regional meet, and the Sectional meet that all lead up to the final meet at Palatine.

New Trier qualified as a team by large for Friday. On Feb. 15, the team consisted of the typical varsity lineup. The girls on the team always prepared well before their meets.

"I think everyone has different pre-rituals individually, like [junior] Maeve Murdock knocks on wood before each routine, but as a team we always have a group pep talk before we start competing and hold hands during important routines," Erin Murdoch revealed.

In order to compete on Feb. 16, the gymnasts had to place in the top eleven in the preliminaries the day before. If each individual's score on Saturday was better than their Friday score, that helped boost the overall team score. Otherwise, the Friday team score remained the same.

According to senior Darcy Barkal, "The hardest challenge going into state was just being super consistent on our routines and not letting nerves get in the way of anything."

Erin Murdoch agreed with Barkal that consistency is key, "It can be really difficult to always hit your routine every time you compete without falling. To qualify for state,



Senior Darcy Barkal leading into one of her stunts at state | Twitter

we needed high team scores at both regionals and sectionals, so it was really important that everyone did the best they could."

New Trier had three individuals who competed on Feb. 16 — seniors Darcy Barkal, Maeve Murdock and junior Avery Faulkner.

The gymnastics team had strong competitors in all events, especially vault and floor. Barkal made vault and bars finals, while Murdock made finals of the beam and Faulkner floor finals.

Barkal had an eighth-place finish in vault at 9.50 and bars at 9.325. Maeve Murdock was seventh on the

balance beam at 9.15, and Faulkner tied for seventh on the floor at 9.45.

"I'm so happy for my three teammates that qualified for the meet on Feb. 16. Our team is very close and everyone worked so hard this entire season, it was great to see it all pay off in the meet," said junior Alex Wigdale.

New Trier Gymnastics ended the season on a powerful and valuable note. Barkal said that the team does not need to do anything differently next year, "I think they just need to keep up what they have been doing, work hard, have fun, and try new skills."

# Boys Swim and Dive reaches their top twenty goal

In rebuilding year, boys still finish in 18th place at state meet

by Matt Murray

The Boys Swimming and Diving team finished 18th in the state meet held at the New Trier Natatorium on Feb. 22 and Feb. 23.

St. Charles North won the meet with a total of 141 points while Neuqua Valley and Waubonsie Valley finished directly behind them with 112 and 99 points respectively.

New Trier finished, tied for 18th with Marmion Academy and Homewood-Flossmoor by virtue of their sixteen points, six of which came from their 10th place finish 200 yard freestyle relay finals swam by junior Pearce Bailey, senior Topher Shepherd, junior Marc Hagist, and senior Nick Torre.

"The time was really good for us, but the most important thing [was] that we tried our hardest and, because of that, I [was] really happy about [that] time, too," said Hagist.

The remaining 10 points were scored by Bailey, who led the team with four qualifications for preliminary meets. He finished 6th in the 50 yard freestyle final after an 8th place finish in last year's final, 12th in the 100 yard freestyle final, and recorded the team's best 50 yard split in the 200 yard relay final at 20.66 seconds.

"My times definitely improved over the course of the season as I got stronger, especially in the 50 freestyle," said Bailey.

The team's only diving participant was freshman John Ervin. Ervin, a rare freshman participant, placed 19th out of 32 divers in the



Select members of NT Boys Varsity Swim and Dive pose for a picture after swimming in the state meet | Twitter

preliminaries by scoring 191.70 points, falling 6.15 points short of qualifying for the semifinals.

Despite Ervin's preliminary elimination, head diving coach Bruce Kimball noticed considerable improvement from his reliable freshman during the season.

"I think that [Ervin's] growth through the season was tremendous," said Kimball, "He was one of the kids with a great attitude and [he always had] a willingness to try new [dives]."

Despite failing to capture a 25th state title, the team achieved their preseason goal of a top 20 finish at state.

"We set a goal at the beginning of the year to be in the top 20 at the state meet, so overall it was a good year," said head swimming coach Josh Runkle. "I told the [swimmers] at the state meet that I was [just] as proud of this [team] as the team that won the state meet last year."

Although a top 20 finish in the state meet seems like a low expectation to set for a team that was ranked 5th in the nation twelve months ago, half of the players from last season's state title-winning team

graduated, which left the varsity team with many inexperienced swimmers taking their places, including eleven freshmen.

"It was a growing year for a lot of [swimmers]. A lot of them had to step into bigger roles than they were accustomed to," said Runkle.

The diving team faced a similar dilemma as they also lost many of their best divers to graduation prior to the start of the season. The roster consisted of a group of players that lacked experience, but had plenty of desire to improve.

"The team was pretty new to diving this year from [top to bottom]," said Kimball. "It took a few weeks for them to [learn enough dives to compete in a six dive competition], but it was impressive [to see the team's] attitude and effort towards trying to improve."

Despite having many new faces on varsity this season, the swimming and diving team still finished 3rd in the conference meet on Feb. 9 and won the sectional title on Feb. 16.

These accomplishments, as well as the top 20 finish in the state

meet, left Shepherd satisfied as he concluded his fourth season on varsity swimming.

"This year was definitely a rebuilding year, so, all things considered, we did really well," said Shepherd.

Although this season lacked the typical results of swimming and diving teams past, the team's experienced players continued the tradition of encouraging locker room chemistry.

Runkle highlighted Bailey, senior Ben Ketchum, junior Sam Dienstag, Torre, Hagist, and Shepherd among others for taking leadership roles and mentoring their younger teammates.

Because of the positive environment that the returning swimmers created, the transition to varsity swimming was made much easier for the team's newcomers.

"It took a while for some of [the younger swimmers] to meld into the team environment and practices at the beginning, but I feel most of the new guys understood what it meant to be part of the team by the end," said Bailey.