



01

I think in future seasons, there's going to be more new players that may be lacking some experience," **Philip Narumi (12)**, holder of the team's highest average with 180, said. "But, I think that that's just going to come with time."

Varsity had five players who had stuck with each other since they had started, and so there were some questions around how the loss of these graduating players would impact the next team.

"You never know how each team is going to do," Narumi said. "It all depends on the team and the players."

Many of the JV players were underclassmen, which made this situation a potential repeat cycle. **Logan Wilson (12)**, co-captain alongside Narumi, encouraged the team to make it their best

year yet. He loved the rapport the team had but noticed that the JV players would need to step up to fill varsity spots in future years.

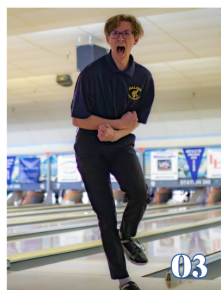
"We have been bowling our hardest," Wilson said. "With how many seniors we have, it definitely helps that all of us have played on varsity for four years, so we have the skill that you're expecting from a group of seniors. But, it takes away the skills from JV, which I'm kind of hoping they can step up for, especially with our new coach from last year. He has definitely helped."

With the amount of seniors on the team, they hoped to excel at regionals. **Brayden Marion (12)** had high hopes for not only himself but for his team come playoff time as well.

"This senior year is important because our team has a chance to go to states," Marion said. "This is a chance, for myself individually too, to go to states. It's just a big year for me overall. I'm not 100% sure that we can achieve going to states, but I believe that we definitely have a chance."

Regardless of how the season turned out, Narumi wanted to end on a good note and thank the team for their presence along the way. The team stayed undefeated until Jan. 16, when they lost 27-3 against Belleville.

"The biggest thing is that I appreciate all of my teammates who have helped me out," Narumi said. "There is no way I would be where I am without them. So, I just have to say thank you to everyone and I'm enjoying this experience."



GLIDIN' AND SLIDIN'

Pre-shot Routines Calm the Mind



"A pre-shot routine is always important. It prepares you for your shot, so that your body is ready to bowl and you can get the best shot possible."

📷 K. MARION

Jack Gallagher (11)



"I wipe down my hand a lot trying to get it as dry as possible—put it up to the fan, get the sweat off of my hand—and I use that to get a better handle over the ball when I go to release it."

📷 K. MARION

Owen Belote (12)

01. TO THE YOUNGER Focusing on his release, **Philip Narumi (12)** engages his body to hit his mark and improve his average. During his freshman year, Narumi was disappointed in his performance. He began putting in more work over the summer before sophomore year and realized his hard work had paid off. His average went up 60 pins and he hoped younger players would understand the perseverance it takes to get better. "A piece of advice for future bowlers at any age or any level: you can get to where you want to be as long as you prioritize and put the time and effort in," Narumi said. 📷 K. MARION

03. STRIKING UP A WIN Amid screams and shouts, **Brayden Marion (12)** rolls four strikes in a row, leading his team to victory against Chelsea, 21-9. Chelsea had always been a tough opponent, but Marion and the team blew by them in the Dec. 20 match-up. The team started off by winning the baker matches. As the energy on the team increased, individual scores also climbed. Marion felt good knowing he did better in his second match, finishing with a final individual score of 176. "Getting four strikes in a row definitely brought my spirits up because it's good to go on a run, it lets you keep your head up high," 📷 K. MARION

BOYS BOWLING 101

SPREAD BY KYLE MARION

"For my pre-shot, I just take a deep breath and calm down. I listen to all of my teammates cheering, and then I just walk up and get in my pose."

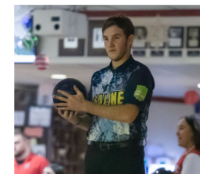
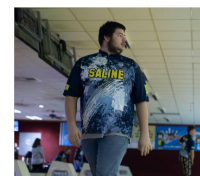
📷 K. MARION

Aiden Wilson (12)

"My pre-shot routine is important because it's the same each time, and you don't have to expect anything different. It stays consistent."

📷 S. THOMPSON

Nicholas Petrovic (11)



02. SLIPPING THROUGH MY FINGERS Striding down the lane, **Logan Wilson (12)** releases the ball during his last meet against Chelsea on Dec. 20 during a 21-9 win. Wilson had stuck with the same people since he started bowling, creating a special bond with the team. Within the first year together, he noticed the team didn't know how to act around each other. Years later, being co-captain, he knew everyone's ball size and weight, and even how they threw. "I will never forget it," Wilson said. "It is one of those experiences that will stick with these people for long enough that I'm going to remember this when I'm 80." 📷 K. MARION

04. PINNED TOGETHER With helping hands, **William Rogers (12)** assists **Aaron Jane (11)** in hitting his mark and fixing his release at practice on Dec. 11. Rogers and Jane knew each other before bowling but got really close by being on the team together. They always had something to joke around and laugh about, especially on their shared car rides to Station 300. "It makes me feel good to help other people out," Rogers said. "Even if I'm not bowling well, I can help someone else bowl or do better." 📷 K. MARION

///FIND YOUR ARROW

📷 K. MARION

Righties and Lefties talk about the difference between hitting their marks

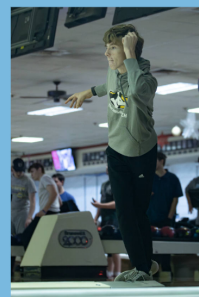


RIGHT ON TIME Nicholas Tokarski (10)

Tokarski (10) glides down the lane aiming to hit his strike spot. For righty Tokarski, he always started his stride in the middle right of the lane, hitting his third arrow. Tokarski realized over the past two years he'd been bowling on the team, that when he didn't hit his mark, he was more likely to get a gutter ball or knock down fewer pins. He considered hitting his mark his "strike zone." "It's important to hit your mark because it decides where the ball is going to go," Tokarski said.

LOVIN' LEFTY LIFE: Being one of

the only left-handed bowlers, **Reid Popovitz (10)** powers through to hit the second arrow, making it easier to get a strike. Hitting that particular arrow resulted in more pins getting knocked down. Popovitz believed getting closer to his arrow near the gutter allowed him to have more space for the ball to travel when it curved. "Being a lefty, it's pretty hard when people are trying to teach you how to do things," Popovitz said. "You have to try and figure out how to do it, but the opposite."



NO DOUBT STINGERS OUT

Girls Get Loud Before Rounds Explaining Their Favorites



"Round One because it's the one I call. It just sounds really cool."

Claire Byron (12)

© K. MARION

"Round One because we do it so much in the round that I feel like it adds to it to make it better."

Madalynn Belaire (11)



© A. COLLETTE



"I like round three because I feel like it symbolizes what we are trying to do and the point we are trying to get across."

Lila Morales (10)

© K. MARION

"Round One, because it's different from what we've ever done before."

Sophia Xiao (12)



© K. MARION



"Round Two because the cheers just help us get ready to perform and get excited."

Ayvree Clifford (9)

© K. MARION

"Round Two, and I like cheering because it helps us prepare for the round and it actually makes it real."

Caitlin Naida (9)



© S. SMITH

01. SPLIT THE CENTER During the Woodhaven meet on Feb. 1, **Sydney Steben (10)** shows off her splits with elation, competing for the first time this season due to a previous injury. The night before the first competition, Steben twisted her ankle, which left her unable to compete. The circumstance called for changes that the team needed to make in the rounds that had originally had bigger, higher scoring skills. She sat out for five competitions, went to physical therapy, and then returned to practice to regain her skills. "It's nerve-racking being back on the mat because I'm behind everyone because of not being able to compete for a while," Steben said. "But, it's still really fun, and I'm glad I'm back out." © A. ZABRISKIE



02. NAAAAVY BLUE During her last home invitation on Feb. 8, **Ava Milton (12)** centers alongside her team competing in round one. Round one was comprised of motions and jumps, as well as using facial expressions and vocal inflection to bring the energy to the table. Although skeptical of what it would look like, Milton incorporated a lean toward the crowd in the round, and learned to love it the more she put it together with the people around her. "I love looking at the big picture in routines because sometimes, when you're learning a new part, your part specifically, it can feel or look really weird to yourself," Milton said. "But when you watch the videos, the visual is there. It really changed how I looked at my part." © K. MARION

03. FIRE IT UP **Adelyn Lupi (10)** screams on the mat in round three with her team, scrunching up her face to show the judges an active expression during the Woodhaven Invitation on Feb. 1. Lupi realized that to intrigue the crowd, the team had to be in sync but also had to hide the skills they wanted to show off in the routine. Round three was the most intense, showing the judges and the other teams the stunts that were prepared, the tumbling that had to be stuck, and the vigorous, expressive facials used to earn extra points to score higher. "Facials are definitely most important in round three because it's the most firing, but the most fun to watch, especially if you use facials," Lupi said. "It makes it more enjoyable if you pretend you're not tired; facials definitely help show that." © A. ZABRISKIE



04. HOLDING HIGH STANDARDS Flyer **Samantha Bigham (11)** does her lib while her bases hold her up during the competition on Feb. 8 in the middle of round three. Bigham had been put in other positions during her first two years of high school but committed to flying this past season. She had known her stunt group for many years, which helped her create a bond. Bigham had to physically face the judges during routines. She needed to present in a loud voice and with fierce facials due to being the visual focus of the routines. "I think physically, being a base is harder, but mentally, being a flyer you have to get over the nerves, you have to be high in the air, and you also have to be giving the presentation aspect of the stunt," Bigham said. © K. MARION

DANCING THROUGH LIFE

Lovejoy and Sullivan Fire Up Before Awards

Maisy Sullivan (11) and **Addison Lovejoy (11)** show off their moves before awards during the Lincoln Invite on Jan. 11. Swaying, sweeping, always keeping cool. That's what dance meant to the team, as they used movement and music as a way to hype each other up to bring their post-round nerves down. "It allowed us to forget about whatever problems we had during our competition and just focus on having fun," Lovejoy said. As the bass bumped, the team found a groove, dancing to "Wobble" by V.I.C., a classic favorite among the girls. "When they play 'Wobble,' I like to dance," Sullivan said. "The team feels electric, everyone's having a good time."



Maisy Sullivan (11)
Addison Lovejoy (11)

© K. MARION

STUCK IN THE AIR

A Small Number of Girls Leads to Point Deductions and Struggles

"We are taking a ten-point penalty walking in the door of every single competition," **Ava Milton (12)** said.

Milton had been a fixture on a senior-led team with good numbers—until the current season. Having less than twelve girls on the mat solicited an automatic point deduction for the team before they even had the chance to show off their skills. Graduating seniors from the previous year and girls who weren't available to cheer during the current season took a toll on the team's numbers, leaving the team at an early disadvantage.

"We've been doing better than we have the past two years scoring-wise and skills-wise," Milton said. "But we still are under our mandated numbers, so it creates more of a challenge beating other teams and going to regionals."

Docked points called for the remaining girls to rise to the occasion: a need for cleaner moves, crisper lines and louder voices. The pressure to do better motivated the girls, including side base **Maisy Sullivan (11)**, to pull through, and pull through they did.

"If you look at our team of seven, compare us to a team with 16 girls, and then look at the final scoring...we're still at about the same place scoring-wise," Sullivan said.

The girls ended up placing second in the SEC Conference overall after coming in second place in all three of their SEC meets, with only one instance of a tie against Dexter during their third SEC meet on Feb. 6 with a score of 671 points. When crediting their work together as a unit, flyer **Samantha Bigham (11)** had the extra practices and the cooperation between teammates to thank.

"We were able to overcome this by just being more confident in ourselves and putting out the best routines that we could have," Bigham said. "We made changes every single week and we continued working as hard as we could to improve."

The squad also earned a big win during the Lincoln Invite on Jan. 11, smoking the other competing schools with a total score of 702 points. Fewer athletes on the mat ended up being a blessing in disguise, allowing them to beat the odds and fly high above their obstacles, no longer stuck in the air.

"We've all known each other for years, so it's really easy to be close, and I feel like it's helped us more than having a lot of girls because we are able to be more clean, on time, and we are able to make better connections with everybody on the mat," Bigham said.



DOUBLING DOWN

Is Playing With a Partner Double the Trouble or Double the Fun?

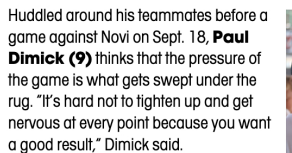
Logan Schrieber (12) and **Dash Fillmore (10)** bump rackets to celebrate a gained point at a home match against Green Hills on Sept. 23. The two, playing together since the beginning of the season, had been partners for five months. Having known each other for about a year, they enjoyed competing together. "(Dash) is one of my good friends...I actually met him at work...we started working together well," Schrieber said. Learning about the doubles experience brings a question to mind—what really makes a pair great? When it came to doubles, it seemed that confidence really was key, and a crucial part of a good duo. "I typically find that the more faith I have in (Schrieber), the better we'll do," Fillmore said. "As you grow to connect with them, and be better friends with them, then you get to know their playing style." 

ALL THINGS UNDER THE STRINGS

Misconceptions of the Sport are Corrected



Making a swing against Skyline on Sept. 10, **Carlos Stevenson (12)** believes that serving is one of the most significant ways to score a point. "Serving is the most important shot in the game. It can control the game, so it's in your hands," Stevenson said.



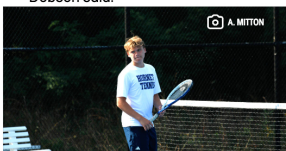
Huddled around his teammates before a game against Novi on Sept. 18, **Paul Dimick (9)** thinks that the pressure of the game is what gets swept under the rug. "It's hard not to tighten up and get nervous at every point because you want a good result," Dimick said.



Grinning from ear to ear, **Alex Dobson (12)** stands among his fellow players in advance of a game against Skyline on Sept. 10. For him, the hard work put into the game was the thing that went unrecognized. "People don't realize, you really (have to) bring a lot of effort," Dobson said.



Deep in focus, **Joshua Burlingame (12)** gets ready to receive against his Skyline opponents on Sept. 10. To him, the amount of skill necessary to play a good game was often underestimated by others. "Even if you're better than your opponent, making little mistakes can lead to your downfall," Burlingame said.



BOYS TENNIS
SPREAD BY REECE WELLIVER
& KYLEE MARION

071

Kargel Relays His Captain's Voyage

Standing on the court, swinging in full gear, **Jack Kargel (12)** finishes his career at regionals as team captain. Kargel started playing tennis when he was in eighth grade just for fun but quickly found a love for the sport afterward.

Coming out of a tough final season with eight losses, four wins, and not advancing to states, Kargel's career was filled with important lessons, including learning how to show his team the way to their right path and finding their love for the sport.

While Kargel's playing experience began two years before, his own sophomore year team captain, Reed Reccia, served as an inspiration and showed Kargel what being a leader looked like.

"My biggest motivation was my captain my sophomore year. He motivated me to work harder, and spend more time playing, and it led me to become a better player and a better leader."

Now that his time on the team was coming to a close, Kargel stepped into his former captain's shoes and served as an inspiration to his teammates.

"I liked being a captain," Kargel said. "I feel like I motivated the to become better people, better at the sport, and the game."

Jack Kargel (12)





DON'T MAKE A RACKET

Tennis Players Describe Their Biggest Pet Peeves

On Sept. 17, **Maxwell Hong (10)** stands poised, waiting for the next point to begin. During his two years of experience, Hong found that his number one pet peeve was something called a "moon baller." Moon ballers referred to defensive-specialty players who were notorious for hitting the ball several feet above the net. When faced with one during a match, Hong would get frustrated with their behavior. "The points last forever... They're just waiting for you to miss," Hong said.

Perched in a ready-to-play stance, **Liam Eye (9)** contends in a home game against Dexter on Sept. 30. The fourth-year tennis player observed that doubles pairings could come as an inconvenience at times. But, they had a positive side to them, as they provided an opportunity to branch out. "Sometimes you get paired with someone you don't necessarily want to be with," Eye said. "It's also a good thing (however), because you get to work well with other people."



Maxwell Hong (10)



Liam Eye (9)

01. RACKETS UP Coming to a career's end, **Jaykob Boyless (12)** soars through the air to return a ball when competing against Skyline on Sept. 10. Although the team suffered a four-point loss, Boyless always looked for the support and energy his team brought to the court. "(I'm going to miss) the energy that the team brings," Boyless said. "When we go to matches and tournaments, everyone gets loud and supportive of each other, whether on the court or off the court. I can't really get that energy anywhere else in my life."

03. HOT HANDS Getting ready for his next battle against Novi on Sept. 18, **Andrew O'Neil (11)** watches the ball and prepares to hit. O'Neil made friendships while playing tennis, especially with this year's seniors. When he was a freshman, they welcomed him onto the team. It taught him how important bonds were and how they make up a team. "The advice I have is just to enjoy everything—it goes by really fast," O'Neil said. "Enjoy what you have on the team because it's crazy to think that I only have one more year left."



WATCH AND LEARN Bright and early, **Paul Goldhardt (12)** dashes to return a point against Plymouth during a tough morning loss at Regionals on Oct. 10. "I thought it was something fun and wanted to try it out. Rafael Nadal is definitely my favorite (player)," Goldhardt said. "(Tennis has) taught me a lot about being reliant on myself because when you play singles, you're all by yourself."

02. ORDER ON THE COURT Issa Kanneje (12) strikes his opponent with force when serving during his last ever SEC match on Sept. 10 against Skyline. For Kanneje, matches weren't as thrilling as practices. Although the sport taught him to always have fun, he never took the game too seriously to the point where he would get upset. He enjoyed meeting new faces on the court and getting to hang out with his team. "At the end of the day, you should just have a good attitude and stay positive because then you start getting in your head if you don't," Kanneje said.

04. YOU GOT SERVED With a flick of his racket, **Sebastian Kubitz (12)** blows Dexter away with a serve, leading his team to a 7-1 victory on Sept. 17. Kubitz believed that one of the best ways to solve something was to find his way around it. Coach **Andy BeDell** helped him through the toughest moments during matches. "While I'm on the court, the coach helps me stay motivated. If I'm losing, I just want to leave, but he keeps me wanting to play," Kubitz said.