

# After Amundsen win, Trevs hit speed bump

By Blake Sammann

It has been a tumultuous last couple weeks for the New Trier boys basketball team.

It began on Jan. 26, when New Trier hosted Amundsen (Chicago). In a classy move by New Trier coach Scott Fricke, the starting five for the Trevians was an all-senior line up consisting of Patrick Kelley, Aiden Degenaaers, Tommy Wellington, Lucas Stone and Andrew Hauser, the first start for each of them this season.

Fricke’s decision payed off as Kelley took control of the Trevians offense, tallying eleven first quarter points. Wellington, Degenaaers, and Hauser also contributed to the score for the Trevians.

Amundsen was able to keep it close with their three point shooting, and New Trier led 21-13 at the end of the first quarter.

“We started some seniors tonight and I think those guys really came through,” said Fricke. “P.K. [our leading scorer] had thirteen tonight and Wellington had eleven. It was great to see some seniors who work really hard everyday score some points and contribute.”

When asked about their overall performance, Fricke commented, “I think we started off a little flat. I told our team, ‘This team is better than you thought they were’. We let them shoot the three too much uncontested, but then we picked up our stuff.”

In the second quarter the usual Trevian starters took the court and continued to build their lead. Senior Ryan Haak had a productive second quarter with eight points and a block. The Trevians also managed to slow down the perimeter shooting of Amundsen, and when time expired the Trevians led 39-31.

The Trevians blew the game open in the third quarter and continued their domination into the fourth. With 4:16, Fricke subbed in juniors Will Nicolaides and Drew Favakeh. Despite minimal playing time, Nicolaides scored four points and Fakaveh drew two fouls contributing to an 82-52 Trevians victory.

On Jan. 31, New Trier traveled to Maine South for a chance to keep their conference title hopes alive. Maine South and their raucous fan base were out for revenge after the Trevians handed them their second



The Trevians get pumped up before their win over Amundsen | Carothers

loss of their season in a triple overtime triller earlier this season.

The game was intense and physical from the tip off, culminating when senior Robbie Abuls went down after a hard foul on a breakaway lay-up attempt. However, Trevian mistakes were prevalent in the first quarter with bad passes, travels, and missed shots. Junior George Sargeant led the Hawks with six first quarter points, and Maine South jumped ahead 11-5.

In the second quarter, New Trier

cut down on mistakes and pulled back points to cut the Maine South lead to only three, primarily a result of the effort of senior David Hammes, who ended the game with six three-pointers.

Throughout the third and fourth quarter, Maine South continually stretched their lead. With 1:42 remaining in the game, the Hawks led 44-34. George Sargeant was dominant in the paint, with ten points.

“What makes Sargeant effective is his size, but also how he’s able to

use it,” said senior Sean Boyd. “He’s got great footwork and puts himself in a good position to score before he gets the ball, making him a lot tougher to guard.”

With under a minute remaining the Trevians battled back to come within four. It would be too little too late, as New Trier fell 50-45 dropping them to 14-8 overall.

“Ultimately we just missed a few too many shots,” said Haak. “We got the looks we wanted all night, we just didn’t convert enough.”

Although this season has not gone as many of the Trevian faithful had hoped, the season is far from over. Haak and his teammates know what is expected of them for postseason success.

“We’re going to have our work cut out for us,” concluded Haak. “With the losses we had in the beginning of the season, we may not have a very favorable seed. That being said, we have been playing at a very high level for the past month and a half or so. We have all of the ingredients to make a run once the playoffs come along, regardless of what seed we get.”

## Bar set high for gymnastics

by Willem Kupets

The New Trier Gymnastics season finished on Friday, Jan. 30, as they place second at the conference meet and enter Thursday’s regionals meet as the number one seed.

Although New Trier ended their conference meet in second place, they are still tied for first in the overall conference rankings. Glenbrook South (GBS) took first place, only scoring three points more than New Trier. Maine South, Niles West, and Evanston placed behind the Trevians, respectively.

Junior Emma Hermanson commented on the team’s obstacles.

“Sam Stoddart, one of our top varsity gymnasts, was out sick and couldn’t compete,” she said. “It was a huge setback but it only made us try harder.”

Considering the unfortunate absence of Stoddart, the team’s competitiveness after her recovery will surely improve their chances. The team is looking for more of the success they experienced earlier in the season.

“We recently had a dual meet at GBS and we won on all three levels,” explained junior Sophie Chevalier.

Overall, New Trier has reached consistent success throughout their season, while only suffering one dual meet loss against Carmel High School (CHS).

The loss occurred on Jan. 27, and New Trier fell just short by a final score of 144.20-143.50 in team points. A loss by that small of a margin is unlikely to repeat itself later on, and New Trier will have a shot at redemption in the upcoming sectional meet.

“We’ve been working hard and I think we have a good shot at going far in the state series,” said junior Taylor Kwok.”

Both CHS and GBS are in New Trier’s sectional, but luckily, neither are in its regional. This will give New Trier an extra week to prepare for further competition against their rivals.

“For regionals, hopefully Sam will be back and ready to go,” added Hermanson. “We’re gonna try our best.”

Regarding the teams upcoming competition, junior Peyton Burns commented, “New Trier Gymnastics is a strong team and our biggest competition in the conference is GBS. They have a very talented team. Our last [dual] meet against them we won and were very excited, but they have also beat us in the past.”

This back-and-forth rivalry between the two teams could be settled at the sectional meet, next week.

New Trier has placed in or won most of the tournaments throughout the gymnastics season.

“Our biggest competition of the year is the varsity Holiday Invite which happened over winter break,” added Kwok. “We did really well as a team, so hopefully we can do the same in the upcoming meets.”

For a sport whose athletes spend half of the time off the ground, injuries seem inevitable. Burns has experienced this firsthand in her recovery from a broken foot.

“I have been working on floor in practice and hope to compete it in the upcoming meets such as regionals and sectionals, she said”

Junior Jaclyn Brownstone, who has been recovering from an ACL injury, said, “Injuries are pretty common, half of us usually spend about 20 minutes to get taped up before we can actually practice, but injuries like mine are more rare.”

These precautions become more intense as they practice more advanced skills. Brownstone added that the harder skills usually come with a higher risk for injury.

If New Trier wins the regional meet, they would advance to compete at the sectional meet on Feb. 9 at Mundelein High School (MHS). If they win at MHS, then they will qualify for state for the fourth consecutive year.

In they mean time, they train.

“Although in gymnastics everyone competes individually, we all practice together, work together and support each other like any other team sport,” said Chevalier. “There’s only thirty-two girls on the team so we all have strong bonds with each other.”

## One should be done in NCAA

by Martin Oppeggaard

It is time for the one-and-done rule to go away. It is taking much of the joy out of college basketball for players, coaches, students and fans, and it has made a complete mockery of the notion that the best college basketball players have any intention of graduating.

These players are simply mercenaries passing through only because the NCAA rules force them to be there.

There are alternatives to forcing players to attend college for just one year. The MLB rule enforces that any player graduating from high school is eligible for the draft. Once they find out where they’re drafted and what kind of money they can make to turn pro, they then decide whether to pursue that professional career or go to college.

One of the most significant reasons so many underclassmen put their names into the NBA draft is because they have agents telling them, “Don’t listen to your coach, I know general managers and you’ll go in the first round.”

Are these agents lying? We don’t know for sure, but we do know that they can’t make any money off their client being in college.

However, only a first round pick in the NBA receives a guaranteed contract. 2nd rounders and free agents? Nothing is set in stone. So, if a player is drafted in the first round and the money’s guaranteed, they will probably want to sign. If not, they might have wished they had gone to college instead.

In baseball, if you choose to enter the draft, you can’t go back into the draft for three years. That establishes the fact that you have to make some effort to go to class and make academic progress in school, not exactly a bad deal.

Also, it means that if you leave school after three years there’s a reasonable chance you might come back and graduate. It means that your coach isn’t recruiting your replacement before you play a single game. It means you might actually

get to experience college and won’t be taken advantage of by an agent.

The one-and does don’t go to college, they represent a college. Many of these players are told where they will go in the draft before they play a game. Kentucky Coach John Calipari held an NFL-style scouting combine for NBA executives last fall



The 09-10 Kentucky basketball team of John Wall, Demarcus Cousins, Daniel Orton, and Eric Bledsoe epitomized the one and done philosophy | AP Images

— before the season began. He also begins recruiting the replacements for his freshman class of commits before they play a single game. I know I’m not the only one that finds that morally incorrect.

Now, there are benefits to staying in college. Two of the best big men in the country this season are Wisconsin’s Frank Kaminsky and Syracuse’s Rakeem Christmas. Why are they so good? Because they stayed in college and learned how to play, developing All-American talent later in their careers.

Kaminsky and Christmas will both likely graduate from their respective colleges, and be adequately prepared for life if their NBA careers do not pan out, yet another benefit of staying in college.

Last March, when Mercer upset Duke in the first round of the NCAA tournament, Jabari Parker was outplayed by Mercer senior Jakob Gollon. Because of injuries, Gollon was a sixth-year player who had

turned 24 the previous November. Parker was barely 19. Gollon had played in 118 more college games than Parker.

In all likelihood, Parker, the No. 2 pick in last summer’s NBA draft, will be an all-star someday, while Gollon will never touch the NBA and is now an assistant coach

at UW - Stevens Point. My point is that if Parker couldn’t handle Gollon, how could he possibly be ready for the NBA?

“He’s not ready,” said former Georgetown coach John Thompson, who broadcast the game for Westwood One. “But he has to come out. He has no choice. There’s too much money there for him. It’s not right, it’s not fair, it just is.”

So let’s change that and give players an option. If someone is a the real deal with no interest in going to college, let him turn pro out of high school. Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James and others did it with great success. Some were utter failures, Kwame Brown and Darius Miles come to mind, but they almost certainly would also have failed with one year of college under their belt.

The one and done rule discriminates against high school players and makes a mockery of the college game. For once and for all, it should be done.