

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

10 Questions with Matt Gallo

Gallo is a rising senior on the New Trier boys soccer team. Gallo, a midfielder, is one of 18 returnees for the Trevians and new coach Matt Ravenscraft.

Do you have any pregame rituals or superstitions?

My pregame ritual is I usually get to the shed pretty early. We always listen to the same song before the game, "Heart of a Champion" by Nelly. Sometimes I'll tape my wrists.

What's on your pregame playlist?

We have a lot of Nelly. We do "Heart of a Champion" and we'll listen to "Here Comes the Boom", also by Nelly.

Your brother Michael is currently getting ready to play college soccer at Marquette. Do you guys have any kind of a sibling rivalry?

We get a little bit competitive about sports. He's a competitive guy, I'm a competitive guy. There's definitely a competitive rivalry. But my first varsity goal was an assist by him and my first varsity assist was (on) a goal scored by him. We may bicker a little bit but at the end of the day we're on the same team.

If you could travel

anywhere, where would you go?

I would go to Madrid. Coach Ravenscraft spent time abroad in Barcelona and it seems like a really cool skill to have to learn another culture and another language and be able to communicate with people that you wouldn't usually meet in normal life here.

Favorite North Shore restaurant, and what do you order there?

I have to go with Homer's. I definitely go with a basic cheeseburger, with cheddar cheese and ketchup, and a strawberry milkshake.

Who were you rooting for in the Euro Cup?

When Iceland started playing really well and they made it to the quarterfinal, I was pulling for them as the underdog.

Who is your favorite player?

I'd have to go with Neymar. He plays the same position as I do, he plays left-mid. He plays it really well and he's a pace-y guy that likes to move the ball forward and not kill the play.

What individual goals have you set for your senior season?

With 18 returners coming back, we're gonna be a very competitive team in the state this year. My



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goal, as a captain, is to make a very good team environment where we're playing for each other. And personally just to do my best on the field. For me, it's not about statistics, it's about our team winning.

What's the best coaching advice you've ever received?

They can't take you off the field if you're a hard worker.

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

It's definitely being able to represent the program that you play for. Especially in season, when you're wearing your jersey to school and your friends come out and they really commit to being loyal and fans and just seeing the teams play. It's just such a great environment. You're very identifiable with the crowd that you play with. You're known as a soccer player (or) you're known as a baseball player, and it just creates a great community among players from all sports.

Interview by Editorial Intern Jack Vita



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