

FASTBREAK



22ND CENTURY MEDIA FILE PHOTO

1ST-AND-3

THREE STARS OF THE WEEK

1. **Faulkner shines at conference meet. (ABOVE)**
New Trier freshman gymnast Avery Faulkner finished second in the all-around at the CSL South meet Jan. 27 at Evanston by scoring a 37.125. The Trevians went on to win the title.
2. Tianna Lavalley stands tall in net. The Loyola goalie made a combined 37 saves in the Ramblers' wins over New Trier and Glenbrook.
3. Ramar Evans and Kevin Cunningham lead LA. The two guards scored 34 and 30 points, respectively, in the Ramblers' wins over St. Ignatius and St. Patrick last week.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ramblers get confident in win

MICHAEL WOJTYCHIW
Sports Editor

After its buzzer-beating overtime loss to Taft Dec. 23, several members of the Loyola Academy boys basketball team said that they "aren't playing Loyola basketball." That seems to have changed, as the Ramblers have reeled off 10 straight wins, including a Christmas tournament title in Florida and Saturday, Jan. 28's 69-60 upset win over St. Patrick in the second game of the War on the Shore at Evanston.

"We've been playing well and we're playing with confidence," Loyola coach Tom Livatino said. "We're playing pretty good but we've got Fenwick on Tuesday so we'll see. It's been a bit of a grind with three games in five days but I'm proud. We've got 10 seniors on our team and they're starting to get it."

"Ever since Florida our confidence has skyrocketed uphill," Loyola's Ramar Evans said.

Despite the Ramblers (15-5) having won their last nine games, it was the Shamrocks that came into the game with more fanfare, ranked in every major poll in the state. And for a while it looked like St. Patrick would show everybody why, rushing out to leads of 18-11 after one quarter and 24-11 before

the Ramblers were able to cut the lead down to 33-25 at the half.

And then something changed for Loyola.

"We were really sluggish in the first half," Livatino said. "Last night (vs. St. Ignatius) was a big rivalry game for us and it was a good win, I think we were just mentally out of it. St. Pat's is a rivalry game too, but in the first half I thought we were sluggish but thought we played some pretty good basketball in the second half."

The shots that weren't falling in the first half started to go in. The defense started to get stops and Loyola crawled back, eventually taking a 42-41 lead with just over three minutes remaining in the third period on a hoop by Evans. Evans scored four of six baskets during a 10-3 LA run that broke a 38-all tie.

Loyola scored 23 points in the third quarter alone, after scoring 25 points in the first half.

After Kevin Cunningham (18 points) led the Ramblers with 10 points in the first half, it was Evans who took over in the second half, scoring 12 of his 19 points in the third and fourth quarters.

"If [Cunningham's] shooting well, it opens up the floor for us," Evans said.

The Ramblers were aid-

ed by the ejection of the Shamrocks' best player, Alton Thompson, with 4:06 remaining.

Proceeds from the seventh annual War on the Shore benefit the Danny Did Foundation, a foundation whose mission is to prevent deaths caused by seizures. Mike and Mariann Stanton founded the foundation after their four-year-old son Danny died suddenly on Dec. 12, 2009 in his sleep after suffering a seizure. Soon after, his uncle Tommy, then an assistant coach with the LA basketball team, joined Mike and Mariann and now serves as the foundation's executive director.

"When we started this event, we just wanted to shine a spotlight on the North Shore and some historically good basketball programs in New Trier, Evanston and Loyola and bring in really good teams," Livatino said.

"Partnering with Danny Did makes it special. Our thing at Loyola is 'Men for others' and this is something that's more than basketball and an organization and a family that's special to us."

In the six years prior, the event had raised \$14,500 and was raised more than \$2,000 on Jan. 29 thanks to the generosity of all that were involved with and attended the event.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Trevians falter down the stretch

MICHAEL WOJTYCHIW
Sports Editor

The first game of the War on the Shore was billed to be a battle of the big men between New Trier 6-foot-8 Spencer Boehm and 6-foot-9 Ciaran Brayboy and Jacobs' Loyola-bound 6-foot-9 Cameron Krutwig, but it ended up being the guards who led the way for Jacobs in a 63-49 win Saturday, Jan. 28, at Evanston.

"We knew that the biggest part of his (Krutwig) game is rebounds, especially offensive rebounds," NT coach Scott Fricke said.

The two sophomores were able to neutralize Krutwig, who finished with 13 points and 16 rebounds, but had no answer for Ryan Phillips, who scored 23 points, including all 16 Jacobs in the first quarter when he didn't miss a shot.

"The difference today was that they were able to shoot it in," Fricke said. "If their guys shoot it, with that presence inside, because he's a scorer inside, they're going to be tough to beat. And only one team has beat them."

Even with Phillips' hot start, New Trier (10-9) was able to stay with Jacobs, even taking the lead with a little over three minutes remaining in the first half after an Andrew Kirkpat-

rick basket gave the Trevians a short-lived 22-20 lead. Nikolas Balkcom's 3-pointer on the next possession gave Jacobs a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Every time NT would make a run to close the deficit, Jacobs would respond. Another basket late in the first half cut the lead to 26-24, but Jacobs went on a 5-0 run to close the half.

Boehm led the Trevians with 11 points.

The Trevians have been bothered by injuries this season, at one point having five key players out with injuries. Griffin Ryan has been out the last three or four weeks with mono, Jack French had been out with a concussion, James Connors had a stress fracture in his back, Dylan Horwitz recently returned and Brayboy played only the first quarter of Friday, Jan. 27's loss to Niles North. Both Horwitz and Brayboy were in Saturday's lineup.

NT, Evanston and LA have been participants since the event's inception and have raised money for the Danny Did Foundation.

"We talk to our team about what the charity is all about and how special it is to place in this event. It's some of the best basketball. We bring in some really good teams and it's special to play in this event."

LISTEN UP

"If [Cunningham's] shooting well, it opens up the floor for us."

Ramar Evans — Loyola Academy basketball player talking about teammate Kevin Cunningham's shooting after Cunningham scored 18 in a win over St. Patrick Jan. 28.

TUNE IN

What to watch this week

BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL: New Trier faces rival Evanston in a doubleheader.

NT travels to Evanston for a girls/boys doubleheader Friday, Feb. 3. The girls play at 6 p.m., the boys at 7:30 p.m.

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