

Athletic Director's Report 10/11/2021 (Brian Fantone)

Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis have already wrapped up their seasons.

Volleyball has senior night tomorrow night vs. Stow at 6:30 p.m. and then open Tournament play on Wednesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m. vs. Alliance HS @ Mayfield HS

Cross Country competes in the Suburban League Championship Race this Saturday, October 16th at Silver Creek Metro Park in Wadsworth, and then the OHSAA District Meet next Saturday, October 23rd in Madison.

Football & Cheerleading have two games left, this Friday at Stow, and next Friday at Wadsworth. Big thanks to everyone for their patience on Friday night on a tough night with the weather and delays. Happy we were able to make it a memorable pregame senior night ceremony still for the 80 band members and athletes that we recognized. Really proud of the pregame ceremonies at football games throughout the year, recognizing the military and first responders, youth football players and cheerleaders, staff appreciation night, homecoming festivities, and senior night this week. Strong gates all year and a huge shout out to our student section as well!

Boys Soccer wins the Suburban League Championship with a win @ Wadsworth tomorrow night. The Boys Soccer team was also the #3 overall seed out of 37 teams in the Northeast Ohio Super District, and will open their OHSAA Tournament on Saturday, October 23 at 7:00 p.m. home vs. the winner of Brush/Willoughby South.

Girls Soccer wins the Suburban League Championship with a win vs. Wadsworth at home Wednesday night. The Girls were also the #2 overall seed out of 37 teams in the Northeast Ohio Super District, and will open their OHSAA Tournament on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. home vs. the winner of Brush/Warren Harding.

I have applied to host multiple weeks of OHSAA Football playoff games this year, with the first weekend being November 5/6, and going through Thanksgiving Weekend which would be state semifinal games. I fully expect we will get a few games in November, as the OHSAA owes us some favors for taking on the regional basketball tournaments here at Twinsburg last March.

Our new Head Girls Basketball Coach is Chris Esterak. Chris has head coaching experience at multiple high schools including Akron East, Woodridge, North Royalton, and Louisville. Chris has already begun open gyms and meeting with the girls, and has a full staff at the high school level including Denyse Williams Millbert as Varsity Assistant, and Abbe Esterak as JV Coach.

We have decided on a new head wrestling coach to replace Coach Mariola, and will be communicating that out to everyone in the district ASAP.

Winter Sports Picture Day is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 2 (Election Day) so that winter sports senior banners can be done and ready to hang as early as possible.

I am not sure at this point if we will be having an in person banquet this year for fall sports or not, or if each sport will be doing their own thing like last year. Details to come on that as soon as they are available.

At this point, I am not sure what capacity levels and ticket availability will look like for winter sports, including basketball games, and am certain that there will be much discussion at future BOE meetings about the course our district will take.

The new outdoor sports league/district/regional championship board in the stadium is completed, and looks great. The stadium will also be getting a new track & field record board that is more modern and larger, on the side of the shed facing the field, as well as some signage recognizing individual accomplishments of teams at the state level. We will be putting up banners on both the Varsity Baseball & Softball fields as well, recognizing team accomplishments.

The varsity baseball & softball fields are both undergoing some construction upgrades right now. Both fields are getting brand new infield surfaces that include a mixture of Turface and ball diamond dirt, to improve the drainage on both fields, as well as cut down on the lips for each infield/outfield. The Varsity Softball Field will also have a warning track put in this year, and covers on both dugouts for the upcoming season. Both fields will also have improvements in signage, to enhance the look of the facility that each team is playing in. Both fields will also undergo some cosmetic improvements related to fencing/painting/storage, and there will be some safety upgrades at both facilities prior to the season beginning.

The track is being restriped later this week, and will undergo some fixes to spots where there are cracks in the track before winter. We will be hosting both the Suburban League High School Track Meet this May, as well as the Suburban League Middle School Track Meet. The high school meet will be held on Tuesday May 10 & Thursday May 12, with the middle school meet being held on Wednesday May 11 & Friday May 13. This has the potential to be a huge fundraiser for TAB in the concession stand, as there will be four straight nights of a large crowd in the stadium.

At the Board of Ed meeting on September 22, the district formally signed into an agreement with the Cleveland Clinic to provide athletic training services to our district. As a part of that agreement, the Cleveland Clinic will be providing a full time athletic trainer (currently Manny), along with a 2nd Athletic Trainer whose main role and focus will be strength and conditioning for our student-athletes. This second trainer will essentially be a full time strength trainer, who will work with each head coach to customize strength and conditioning programs and workouts for each group of student-athletes. We also are fortunate to have 3 hours a week in which a physical therapist is coming in to evaluate and work with our athletes on injuries. Right now, our physical therapist is typically coming in on Wednesday afternoons, and he is working with our athletes who may have muscle issues, rehabbing from prior injuries, etc. The Cleveland Clinic also donated a leg press rehab machine this past Friday, which is going to be housed in our Athletic Training room here at THS, and will be used to help our athletes get back from lower body injuries quicker and more efficiently.

In regards to the brainstorming sessions that took place at last month's TAB meeting and I know will come up in conversation shortly under old business, I want to thank everyone again for the honest and open conversations and thoughts that were passed on. Without a doubt, from my perspective, the two topics that shout loudest to me is the TAB and high school connection piece throughout youth, middle, and high school sports, along with presence and attendance at events, and how we can improve attendance at non-football events.