



Upcoming
Varsity Games

Friday, March
10

Boys Track
@ Batavia

Boys Track
@ Evanston

Boys Water Polo
@ Palatine

Girls Soccer
Scrimmage
@ Northfield
Campus

Saturday,
March 11

Boys Water Polo
@ Palatine

Girls Water Polo
vs. Loyola,
Prospect, Sandburg



Swim and dive makes a splash at State

The team's hard work pays off with a third place finish at State

by Jack Soble

New Trier swimming and diving showed their might on Feb. 24 and 25, finishing in the upper echelon of schools competing for a state championship.

The Trevians came in with high expectations. They finished third in the state, their best since 2013, in a meet that took place right here at New Trier.

"There were a lot of fast swims from everyone, and that's a pretty great way to end the season," said Senior Alex Flanagan.

"Between preliminaries and finals, a lot of athletes get tired and slow down, but our team did a great job of finishing strong and dropping time," he said.

New Trier's top finishers were Junior twins Ryan and Patrick Gridley, who along with fellow junior Charlie Scheinfeld, senior Philipp Srivastava, and senior Patrick Drake claimed the gold in the 200 and 400 meter relays.

The Gridley brothers finished eighth (Ryan) and ninth (Patrick) in the 200 meter individual medley. Ryan also took fifth in the 100 meter freestyle and Patrick took third in the 100 meter backstroke.

Scheinfeld won the 100 meter breaststroke as well as the relay. This came after sectionals where the Gridleys and seniors Jack Walter and Mason McQuet both shined, and 19 swimmers qualified for state.



Junior Charlie Scheinfeld celebrates after a successful race during state, where he was a top finisher | Team twitter

In total, the Trevs earned 120 points, finishing only behind Hinsdale Central with 142 and Lyons with 156.5. Lyons took first for the second consecutive year, scoring ten more points than in their victory last year over Naperville Central, according to Chicago Tribune.

"The team has been training hard all year with a goal of performing well at the State meet. We had to focus all our efforts all season on performing well at our championship meets Conference, Sectionals, State."

New Trier came into the season hoping to get a trophy which goes to the top 3 teams, according to Junior Tommy Wilson. "Obviously we wanted to win state, but this keeps us hungry for next year and I'm super

pleased with third and proud of what our guys were able to accomplish."

Flanagan agreed. "In my opinion we did an excellent job at the end of the season and I am really happy with the results. I was excited to see what kinds of swims everyone could have."

He also described the work his team has to put in to be as successful as they are, a common talking point among New Trier swimmers.

"Our varsity group had two swim practices on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and on Tuesday and Thursday we did weight lifting and swimming. At the beginning we did a lot of aerobic sets and high yardage but towards the end we started doing more sprint work to prepare for the

end of the season."

Runkle was proud of his team's effort. "The results were not surprising. The kids worked hard all year. We expected to be in contention to win the state championship and we put ourselves a position to do that."

Wilson expressed his gratitude for his teammates' hard work and dedication. "We don't get up at 5:00 AM and hop in a cold pool for nothing. We had a lot of fun and our guys really showed it. Sometimes having up to nine practices a week can get very grueling, but it's all with the end goal in mind, and I feel like all of that paid off for all of our guys. I love this team and I am so glad I got to train with everyone the whole year."

Chess team checks the competition at State

The team scored the most points ever in an IHSA tournament

by Arjun Thakkar

New Trier's chess team competed at the state tournament at the Peoria Civic Center, where they placed 4th.

Nearly 150 schools played in the championship, which took place from Feb. 10-11. The team won 6 of 7 matches, placing behind Illinois Math and Science Academy, Glenbrook North, and Whitney Young.

Assistant Coach Matthew Mersch of the Business Department, in his first year of coaching the chess team, mentioned that this year's results were in line with an ongoing pattern for the team.

Since 2012, the team placed in the top 5 every other year. The team also scored the most points they ever have in the IHSA state tournament's history.

The state tournament's format allowed for each school to play their top 8 players at a time. Each team is seeded and competes with 7 opponents within their half of the seed.

Every member plays at the exact same time and location against a member of equal rank on the other team. New Trier's team was seeded sixth.

Junior Nathan Yamaguchi said that the team was sweeping with no losses until the 5th round against



The chess team poses with their fourth place award at the Peoria Civic Center after the State competition |Thakkar

Glenbrook North, who was seeded second.

"A lot of things went wrong that round. We had 3 draw offers, all of which were declined and ended up as losses for us. The end of competition tie breakers didn't go to us either, so we missed the top three."

For these matches each player has a clock that counts down whenever it's their move. Each clock starts with fifty-five minutes, and if the clock hits zero, the player loses the match.

Senior Saman Taba, who won five and tied three games, said he's proud of the team, but was also hoping to place higher.

"Everyone had worked really hard throughout the year and we were hoping to win the state title," he said.

Taba added, "Chess is a very demanding activity which requires deep concentration and it is very difficult to keep this level of

concentration throughout all of our games."

The chess team this year includes several underclassmen, giving the team a young presence that could continue for future competitions.

First board player David Peng, a freshman, didn't lose any games at state, and was one of five other members to receive medals at the competition.

Junior Abe Sun, a medal recipient who won 6 of his matches and tied another, described the relaxed nature of weekly practices. "Practice is normally really chill," said Sun. "We play some music and we just play against whoever we want."

The national competition is set to take place in May at the Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. With this being the final championship of his high school career, Taba is hoping to bring

home a national title.

Reflecting on how the state competitors practice, Mersch was impressed with how self-driven and supportive they are.

"Even though we officially practice once a week, [the players] do a lot of practice together outside of school, preparing for the different strategies and tendencies they'll face from different opponents.

"We were playing chess all day at this tournament, and when we got back to the hotel, they were playing even more chess. They don't need me or anyone to tell them what to practice or study," said Mersch.

Sun expressed similar sentiments about the team dynamic. He said, "I've gotten a lot more committed to the team, and I think I improved a lot just with extra experience from playing chess on a high school team rather than as an individual."