

# Spike League serves up intense competition

by Grace Murphy

Serious rivalries are made when teams of competitive and talented volleyball players go head to head on the court each Monday night during Spike League. This is the current ranking of the A Bracket teams, composed of players that are "in it to win it".

**Tied for First Place**

Delicious Green Beans: Jim Chiou (junior), Kevin Tsuru (junior), Michael Burds (junior), Derek Janusz (junior), Max Elghanian (junior), Harry Marwil (junior), Catherine O'Brien (junior), Henry Lindstrom (junior), and Ava Milani (junior)

"Think about the American Army going up against the Korean Army, that height difference; we are the American Army," Marwil gloated.

I'd Hit That: Emma Willcocks (junior), Katie Duquette (junior), Ceejay Xiong (junior), Nicole Beto (junior), Michael Tamkin (junior), Allyson Vaughn (junior), and Meghan Riordan (junior)

Willcocks' team tries to focus on the fun side of the league while still crushing the competition with a 3-0 record. "Let's be honest...we hit that,"

Duquette said.

New Trier 18U: Evan Gruchot (senior), Nate Friefeld (senior), Peter Kirie (senior), Ally Blommer (junior), Anders Aschkenase (junior), and Liz Sollitt (junior)

Gruchot explained, "If you are looking for a good match, the inevitable facing of my team and the Delicious Green Beans should be one of the best Spike League matches at New Trier in the history of the Booster Club."

**Tied for Second Place**

Yellow Magic: David Pollack (senior), Alexander Chen (senior), Grant Park (senior), Josh Park (senior), Chico Park (senior), and Patrick Huang (senior)

Yellow Magic takes Spike League very seriously. They are known to show up hours before to practice for their upcoming games. Pollack explained that their favorite color is yellow, it's not just because their team is Asian.

Scared Hitless: Kayla Malehorn (senior), Katie Hochschild (senior), Emma Feeney (senior), Courtney Lewis (senior), Grace Carlson (senior), Lynley Evans (senior), Sarah Shafiq (senior), and Kate

Conaghan (senior)

**Tied for Third Place**

You Tryna Bump?: Jessica Bleiweis (senior), Chris Lane (senior), Clay Cassato (senior), Taylor Newmark (senior), Quinn Fitzpatrick (senior), Andrew Murlick (senior), George Lamason (senior), Martin Oppegard (senior), William Errath (senior), and Megan Wetzel (senior)

Lamason said, "Intramural sports are no laughing matter. Spike league is a lifestyle. We bump, set, and spike better than any team in the league, and every single one of my teammates knows that walking into the gym on Monday night."

Gold Diggers: Dante Chakrovorti (senior), Clare Sheridan (senior), Corey Schwartz (senior), Jake Reynolds (senior), Cam Lloyd-Jones (senior), Ian Michelson (senior), and Daniel Bergelson (senior).

Chakrovorti explained his team's strategy, "We're looking to lull our opponents into a daze (Reynolds and Lloyd-Jones are best dressed with various crop tops week in and week out) and then slowly, but surely, take point after point."

Nasty Green Beans: Connor Cook (junior), Alex Cook (junior), Catherine Hinkamp (junior), Talia Harrington (junior), Issy Wilson (junior), Zach Kaplan (junior), Tristan Jacobs (junior), Ray Lemaire (junior), and Laine Stern (junior)

These three time Division A champions play by the "make the play you stay" substitution rule, so basically if a player messes up, they kick them off the court and someone else comes in. Cook explained that their biggest competitor is currently the Delicious Green Beans team.

Swingers: Collin Crowder (senior), Owen Phillips (senior), Robby Snyder (senior), Dennis Anastos (senior), Ben Portnoy (senior), Kate Conaghan (senior), Will Dellva (senior), and Jacqui Gossard (senior)

Compared to the New Trier Varsity Volleyball Team, Crowder says that the Swingers fall a little short, but that doesn't stop them from going out and raking up as many points as they can. "Even if that means arguing a call every five minutes," Crowder claimed.

Club Ice: Ye Sol An

(sophomore), Joe Lim (sophomore), Steve Kim (sophomore), Ruben Greenstein (sophomore), Sam Lim (junior), and William Majarucon (sophomore)

Although An says that this is one of the "averagely shortest" teams in the league, these players don't let height get to them.

**Tied for Fourth Place**

Can You Dig It?: Griffin Schilder (sophomore), Yanni Melidones (sophomore), Ray Volpe (sophomore), Alex Khan (sophomore), Allen Lee (sophomore), Tim Verlinsky (sophomore), Peter Magner (sophomore), and Luca Giorgi (sophomore)

Uh Huh Bunge: Nathan Reiff (senior), Chloe O'Donoghue (senior), Will Finnegan (senior), Luke Duros (senior), Ben Weinstein (senior), Emmie Kline (senior), Charlie Bunge (senior), Erin Guder (senior), Michaela Maday (senior), Nick Merrill (senior), Billy Maloney (senior), and Jack McGuinness (senior)

This team has been playing together since freshman year and have become better players throughout the years.

# New Trier and Loyola rivalry: a match made in heaven

by Danni LeServe

New Trier and Loyola Academy have been bitter rivals in almost every sport for nearly sixty years.

New Trier athletes wait all year to play the Ramblers and always circle the game on the calendar. Even though the catholic school is not in the Central Suburban League conference, every game against Loyola is always a highly anticipated and intensely competitive event.

"The rivalry exists because of how geographically close our two school are," said Athletic Director Randy Oberembt. "Because of how close we are in proximity and the competitive excellence of the two schools, each game is definitely going to draw community interest."

Loyola Academy was founded in 1909 in the Rogers Park neighborhood at Loyola University as an all boys Catholic school.

In 1957 the school was moved to its current location in Wilmette, only a few blocks away from the New Trier West campus. Loyola remained an all boys school until 1994. In 2003 the Ramblers opened up their athletic complex which is known as "The Hill."

The Lacrosse, Soccer, Baseball, and Softball teams practice and play on "The Hill." A few New Trier athletes dread playing on the hill because of how high up the turf fields are.

Loyola, like New Trier, offers over thirty different sports. Many of New Trier boys programs such as football, hockey, and lacrosse, have played Loyola since the 1960s, while the girls teams including field hockey, ice hockey, and lacrosse teams didn't start to play Loyola until the late 1990s.

But whether it's a boys or girls game, it will be hard fought, exciting game, which embodies the true rivalry that exists between the two high schools.

"The rivalry with Loyola is big for New Trier because they're so close and they're competitive in all the sports we are," said senior football player James Doan. "And the fact that everyone knows someone who goes there makes you want to beat them in every sport and beat

them badly."

New Trier and Loyola's football teams aren't in the same conference, but they are both in class 8A ISHA playoffs. The two teams have met in the early rounds of the playoffs in past years, with Loyola usually defeating the Trevians.

The rarity with which these two team face each other also strengthens the rivalry between New Trier and Loyola.

The Ramblers and the Trevs haven't faced each other in six years, but this season's bracket set up a potential quarterfinal matchup. Loyola ended up losing to Stevenson in the second round, and the much anticipated matchup never happened.

New Trier's field hockey team has been dominant in the last twenty years, making it to the state playoffs nearly every year. This year, the Trevians won the state championship while Loyola lost early in the playoffs. The two teams met only once this year during the regular season, and the Trevs cruised past the Ramblers.

"We went in to the season thinking they would be good competition because they beat Lake Forest High School earlier in the season," said junior Audrey Kingdom. "But when we played them on "The Hill" we beat them 4-0."

New Trier and Lake Forest have been the top schools in Field Hockey for the past two years, while Loyola has not been as good as of late. In fact New Trier and Lake Forest have had a bigger rivalry.

"They have been good in past years, but they haven't had a team as long as we have and they don't have as many kids to pull from," said Kingdom. "They aren't our main rivalry, but it's always great to beat them."

After an unbelievable win at the Quad Header with only seventeen seconds left, the New Trier Green team is looking forward to dominating Loyola this season, especially after a hard loss to the Ramblers last year at the Quad.

"I think Loyola is such a big rival for us because they are a team that we see very often during the regular season and our games are always really competitive," said

senior goalie Jack Junge.

New Trier Green has won eleven state championships including last year's victory. They face many difficult opponents including Loyola and Glenbrook North, their main competition for state every year, but playing Loyola is always a schoolwide event for both of the schools.

"This rivalry means so much to us because it's a tradition at both schools so even from a young age we hated Loyola hockey," said Junge.

After an upsetting loss at the Quad, the New Trier Girls Hockey team is looking forward to continuing their rivalry against Loyola and facing them at state. The girls have won six state championships including last year where they beat Loyola at the United Center.

"We have a rivalry with Loyola because they're good competition," said senior center Ali Griffin. "We always look forward to playing them because it will always be an incredibly competitive game."

The Trevians play Loyola nearly every year in the state championship game which creates a vigorous rivalry between the two teams. The Trevs played Loyola on Nov. 25 in a rematch of the Quad game and the game ended in an uneventful tie.

"They are definitely our biggest rivals, we end up playing them in state most years and they are a strong team," said Griffin, "But beating them in state is the best feeling ever."

Last year the boy's lacrosse team played Loyola for the state championship. The game went into overtime after a last second goal for New Trier. Senior David Hammes scored the game winner. This was the Trevians' tenth state championship win.

"I would say they are probably such a big rivalry with us because for the last 10-15 years the state championship has been won by one of us," said senior attacker Ben Connelly. "They're always a solid team and we also always have a strong team, too. We're two very evenly matched teams."

Since New Trier and Loyola both created a boys lacrosse team, the schools have been bitter rivals.

"I would definitely say they are



New Trier has enjoyed more recent success in the storied rivalry | LeServe

our biggest rivals. We don't like them at all, and that's the simplest way to put it," said Connelly, "We know when we play Loyola we always have to bring it; you can't get away with a lousy effort and still manage to pull out a victory."

Last year's state championship game did not end the way the Girls Lacrosse team wanted it to. After a difficult loss to Loyola the Trevians are looking forward to redeem themselves this season and making it back to the state game.

"New Trier and Loyola rivalry goes way back, before I can remember. We're the two best teams around and each other's biggest competitors," said senior defender Kate Conaghan. "Ever since I've played New Trier lacrosse, and even before then, the rivalry has been there. They are totally our biggest rival."

Loyola and New Trier combined have played in every state game since 1998, with New Trier winning five state championships since that year. These two very talented teams are always competing to be the best team in the state.

"One of the reasons is that there is a rivalry because they are so close to us and we just love beating Loyola at everything," said Conaghan, "But whenever we play against Loyola it's always one of the biggest games of the year; it's a fierce battle and a hugely intense game."

This rivalry that exists with New Trier and Loyola is not the oldest rivalry for New Trier, that's the conference rivalry between Evanston, but just the word Loyola fuels a fierce hatred to any New Trier student.

"The rivalry between Evanston and New Trier is very important to both schools and is one of the longest rivalries in the state," added Oberembt.

"But the rivalry between Loyola and New Trier is different. Some families that live in the district have people in their families that go to both New Trier and Loyola. Some kids have neighbors that go to Loyola, and because we are so close everyone wants to beat their neighbors' or cousin's school."

Last spring, New Trier and Loyola faced off seven times in seven different spring sport playoffs. New Trier came out on top with a record of 5-2.

This competitive excellence in the last few years has only strengthened the rivalry between the two schools and as winter sports end and spring sports start, everyone will be looking forward to taking on Loyola.

"In every sport at New Trier, there's something about Loyola that makes you want to beat them more than any other team on the regular and post season schedule," concluded Connelly.