

VP Senior Concerns Commission holds senior fair on May 5

The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will hold a senior fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 5. The event will take place at the community recreation building at 320 E. Wildwood Ave. Jewel/Osco Pharmacy will offer pertussis and shingles shots (with Medicare Part D; costs vary depending on insurance coverage). A pharmacist from Jewel/Osco will also review all of a senior's medications—attendees are advised to bring all of their medications. Jewel/Osco will also provide a dietitian who will speak about healthy eating. The Villa Park Fire Department will provide free blood pressure screenings, while the Villa Park Police Department will offer crime-prevention material. The fair will also feature the announcement of the commission's 2016 senior of the year. For more information about the senior fair, call Villa Park Village Clerk Hosanna Korynecky at 630-592-6077, or call the Villa Park Village Manager's office at 630-592-6652.

The commission is still accepting nominations for the senior of year award. Nominations must be received by Saturday, April 23. Nominations, in 50 words or less, can be sent to the Senior Concerns Commission, Attn: Clerk Korynecky, 20 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181.

Drop off unused prescription drugs at the VPPD on April 30

The Villa Park Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to rid their homes of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs with an upcoming collection event. The collection will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, at the police department, which is located at 40 S. Ardmore Ave.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

The DEA will not accept liquids, needles or sharps. Only pills and patches will be accepted.

According to information provided by the Village of Villa Park, medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Residents are advised to refrain from flushing unused medicines down the toilet or from throwing them in the trash. Flushing the medicines or discarding them in the trash reportedly pose potential safety and health hazards.

Semi-annual water main flushing takes place in Villa Park May 9-13

The Village of Villa Park will performing its semi-annual water main flushing operation in May. According to information provided by the village, this is a necessary maintenance procedure to clear the mains of rust deposits and to check fire hydrants for proper operation.

Flushing will be performed daily from May 9-13 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Please

refrain from doing laundry during these times, as rust stains could potentially damage clothing.

Village staff regrets any inconvenience this may cause, and thanks residents in advance for their patience. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 630-834-8505 with any questions.



District 88's Best...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR Meghan Foley (above, left) of Villa Park was her school's recipient of the District 88's Best honor for the month of March. Foley, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, was recognized at the District 88 Board of Education's March 21 meeting. The board created the District 88's Best award to highlight the success of students at the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools. The honor recognizes nine students from each school during the school year for their accomplishments inside and outside the classroom. Foley has enrolled in the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook. When she graduates next month, she will have completed 12 Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses and several honors courses. Foley, who has been named to the honor roll in each semester she's been at Willowbrook, is an AP Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar. She is also secretary of the National Honor Society and an inductee of the National math, English and world language honor societies. Foley is also vice president of Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Outside of the classroom, Foley is passionate about singing and songwriting. A vocalist, guitar player and piano player, Foley has performed in a variety of settings in and out of school. Foley plans to attend one of the following four schools: the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of California, San Diego, Vanderbilt University or the University of Southern California. She will study biochemistry.

Memorial run/walk for Emilio Perez on May 1 at Willowbrook

The Emilio Perez Foundation has announced that the second annual "Whistle While You Walk/Run 5K for Emilio" will take place Sunday, May 1. The run/walk will begin and end outside of Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park. The event begins at 8 a.m.

The run/walk honors the memory of Emilio Perez, a member of Willowbrook's Class of 2015. Perez died in March 2014, one day after his 17th birthday. He was struck by a vehicle in a hit-and-run incident on Interstate 88 in western Illinois.

Last year's inaugural "Whistle While You Walk/Run 5K for Emilio" event on April 26, 2015, attracted over 900 participants and raised funds to provide scholarships to five senior students at Willowbrook.

The entry fee is \$25 per adult. Children 12 and under participate for free. All pre-registered participants will receive a T-shirt. The pre-registration deadline is April 25.

To register online, or to download a form for mail-in registration, visit the foundation Web site at www.emilioperezfoundation.com.

The 10th annual Kiefer run takes place June 18 at Willowbrook

The 10th annual Lauren M. Kiefer 5K Family Run/Walk will take place Saturday, June 18. The event, which begins at 9 a.m., will start and finish outside of Willowbrook High School. The race is named after 2000 Willowbrook graduate Lauren Kiefer. All proceeds from the event benefit the Lauren M. Kiefer Memorial Foundation, which supports several charitable causes, including scholarships to Willowbrook seniors. The foundation has provided about \$75,000 to students from the school since 2007.

Pre-registration is available online or through the mail. Additionally, race-day registration will begin at 7 a.m. on June 18.

The fee is \$25 per person. There is no charge for children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult. A waiver form must be completed for each child to participate.

Participants must register by June 3 to receive this year's 10th anniversary T-shirt.

Pre-registrants can pick up their race packets from 5-7:30 p.m. on June 17 at Fleet Feet Sports, located at 124 E. Schiller St. in Elmhurst.

The run/walk includes a raffle with a grand prize of a five-day condominium stay in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

For more information, or to register online, visit www.rememberlauren.com.

Bensenville man charged with burglary to motor vehicle

by Bonnie MacKay

When the owner of a pick-up truck exited an area hotel last week, he found a male subject in his unlocked vehicle.

According to Villa Park Police Detective Sgt. Bill Lyons, the owner of a Dodge pick-up saw the subject reportedly in his vehicle in the parking lot of In Town Suites, 348 E. Roosevelt Road, at about 9:15 p.m. on April 11.

When the truck owner found the male

subject, Lyons said he told him he was going to call 9-1-1 and would restrain him, if necessary. The man did not need to restrain the subject.

Police arrived on the scene to take Charles E. Overby, 22, of Bensenville, into custody. He was charged with burglary to motor vehicle and possession of a controlled substance. He was transported to DuPage County Jail in Wheaton, where he has since been released on bond.

Villa Park house reaches the 100-year milestone in 2016

The home of longtime Villa Park residents Bob and Sandi Dollinger was built 100 years ago. In addition to celebrating the centennial anniversary of their house, the Dollingers are marking 50 years as residents of 310 Astor Court. They moved to Villa Park in 1966. The Dollingers submitted the following article about their home.

If houses could talk, the home at 310 Astor Court in Villa Park would say it's been quite a century!

Built in 1916 by well-known building contractor Charles C. Heisen, one of Villa Park's earliest residents, and owned since 1966 by Bob and Sandi Dollinger, the history-filled home, located just south of the Illinois Prairie Path, turns 100 years young this spring.

Yes, this home speaks volumes about construction a hundred years ago in what was then the new suburb of Villa Park, and the people who have lived in the Prairie style bungalow since it was built, right through to the present.

"Who would have thought back in 1916 that in 2016 the house would not only be still standing but looking good," Sandi Dollinger said. "As the fourth owners, we can attest to its durability. Structurally, the rooms are exactly the same size as when it was built. We even found an original kitchen cabinet (painted) in the basement, which we refinished, brought back upstairs and put in its original place (the pantry area of the kitchen)."

The land for the future home was purchased by Heisen in 1914 from Harry Baker, one of the first presidents of the Villa Park Village Board. Heisen, one of the young village's successful businessmen, built the Travel and Transport Building in Chicago and the Opera House in St. Paul, Minn., and was said to be worth \$12 million when he began his construction business, according to Bob Dollinger.

Heisen built some of the first homes in what became the "Heisen Subdivision," including 310 Astor Court, and men who did construction work for him said he was "as tight as a new shoe" when it came to buying materials. When the Gold Coast section of Chicago was torn down, he purchased as much of the used material as he could, including long-narrow windows, used lumber, built-in cabinets and plumbing supplies, which he would use in home construction. The Dollingers' home has many different-sized windows, which Heisen imported from the torn-down Chicago residences.

The entire home has the original birch or oak trim surrounding the door and windows, with some rooms having large cove ceiling trim.

"One unique feature of the home is that the basement ceiling was used by Mr. Heisen to train his men how to plaster," Bob Dollinger said. "The entire basement ceiling was plastered early-on and one half of the basement still has an exposed plaster ceiling."

Heisen built the home for the first owners, Villa Park Board Treasurer Edward Tobelman and his wife, Lillian, who resided there until 1942, when it was sold to Fred and Bernice Banister. Fred was a police magistrate. In 1955 it was purchased by Richard and Donna Shaffer. Donna was a reading consultant in School District 48, where Bob Dollinger was the industrial arts teacher. Donna told him they were selling their house and thought the Dollingers might be interested. Bob and Sandi looked at the house and bought it that evening. They were living in Aurora and Bob was tired of commuting, so in August 1966, the Dollingers and their three children—Steven, Deborah and Julie—moved to 310 Astor Court.

"The ending to our story is to share with you how we have loved and enjoyed our home and hope to have many more years living here," Sandi Dollinger said.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

Rams kick off conference season with two wins

The Glenbard East baseball team moved to 2-0 in Upstate Eight Conference play with victories over Elgin and Elgin-Larkin. The Rams earned a 9-1 win at Elgin on Saturday and beat Elgin-Larkin 10-4 on Monday in Lombard.

Both victories came in crossover games against teams from the conference's River Division. The Rams begin their schedule against their fellow teams in the Valley Division with this week's three-game series against West Aurora.

Monday's win gave Glenbard East an overall season record of 9-5.

Nathan Bertuca pitched a complete game in Saturday's win at Elgin. Bertuca, who picked up his first win of the season, gave up four hits and struck out four batters over seven innings.

Jake Heyman connected for three of the Rams' 10 hits. Mike Sebbey and Richard Maciopinto each had two hits. Ryan Schefske drove in a pair of runs, while Heyman and Sebbey both drove in

one run.

Brett Tomlinson pitched six innings and didn't allow any earned runs in Monday's win. Tomlinson struck out six Royals on his way to a victory that moved his record to 1-2.

"Brett did a really good job for us," said Glenbard East coach Joel Pelland. "We didn't play defense the way we needed to. He battled through it and stayed focused."

Sebbey pounded three hits against Elgin-Larkin, including a first-inning homer—his fourth of the season. Sebbey added a double during the Rams' five-run outburst in the second inning. Schefske and Phil Abruzzino also hit doubles during the inning, while Jack Moran, Brett Bushka and Maciopinto provided singles.

The Royals scored three runs in the top of the third inning to cut Glenbard East's lead to 6-4. The Rams rebuilt their lead with three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Two of those runs came on an error by the Royals, who

committed five errors in the game. Glenbard East made three errors.

Willowbrook

The Warriors improved to 3-1 in West Suburban Gold Conference play with Monday's 11-1, five-inning win over Morton in Villa Park. Willowbrook won two of three games in its series against the Mustangs. The teams split a doubleheader at Morton on Saturday. The Warriors scored an 8-1 win in the opening game. Morton earned a 6-2 victory in the second game.

The Warriors (6-6 overall) scored seven first-inning runs during Monday's win. Kyle Ferguson drove in four runs. Matt Pizar and Jon Kelso had three and two RBIs, respectively.

Pizar pitched six innings and earned the victory in Saturday's first game. Cam Zunkel worked three innings to earn the win on Monday.

Willowbrook opened the conference season with a 5-3 win at Leyden on April 11. Pizar pitched five innings and earned the win.



Solid pitching...

Photos by Chris Fox

GLENBARD EAST PITCHER Brett Tomlinson (above) worked six innings and earned his first victory of the season in Monday's 10-4 win over Elgin-Larkin. Tomlinson, who improved his record to 1-2, did not allow any earned runs in Monday's game. Mike Sebbey provided three hits, including his fourth home run of the season. The win gave the Rams an overall record of 9-5 and an Upstate Eight Conference mark of 2-0. The Rams' first two conference games were crossover contests against teams from the River Division (Elgin and Elgin-Larkin). Glenbard East begins its conference schedule against Valley Division teams with this week's three-game series against West Aurora.

Rams' nine-match winning streak snapped

Glenbard East's girls soccer team, which won nine straight matches with shutout victories, cooled off by losing two straight matches at the PepsiCo Showdown. The losses to Wheaton Warrenville South and Downers Grove North left the Rams with an overall record of 9-3.

Glenbard East, which opened the tournament with a 1-0 win over Kaneland on April 9 at Schaumburg's Olympic Park complex, earned its ninth straight shutout win three days later in Lombard. Playing on their home field, the Rams beat St. Viator 3-0 on April 19. Senior Brittany Paganucci gave Glenbard East a 1-0 first-half lead when she scored a goal off an assist from senior Sammie Sarles. Paganucci delivered another

goal in the second half. Senior Holly Ward scored the Rams' final goal of the match with an assist from sophomore Elizabeth Toledo.

In addition to posting her ninth straight shutout of the season against St. Viator, senior goalkeeper Sierra Dana set a Glenbard East program record with her 25th career shutout.

The Rams' nine-match winning streak came to an end with Thursday's 4-1 tournament loss at Wheaton Warrenville South. The Tigers took a quick 2-0 lead about 10 minutes into the match. Junior Dana Plotke scored a second-half goal for the Rams to cut the Tigers' lead to 2-1. Wheaton Warrenville South extended its lead with two goals during the closing minutes.

The Rams returned to Olympic Park in Schaumburg for their fourth and final match of the PepsiCo Showdown. Downers Grove North and Glenbard East played a scoreless first half in a consolation-round meeting. The Trojans scored three second-half goals to post a 3-0 win.

"We didn't have any energy on the field," said Glenbard East coach Kent Overbey after Saturday's loss. "We had a tough match on Thursday. Once you get knocked out of that championship bracket, it's hard to prepare mentally."

Glenbard East's schedule this week includes matches at Plainfield Central and Streamwood, as well as this Saturday's Upstate Eight Valley Conference home tilt against Bartlett.



Defensive standouts...

THE GLENBARD EAST GIRLS SOCCER TEAM posted nine consecutive shutout wins before losing two straight matches in the PepsiCo Showdown event. The Rams won their first two matches of the tournament before losing 4-1 at Wheaton Warrenville South on Thursday. Glenbard East finished the event with Saturday's 3-0 loss to Downers Grove North in Schaumburg. The Rams ran their winning streak to nine matches when they beat St. Viator 3-0 in an April 12 PepsiCo Showdown contest in Lombard. "Our defense has been getting the job done," said Glenbard East coach Kent Overbey after the victory over the Lions. Overbey highlighted the play of the defensive line, including Junior Paige Taylor (above, left), sophomore Faith Davies, sophomore Katie Hansen and senior Sammie Sarles (above, right). He noted that senior goalkeeper Sierra Dana had to make relatively few saves during the team's nine straight shutouts. "That's a testament to our defense," Overbey said. Taylor and Sarles are pictured during the team's final match of the PepsiCo Showdown—Saturday's 3-0 loss to Downers Grove North.



Winning Warrior...

SENIOR ZOE DANNENBERG (above) of the Willowbrook softball team delivers a pitch during Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference season opener against Morton. Dannenberg pitched a complete game to lead the Warriors to a 4-2 victory in Villa Park. Willowbrook improved its overall record to 6-3. Dannenberg recorded nine strikeouts and allowed seven hits over seven innings. Morton scored its only runs on a two-run homer in the sixth inning. Willowbrook scored two runs in the second inning and added single runs in the third and fifth innings to build a 4-0 lead. Dannenberg bashed a two-run double in the second inning to drive in the Warriors' first two runs. Dannenberg, who moved her season record to 2-2 with Thursday's victory, picked up her first win one day earlier by leading the Warriors to a 4-1 triumph at Wheeling. Senior Sabrina Conforti has shared Willowbrook's pitching duties with Dannenberg. Through Friday, Conforti held a record of 4-1. The Warriors improved their overall record to 8-3 by sweeping Saturday's non-conference doubleheader against Reavis in Villa Park. The Warriors won the opener 5-1 and prevailed 8-7 in the second game.

Scenes from Villa Park Youth Baseball opening day



photos by Paul DelGuidice

(Above left) The Red Sox squared off against the Athletics in an Opening Day game of the Villa Park Youth Baseball League on Saturday, April 16.

(Left) Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel threw out the first pitch at Jefferson Field to start the Youth Baseball season on Saturday, April 16. Here, she shows off the commemorative ball signed by both teams.

(Above right) Villa Park Youth Baseball league teammates from the Royals head to their dugout on Opening Day.

WBHS named Meghan Foley as 88's Best for March

Meghan Foley has been named as Willowbrook's March recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding achievements in the performing arts/electives. Foley, a senior, was recognized during the March 21 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

As a student, Meghan has enrolled in the most rigorous courses available at WB. At the end of her high school career, she will have completed 12 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses and a multitude of honors courses. An AP Scholar and an Illinois State Scholar, Meghan has made the Honor Roll status every semester while at WB. She also is Secretary of the National Honor Society, is Vice President of Civitas (Social Studies Honor Society) and is an inductee of the National English, Math and World Language honor societies.

Beyond the classroom, Meghan has been honored with the Human Relations Award, the Outstanding Freshman Award and the Outstanding Student Award in Science and World Languages. Besides editor of the student newspaper Skyline, Meghan is also a member of Mock Trial team, Science Olympiad, choir and the badminton team.

Beyond her academic and extracurricular success, Meghan's passion is



courtesy photo

Pictured here with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause is senior Meghan Foley, who has been named the March recipient of 88's Best recognition.

singing and songwriting. She regularly performs in and out of school in a variety of settings, showcasing her music

talents as a guitar player, pianist and vocalist. Her band won the WB Key Club Battle of the Bands event this year. Meghan performed as a soloist during the Villa Park Centennial Celebration and she won the "Fan Favorite" portion of the fourth annual Suburban Chicago's Got Talent contest.

"To know Foley is to love her," said Cristy Hebreard, world language teacher. "Her happiness and smile are infectious to everyone she meets. I don't think she has ever had a bad day. If she has, you would never know it. She is a talented, intelligent, remarkable young woman, who has such a bright future ahead of her. I know wherever Foley goes, she will brighten and enhance the lives of fellow classmates and professors. I cannot wait to see her up on that Grammy stage, accepting her award."

Willowbrook math teacher Liz Zwart agreed.

"Foley is an amazing mathematician, who shows pure joy in learning new math concepts," she said. "She gets excited when solving difficult math problems, and even more so when she arrives at a correct answer. Foley stands out in the classroom as a true leader, whose charisma and personality make her someone who can work on a team with absolutely anyone. Her dedication to academic success is evident every day. Foley also still makes time to be an active member of several clubs/teams, as well as pursue her music career."

Meghan plans to attend University of Wisconsin-Madison; University of California, San Diego; Vanderbilt University; or University of Southern California to study biochemistry.

Art work from the District 45 annual Art Show now on display

VILLA PARK — Selected art work from the third annual District 45 PTA Council Art Show will be on display at the Park Art Center from Friday, April 22 to Friday, May 20.

The Park Art Center is located at 9 E. Park Blvd. and is open from 11 a.m.-5

p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The Art Show celebrates visual art, photography, sculpture, writing and music.

For more information, visit parkart-center.wix.com/pac9 or call 630-501-1455.

SPORTS

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Willowbrook baseball team splits doubleheader with Morton

Garbacz strikes out 12 in win against West Chicago

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook baseball team closed out a busy week by splitting a West Suburban Conference Gold Division doubleheader against Morton.

Willowbrook won the opener 8-1. The Warriors, who had six hits, led 6-1 after four innings thanks in part to a four-run outburst in the fourth.

TJ Geritano had a walk and an RBI. Cam Zunkel had a hit, a run scored, an RBI and walked three times. Kyle Martyniuk had an RBI and three walks. Kyle Ferguson had a triple, a run scored, an RBI and two stolen bases.

Jon Kelso had a hit, two runs scored, an RBI and a walk. Danny Olson went 2-for-3 with an RBI, a double and a walk. Mark Molitor had a hit, a run scored and two RBI.

Willowbrook walked 10 times in the game.

Matt Pizur was the winning pitcher. He went six innings and allowed five hits while striking out eight. Scott Kohrt pitched the seventh inning.

Morton won the nightcap 6-2 despite having only three hits. Willowbrook had six hits, but made four errors.

Pizur went 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Martyniuk walked twice. Ferguson had a hit and an RBI. Molitor went 2-for-2 with a double and a run scored. MJ Ranieri had a hit and an RBI.

Eric Gunst pitched the first three innings and took the loss. He gave up two hits and

had one strikeout. Will Hines pitched the final three innings. He allowed one hit, no earned runs had three strikeouts.

In earlier action, Willowbrook dropped a 5-2 WSC crossover game to Hinsdale Central. Willowbrook trailed 4-1 after two innings.

The Warriors had six hits and committed three errors.

Geritano had a hit, a run scored and walked twice. Zunkel had an RBI. Martyniuk had a hit and an RBI. Pizur had a double. Alec Michaelson pitched five innings and allowed four hits and two earned runs while striking out three. He took the loss. Ronnie Reitz pitched one inning in relief.

In a 10-0 non-conference win against West Chicago, Matt Garbacz picked up the six-inning complete-game win. He allowed only one hit and struck

out 12 while issuing no walks. He threw 56 of 72 pitches for strikes.

Willowbrook scored eight runs over the first three innings and had nine hits.

Geritano went 2-for-2 with two runs scored and a walk. Zunkel was 1-for-2 with two runs scored and an RBI. Ferguson went 3-for-4 with two doubles, a run scored and four RBI. Molitor had a hit and an RBI. Chris DeSalvo had an RBI. Ranieri had a hit and scored a run. Olson had an RBI. Kelso had a hit, a run scored and two RBI, while Michaelson scored two runs.

Willowbrook also scored a 5-3 WSC Gold Division win against Leyden. Willowbrook had six hits and led 4-1 after two innings.

Geritano walked twice,

scored a run and drove in a run. Pizur had an RBI. Ferguson had a hit and a run scored. Molitor was 2-for-2 with an RBI. DeSalvo had a hit and scored two runs. Olson had two hits and an RBI. Garbacz had an RBI.

Pizur was the winning pitcher. He went five innings and struck out five while allowing only three hits. Zunkel picked up the save. He struck out four in two innings and allowed three hits. He threw 25 of 36 pitches for strikes.

The split with Morton put Willowbrook's record at 5-6 overall and 2-1 in WSC Gold play. The Warriors are scheduled to host Lyons Township today and welcome Hinsdale South to town Saturday for a WSC Gold doubleheader starting at 10 a.m.

Fenton baseball team splits pair of games with Riverside-Brookfield

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton baseball team split a pair of recent Metro Suburban Conference West Division games against Riverside-Brookfield.

Fenton defeated R-B 6-5 and also lost 9-2. After the series split, the Bison were 2-3 overall and 1-1 in conference play.

Through the team's first five games, Garrett Focht (1B-3B, Jr.) was leading the Bison in hitting with a .500 average. Tommy Mach (IF-C, Jr.) was hitting .389, while Cory Schwarz (3B-C-P, Sr.) was hitting .363. Bryan Larsen (IF-P, Jr.) was hitting .315 and Joe Simoncelli (SS-2B, Jr.) was at .286.

On the mound, Tyler Santagata (IF-P, Jr.) had a win and a 2.25 ERA. Mach sported a 3.60 ERA, while Danny Lucas (1B-P, Jr.) had a win and a 4.50 ERA.

Fenton is coming off a 2015 season where it won nine games overall and went 6-12 in MSC West play.

Larsen and Schwarz headline a list of returning players, while Simoncelli, Focht, Nick Mer-

cado (OF, Jr.) and Mach are among the key newcomers.

"It's a very close-knit team that is improving greatly by the day," Fenton coach Dave Schwabe said.

At the plate, Schwabe has been pleased with the team's production through the top half of the order and noted the 6-9 positions will be important going forward. "Our 1-5 hitters are strong," he said. "We will depend on Nos. 6-9 to complete the lineup."

Schwabe likes what he's seen so far in the field. "We are sharp defensively," he said. "The infield is the strength of the team. All our positions are solid. Our outfield is quickly catching up."

Schwabe has a youthful pitching staff this season. "We're focusing on pounding the strike zone and letting the infield do the work for them."

Schwabe sees a bright future ahead for this year's group. "This team is comprised mostly of juniors (14 of 16 on the team are in the 11th grade)," he said. "The players are skilled and unafraid. The sky is the limit if they continue to work hard."

Youthful Addison Trail boys volleyball team improving

Blazers move to 2-0 in conference with win against Proviso East

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Addison Trail boys volleyball coach Chad Grant has a young roster this year.

But that young roster is gaining valuable varsity experience in the early part of the season.

"I like that we have been competitive in every match," said Grant. "We have seven sophomores getting playing time right now and we only have one club player. We probably are the youngest team in the state. We are losing a lot of close matches against a challenging schedule. I think we will start to win these matches as the season progresses. We still have huge room for growth."

In recent action, the Blazers recorded a 25-9, 25-12 West Suburban Conference Gold Division victory against Proviso East.

Jacob Grygo had 11 assists, three kills and four aces for Addison Trail. Colton Noel added six kills, while Jonathan Gonzalez had three kills and one block. Michael Pudlo had three kills, as did Eric Lynch.

The win moved Addison Trail to 2-0 in WSC Gold play. The Blazers also dropped a

25-22, 25-17 contest to St. Patrick. The loss put Addison Trail at 3-8 overall.

"Our biggest improvements have been on offense," said Grant. "We have been trying guys in different spots. We're getting better every day."

The Blazers are hard at work on the defensive end. "We have a long way to go defensively," said Grant. "The boys are working hard, but we have to improve our technique, timing and reading of the opponents' hitters."

Part of that youthful roster is two setters in Grygo and David Zielinski. "We have two young setters who are getting more comfortable running the offense," said Grant. "Jacob Grygo has been great for us. He is going to have a really good career here. He also has been our best attacker."

Grant also cited recent strong play from Noel and Pudlo. "Colton moved to the right side and is getting acclimated," he said. "He gives us a big block and allows us to put pressure on the other teams from the right side. Michael is playing very efficiently. His timing is improving. He gives us a good serve. He doesn't look like a sophomore."

Addison Trail traveled to Morton earlier in the week for a conference match and will host Glenbard West today in a WSC crossover contest.

Willowbrook boys gymnastics team making big strides

Warriors edge conference foe Downers Grove South by less than a point

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys gymnastics team was involved in a recent good, old-fashioned nail-biter.

The Warriors edged West Suburban Conference Gold Division foe Downers Grove South by less than a point, 135.70-134.80, to remain unbeaten in league competition.

In fact, the Warriors through late last week were unbeaten at all conference levels (9-0 combined varsity, junior varsity and freshman).

"It was an intense dual meet against Downers Grove South. We knew they would be close to use because of the scores at the Canino invitational,"

noted Willowbrook coach Caleb Strejc. "We host Hinsdale South (this week) for our final dual meet and we will prepare our hardest to try and stay undefeated at all levels in the conference—something that has not happened at Willowbrook in who knows how long."

At the Tony Canino Invitational at Hinsdale Central, Willowbrook placed fifth out of 10 teams with a score of 132.20.

"This meet has all the teams from the West Suburban Conference," Strejc explained. "All teams from the Silver Division but York beat us (Glenbard West, Downers Grove North, Lyons Township and Hinsdale Central). The other four teams from the gold division finished behind us with Downers South right on our tail."

Individually, Adam Sousa won the all-around competition with a score of 52.35. He also won parallel bars, took second on high bar, vault and pommel horse, placed fourth on floor and fifth on rings.

Rick Saldana took 14th in the all-around with a score of 36.55.

At the Tom Kordewick Invitational at Hinsdale South, Willowbrook was fifth out of eight teams.

"This was a special-format meet in which guys could compete in no more than three events," Strejc said. "It really tests the depth of a team. It was great to see some of our other guys do well and get individual awards besides Adam."

Sousa won the rings and high bar events and was second on horse. Ian Patete was sixth on floor. Zach Zeffiro was sixth on vault. Patete also was seventh on vault. Dylan Leska placed ninth on vault, while Bailey Heppner was ninth on parallel bars.

Strejc has seen good gains made on vault and parallel bars so far this season. "On vault this can be attributed to Ricky Saldana and Zach Zeffiro starting to land their tsuks (backward flipping vault), which has led them to be able to score

in the 8s and help our team score," he said. "On parallel bars we have seen guys such as Ricky, Miguel Portilla and Chris Ruiz begin to score in the 7s by cleaning up their routines. That has helped our overall score a lot."

Strejc lauded the season-long efforts of Saldana, Zeffiro and Sousa.

"Ricky and Zach have stepped up by starting to land those harder vaults and bringing a lot of energy and excitement to the team through that," he said. "Adam has stepped up by continuing to be consistent and hitting his routines meet after meet and sticking a majority of his dismounts. This is impressive because there is more pressure on him this year by not having the seniors Bret (Golz) and Keawe (Winstead) competing alongside him."

Strejc is thrilled the team is receiving contributions throughout the roster. "What I have liked the most is the ability to step up, adapt and understand that as a group they

have a lot more responsibility that is spread out between them," he said. "Last year all our points typically came from the scores of three guys every meet, whereas this year it is between about 10 guys. Each guy works very hard at his specialties to contribute to the overall team score and to keep that score increasing."

Strejc noted the program's freshman team is another bright spot this season. "They are terrific," he said. "They are great kids with good attitudes and the desire to become better gymnasts every day of practice. If they continue working as hard as they have been and staying committed to the sport, it will be a huge factor in continuing to be a contender for conference titles in the years to come."

The freshman will compete in a freshman invitational Friday. "That's very exciting because it will be those guys' first opportunity to win some individual awards and hopefully a team plaque."

Fenton boys volleyball team enjoys success at Oswego tournament

Sanchez, Hill among team leaders

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton boys volleyball team has been racking up valuable experience in tournament competition.

The Bison went 2-1 at the Oswego tournament and also competed in the St. Charles East tournament. Through late last week Fenton had four wins on the season.

"We struggled in the St. Charles East tournament, but

we were very competitive in each match. We just couldn't finish," said Fenton coach Heather Petersen.

On the statistical front, Andrew Hill was leading the team in assists, while Javy Sanchez was the team leader in kills through late last week.

"Javy has become very versatile. He is one of our key hitters," said Petersen. "Andrew's setting has been consistent and improving dramatically. He also contributes with his hitting. Andrew definitely has stepped up in the setter position and has taken control of the game."

Freddie Bajo was the team

leader in blocks. "Freddie is willing to do whatever the team needs and he gets the job done," said Petersen.

Also cited for strong play was David Gutierrez. "David always is positive on the court and all-around is a great player," said Petersen.

Petersen has seen improvements across the board thus far. "We have been able to put everything together," she said. "They have good chemistry and have learned so much about the game the last few weeks. Our passing has improved significantly, although we still have some work to do."

Petersen also is pleased with

the amount of offensive options the team has. "The offense is continuously getting better," she said. "We have six hitters who all do a nice job. Javy and Andrew and Freddy do a very nice job putting the ball away. We are working on other options to make our offensive game more competitive."

Fenton also is making strides on the defensive front. "The defense is coming around," said Petersen. "We will be spending a lot of time working on this part of our game because I definitely think it is the weakest part of our game. Although it's improving, there is a lot of work still to do."

Serving is another facet of the game that is on the uptick for the Bison. "Serving has improved dramatically," said Petersen. "The mental aspect of the serving game has improved and as a team we are much more accurate and consistent."

Fenton played Proviso West earlier in the week and will play Illiana Christian today and Rich East this coming Tuesday.

"The boys are a great group," said Petersen. "They are dedicated, have the drive to win and work hard. It's never a question of working hard at practice and in matches. They want to continue to grow and get better and will put the time in."

Walsh plays key role for Willowbrook boys volleyball team

Warriors go 5-5 through first 10 matches

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

One key bright spot for the Willowbrook boys volleyball team early on has been the play of 6-6 middle blocker Ian Walsh.

"Ian has a great presence in the middle," said Willowbrook coach Ryan Bazon. "He is

quick on closing blocks, great at reading hitters, has a good volleyball IQ and is a great leader."

Through the team's first 10 matches, Walsh had 38 kills, was hitting 40.58 percent and had 30 blocks.

Willowbrook was 5-5 overall and 1-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play through its first 10 matches.

"We continue to work on fundamentals at practice," said Bazon. "We have become a better passing team and our serve-receive has improved over the

first few matches. This has led to a more effective attack."

Bazon noted the team's middle hitters were hitting at 40.58 and 34.38 percent. "We are very strong at the middle position when it comes to leadership," he said. "Our middle hitters are very effective hitters."

Jack Maksymec had 45 digs on the defensive end. "Jack has been a nice addition to our defense," said Bazon. "He anticipates well and takes control of the back row. We need to help him out at the net by improving our blocking game."

Bazon added he's seen more consistency with the team's sets. "We are becoming more consistent with our communication between hitters and setters," he said.

Serving also is being emphasized. "We need to serve better," said Bazon. "We need to serve better. We are making too many errors and need to put more pressure on the opposing team. It has cost us a few matches."

Willowbrook heads to York today for a WSC crossover match and then plays in the

Downers Grove South Invitational this weekend.

In a recent 25-16, 25-16 WSC crossover loss to Lyons Township, Lucas Betts had five assists. Joe Ernst had one block. Calvin Linnig had four assists, while Maksymec had one assist and four digs. Joe Ragucci had one kill. Andy Shreckengost had one block. Ivan Tassev had one kill, one block and two digs. Brendan Waldorf had four kills, one block and five digs, while Walsh had three kills and three blocks.