

# SPORTS

## Records of former player and NFL star broken

**Nikki George**  
Staff Writer

With a record of 1-4 (0-1 in the Central Suburban League South), the varsity football team continues its season under the direction of head coach Curtis Tate, who expressed his uncertainty as to the end result of the Wolves' season due to their inconsistent record so far. With three losses, including a loss to district rival Niles North, the Wolves are going to have a long season.

The Wolves lost their first game against Vernon Hills with a score of 33-19. However, the next week proved to lighten the load as the Wolves beat Zion Benton 54-37 in their home opener. The game against Niles North marked the first ever Skokie Skirmish in which the winning team received bragging rights for a whole year as well as a trophy.

Unfortunately, the Wolves lost to the Vikings 64-63. The game was the highest scoring in the four decades of the district rivalry. The game was also significant for Niles West running back, senior Leonard Panion who beat alumnus and Pittsburgh Steelers running back, Rashard Mendenhall's record of most yards in a game. According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Panion ran for 425 yards with 36 attempts and six touchdowns. His game against Niles North was the third game in a row that he ran for more than 200 yards. The Wolves played Deerfield last Friday and also lost the game with a score of 28-14. Despite the sub .500 record, Tate still has a lot of confidence in the team.

"This year is all about us. Our hardest competition on Friday

### Soccer beats top ranked team

**Nikki George**  
Staff Writer

The boys' varsity soccer team kicked off the 2008 season with an overall record of 7-4-2.

Head coach Scott Ackman comments on the team's success. "Our success has provided all players with a boost of confidence to continue their victory in the upcoming matches," Ackman said.

On Tuesday Sept. 16 defeated Maine South with a final score of 1-0. The goal was scored in the second half by junior captain Mahi Mameledzija. Mameledzija is currently leading the team with seven goals.

Also leading the team this year are senior captains Ben Pintilei, Santos Reyes and junior Mameledzija.

Along with the Wolves' victory against Maine West, their defeat against Schaumburg set a precedent for the rest of the season. Despite the first half, which ended with a score of 0-1 (Schaumburg), the Wolves turned it around in the second half and defeated Schaumburg 3-1 with two goals scored by Mameledzija and one goal by senior Hani Arabi.

"[Although], we lost a lot of really good players from last year, our record is proving that we can manage." "The team has worked really hard during the summer and off season," Ackman mentioned. "This rest of the season is expected to go well."

Reyes concurs. "We worked incredibly hard this off season and during the summer. We use each practice to fix our mistakes and go from there," Reyes said. According to Reyes, all team members are recurring from minor injuries and sicknesses and getting ready for conference games.

Despite the tough conference, Ackman expects a lot from the team. "We plan to win conference, get to sectionals, but mainly, win state," Ackman said. Reyes agrees. "Our communication and trust in one another leads us to expect a conference win for the second year in a row and possibly state," Reyes said.

The Wolves' success this season comes a lot from the successful practices according to Reyes. "Although New Trier remains a tough competition, we are ready to face off against them," Reyes commented.

Two weeks ago, the Wolves participated in the Rockton-Hononegah Tournament. After a saddening loss against Rockford Gullford (2-3) and Collinsville (1-2), the Wolves defeated Rockford Christian (5-1). The first two goals were scored by seniors Ionut Ciocan and Mirza Prses in the first half, Pintilei scored two goals and sophomore Alan Polous scored one goal during the second half.

Additional team members include seniors Eduardo Lagunas, Karl Grunst, Cesar Alvarez and Patrick Conrad. Junior members include Martin Tomoic, Joe Kosir, Roy Brines, Anthony Tabar and Amaga Batnasan. Sophomores on the team are Danny Niedzielski, Tomas Villamil and Arek Solawa. Freshman on the team include Eric O'Neill, Lane Mita, Michael Tabar and Jaime Zepeda. The Wolves have also defeated Lake Forest, Hoffman Estates and Vernon Hills.

The Wolves will play against New Trier this Tuesday Oct. 7 at Basrak Field at 7 p.m

nights are the opponents we face and ourselves," Tate said. "In order to score victories against these opponents, the team has to work harder because of losses of key players who have graduated."

With the loss of graduating players also come new prospects. The team has had help from key players such as seniors John May (running back and linebacker) who leads the defense with 35 tackles and 15 assists, Joel Cohen (wide receiver and defensive back) with 29 tackles and 13 assists and Nick Gremley (quarterback and linebacker) with 135 yards. Panion leads the team in rushing with a total of yards and also leads the team in touchdowns (10).

With a team full of potential, Tate expects a turnaround from the current record. "All I want from the team is to play together, have fun and win," Tate said.

The Wolves next game is tonight against Glenbrook South at Basrak Field at 7:30 p.m.



Senior quarterback Nick Gremley slides for a first down in the vs. Niles North. Photo by Rexly Penafloida

## Girls' cross country team races to the finish

**Naomi Prale**  
Around Town Editor

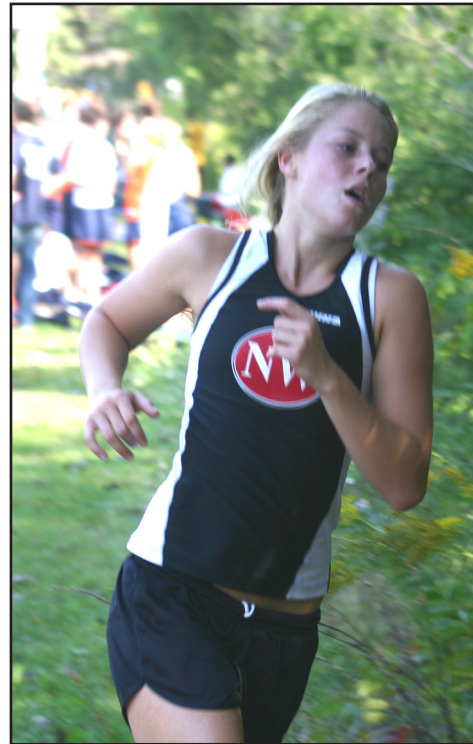
As Niles West Girls Cross Country team starts their season, they begin to work with a large team, and begin to work together while running.

"I want all cross country athletes to become part of the team and work with one another in practice and meets," Coach Anne Heselton said. "This is the largest team we have had over the past 10 years."

Earlier this season, junior Megumi Hoshi, the team's expected number one runner, had an ankle injury that may call her out for the entire season. Junior/captain Josephine Tritsch also has had recurring knee problems, but the team is not worried about injuries.

"I think every runner on our team makes a difference," Tritsch said. "The talent and energy of those injured will be missed, but you can't focus on the 'what if,' but the 'what is.'"

Regarding expectations, Heselton said, "Varsity especially needs to work on pack running. The closer the girls are to running together, the better our team score. I would like them to qualify for sectionals this year."



Senior Molly Gstalter finishes. Photo by Naomi Prale

Heading into today's dual meet vs. Highland Park, the girls' swimming and diving team, sports, 2008 class of Macejak, head coach of the girls Niles West Running team, Rebecca back and captain the Niles West Running team, Rebecca back and captain Jasmine Ramahi, all of whom expect the girls to win and do a promising great. Onitsch added. "We

have "This work out on a very great group of girls who are really working extremely hard. However, we will have to see how they address the responsibilities of the captains. Molly Gstalter and we have a lot of pride in the highest conference examples of what a school should do. They have to lead the team in practice. There are three who have other problems that need to be addressed. Every year, Niles West and Maine South battle to be the best in the state. Macejak expects to bring a lot of experience this year and is there for Maine South with their high school experience against Highland Park, Niles North and Wake Forest. Junior Gomenel Bekk Wade is the best in the state according to Macejak. The Oak Park-River Forest Roy Gumville is the captain's sprinter. Dani Harsch is the lead sprinter. Macejak, Seldla, Lauren Junoy, Gdie, Macejak, Chapes, Backs and sophomore Gistalter can help fill the holes next year. Sprinting will be dominated by Ramahi, Gieska and Rachel Parton and in the 800m and 1000m, Viviane and Callie Sloca may be prime contestants.

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