

# The Press

Since 1924



Schamis Shots

# Masthead:

Editor in Chief:

Cecilia Curran '20

Managing Editor:

Alli Opuszynski ;20

Layout Editor:

Julianne Sekula '20

Faculty Advisor:

Emily Osterhout

Printing Correspondent:

Anne Marie Nolan

Writers:

Kenadi Waymire '22

Valerie Guadian '23

Abbi Adler '20

Hadley Rogers '20

Editors:

Jenna Rempel '20

Tait Kohler '21

Grace Bohan '21

JP Rush '21

Alli Opuszynski '20

# Records:

Boys Varsity Basketball: 6-8

Boys JV Basketball: 0-11

Boys Thirds Basketball: 2-5

Girls Varsity Basketball: 10-6

Girls JV Basketball: 6-1

Girls Thirds Basketball 0-6

Boys Varsity Ice Hockey: 2-10-3

Boys JV Ice Hockey 7-2-2

Girls Varsity Ice Hockey: 6-7-1

Girls JV Ice Hockey: 1-5

Varsity Wrestling: 1-8

Varsity Diving 0-0

Boys Varsity Squash: 5-9

Boys JV Squash: 7-3

Boys Thirds Squash 4-0

Girls Varsity Squash: 8-1

Girls JV Squash: 3-5

Girls Thirds Squash: 2-3

Boys Varsity Swimming: 3-1

Girls Varsity Swimming: 2-2

Archery: 0-0

# Winter Sports Tournaments: Overnights or Overtime?

By Abbi Adler '20

Four of Choate's varsity winter sports attended tournaments at the end of the year leading into winter break. Tournaments before the holidays have become a regular occurrence for exclusively winter sports. While a tournament off campus may appear to be fun, is the extra time commitment worth it?

The boys varsity hockey team made the trip down to New Jersey for the Lawrenceville Tournament, the girls varsity team played at the Taft Invitational Tournament, the boys varsity basketball team competed at the Sea Coast Classic at St. Sebastian's School, and the girls varsity basketball team traveled up to Deerfield Academy for the New England Basketball Classic.

PG John Mahoney '20 expressed how much he enjoyed being with his team for a few days on an overnight tournament. The boys missed a few days of their winter break because of the tournament, but Mahoney speaks on behalf of the team and said how "It was a great bonding experience. Although it cut my break short a few days, I didn't mind because I didn't have to focus on any school work while playing hockey. However, it was hard for my parents to pick me up from New Jersey after the tournament since I'm from upstate New York." The boys varsity hockey team also missed the Holiday Ball and has many late practices throughout the week. The one thing Mahoney and many of his teammates would change would be, "to make [their] practice schedule consistent so that all of [their] practices would be at the same time every day."

Similar to the boys varsity hockey team, Isa Caputo '20 explains that their "late practices have definitely taken a toll" and that "it [has] challenged [her] to learn how to manage [her] time." The girls varsity hockey team attended the Taft Invitational Tournament and competed against Taft, Phillips Academy, and Tabor. Caputo had to take a test while sitting on the floor in a squash court and said how "it definitely was not a normal test-taking environment. While getting out of class was nice, it definitely had some consequences."

The boys varsity basketball team played at the Sea Coast Classic at St. Sebastian's School at the beginning of winter break. Tristan Bounds '21 shared that "the tournament was really fun even though we lost a few days of break. It was a really fun time with the guys."

Finally, the girls varsity basketball team made the trip up to Deerfield Academy and competed against St. Pauls and Pomfret. The team left the Thursday before winter break and missed one class period as well as the annual winter program. For Greer Goergen '20, "this was... a bummer because it's something [she] definitely looks forward to every year." Goergen also shared that "the tournament was a great way for the team to bond. Everyone got to know each other, and since it was early in the season, we learned a lot from each other. We won two games by about 25 points." Jordan Obi'20 and Jalah Scott'20 both had to make up tests that they missed because of the tournament, and Mrs. Rivera, the assistant coach, proctored these assessments.

All in all, teams enjoyed hanging out and bonding with their teammates; however, missing classes and having to make up work definitely takes its toll on the athletes. What they may lose academically is made up for in what they gain as a team.

# Featured Programs: Girls Hockey

By Hadley Rogers '21

After a few key players graduated, the girls' varsity and JV hockey teams were left with some big shoes to fill for the 2019-2020 season. However, this winter, several players on both teams have stepped up in significant ways.

The varsity squad this season is led by coach Ashley Bairos and co-captains Gina Driscoll '20 and Delaney Dill '20. Dill and Driscoll have been the backbone of the team, both dedicated and smart players. Varsity goalie Lexington Secreto '21 said, "The captains always make sure we live up to the team's standards on and off the ice." The captains are surrounded by a strong, skilled senior class, with talented players like Isa Caputo '20, Christina Tournas '20, Effie Tournas '20, and Jackie Ng '20. This year, the team also has the new addition of PG Mairead Kennedy '20, who has proved to be a key player on the ice. The team also welcomes back essential players from the junior class, Sabrina Kim '21, Claire Gavin '21, Lexington Secreto '21, and Leslie Meisel '21. Goalie Lexington Secreto '21 has kept the team together in tough games with an extraordinary number of incredible saves. In addition, the team saw the return of a strong sophomore class, led by Morgan Skoda '22. Skoda is a lead goal-scorer, putting in goals vs. teams such as Lawrence Academy, Nobles and Greenough, and Lawrenceville, where she had the overtime game-winning goal. The team's record stands at 6-4 so far, with big wins against Taft and Lawrenceville and tough losses against Andover and Westminster. Off to a successful start, the girls' varsity hockey team looks forward to tough match-ups to come, such as Kent and Loomis Chaffee.

Photo Courtesy of  
Brooke Wise



The girls' JV hockey team recorded their first win this past week in an exciting game at Taft. This season, the team is lucky to be welcoming back a good number of returners, but are also happy to have new additions like freshmen Mieke Buterbaugh '23, Chloe Chan '23, and Heidi Li '23. Although off to a bit of a rough start against teams like Andover and Westminster, the team looks forward to competitive games against Berkshire and Kent.

Good luck to both teams in the remainder of their seasons!

# Program Recap: Choate Boys Basketball

By Valerie Guadian '23

The Boys Basketball programs at Choate have always received plenty of support from the Choate community. Over the years, teams of all levels have had strong seasons and won many titles. This year all Choate basketball teams have had close matchups, fighting to the last points. From thirds to varsity, each team has encountered success and failures.

Boys Thirds Basketball's season thus far has seen both successes and places to improve. Their record is currently 2-4. The head coach, Mr. Sanchez-Moran, has been working hard with his team to get them to the next level of play. He is looking forward to building off their success; "First game, two halves, both bad. Second game, good first half, bad second half. Third game, good first half, great second half." This team, consisting of almost all freshman, is only getting better and better after every game. Some players of note are their lead point scorer, Will Hammann '23, strong hander, Mwendwawangai Daisly '23, and showman, Oliver Howard '23. These three players in particular have contributed immensely to the team's success.

JV Basketball has had a difficult season. Their current record is 0-3. They train harder and harder every practice, determined to get their first win. When speaking with the head coach, Mr. Arcand, he said that "I'd rather not recognize any particular player—only because I don't want to cause other players to feel as if they are not working hard. All of the players are working extremely hard."

Boys Varsity Basketball has had a winning season with 6 wins and 4 losses, the team continues to show they have what it takes to make it all the way. When asked what he was looking forward to, assistant coach, Mr. Farrell, answered that he is looking forward to the team getting stronger at one on one defense and avoiding stretches where the team struggles to make points. Unfortunately, this winter, the team has struggled to overcome some injuries that prevented the team from competing at full strength. On top of that, Brody Grebe, one of the top scorers on varsity this year, decided to enroll into Montana State for a football scholarship offer making him ineligible to continue playing. Though, throughout these obstacles, the team is still working extremely hard to overcome these struggles. Coach Farrell speaks highly of point guard Ryan Zambie '20, center Tristan Bounds '21, and the captain of the varsity team, Hayden Peek '20 as they are providing most of the points and showing lots of team leadership. Noah Delorme '21 has also added some productive minutes for the team at the other guard position.

As the winter season is coming to an end, all of the coaches are looking to show the best basketball they can produce on each team. All these teams are also looking for the support of the Choate community as they near the end of their seasons.



# Featured Athlete: The Best of Best '20

By Kenadi Waymire '22

Known as one of the best Caribbean squash players, Meagan Best '20 is a wonderful addition to the Choate Squash program. Ending 2019 with an individual silver medal and mixed doubles gold medal at the Pan American Squash Championships, a gold medal at the Barbados National Junior Championships, and numerous other accolades, hopes are high for her future in the sport. As the youngest person to win Senior squash titles in the Caribbean, and the only Barbadian to place highly at Canadian and American championships, she leads the Choate team with pride. And, off the court, she leads Choate as a kind leader in the community. Kenadi Waymire '22 sat down with the All-American to discuss her squash career, both past and future.

**Why did you begin playing squash?:** I like to say I started playing squash in the womb. Back home in Barbados, my mum used to play when she was pregnant with me and just grew up at the courts. When I was eventually able to walk and barely hold the racquet, I would go on court with my dad and hit, and I guess it hasn't stopped from there. I got my first real lesson at the age 7 and I started taking it seriously around the age of 11.

**What has playing squash at such a high level taught you?:** This is a tricky question haha. I think the most important thing for me is to acknowledge and remember that nothing comes for free. We all have to work for what we want in life. It is important that I remember where I came and started from, and always have that in my mind as motivation to always get better.

**How does playing on the Choate team compare to other teams you've played on?:** The Choate team and my Barbadian team back home are the only two teams I have ever really played for, and they are two completely different vibes. The Choate team is super supportive and loving. Our team has managed to create this chemistry in which I have never experienced before. There is a sense of family and supportiveness on the team in which I do not really receive on my team at home. I love the girls on my team and we have really managed to bond and share some really special moments this year and since I have been here. The team continues to train hard and we are seeing results. We have had a pretty good season so far and we hope we can keep it up until the end of season.

**What has been the happiest moment of your squash career?:** There are so many happy moments I've had throughout my career, but I think the most special one for me is when I won the US Junior Open in 2017. This was special not only because of how prestigious the international tournament was, but because I made my

parents proud. I literally train all year round for this tournament, as do all my opponents, and it was just really nice to repay my parents with the win after all the sacrifices they had done, and still do, for me. It was a very special moment for my family and I as well as my country.

**What about the saddest?:** You know, I don't really see any moments as sad, but rather opportunities to learn. In every sport, people have their ups and their downs, and it is just important the way we handle it. If we let it get us down or if we learn from it and improve. And this is how I kinda like to look at it. We work hard to win easy but in all, if there is no pain, there is no gain.

**As a senior, do you have any tips for student-athletes?:** As a two year senior, I don't have as much experience on this campus as all my other peers, but if there is one thing I learnt is that you are a student before an athlete. You could be the best sportsperson, but if you can't translate the drive and motivation you have in your sport into the classroom, you could as well not have it. It is important to balance your studies with your sport, which is tough, but ensure that you coordinate your workouts and other activities around your studies, not visa versa.

**Obviously, your hard work will take you far in life. Where do you hope it takes your squash career?**

You know, I used to play squash just for the thrill of it. My friends used to play, as I grew up in the squash community, so I did too. I never really had a plan. I never expected to end where I am today; here at choate or getting into college for my sport. I guess I will have to thank God and my parents for bringing the success I've been given thus far and I hope that, along with my hard work, that it continues. I'm not sure how far I want to go with my squash career, but we will see. I'm just taking it one step at a time; one day at a time.

Photo Courtesy Choate Swimming



## The Back Page

Choate Flickr

