

The spring season is finally upon us, and the student-athletes at Saugus High School/Belmonte Middle School are happy about that. Though there is a lot to look forward to, there was also a great deal of success for us to reflect on from the recently concluded winter season.

In this article, I would like to touch upon the highlights of the winter, and briefly speak about the upcoming spring season and events. As you will see, the student-athletes and coaches in Saugus have a lot to be proud of.

Boys basketball

First-year coach Paul Moran (NEC Coach-of-the-Year) led the Sachems to the North quarterfinals in the Division 3 state tournament. NEC all-stars were Brian Boyajian and Omar Benebicha. The program is absolutely going in the right direction.

Girls basketball

Head coach Jessica Lucier led the girls hoop program, and they have been working hard all year long, while at the same time developing as a very young team.

Jacki Strangie was an NEC all-star and captain of team.

Girls hockey

Saugus once again was a part of the Beverly High School co-op, and as a group they won their first regular season title in the North Cape League in only the program's fifth year of existence, going 14-4-4. The girls made it to the quarterfinal round in the Division 1 state tournament, and one of their captains was Katelyn DiSimone of Saugus.

Boys hockey

The boys, with Chris Connors behind the bench, ended the season on a 7-3 run. The team looks to be ready for future success. Steve Groark and Drew Oxley were conference all-stars.

Boys/Girls indoor track

The boys and girls indoor track teams were highly competitive in the extremely formidable NEC under the guidance of coaches Barbara Guarente (girls) and Chris Tarantino (boys). Lauren Atkins and Ashley Aldred were NEC all-stars, and they also had four compete in the states.

Hockey, basketball cheerleaders

The hockey cheerleaders won the NEC, ending Danvers High School's 12-year reign. The girls continued on to capture the state title a few weeks later. Kim Wall and Courtney Wall coached the team.

The basketball cheerleaders, coached by Jeana Forestier, did exceptionally well in the NEC competition receiving an invitation to the regional event.

Swimming

Saugus and Lynn Classical once again teamed up in a co-op arrangement with a great deal of success. The girls worked hard everyday, with three going to the state sectionals - Kylie Trainor, Marissa Maillet and Mary Orlando. Maillet has already been chosen as a captain next year.

Wrestling

Coach Rudy Howard has the wrestling co-op with Winthrop going in the right direction. The boys competed against some of the best schools in the area, and fared rather well. Jake Roy was an NEC all-star.

A solid youth program, organized by the Saugus High School wrestling team, has many youngsters learning to love the sport.

Middle school hockey

This first-year program was a huge success. Led by coach Adam Sullivan, the future hockey stars were learning the game and playing competitively. It was also great to see many students supporting their classmates at the games, as well.

Boys, girls Middle School basketball

The boys and girls learned the game of basketball, at the same time, playing some very good teams.

Coach Steve Donahue, Ashley Panzini and Amanda Naso did a great job in teaching the fundamentals of basketball and developing their skills.

The winter was exceptionally good, but as a department we are excited to get the spring season under way.

With two first year coaches (Rich Angelo, baseball and Chris Benson, lacrosse), we expect great things.

With the reduction of user fees, we are seeing more playing sports. Also, I'm seeing a lot more coming back to Saugus High School, and many are playing sports. I believe this is a recipe for success. I hope to see many of you at the games this spring, but also check out this website for up-to-the-minute schedule changes, rosters, directions, scores and much more.

Golf for SHS sports

The Saugus High School athletic department will be hosting its first annual Swing for SHS Athletics Golf Tournament. The tournament will be June 21 at the Ferncroft Country Club, and all proceeds will go directly to the SHS student-athletes. For more information, visit the aforementioned Web site for sponsorship and playing information.