

Varsity wrestling rallies for 40-33 victory at Evanston

Late heroics from freshmen give the Trevians a critical conference win

by Matt Murray

In a thrilling dual meet at Beardsley Gymnasium on Dec. 6, the varsity wrestling team pulled out a 40-33 victory against defending conference champion Evanston, scoring 10 unanswered points to close the match.

After the Wildkits erased a 21-6 deficit with a 27-9 scoring run, the fate of the match was left in the hands of the Trevians’ newest and lightest wrestlers: freshmen Wilson Wright and Eli Polacek.

“I had confidence that [Wright and Polacek] would pull through and be able to wrestle on the big stage,” said Head Coach Marc Tadleman. “For those two freshmen being the last two weights [to wrestle] in their first conference match, it wasn’t the ideal way to start them off in the CSL, but they did a great job of handling the pressure.”

Wright entered his 106-pound class match with fellow freshman Maximo Terrizzi on the heels of 12 unanswered points by the Wildkits; the Trevians surrendered six apiece in losses by fall and forfeit in the 220-pound and heavyweight classes respectively.

However, with chants of “Wilson” being showered upon him by the

New Trier fans in attendance, Wright outlasted Terrizzi in an intense match, staving off a barrage of Terrizzi takedown attempts in the first two rounds before permanently pinning his freshman foe to the mat with just 24 seconds remaining in the third.

“Everyone on the team stepped up and did what they needed to do to help the team win. I felt so supported by my teammates, especially the team captains,” said Wright. “It is early in the wrestling season, but we’re off to a great start.”

Wright’s lead-snatching victory was followed by a dominant performance by Polacek, whose nine-point second round ended up being the difference in a 12-3 win, marking the Trevians’ most lopsided decision of the night and giving them the four points that they needed to stave off the Wildkits.

“As a whole, the team performed great. It was a nail-biter at the end, but our two lightest weights knew what had to be done and put on a show,” said senior Mike Stringer.

“This win showed what kind of team we can be and how competitive we can get when we need it most.”

While the team’s freshmen rose to the challenge in their first conference meet, their efforts did not go to waste thanks to dominant performances by the team’s reliable seniors earlier in the match.

After dropping the first match of the night by fall, the Trevians tallied 21 unanswered points in their next four matches, bookending



Stringer faces off with Wertheimer just before the first round of their Dec. 6 match | Murray

their run with victories by seniors Mike Stringer and Michael Miralles.

Miralles opened the team’s scoring by picking up three points in a narrow 12-10 victory over senior Jacob Vice in the 126-pound class match, and Stringer capped off the team’s run of three consecutive wins by fall with a victory over senior Nico Wertheimer in the 145-pound class match, rallying from an early 4-1 deficit to take a second round lead before using his signature fireman’s carry to pin Wertheimer early in the third round.

The team’s spirit of resilience was also on display in the form of the usually dominant Matt McKenna, who overcame a slow start in his 160-pound class match against

senior Max Morton to win 7-3 and remain undefeated on the season.

“Getting the win against Evanston has been the highlight of the season so far. Evanston always brings a well-coached team, so we knew that we were in for a dog fight,” said McKenna. “Three of the last four years, this dual has come down to the last match, and after losing last year, it was great to go out on top in my final season.”

Although McKenna had an off night by his standards, the abundance of top-tier wrestlers on the Trevians’ roster provided enough scoring to keep the team in the game, highlighted by junior Tommy McDermad winning the 195-pound class match in just 38 seconds.

“We’ve got some really tough wrestlers who are working hard, but [the win] was ultimately a team effort. Even the guys who went out there and took a loss were competing hard and trying to win,” said Tadleman.

Sitting at 6-3 on the season, the varsity wrestling team has already won more games than they did all of last season, and with two months of time between this match and the postseason, they still have plenty of time to continue their growth.

“A lot of our team is young or new to varsity and everyone performed well [against Evanston],” said McKenna. “Everyone will continue getting better as the season goes on, so I’m excited to see what we can do in the rest of the season.”

Boys basketball drops OT thriller

Team optimistic about the future despite the loss

by Connor Caserio

Varsity boys basketball came up just short in an overtime thriller against Glenbrook South on Dec. 5, losing by a final score of 63-62.

The Trevians trailed by as many as 14 points early, but they were able to claw their way back into the game in the second quarter.

From the start of the second half, the game was a back and forth affair, with the two teams trading baskets on seemingly every possession.

“This team plays extremely hard,” said head coach Scott Fricke. “They have a lot of grit. I am very proud of the way they battled.”

Near the end of regulation, the Trevians trailed 55-53. With 10 seconds left, senior guard John Carragher willed his way to a tough layup, sending the game to overtime.

At the end of overtime, Carragher had a chance to win the game with a buzzer-beating layup, but his shot was blocked by a gang of Titan defenders, and the game ended.

“Although the last shot didn’t work out, we got the look we wanted, and I am confident it will work out next time,” said Carragher.

Fricke agreed with Carragher, saying that the guard had no reason to hang his head. Carragher applied stifling defensive pressure throughout the entire game, and he led the Trevians in scoring with 23 points.

“He played a great game. He was getting into the paint, and he was finishing or finding people,” said Fricke. “He made a good move, and we didn’t get a call.”

Fricke also felt that senior guard William Ryan had a strong performance. Ryan scored 21 points, over half of which came during a dominant stretch in the third quarter when it seemed like he did everything for the Trevians.



Senior Jaden Katz brings the ball up the court | NT Boys Hoops Twitter

“Just a heart of a lion—that kid does not like to lose,” said Fricke.

According to Max Preps, Glenbrook South came into the game ranked eleventh in the state, while the Trevians were unranked. So, it was impressive that the Trevians played the Titans so close.

A key factor in the Trevians keeping the game close was their ability to contain Titan forward Dom Martinelli, who had scored 50 points in his team’s win against Buffalo Grove on Dec. 5.

“We did a good job on defending [Martinelli] and limited his scoring,” said junior guard Ian Burns. “His supporting cast really stepped up and hit some big shots, which really hurt us.”

Senior forward Emmett Burnside played a key role in limiting Martinelli’s strong inside scoring ability—he did a superb job attacking the glass and applying defensive pressure.

Thinking ahead, Burnside felt that his team’s ability to contain Martinelli bodes well for the Trevians’ next game versus Glenbrook South on Jan. 17.

“My impression after the game is that they are highly beatable, if we continue to play like a team and hit our shots the result will

be different next time,” he said.

Looking forward, the entire team believes that their strong performance against Glenbrook South demonstrates that they have a lot of potential this season. Though they lost, the fact that the game went to overtime suggests that they can compete with the best teams in the state.

“I think that this team can do some great things this season and this loss will only make us better,” said Burns. “With how tough we are I feel that we can compete with anyone and make a deep run in March.”

Of course, in order to make a playoff run, the Trevians need to improve a lot. They played well against Glenbrook South, but they struggled to get anything going on offense in losses against Loyola Academy and Lane Tech, falling 46-41 and 57-47 respectively.

But, the team’s successes against Glenbrook South and the fact that they still have a lot of games to play suggests that the Trevians will improve through the season. Also, because the team’s main goal is always to get better as the season goes on, they will almost certainly progress.

“We want to be playing our best basketball at the end of the year,” said Fricke. “That’s our number one goal.”

Girls bowling takes down Vernon Hills in close match

by Cleo Pool

On Dec. 4, varsity girls bowling defeated Vernon Hills in a close match.

New Trier won 2 of 3 games, winning the overall match by a close final score of 2777-2559. Considering that Vernon Hills was the 2018 conference champion, this victory was a huge success.

Head Coach David Hjelmgren said he saw some great bowling during the match. He felt that the girls played their hearts out, and he pointed out some stand-out performers.

“Sophomore Maya Palomino led the Trevians with a high series of 491. Maya rolled her first ever 200 game which was extremely exciting. Senior Sarah Hughes rolled a 489 series. Shannon Burgert rolled a 485 series and leads the Trevians this year with a 174.5 average,” said Hjelmgren.

Hjelmgren saw this win and a recent win over GBN, another difficult competitor, as the team’s greatest achievements so far this season.

“It’s still early, but wins over GBN and Vernon Hills to start the season for such a young team is amazing,” said Hjelmgren.

Because Vernon Hills is the Trevians’ toughest competition this season, this match had been much-anticipated. It’s fairly early in the season and the girls are still warming up, so preparation for the match focused on getting back in the groove of competition.

“Our team has been working on reviewing the fundamentals of bowling. This includes the mechanics of our swing along with targeting and positioning,” said Hjelmgren.

With the season just starting, the girls are looking forward to getting competition under their belts. In particular, they are excited to begin tournaments.

“I’m looking most forward to our tournaments. They’re so much fun and such a great bonding experience for the team,” said Vickery.

Junior Rory McKeough, is looking forward to keeping the team rivalry with Evanston alive.

“I’m looking forward to our match against Evanston. We have a running rivalry and there’s a bowling pin that we decorate and pass back and forth to whoever wins,” said McKeough.

This year’s team feels different from years past. There are eight new varsity bowlers this season, putting the 10 returning players in leadership roles.

“This is the youngest team that I have ever coached. We have two seniors, one junior, nine sophomores and six freshmen,” said Hjelmgren.

Despite this new team dynamic, the Trevians are making it work. Hjelmgren is proud of how the team is coming together as one regardless of experience or grade level.

Vickery is impressed by how fast the team has come together. She sees a real difference in this year’s team from last year’s.

“Our rookies are already showing an incredible amount of improvement and us returners are already back into the groove of things and the improvement since our previous seasons on the team is really showing,” said Vickery.

The excitement about the new bowlers is felt team-wide. Fellow sophomore Shannon Burget agreed with Vickery. She is enjoying the new energy of the group.

“We are still trying to find our identity. What is amazing is that every single person on this team is open and willing to work on creating that identity together. I love the positivity and willingness to learn that this team possesses,” said Hjelmgren.