



Annual Induction Banquet
Class of 2025

Thursday, September 25, 2025
6:00 p.m.
The Carlisle, Lombard, IL

Evening Program

Social Hour	6:00 PM
Welcome	Ed Sullivan Athletic Director
Dinner Served	A Savory Buffet
Comments	Dan Krause Principal Willowbrook High School
Introductions	Helen Connell Hall of Fame President
Video Presentation of Inductees	Produced by Charlie Hoehn and Jeff Reher
Address to the Class of 2025	Pete Montgomery
Presentation of Inductees	Jim White Bob Daly
Closing Comments	Ed Sullivan

Willowbrook High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025 Inductees

Jan Kiefer

Outstanding Contributor

Jan Kiefer dedicated her time, talent, and treasure to the Willowbrook community from 1993 to 2019. During her tenure at Willowbrook High School, she served as a student supervisor and the Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director. Jan answered the phones, ordered the buses, and greeted every single person who walked through the door with a smile. Jan was recognized for bringing an enthusiasm and vitality to the athletic office that helped others achieve their best.

Beyond her official duties, Jan created the Lauren Kiefer Memorial Foundation and established the Remembering Lauren 5K Run/Walks. The Lauren Kiefer Memorial Foundation, Inc. honors Jan's daughter, Lauren, by celebrating her life through helping others. Through the foundation, Lauren's spirit lives on, inspiring and uniting people to do wonderful things in her memory. The foundation's work, which is an extension of Lauren's love, cultivates a spirit of service and caring by fostering hope and celebrating her life. The Foundation established the Remembering Lauren 5K Run/Walks in 2007.

The 5K Run/Walks benefited numerous charities, including Lurie Children's Hospital, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Parents of Murdered Children, and the Easter Seals Foundation. Other beneficiaries were Aspire, the Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund, The Children's Organ Transplant Association, the York Center Food Pantry, Shriner's Hospital for Children, and the Willowbrook High School Senior Scholarships. The foundation's work also provided various acts of assistance for local families in need. Every year, the Foundation awards scholarships to two Willowbrook senior athletes at the Senior Athletic Banquet who best invoke the qualities of Lauren Kiefer.

2018 Special Olympics Volleyball Team

State Champions

The 2018 Willowbrook Warriors Special Olympics Volleyball Team made history with a season that culminated in the school's first-ever Special Olympics Illinois Team State Championship.

The team's journey to the top began on September 23, 2018, when they dominated the state-qualifying tournament at the Park District of La Grange, earning a gold medal and securing their spot at the Special Olympics Illinois Fall Games. With their sights set on a championship, the Warriors traveled to Harlem High School in Machesney Park on October 21, 2018, where they competed with heart and determination. Their hard work paid off as they powered through the competition, ultimately finishing in first place and bringing home the coveted state title.

This historic victory was a true team effort. The championship roster included student-athletes Madelyn Tincknell, Jack Tincknell, Maria Gonzalez, Angel Vazquez, Jonathan Ramos, Brian May, Jonathan Leal, Mohammad Salamah, Dania Salamah, and Joseph Bertuca. Guiding the team to victory was Head Coach Tiffany Linwood, who was supported by a fantastic group of student leaders: Maggie Brewer, Isabelle D'Alessandro, Max Tincknell, and Chloe Devens. Together, they created a legacy of success that will forever be a source of pride for the Willowbrook community.

Steve Kosanovich

Class of 1985

During his time at Willowbrook, Steve Kosanovich earned five varsity letters across three sports: football, basketball, and baseball. In football, he was a two-time varsity letter winner and a two-time All-Conference selection in the DPVL. He also received Honorable Mention All-State honors from the Chicago Sun-Times in 1984. In basketball, he earned two varsity letters. Kosanovich was a one-time varsity letter winner in baseball. Kosanovich went on to play football at Vanderbilt University on a scholarship, where he was a three-time letter winner and starting tight end. As a starting tight end, he had 10 catches and 2 touchdowns in 1986, 12 catches and 1 touchdown in 1987, and 29 catches and 1 touchdown in 1988. In 1988, he was in the top 10 for receiving in the SEC and received Honorable Mention All-SEC honors. He was named to the Vanderbilt All-Century Team in 2022. A plaque at Vanderbilt commemorates the school's first upset of a top-20 team, with Kosanovich catching the winning touchdown against Florida.

Kevin Corry

Athletic Director, 1974-1981

Kevin Corry served as the Athletic Director for Willowbrook High School from 1974 to 1981, succeeding John A. Fischer. Corry's career in athletics began during his high school days at Oak Park, where he participated in football and track, specializing in the discus and shot put. He earned a master's degree in physical education from the University of Illinois. While serving in the military in Puerto Rico, he was in charge of designing and implementing athletic programs for servicemen, which he described as a recreational outlet rather than a competitive one. He began his career with District 88 in 1957 at York, where he became a Dean of Students and coached a variety of sports. In 1967, he moved to Addison Trail High School to serve as the Physical Education Department Chairman and a coordinating administrator.

Corry began his Athletic Director journey at Willowbrook in 1974 and was named the 1975 DPVL Athletic Director of the Year. He was an advocate for equitable treatment of all sports, vowing to eliminate bias and ensuring there were no "minor" sports. His goal was to build a successful overall sports program rather than concentrating resources on a few "super teams".

During his tenure, Corry added boys' soccer and seven girls' interscholastic sports, in many cases ahead of state or federal Title IX mandates. The addition of soccer met student demand and proved immediately successful, with the 1975 varsity team advancing to the state finals. Corry also championed the addition of orange as a secondary highlight color to Willowbrook's uniforms. The rationale was that orange would make film analysis more efficient for football and basketball and allow the uniforms to age more "gracefully". Kevin Corry's impact can still be felt today as the Warriors proudly feature 16 female sports across our three sports seasons.

Jim Bronson

Class of 1976

Jim Bronson was a multi-sport athlete who earned eight varsity letters during his time at Willowbrook High School. He was honored with the John A. Fischer Award in 1976 as the Most Valuable Senior Athlete and was also named the Willowbrook Skyline Athlete of the Year.

Bronson's athletic career at Willowbrook included football, basketball, and baseball. In football, he was a two-time varsity letter winner, two-time All-Conference selection, and a one-time team captain. He received an All-Area Honorable Mention in 1974 from Press Publications, was named All-Area for Defense in 1975, and earned an All-State Honorable Mention from both the Chicago Tribune and News-Gazette that same year. For basketball, he earned three varsity letters, was a two-time All-Conference DPVL selection, and served as a team captain once. He also made the Press Publications All-Area Team in 1976. On the baseball diamond, Bronson was a three-time varsity letter winner and a one-time team captain. He was named All-Conference and was part of the Press Publications All-Area Team in 1976.

Following his high school graduation, Bronson received a football scholarship to Ellsworth Community College in Iowa for the 1976-1977 season. There, he was a two-time letter winner and a one-time team captain. He also participated in the Junior College Rose Bowl, which was a National Championship Game. After his playing career, Bronson transitioned to officiating, umpiring 13 ASA National Championship Games over a 20-year period.

1986 Badminton Team

State Tournament Runner-Up

The 1986 Willowbrook Badminton Team, coached by Al Loew and assistant coach Jim Brusveen, completed the season with an impressive 22-1 record. The Warriors were the 1986 Des Plaines Valley League (DPVL) Champions with a 7-1 record. All DPVL All-Conference athletes—Donna Donofrio, Vicki Konopacz, Kristan Ritt, Kristen Grassi, Gina Novelli, Theresa Wintergerst, Maria Zito, and Lisa Knueppel—placed first in their respective DPVL divisions of singles and doubles competition.

The team continued its success by becoming the 1986 IHSA Sectional Champions, with both singles and doubles teams securing first and second place finishes. At the IHSA State tournament, the team finished as State Runners-Up, just a half-point behind the champion, Palatine. The team was the first in Illinois High School Association history to qualify all six of its eligible athletes for the second day of the state tournament.

Several athletes achieved notable individual and team rankings at the state tournament:

Doubles: Kristan Ritt and Kristen Grassi placed 5th, while Gina Novelli and Theresa Wintergerst finished 10th.

Singles: Donna Donofrio secured 7th place, and Vicki Konopacz finished 13th.

Head Coach Al Loew praised the team's enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and will to win, stating that if he were to recruit another team from the Chicagoland area, he would choose the same girls. The 1986 varsity team roster included: Donna (Donofrio) Pietrzak, Vicki (Konopacz) Flaskamp, Kristan (Ritt) Kozuh, Kristen (Grassi) Epley, Gina (Novelli) Petrecca, Theresa (Wintergerst) Sprandel, Maria (Zito) Nelson, and Lisa (Knueppel) Jolliff.

Jack Jessen was an accomplished two-sport athlete at Willowbrook High School. He earned a total of eight varsity letters, four in football and four in wrestling. In 2018, he was honored with the John A. Fischer Award.

In football, Jessen helped lead the Warriors to the state quarterfinals after the team won their first playoff game in 26 years back in 2016. That same year Jessen was awarded West Suburban Conference Gold All-Conference, West Suburban Conference Gold Offensive Most Valuable Player, Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Academic All-State, Daily Herald All-Area, Chicago Tribune All-State, USA Today All USA Team Illinois, Illinois High School Football Coaches Association All-State, and News Gazette All-State.

During his senior year, in 2017, Jessen helped the Warriors secure their first West Suburban Conference Gold Championship in school history. That season the Warriors qualified for the IHSA state playoffs and advanced to the State Quarterfinals for the second straight season. The Warriors accomplished a 10-2 record and finished the season ranked 5th in the State according to the AP Poll. Jessen's individual accolades that season included: West Suburban Conference Gold All-Conference, West Suburban Conference Gold Most Valuable Player, West Suburban Conference Academic All-Conference, Daily Herald Offensive Player of the Week for Week 3, Daily Herald All-Area, Suburban Life Media Player of the Year, Suburban Life Media All-Area, USA Today All-USA Team Illinois, Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Academic All-State, Illinois High School Football Coaches Association All-State, News Gazette All-State, Edgy Tim O'Halloran All-State Team, Red Grange Award for DuPage County Most Valuable Player, Prep Insight Magazine All-State Team, and Esmark All-American.

In 2017, Jessen broke the single season school records for rushing yards and touchdowns. In addition, by the end of his senior season, Jessen set the school career records in rushing yards, touchdowns, carries, starts, and tackles. Jessen earned team MVP during both his junior and senior seasons and was a member of the Football Leadership Council. Jack Jessen graduated as the most decorated and impactful football player in Willowbrook High School's history. His career was defined by record-breaking individual performances and his instrumental role in leading the Warriors to unprecedented team success.

Jessen was also dominant on the wrestling mat. He was a four-time West Suburban Conference Gold All-Conference honoree, a four-time IHSA Regional Champion, and a four-time IHSA Sectional Medalist. He was also a four-time IHSA All-State wrestler, with state finishes including 3rd place in 2016, 2nd place in 2015 and 2017, and an IHSA State Championship in 2018.. Jack graduated as the winningest wrestler in IHSA history with 201 wins. Jessen was also a 2017 National Greco Champion and an 8x Fargo All-American. Jessen also represented team USA his senior year in high school in the Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic formerly known as the Dapper Dan.

After high school, Jessen received a full scholarship to Northwestern University for wrestling. He competed for the university from 2018 to 2024, earning five varsity letters. His college career included 43 wins with five falls, and he placed 7th at the 2020 Midlands Championships. He was also an NCAA qualifier at the 184 pound weight class in 2022.

WILLOWBROOK HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Class of 2010

Harlan Krafft	Class of 1963
John Lundquist	Class of 1964
Robert Carpenter	Class of 1966
Tom Hicks	Class of 1971
Dan Schatzeder	Class of 1972
Tom Domin	Class of 1975
Kirk Mango	Class of 1975
Tim Vandergrift	Class of 1980
Julie (Callan) Felichio	Class of 1983
Jill Pizzotti	Class of 1984
Mark Nigro	Class of 1985
Andrea (Miller) Kenny	Class of 1992
Jody Gerut	Class of 1995
Christine (Mueller) Hasler	Class of 1996
Matt Roth	Class of 2001

Class of 2011

Al Loew	Coach 1959-2003
Clint Evans	Coach and Athletic Director 1965-2009
Jim Tyree	Coach 1965-1995
Chuck Tassio	Class of 1968/Coach 1990-2003
Jean (Fitzpatrick) Waldron	Class of 1982
Sheila (Roelle) Haarstad	Class of 1987
Rob Janata	Class of 1991
Mike Behnke	Class of 2002

Class of 2012

John A. Fischer	Athletic Director 1959-1973
Neil Schmitt	Class of 1964
Mike Rowland	Class of 1971
Tom King	Class of 1992

Class of 2013

Keith McCanless	Class of 1965
David Lichtenheld	Class of 1970
Susan Jurkonis	Class of 1994
Aaron Burns	Class of 2001
Victor Lesch	Coach
1964 Boys State Champion Gymnastics Team	

WILLOWBROOK HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Class of 2014

Richard Scorza	Class of 1966
Andy Preuss	Class of 1975
Roy Sparks	Class of 1982
Tim Daly	Class of 2000
Tramell Smith	Class of 2002
Chuck Rosetti	Head Wrestling Coach
1998 Girls Badminton Team IHSA State Champions	

Class of 2015

Bruce Kelsay	Class of 1975
Erin Belling	Class of 1994
Jennifer Goebel Goldstein	Class of 2000
Robert Scahill	Class of 2005
Colin Madison	Class of 2007
1999 Girls Badminton Team IHSA State Champions	

Class of 2016

Richard Busch	Class of 1964
Elizabeth Lustrup Lee	Class of 1985
Steve Chmelik	Class of 1985
Phil Aliano	Class of 1997
Marshall Stoner	Coach 1967-1972
2003-2004 State Champion Pom Pon Team	

Class of 2017

Mike Battista	Class of 1964
Chris Kuntz	Class of 1976
Pete Kolzow	Class of 1993
Bryan Murphy, Jr.	Class of 1998
John Hamann	Coach 1966-2000
Rich Rentner	Outstanding Contributor
2004-2005 State Champion Pom Pon Team	

WILLOWBROOK HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Class of 2018

Edward Leppert	Class of 1962
Craig Martin	Class of 1977
Jennifer Jorgensen-Lackey	Class of 1986
Nadine Wille-Whitmore	Class of 1987
Margo Littlehale	Coach 1980-2009
John Price	Outstanding Contributor
2005-2006 State Champion Pom Pon Team	

Class of 2019

William Biliskis	Class of 1968
Robert Cortesi	Class of 1969
Yolanda Lewis Marshall	Class of 1997
Cherise Porter	Class of 2012
Steve Congenie	Class of 2012
Orv Wilkin	Coach 1967-2001
Brendan McArdle	Outstanding Contributor
1998-1999 Wrestling Team	
2006-2007 State Champion Pom Pon Team	

Class of 2020

Katie King Tumilty	1993
Karen Zuley LaFrano	1996
Jynika Craig	2003
Colleen Krawczykowski	2013
Lloyd Scholl	Coach 1960-1992
Bryan Murphy, Sr.	Coach 1981-2018
Ron Tyler	Outstanding Contributor
1978 Cross Country Team	

WILLOWBROOK HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Class of 2022

Charles Froeming	Class of 1965
Mohamed Awad	Class of 1976
Jim White	Class of 1982
Susan DeNigris Kane	Class of 1998
Nick Zito	Class of 2013
Matt Burns	Class of 2014
Molly Krawczykowski	Class of 2014
Helen Carpenter	Outstanding Contributor
1974 Football Team	

Class of 2023

Michael Kligis	Class of 1977
Vic Wisner	Class of 1985
Brett Buchanan	Class of 2010
Dan Rowland	Class of 2013
Kelly McNamara	Class of 2015
Herman Acosta	Outstanding Contributor
Andy Piermattei	Outstanding Contributor
1975 Football Team	

Class of 2024 - Spring

Jerome Bonney	Class of 1966
Dave Whelpley	Class of 1976
Marjorie Fiedler	Class of 1977
Beth Gray	Coach (1982-2009)
Brandon Murphy	Class of 2001
Helen Connell	Outstanding Contributor

Class of 2024 - Fall

George Thoreson	Class of 1970
Kim Hockett McNamara	Class of 1976
Dom Battaglia	Class of 2013
Matt Rowland	Class of 2016
Mike Hoerdeman	Coach (1987-2004)
Charlie Klein	Outstanding Contributor
1973 Baseball Team	

*Thank you for attending the Willowbrook High School
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet
and supporting our Inductees.
Their athletic achievements truly exemplify the
qualities of a Warrior and it is with great pride
that we honor them tonight.*