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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

10 Questions with Scott Bickel

The New Trier senior was the state runner-up in singles as a member of the state champion Trevians.

Do you have any pregame rituals or superstitions?

Definitely one of the pregame rituals would be just to have a shock absorber on each racket and to have the same [kind] usually. I don't like having random equipment. I like everything the same, especially when I have four to six racquets.

What kind of music do you listen to?

I listen to the popular stuff like Drake, Eminem and The Weekend. I'm a huge Drake fan, especially with the new album.

What's next for you following graduation?

I'm taking a tennis gap year with my twin brother, Tom. Basically we're just going to play and just really focus on tennis, and that's something that was really hard to do being at such a tough high school like New Trier. We're just going to go all in on tennis, so then a year later we'll play college tennis, hopefully on the same team.

What would your dream job be?

The dream job right now is that hopefully someday Tom and I get to come back and coach New Trier tennis. It's not the most high-paying job, but I think that would be the most fun thing for both of us and I think we'd do a good job with the program.

What's your favorite North Shore restaurant and what do you order there?

Probably Sarkis. I would order the M&M pancakes.

Who is your favorite sports team?

I'd have to say the Cubs right now, just because they're so promising. I want them to win the World Series for the first time in over a 100 years.



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Who is your biggest inspiration?

Since my dad was a professional tennis player, I'd have to say him. He started us when we were 4 years old on the tennis court and he got us in to our first tournament as 7-year-olds. He's the biggest tennis influence for sure.

Do you prefer playing singles or doubles?

I prefer singles even though I'm a twin and everyone's going to think that's bizarre. Singles is just really unique. I think it really shows my personality the way I play.

What's it like being teammates with your twin? Is there a sibling rivalry?

There definitely is a little bit of a sibling rivalry going on. Tom is the most critical of my play of probably anyone. He's always pushing me to be better. For the most part, I think people would say that we're very much on the same frequency in terms of our tennis and our relationship as brothers.

What is your favorite part about being an athlete at New Trier?

Just leading the program, being a part of the community, being leaders in the community and really knowing that you're making an impact on so many different people. In the tennis program for example, there's like 80 different people across all levels and just to know that you have a huge impact on those people — that means the most to us.

Interview by Editorial Intern Jack Vita