

Three Stars of the Week

Annie Sheehan, senior



The senior has helped guide the Trevians to a 7-0 start, with goals against Highland Park, Stevenson, and Glenbard East.

Tim Fox, senior



Fox led New Trier to a gutsy victory over Notre Dame, pitching two innings of relief to earn the win, and delivering the game-winning run with a double.

Dante Chakravorti, senior



The four-year varsity starter has been crucial to his team’s undefeated start, tallying 22 assists and 3 kills in the Warren tournament championship.

“Sophomore Four” breaks baseball tradition

by Michael Blickstein

Four sophomores have been added to the New Trier varsity baseball team, an increase from a 2014 team that listed just one underclassman. This is foreign territory for a program accustomed to veteran impact.

Clayton Czyzynski, Kevin Donahue, Matt Kann, and Max Rosenthal, who will all graduate in 2017, figure to play key roles on an upstart Trevian squad. While this could potentially cause conflict with the typical team chemistry, players seem to be handling the change well.

“It’s actually really cool having them on the team,” said junior pitcher Will Jamieson. “They’re really polite and really talented.”

The feelings are mutual on the behalf of the four sophomores. According to Czyzynski, an infielder, there haven’t been any issues. This can be attributed to the players getting acquainted with each other during the summer baseball season.

“So far it’s been great because I played with some of these guys in the summer and they have been really supportive to all of the sophomores,” said sophomore infielder Clayton Czyzynski. “But I’m still getting used to it. Being a sophomore on the team is fun because you get to meet more of the upperclassmen”

While the sophomores seem set to make an impact this spring, according to some of the juniors and seniors who didn’t make the varsity team, there is some frustration about



Donahue and Czyzynski anchor an all-sophomore middle infield | Facebook

the fact that sophomores made the team.

“All the players who got cut were good players,” said senior pitcher Billy Cremin. “New Trier baseball is such a hard team to make and sometimes, like this tryout, good players will get cut.”

This frustration can be warranted because of how long some players, upperclassmen especially, have been waiting to play for the varsity team.

Regardless, varsity players think that, in the long term, these sophomores will be beneficial to the team and prove that they can be leaders over the next two years.

“They are playing very well and contributing a lot to the team,” said Cremin. “The sophomores are going to be a huge part of the team in the future. Maybe even this season.”

While seniors may not get the opportunity to play next year, it’s likely that baseball wasn’t their main focus. Not to mention that juniors can always try again next year and are still able to play in junior varsity games.

“A lot of people question these sophomores’ ability to jump from freshman [competition] to varsity,” explained junior outfielder Michael Hurley.

“However these sophomores all

earned their spots.”

Hurley’s stance backs up the reasonable belief that these players could’ve made junior varsity as freshmen had there been a dedicated team for it (New Trier only fields a freshman, sophomore, and varsity team).

“I don’t think any players who were cut have hard feelings towards players like sophomores,” said junior Will D’Angelo. “It is up to the coaches to pick the most competitive team with the most chemistry, and if that means taking a more athletic underclassman over a seasoned and experienced upperclassman, that is what has to be done.”

The most important thing in a team setting like baseball is that the team can hand-pick the most talented players who try out, and if sophomores are the most talented, then they should be picked.

“The sophomores are all crucial contributors to both the in-game success of the varsity team, as well as the life and the environment that comes with every major New Trier sport,” said D’Angelo. “Age does not matter as these athletes are the future, in addition to the present.”

Although D’Angelo didn’t make varsity, his opinion is echoed by the team.

“These sophomores are young and their youth and sheer talent is important for this team,” said Jamieson. “These players will be some of the most helpful in the upcoming years and that forward thinking is exactly what we need.”

Competition rampant in Illinois bass fishing

by Carly Travis

New Trier’s bass fishing team does not receive nearly the credit that it deserves. After walking the halls and talking to nearly 10 students of all ages, only about 3 people knew a few details regarding the team.

“I know we won state one year by catching just 1 fish,” stated junior Henry Sherman. “I’ve just heard about it,” said sophomore Celeste Donnelly.

Echoing Donnelly, juniors AJ Gregorian and Zach Kaplan had only heard about the fact that it’s an IHSA official sport, but nothing more.

Contrary to popular belief, bass fishing is much more complex. In fact, it takes an extreme amount of endurance, skill, and knowledge to know how to competitively fish.

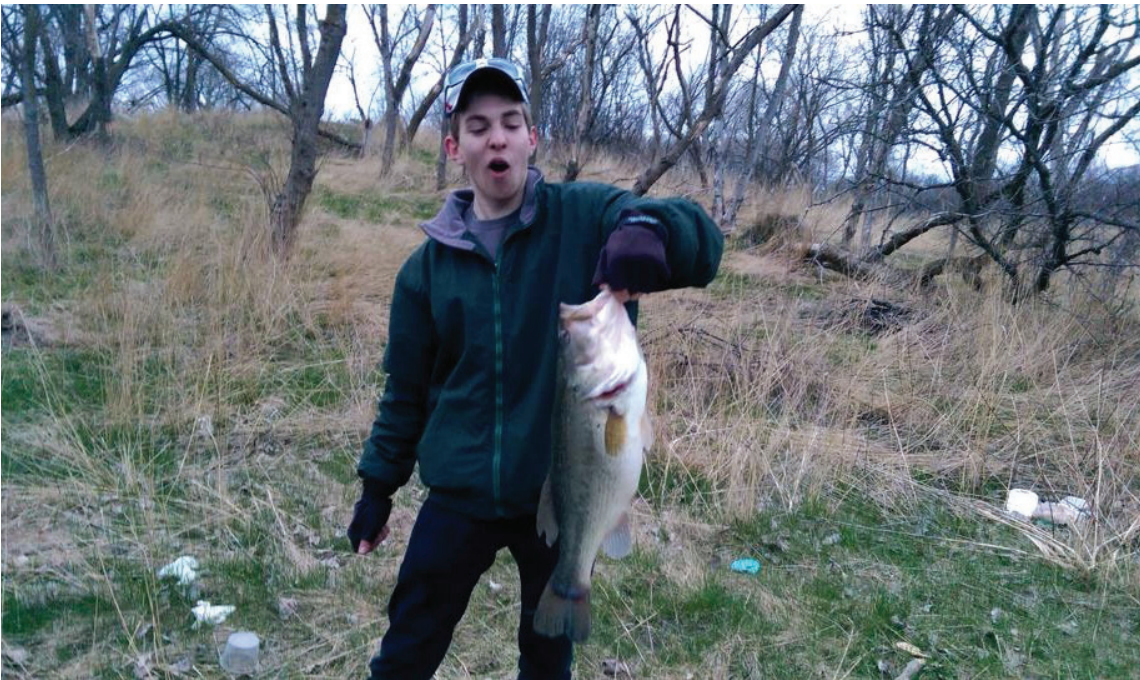
Before making the team, one must take a written test showcasing a variety of casting techniques, knot tying formations, and the rules of the sport.

Like most sports, “The bass fishing try out is a week long process,” explained bass fishing coach and school social worker Steve Gagliano. He said that some students feel the test is harder than an average AP chemistry exam.

“If you’re a casual fisher, you’re going to struggle with the test.”

Unlike other established New Trier sports, bass fishing has no offseason. Therefore, tryouts commence at the beginning of spring, which is the first week in March, according to the IHSA.

However, during this time, the team is “usually casting into little bag toss platforms in the cafeteria because there’s still ice on the



Frueh will look to catch more 6-pounders this season and ultimately vault New Trier into state conversation | Frueh

lakes,” said Gagliano.

The team runs into competition from high schools in southern Illinois, not only because they have a longer practice window than northern high schools, but they also have much denser bass fisheries.

Pantagraph High School Sports, a Central Illinois newspaper, reports that high school bass fishing is most competitive in the state of Illinois, despite the warm weather and ideal fishing conditions in the south.

“The movement to add fishing was spearheaded by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) about four years ago,” Pantagraph writes. “The decision has met with tremendous success and 232 state high schools now boast a team.”

As opposed to other sports, in a bass fishing tournament the set up is “every team versus every other team,

so you really have to maximize the time on the water and out-compete everyone else,” said senior captain and four-year member of the team, Jonah Frueh.

“People ask me and are usually surprised to hear that we meet five days a week usually for two and a half to three hours a day,” Frueh explained, noting that peers don’t necessarily accept bass fishing as a legitimate sport.

However, the common leisurely activity takes a strict amount of patience and adeptness that only fishers can relate to.

Frueh and his recently graduated partner, Michael Gobeli, knew each other’s strengths and weaknesses and fished accordingly.

“If there was a style that he really liked or that he was really good at, hopefully there would be an

opposite style that I’d be good at,” said Frueh.

There is a lot more to bass fishing than people think. Unlike common belief at the Winnetka campus, the Northfield campus is starting to show significant interest in competitive bass fishing.

Freshman Benjamin Michelon showed a lot of intent on trying out for the team.

“I’m probably not going to play lacrosse next year so I’m going to bass fish [in the spring],” Michelon stated. He would go on to explain how he and his friends once caught eight fish at Skokie Country Club.

We aren’t quite sure about the legality of this, and definitely do not condone fishing in private country clubs. But the future looks bright for bass fishing, especially as a competitive sport.