

Trevians survive senior night scare from GBS

By Michael Dugan

On senior night, Feb. 13, the New Trier boys basketball team picked up a crucial 49-43 victory over conference rival Glenbrook South in what was a tale of two halves.

It was also a memorable night for the ten seniors of the team.

"It was really fun to experience this special evening with the other nine guys," said senior guard Patrick Kelley. "We have all become so close over the course of high school."

The Trevians came out inspired, allowing just nine points in the first half and forcing turnovers on each of the Titans' first six possessions of the second quarter.

At the halfway mark, it was New Trier's defense that stood out and made a serious impact on the first half.

The zone defense proved to be GBS's kryptonite, after seriously struggling to put points on the board in the second quarter. Meanwhile, New Trier hit three second quarter threes, giving them a fourteen point lead at half.

"The turnovers made them a little bit more timid, making them

afraid to attack the zone," added Trevians junior guard Tino Malnati in an interview with CSL Insider.

Despite failing to reach double digits in the first half, GBS took advantage of New Trier switching from zone to man-to-man defense in the second half.

After five straight points from New Trier to start the second, the Titans went on an 8-0 run of their own to cut the lead to single digits, accompanied by three Chase Daniel three pointers. The Trevians regained momentum, but GBS wasn't done, as they continued to chip away at the lead in the fourth quarter.

The Titans began a 15-5 fourth quarter run with a layup and foul by junior forward Jimmy Martinelli, who capitalized in the post against the man-to-man defense with 9 fourth quarter points.

Martinelli and the Titans had cut the lead down to one, at 42-41. The run would show to be too little too late for the visitors, and the Trevians ended the game on a 7-2 run to clinch the 49-43 victory.

At this point in the season there is a lot of focus on the playoffs for all teams, and a far inferior opponent



New Trier's ten seniors were all smiles before their big win over GBS | Kelley

in GBS causing such trouble for New Trier could spark a possible sign of concern for the Trevians going forward.

"I think we played a solid game," said senior forward Andrew Hauser, "It felt like there was a lid on the hoop at times which allowed them [GBS] to go on runs and stay in the game."

While closer than it should have been, the game ended just the way coach Scott Fricke wanted it to, according to Hauser.

"He [Fricke] has been stressing executing and winning these upcoming games to finish the season," he said. "If we play well, that will give us some confidence going into the games that really matter and will also help with our playoff seeding."

Although valuable, the win was just a small detail in what may prove to be a crucial night for New Trier's season as a whole. It was much more than one game for the Trevians, it was a sign of a possible turn of the corner for the entire season.

After the conference opener against Evanston, the Trevians fell to 2-4 on the season, and looked far from impressive on the court. Now they are 17-9, a stark turnaround from their poor start to the season. Comparing the play of today's team to the one back in December, it's night and day, claimed Hauser.

"I think now we are a lot more consistent, especially on the inside," he said. "Center Sean Boyd started off the season in a rough way, coming off a punctured lung and mono in the summer and fall. He has since found his touch and is playing great."

The Trevians will look to keep the momentum going as they go for their twelfth win in their last fifteen games as they travel to Waukegan on Feb. 20, before closing the season at home against Niles North on Feb. 24. And just like they did against GBS, the Trevians will likely rely on their defense to get two more crucial conference wins.

"I thought our defense in general was good in the first half," mentioned Fricke regarding the team's stellar defensive play. "And at the way end our defense came up big when we needed it the most."

Cheerleading flips history, places second at Nationals

by Charlie Clarke

On Jan. 18, the New Trier Cheerleading team traveled to St. Charles, Missouri to compete in the National Cheer Association High School Open National Championship.

The team placed second at the event, their best finish ever, with a score of 73.4 percent, only to be bested by Mater Dei Prep from Middletown, New Jersey.

Senior Kelly Kim said of her teams' triumph at nationals, "It was so intimidating, seeing all these teams that are just here to prove that they're better than everyone else. Usually cheer is just about rooting for our team, but it's such a different vibe knowing we're the ones competing against others."

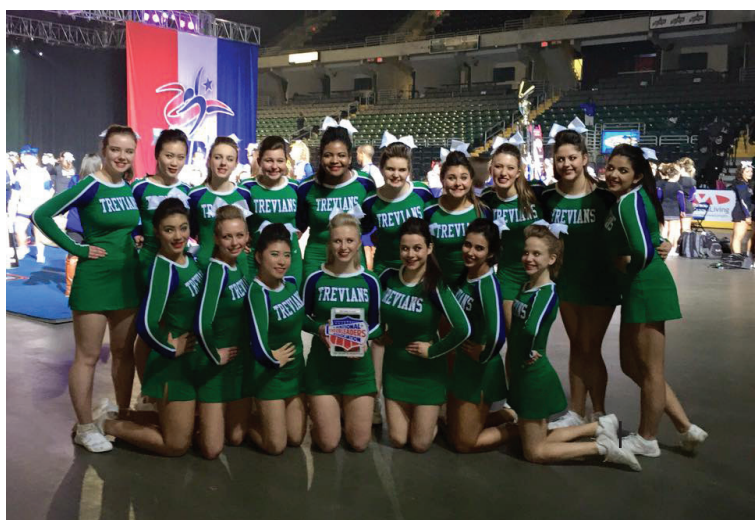
in Lexington, Kentucky, focusing on the families of these competitive cheerleaders as well as the cheerleaders themselves.

Still, some northern teams like New Trier will venture down to compete with some of the more serious and "intimidating" teams. As they proved, northern teams can be just as competitive.

While anxious about the competitions, Kim was excited about the outcome, "Even though it was scary being around all those great teams, it did feel great to see how far we had come. You can't complain about second place."

Many teams hope to just get the chance to compete at a national competition, but placing is beyond their wildest dreams.

With practice four to five days a



The cheerleading team proudly displays its 2nd place trophy | Mall

While the purpose of cheerleading is to help and support whatever team they are rooting for, another aspect to the sport involves competition.

According to a recent article published by Business Insider, the world of cheerleading is more heavily based in the South.

In fact, in 2006, Lifetime created an original series called "Cheerleader Nation," which followed Dunbar High School Varsity Cheerleaders

week, the team puts just as much time in during practice as they do on the basketball court and football field supporting New Trier athletics.

Although the cheer team did do very well at Nationals, the team agreed that their favorite part of the trip was bonding with each other and other teams.

"Staying at the same hotel and being with just the cheerleaders really helped bring us together," added Kim.

Wildcats a fitting choice for Katz

by Ben Portnoy

Just one year after believing he might be a back-end reliever for the New Trier varsity baseball team, senior Danny Katz committed to Northwestern University to continue his playing career.

At this time last year, Katz seemed destined for the bullpen or a spot starter at best, with a deep staff of seniors in front of him.

However, Katz capitalized on opportunities in spring and summer league, Junior Varsity (JV) games and some relief appearances with the varsity squad to earn his way into the good graces of head coach Mike Napoleon.

"He was spotting his fastball, and moving it around the plate," Napoleon said in an interview with CSL Insider. "He was able to throw consistent strikes with three pitches. I love the way he competes on the mound."

Katz's development has been apparent through the spring and summer seasons.

"I saw it in the spring, then again in the summer. He had a phenomenal summer, and I think that's what took him over the edge as far as Northwestern goes. He won our most valuable pitcher award for the Wilmette Waves, and it was well deserved."

Katz showed his "stuff" all summer, sporting a 5-1 record and 1.19 ERA. In addition, he struck out 31 in 35 1/3 innings pitched, also earning a save in the process.

He credited the experience he got towards the end of the spring logging varsity innings with his performance throughout the summer.

When it finally came time to making a college choice, Northwestern seemed like a no-brainer for Katz, who had spent multiple summers in the Northwestern Baseball Camp led by Northwestern coach Paul Stevens.

"When I played on the Glenview Blaze as a 13 and 14-year-old, we got a chance to practice in Northwestern's indoor fieldhouse when it was cold outside every once and a while,"



A young New Trier team will rely on the veteran presence of Katz, who will become a starter after coming out of the bullpen most of last season | Katz

said Katz in an interview with CSL Insider. "I got to meet some of the players, and it was really cool to look up to them. So I've always kind of been around the program."

While he was always connected to the program, Katz was also excited at the prospect of the fantastic opportunities Northwestern provides academically and athletically. He also loved the idea of his parents being able to come watch him pitch.

"I chose Northwestern because it provides such great academic and athletic opportunities, something not a lot of other universities can offer," said Katz. "First and foremost I want to do my very best in the classroom and take advantage of the world-class education that Northwestern provides. It is also very cool that my parents will be able to attend all of my home games."

Katz is now the second member of his family to play college baseball. His older brother Josh, who played baseball at New Trier and has continued his career at Washington University in St. Louis, has been a major influence on him.

"He's always been a great role model for me," said Katz. "His work ethic both off and on the field was something I was always exposed to, and it showed me first-hand what it takes to be successful."

Now that the proverbial dust from the recruiting cycle has settled, Katz will take the mound in a Trevians uniform for one last spring before donning the purple and white a few miles down Sheridan Road.

"I'm most looking forward to just being outside playing baseball with my buddies," said Katz. "That's what baseball is all about, and this being my senior season, I really want to savor my last season with my friends."

With a young, but budding roster, the Trevians will look to ride the arms of Katz and junior Ben Brecht, a recent verbal University of California-Santa Barbara commit, to another successful season after an appearance in the Class 4A sectional last year which ended in a loss to rival Evanston.

Katz is hoping he can help recreate some of the postseason success during his senior year as a starter before he dons a Northwestern jersey in Evanston next season.

"Last year, we definitely had high expectations," concluded Katz. "This year we'll have a younger team, and more learning to do. So we won't have such high expectations from the start, but that will help us in the long run. I know we have a great team, and I think we can put a run together to have a great year."