

## Juvenile charged as an adult following shooting in Villa Park

A Villa Park teenager was charged as an adult after he allegedly shot two unarmed men on the 900 block of West North Avenue last week.

Bruce Bernier, age 16, was arrested shortly after police responded to a call of shots fired at the North Avenue Townhomes on Nov. 24. Bernier was charged with two counts of aggravated battery with a firearm, a Class X felony. He is being held at the DuPage County Jail on a \$1 million bond. His next court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 21.

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department and the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, Villa Park police responded to a report of shots fired at 913 W. North Ave. at about 9:12 p.m.

According to Villa Park Detective Sgt. Bill Lyons, police arrived at the scene to find two men—a 19-year-old and a 21-year-old—who had sustained gun-shot wounds. One of the men had reportedly been shot once in the leg, while the other had been shot twice in the leg and once in the abdomen. Villa Park paramedics transported both victims to separate hospitals. The victim who had been shot in the abdomen was transported to Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. The other victim was taken to Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. Both victims are expected to recover from their

injuries.

Lyons, who was one of the Villa Park officers to respond to the scene, said several witnesses observed the shooting, which took place outside near the rear parking lot of the complex. Police spoke with witnesses and the victims. Minutes later, police arrested Bernier in his apartment at 901 W. North Ave., without incident. According to Lyons, police recovered a handgun from Bernier's residence. He said police are awaiting ballistic tests to determine if that weapon was used in the shooting of the two victims, who are both Addison residents.

Witnesses reportedly heard five shots during the incident, which Lyons said police were treating as gang-related. Lyons said Monday that the relationship between Bernier, who turns 17 on Dec. 28, and the two victims is unclear.

Shortly after responding to the scene, Villa Park police requested assistance from tactical officers from the Addison, Elmhurst and Lombard police departments, as well as the DuPage County Sheriff's Office. The DuPage County Forensics Investigative Unit also responded to assist in collecting evidence for the investigation of the incident.

The shooting of a 21-year-old Villa Park man, which occurred on the same block on Nov. 1, also remains under investigation.

## Villa Park Chamber of Commerce holds Joyful Traditions on Saturday

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce will present its 18th annual Joyful Traditions holiday celebration from 6-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. The free community event will take place near the Ruggard Gazebo by Ardmore Avenue and Park Boulevard near the Illinois Prairie Path.

Some of the highlights of Joyful Traditions include: a tasting tent featuring free food provided by local restaurants, hot chocolate, a s'more station, a SnoMan Cave, a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, horse-drawn sleigh

rides and trolley rides to the Villa Park Historical Museum. Members of the Willowbrook High School choir will sing Christmas carols, and children will be able to have a picture taken with Santa Claus.

Residents who attend are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots and a non-perishable item to contribute to a local food pantry.

For more information about Joyful Traditions, contact the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce at 630-941-9133.

## Police department holds SALT quarterly meeting on Dec. 9

The Villa Park Police Department will hold the next quarterly meeting for Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. at the Wildwood Community Center, which is located at 320 E. Wildwood Ave. Residents are invited to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy coffee and pastries before the presentation.

Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel will speak at the meeting. The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will hold a holiday luncheon at the conclusion of the meeting. Residents are invited to stay for the luncheon, which will be followed by games and prizes. Residents are welcome to bring a guest to the meeting and luncheon.



## Holiday greeting at the VFW...

VILLA PARK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) Post No. 2801 past commander Dennis Geiseman (above, right) makes a brief speech to recruits from Naval Station Great Lakes during Thursday's annual Thanksgiving celebration. For several years, Geiseman, a Vietnam War veteran, has organized the post's Thanksgiving dinner for young recruits from Naval Station Great Lakes. About 200 recruits attended this year's event at the post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road. Pictured at Geiseman's right is post member and World War II veteran Sid Bergh, who also spoke shortly before volunteers served a traditional Thanksgiving meal to the recruits just after noon. The recruits spent several hours at the Villa Park VFW post on Thursday before returning to Naval Station Great Lakes.

## WILLOWBROOK HOLIDAY MUSIC CONCERTS

Willowbrook High School's music department will present three upcoming holiday concerts. All three concerts will begin at 7 p.m. in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium.

**Thursday, Dec. 3**

FEATURING: Jazz Band and CenterStage Show Choir

**Tuesday, Dec. 8**

FEATURING: Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Treble Choir, Beginning Choir, Concert Choir, Beginning Guitars and Guitar Ensemble

**Thursday, Dec. 10**

FEATURING: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Freshman Band and Percussion Ensemble

Ticket prices for all three events are: \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors (senior citizen gold cards and student passes are welcome). Admission is free to children 12 years old and younger who are accompanied by an adult.



## Holiday tournament...

Photos by Chris Fox

THE WILLOWBROOK GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM completed its Thanksgiving tournament with Friday afternoon's game against Plainfield East. The visiting Bengals defeated the Warriors 61-44 in Villa Park. Plainfield East won the championship at the six-team, round-robin tournament with a perfect 5-0 record. Willowbrook won two of five games in the event, beating Walther Christian and East Aurora while losing to St. Joseph, St. Francis and the Bengals. Senior Josie Zabran (above, left) scored a team-leading 22 points for the Warriors in the tournament finale. Zabran made eight of 14 field-goal attempts and converted all six of her shots from the free-throw line. She also grabbed nine rebounds. Senior Kalya Konrath (above, right) added five points and seven rebounds. Senior Danielle Velasquez scored seven points. Velasquez scored a team-high 20 points in the Warriors' 69-57 loss to St. Francis on Nov. 25. Zabran provided 18 points. The above middle photo shows junior Jocelyn Trausch driving for a basket during the third quarter of Friday's game against Plainfield East. Willowbrook opens the West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's games against Proviso East and Leyden.

# SPORTS

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## Addison Trail boys basketball team wins Elmwood Park tournament

### Grygo, Conrad earn all-tournament honors

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

It was a successful title defense for the Addison Trail boys basketball team.

The Blazers kicked off the season by going 3-0 and winning the Elmwood Park tournament for the second year in a row.

Addison Trail started the tournament with a 64-14 win over Chicago Little Village.

"We got up big from the get-go," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "It was good for an opening game. Everybody played a lot and guys got some good reps against live competition."

Addison Trail led 37-4 at

halftime thanks to a 29-0 run at one point.

The Blazers then recorded a 65-25 victory over Chicago Northtown Academy. "It was similar to the first game. We got up big and we played hard to the end," said Lyons. "The guys off the bench gave us some really good energy."

Addison Trail wrapped things up with a 63-41 win over host Elmwood Park. "We were down 10-3 at the start of the game," Lyons noted. "That was good for us. We had some good looks on offense, but we couldn't convert. The good thing is our guys didn't bat an eye."

Addison Trail led 38-20 at halftime and then used a 10-0 run to start the third quarter to pull further away. "We came out in the third quarter and never looked back," said Lyons. "I thought our energy was very good in all three

games. We saw a lot of positives on both ends of the floor that we can build on. We also saw some things that we know we definitely can get better at. I thought our depth was great. We had guys rotating into the games who gave us good energy and good minutes."

Addison Trail used its size as an advantage in the three games. "We had a lot more size than our opponents," said Lyons. "From a half-court sense, we had a lot of offensive rebounds. We had something like 15 offensive rebounds against Elmwood Park. That gave us a lot of second-chance points in the half court and then we used a full-court press to help jump-start the offense."

Lyons said that pressure defense came into play in the win against Little Village. "We went to a full-court man-to-man press and that forced them to play fast and that led to some

turnovers," he said.

Eric Grygo and Nick Conrad were named to the all-tournament team at Elmwood Park. "Eric scored in double digits in two of the games and had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the game against Northtown Academy. Making the all-tournament team was well-deserved," said Lyons. "Nick knocked down some shots for us. He does all the things you need to have done from your point guard position. I think his assists-to-turnover ratio was like 6-1 going into the last game. He was very steady for us throughout the tournament. He does exactly what we need him to do. Both Eric and Nick are senior captains and both were deserving of the award."

Lyons also cited strong play from Zach Novak and Colton Noel. "We were able to get a lot of second-chance points inside," said Lyons.

Lyons said the team is working hard to build on the momentum from the tournament win.

"I told the guys we won three games, we won a tournament championships, a lot of guys got playing time and we came out of it healthy," he said. "We talked about having high expectations. It was a nice start. It was nice for the guys to see that success and see we have the potential to get to where we want to be and where we need to be. I told them to enjoy it and then let's focus on the next game."

That next game is Saturday at home at 6 p.m. against District 88 neighbor Willowbrook.

"They beat us twice last year in two highly contested games that had great atmospheres," said Lyons. "It was two competitive teams last year and I expect the same thing this year. We are expecting a battle (Saturday)."

## Addison Trail girls basketball team takes third at AT-Fenton tournament

### Koulogeorgas and Pham earn all-tournament accolades

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls basketball team opened the season by taking third in its own tournament it co-hosts with Fenton.

The Blazers went 2-2 in the tournament, starting off with a 42-32 loss to Lane Tech. Addison Trail then downed Fenton 52-24 and scored a 63-30 win over Elgin. The Blazers lost to West Suburban Conference Gold Division foe Leyden 48-42 in their final game.

Maria Koulogeorgas and Alyssa Pham were named to the all-tournament team.

"For the most part we did a nice job offensively in the tournament," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader. "The question mark for us right now is on the defensive end. We got hurt on the boards in the tournament. Lane Tech out-rebounded us 38-27 and Leyden had 27 offensive rebounds in the game and yet we only lost by six points. The defensive end of the floor is not where it needs to be right now. Once we figure that out we can be pretty successful this year."

Schader was pleased with the depth the team showed in the tournament. "We had six and seven kids scoring in most of the

games," he said. "Again, this is one of the bigger teams we've had and right now we're not putting bodies on people and grabbing rebounds like we should be."

Schader also lauded the play of Nicole Pudlo and Diamond Pikulyk. "Nicole Pudlo played very well and Diamond had a good game against Leyden with 13 points," he said.

Koulogeorgas had 20 points against Elgin, including 18 in the first half. "We shot the ball fairly well in the tournament," said Schader. "We were tied 21-21 in the first half against Lane Tech and had six 3-pointers. The problem was we couldn't get the ball inside. If we can get the rebounding down we are going to be fine. We started to get better defensively in other aspects."

Pham is another player who enjoyed a strong tournament. "Alyssa played really well," said Schader. "She ran the point for the most part and took care of the ball. She scored and dished and did a lot of positive things for us."

Addison Trail returned to action earlier in the week against WSC Gold opponent Morton. The Blazers continue conference play Saturday at Hinsdale South.

"We have some tough games right off the bat," said Schader. "Our next three games are on the road against Morton, Hinsdale South and Illiana Christian. It's going to be a challenging couple weeks for us. We'll see where we are."

## Fenton girls basketball team slowed by injuries

### Susmarski, Gomez play well in season-opening tournament

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

There was some good news and bad news for the Fenton girls basketball team.

The bad news is the Bison lost a pair of starters during their opening Addison Trail-Fenton tournament.

The good news is veteran coach Tim Anderson saw some building blocks during the team's four games in the tournament—losses to Elgin, Addison Trail, Leyden and Lane Tech.

Fenton starters Jessica Bango (senior) and Jamie Minard (sophomore) both were injured in the tournament. Bango was injured very early in the team's first game against Elgin.

"Jessica got hurt three possessions in," said Anderson. "That's a huge loss for us. She's our leader and our go-to player."

Anderson didn't know how long Bango would be out of action. "We're waiting to hear," he said late last week.

The injuries left Anderson

with an extremely youthful roster during the tournament. "Coming into the season we had about 7 1/2 years of varsity experience on the team," he said. "With those two girls out, there were many moments in that first game where there was not one minute of varsity experience on the floor for us."

However, Anderson sees plenty of positives with his group. "There is light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "This group has a lot of improvement potential. I see some huge upside. They are wonderful kids. It wasn't easy for them in the tournament. It was a big eye-opener for them playing at the varsity level. But they have shown me nothing but being ready for the challenge. I can't ask for anything more than that. They work hard and they work well together. They get along with each other. Those kinds of things are important. You have to have those intangibles on a team. We realize we have a lot of work to do. There is a focus on what we need to do and they know what. That's what makes the game so much fun. We're looking forward to

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# Addison Trail wrestling team off to a strong start

**Fuentes, Frontier lead list of returnees**

By Mike Miazga  
Correspondent

The Addison Trail wrestling team got the 2015-2016 season started off on the right foot.

The Blazers scored a pair of recent victories over Highland Park (63-15) and Palatine (57-21).

"They are young and they are willing to listen and learn," said Addison Trail coach Rob Serio. "They are willing to work hard and that's half the battle. Kids who are willing to wrestle and learn are fine by me. I will coach them all day long."

Senior captain Karim Fuentes (heavyweight) started the

season 3-0 with three pinfall victories. "Karim is looking very good so far," said Serio. "He will be tough to beat this year. He put in a lot of time in the off-season in the weight room. We expect good things from Karim this season. In my eyes he could be a state place-winner and could be a state champion. He's a mentally strong kid. We're excited for him."

Junior Andre Frontier (145 pounds), also a team captain, started out with three wins as well. "Andre has been around and knows the varsity program," said Serio.

Other key contributors in the early going have been senior Javier Toralva (132 pounds), senior Marcus Rias (126 pounds), junior Alex Komi-

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— Rob Serio, Addison Trail coach

nowski (152 pounds), along with freshmen Guillermo Juarez (106 pounds) and Christian Arellano (113 pounds).

Juarez and Kominowski also started their seasons 3-0. Kominowski and Rias are back after taking a year off. Both were state-qualifying gymnasts last year. Rias started the season

2-1.

"Alex and Marcus will be a huge help," said Serio. "Both of them are great athletes."

Addison Trail lost 18 seniors form last year's squad. "We knew going into the season we would be a young team and that's something we were prepared for," said Serio. We'll see

what happens. As long as the guys keep working hard we are going to be fine. We see a lot of potential in this group."

Addison Trail is looking for its fourth West Suburban Conference Gold Division title in a row.

"The conference is going to be a tossup," said Serio. "Downers Grove South and Willowbrook will be tough and I think Leyden is going to be good. Everybody is going to be pretty decent in the conference. Winning three in a row is a big accomplishment. It would be nice to get a fourth conference title in a row."

Addison Trail starts its WSC Gold season Friday at home against District 88 neighbor Willowbrook. The meet starts at 6 p.m.



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