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High school boys basketball: Morton displays talent, depth in win against Addison Trail

Published: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 12:30 p.m. CST

ADDISON – Morton's boys basketball team might look like a young team on paper with only three seniors listed on the roster.

But in the West Suburban Gold conference opener Dec. 2, the Mustangs played like a veteran group.

With the backcourt duo of Vinny Belcaster and Detalian Brown leading the way, Morton went on the road and handed Addison Trail its first loss of the season with a 61-48 win in which the Mustangs led wire-to-wire.

The Mustangs, who never trailed in the contest, returned to the court after splitting their first four games at the John Malone Thanksgiving tournament hosted by Fenwick.

"This was a big win and a great confidence builder," Belcaster said. "We are young and we are learning. Every day at practice we go hard and we've got two great coaches who push us to be the best we can be."

Belcaster did the heavy lifting in the first two quarters, scoring 11 of his 14 points before halftime. Brown then took over in the second half, knocking down four 3-pointers on his way to 20 points after the break; he finished with a game-high 23.

Those two were far from the only contributors for Morton, which lost 49-35 against Brother Rice on Dec. 4 to slip to 3-3 on the season.

Stephon Jordan, a transfer from St. Joseph, had 12 points and 11 rebounds off the bench and Marco Huxhold totaled eight points, seven rebounds and four steals against Addison Trail.

Showing off its depth, Morton played without 6-foot-5 forward Alexis Landeros, and senior forward Malik Jones left early with an injury. Fellow St. Joe's transfer Leon Davis is also hurt.

"We've got a deep bench," Belcaster said. "This team has got good depth. We have a couple of guys who can come in and change the game around."

Mustangs coach Tony Martinucci said the team will only get better as the weeks go by and the young players continue to adjust to varsity ball.

"It's a fun group to coach," he said. "They just want to win. And as long as we stay injury-free,

we will get better.”

Morton will continue conference play with a home game against Hinsdale South before heading on the road to take on Argo on Dec. 13. The Mustangs will open play Dec. 17 at the Proviso West Holiday Tournament.

Morton girls basketball

The Mustangs fell 51-46 against host Addison Trail on Dec. 2 as they slipped to 1-6 on the season.

If you go

Who: Hinsdale South at Morton

What: West Suburban Gold boys basketball

When: 7:30 p.m. Fri., Dec. 9

Where: Morton east campus, 2423 South Austin Ave. Cicero

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District 4 teachers negotiations conclude with new contract

The District 4 Board of Education and Addison Teachers Association (ATA) are pleased to announce the ratification of a three-year negotiated agreement. The new contract will be in effect through June 30, 2019.

The agreement's salary guidelines include annual increases of 5% the first year, 4.5% the second year, and 4.5% the third year of the contract. Members will also be eligible for an Educational Advancement Increase of \$1,250 for graduate level coursework in increments of 15 semester hours and \$2,250 for earning their master's degree.

Teacher Collaboration Days-- six half-days which were added to the calendar in 2014-15-- will be eliminated, resulting in three fewer work days each year. The number of student Early Release Days will be reduced from seven to four. The district will institute late start Mondays to provide opportunities for teacher collaboration and professional development.

In the area of health insurance, the Board will pay 88% of the single health coverage premium and 55% of the family health coverage premium. The negotiations teams also agreed on language regarding the Insurance Advisory Board.

"This has been a process that required a great deal of work on everybody's part," said ATA Co-President Bob Wojtas. "The ultimate goal of the ATA was to support our students of Addison, keep a strong educational staff while staying with-

in the district's revenue streams. We believe this agreement supports these objectives."

The Board of Education and the ATA have been meeting since February to work toward reaching an agreement. In August, the negotiations teams called in a federal mediator. At the end of October, feeling that progress was not being made, the Board of Education requested that both teams submit their last and final offers according to a framework established by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board (IELRB). Negotiations continued during the timeframe required by the IELRB and a tentative agreement was reached on Nov. 14.

The Teachers Association ratified the three-year agreement in a vote held on Tuesday, Nov. 29 and the Board of Education approved the contract at its regular board meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

"There is a challenge in trying to meet the varied needs of licensed professionals—which include not only classroom teachers, but also school nurses, resource teachers, social workers—while remaining fiscally responsible when revenue sources and ongoing costs, such as insurance, are unpredictable," remarked Board of Education Negotiations Committee chairman Jim Towns, "but we are very pleased to have reached this agreement."

Addison School District 4 is a Pre-school through 8th grade elementary school district with 4,200 students and 276 licensed staff members.



DEE LONGFELLOW PHOTO Villa Park Independent

The Littlest Angel

Pictured here with his handler Lin Francois is Petey Pippin, a toy poodle who is the smallest member of the therapy dog program at Elmhurst Hospital. He was the star of the show as he met the guests who attended the Love Lights celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Full story and more photos elsewhere in this issue.

Police department releases Thanksgiving enforcement numbers

The Addison Police Department conducted enforcement from November 14-27, reminding motorists to buckle up and not drive impaired, both day and night, during the Click It or Ticket mobilization. The Addison Police Department joined other state and local law enforcement agencies across Illinois to reduce highway fatalities by cracking down on unbuckled motorists and impaired drivers.

During the mobilization, Addison Police Department issued:

- 11 citations for failure to wear

seatbelt

- 4 citations for child safety seat violations
- 12 citations for operation of uninsured motor vehicle
- 12 citations for speeding
- 6 citations for Unlawful Use of Electronic Communication Device
- 4 citations of driving while licensed revoked/unlicensed
- 9 citations for equipment violations
- 8 citations for moving violations

The annual Click It or Ticket mobilization may be over in Addison,

but that is no excuse to stop using your seat belt.

"Our officers are out year-round. If you or your passengers are caught not wearing a seat belt, day or night, you will be cited for the violation," said Sergeant Dennis Kotlinski.

This law enforcement mobilization was funded by federal traffic safety funds through the Illinois Department of Transportation and is part of the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns. For more information, visit idot.illinois.gov.



COURTESY PHOTOS Addison Independent

AT students receive auto A/C certification

Pictured are the Addison Trail students who have earned Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) EPA Air Conditioning certification. They are (from left) seniors Rafael Alvarado Jr., Victor Juarez, Roberto Colon, Jose Chavez, Federico Chavez, Dimitrios Giannopoulos, Tomasz Bonar and Zachary Ullrich (inset).



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Two AT seniors sign National Letters of Intent

On Nov. 18, Addison Trail seniors Colton Noel and Arlind Rojba signed National Letters of Intent to play their respective sport at the collegiate level. They celebrated with teammates, friends, administrators, staff members and family members.

Colton Noel

Noel signed to be a member of the

Men's Basketball Team at Goshen College, where he plans to major in biology.

Noel has been playing basketball for about 11 years and said the highlight of his high school career was the game against Hinsdale South High School last year. During that game, Noel scored the first five points af-

ter chasing down a Hinsdale South player and blocking his shot. The Addison Trail crowd erupted into applause, and it's a moment Noel will never forget.

"My favorite aspects of basketball are the intensity and playing as a team," Noel said. "I just love the sport, and I don't know what I would

do without it."

Arlind Rojba

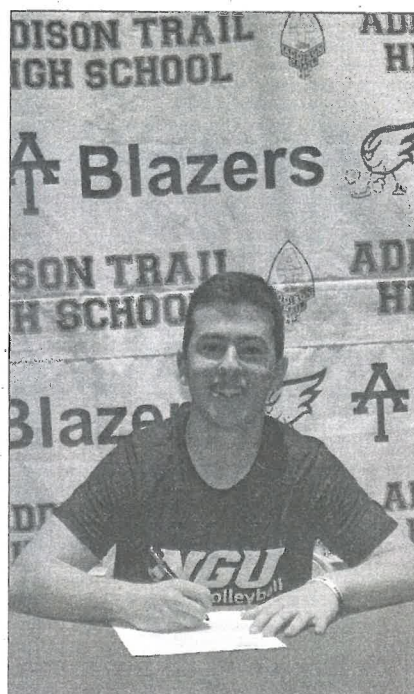
Rojba signed to be a member of the Men's Volleyball Team at North Greenville University, where he plans to major in business administration.

Rojba has been playing volleyball since he was in fourth grade and said the highlight of his high school career was making school history in June 2015 by being a member of the first Addison Trail volleyball team to compete in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Tournament, where the team earned 3rd place.

"Ever since I first touched a volleyball, I loved the sport," Rojba said. "What I'll remember most are the bonds we've built as a team over time."



COLTON NOEL



ARLIND ROJBA

COURTESY PHOTOS The Independent

Sen. Nybo receives 'Voice of Senior Care' award

State Sen. Chris Nybo (R-Elmhurst) has received the Voice of Senior Care Award from the Illinois Health Care Association for his support of senior citizens and issues that affect them.

Nybo accepted the award Nov. 22 while visiting with the residents at Burgess Square Healthcare and Rehab Centre in Westmont.



State Sen. Chris Nybo

"As lawmakers, it is our duty to insist our laws ensure quality care for seniors. I am pleased we were able to pass various legislation for the benefit of seniors, and I will continue to advocate for our older residents through appropriate and responsible legislation in our state," Nybo said. "It is fitting to receive this honor at Burgess Square, a place devoted to senior care. John Vrba and his staff provide lots of personal attention for patients to help them regain their health in a home-like setting."

Nybo was recognized for his efforts to ensure quality care for seniors especially through his efforts to gain passage of important legislation relating to dispute resolutions involving nursing homes.

"Due to his hard work on the bill and past support of the long-term care profession, Illinois Health Care Association's Public Policy committee has honored Sen. Nybo with our 2016 'Voice of Senior Care,' award," said Matt Hartman, Vice President of Public Policy.

"It is especially gratifying to earn this recognition as 'an avid spokesperson for quality care and seniors' from the Illinois Health Care Association, a respected longstanding non-profit organization, comprised of more than 500 licensed and certified long-term care facilities and programs throughout Illinois, whose mission is to ensure accessible quality healthcare," Nybo said.

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SPORTS

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Addison Trail boys basketball team defeats Stagg in double overtime

Blazers are 4-1 through first five games

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Overall, Addison Trail boys basketball coach Brendan Lyons likes what he's seen so far from his team through the first five games of the season.

The Blazers started out by winning the Elmwood Park tournament with a 3-0 record. Addison Trail recorded wins over Chicago Foreman, Northtown Academy and Elmwood Park.

At Elmwood Park, Colten Noel and Michael Williams were named to the all-tournament team. It was the third year in a row the Blazers won the tournament title.

"It was nice to get out to a good

start and get guys some good time," said Lyons.

The Blazers then outlasted Stagg 69-66 in two overtimes to record a non-conference win.

"We hung around with Stagg for a while," said Lyons.

Addison Trail was down by seven points with two minutes to play in the game, but rallied. Jack Kalbas hit a 15-footer with one second left in regulation to send the game to overtime. Addison Trail had a chance to win the game at the end of the first overtime but could not convert.

In the second overtime the Blazers ended up winners after Stevan Jones hit a 3-pointer with six seconds to play.

"We held the ball for that last shot," said Lyons. "It was a good win. Stagg was almost a Top 25 team (in one Chicago newspaper poll). The kids battled until the end and played hard."

Addison Trail then opened up West Suburban Conference Gold Division play at home and dropped a 61-48 decision to Morton.

"It's not a bad start for us, but I wish we had the Morton game back," said Lyons. "We had a lack of energy from the start. We didn't come to play and never got in a rhythm. Morton controlled everything from start to finish whether it was the tempo, the offensive glass or with their hustle. They kind of took it to us. It was a little disappointing coming off that big win against Stagg."

Lyons lauded the early-season play of Williams, who headed into the Morton game averaging 17 points per contest and then hit for 22 points in that game. "Michael scores for us," said Lyons.

Lyons also pointed out Noel had

been averaging a double-double in every game heading into the Morton contest. Though he did not have double digits in scoring against Morton, he did bring in 14 rebounds.

"Michael and Colten have been a nice 1-2 punch for us inside," said Lyons.

Jones and Kalbas also have been key cogs for the Blazers. "Stevan Jones has been consistent in different facets for us and Jack Kalbas had 21 points against Stagg," said Lyons. "Jack's game against Stagg was his best offensively and defensively this year. It probably was his best game on both ends of the floor in the three years he's been on the varsity."

Lyons said guard play will continue to be a key for the Blazers moving forward. "We need to find consistency on the perimeter," he said. "We

need guys to give us protection out there so teams don't start focusing in on the post."

The Blazers played Fenton earlier this week in a non-conference game and will head to Villa Park Friday for the first of two District 88 games against Willowbrook.

"You never like losing in the conference, especially at home," said Lyons, referring to the Morton game. "What we take away from it is it was an eye-opener. We better come to play every night because there are no nights off in this conference and our non-conference schedule does us no favors. The expectation has to be we bring energy and enthusiasm every night. If those things are missing, we don't give ourselves much of a chance. When we show that, we play well."

Willowbrook girls bowling team wins own quad

Sasenick leads way with 531 series;
Willowbrook girls cagers defeat Leyden

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team won its own Willowbrook quad against Addison Trail, Morton and Metea Valley.

The Warriors finished with a 2,723 series. Morton was second with a 2,545, while Metea Valley was third at 2,399. Addison Trail finished with a 2,162.

Willowbrook had an 802 series in the opener and a 933 in the second game and finished strong with a 988 in the finale.

Dana Sasenick was second overall in the quad with a 531 series. She had high games of 201 and 188. Makaylah Jones was next for the Warriors with a 489. She had high games of 181 and 178. Jordan Tiberti finished with a 485, which included games of 188 and 182. Katie Pettinger had a 421 with a high game of 164.

Willowbrook edged Morton in the junior-varsity contest 1,973-1,964. Willowbrook led 603-579 after the first game, but Morton took a 1,243-1,241 lead into the finale. Willowbrook held a 732-721 edge in the final game.

Sabrina Edwards had Willowbrook's high series, while Brianna Bryant had the Willowbrook JV high game with a 184.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team scored a recent 50-46 West Suburban Conference Gold Division win against Leyden.

Willowbrook led 14-8 after the first quarter and 32-21 at halftime. The Warriors withstood a Leyden comeback in the third quarter where the Eagles held a 16-9 scoring advantage. Willowbrook led by 13 points at one juncture.

Shannon Knudson led the Warriors with 17 points on 7-for-9 shooting. She also hit a pair of 3-pointers. CeCe Lizasain added 14 points, which included an 8-for-10 effort from the foul line. She also pulled in eight rebounds.

Hannah Konrath had 10 points and two assists. Willowbrook sank 16 of 25 free throws. Konrath contributed to that by going 6-for-9 from the line. Maren Schmidt had four points and four rebounds to go with three assists and three blocked shots.

Willowbrook shot 48.5 percent from the field and limited Leyden to 33.9 percent shooting from the floor.

Willowbrook boys basketball team off to hot start
Warriors capture Stagg tournament; Schuemer named tournament MVPBy Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Willowbrook boys basketball coach Chris Perkins was hopeful last season's youth movement would pay big future dividends.

In the early going of the season it certainly has paid off. The Warriors went a perfect 4-0 over the Thanksgiving holiday to win the Stagg tournament.

Willowbrook recorded wins over Chicago Lindblom, Nazareth Academy, Stagg and Argo. The Warriors scored a 49-46 win over Lindblom and won 68-62 against Nazareth. Willowbrook downed Stagg 53-49 and scored a 71-47 win over Argo.

"We are able to play at a faster pace," said Perkins. "I like that we are pushing it and getting the ball up and down the court."

Perkins also saw defensive improvements early on. "Our half-

court defense is much better," he said. "Athletically we are playing fast. We've only had one game where the other team scored in the 60s, the rest have been in the 50s and 40s."

Perkins is impressed with the transformation from last year to this season with this year's group. "We had four sophomores and a freshman up with us last year," he said. "We have a lot more experience now and that helps things like our half-court defense."

Junior Ethan Schuemer was named the tournament MVP. He was joined on the all-tournament team at Stagg by sophomore Matas Masys and junior Sikander Zafar.

"Ethan did a good job protecting the paint and was our leading scorer in the tournament," said Perkins. "He averaged around 17 points in those four games and was pretty consistent. Sikander was probably our best defensive player and Matas was our second-leading scorer."

Freddy Clay only played one game in the tournament, but was a key contributor. "Freddy played pretty well," said Perkins.

Neil Paxton Jr. started in place of

Clay in the other games. "Neal did a great job for us," said Perkins.

Marshawn Phillips, a junior, also contributed. "Marshawn is a new player and was solid for us," said Perkins. "It was a great team effort and a good start to the season. We saw some good things. But we know it's early in the year and there still are things we can improve on and things we can get better at. We'll see what we are made of, but so far so good. This is kind of what we had in mind last year when we brought those young kids up. We wanted them to learn the game and grow as players last year and then this year hit the ground running."

Willowbrook has West Suburban Conference Gold Division games scheduled this week against Morton and District 88 neighbor Addison Trail.

"The West Suburban Gold is good every year. It's always competitive," said Perkins. "We have two preseason Top 25 teams in Downers Grove South and Proviso East. Everybody else in the conference is improved as well. It's going to be a good race again and we expect to be in the mix for the conference title this year."

Addison Trail girls bowling team showing improvements

Blazers compete in recent Willowbrook quad

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Things are on the upswing for the Addison Trail girls bowling team.

Coach Steve Gilliam returns a number of bowlers from last year's squad and has welcomed several newcomers to the group.

"We'll be better than we were last year," he said.

Headlining the list of returners is senior Molly Schmelter, who quali-

fied for the sectional last year.

"Molly is bowling really well," said Gilliam.

Also back is senior Kaitlin Martinez.

"I expect Molly and Kaitlin to both have a great chance at advancing downstate if they continue to progress," said Gilliam.

Addison Trail also will look for contributions from the likes of senior Fiona Levesque, senior Laura Gamble, Yvette Beltran, Liz Cruz and Clare O'Connell. Newcomers to the team include juniors Rachel Soucie

and Gina Tomasello.

Addison Trail has a total of 27 bowlers in the program.

"We're definitely seeing some progress," said Gilliam.

Besides seeing improvement on the lanes, Gilliam also is thrilled with the team's overall character.

"They are a lot of fun," said Gilliam. "They come to practice every day and they want to get better and they want to have fun. Hopefully they will continue to improve their

Numbers don't lie

IC Catholic Prep football team posted some eye-opening statistics this season

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The IC Catholic Prep football team's run to the Class 3A state championship was an impressive one to say the least.

And the Knights have the statistics to back it up.

IC Catholic Prep went a perfect 14-0 and averaged an eye-opening 51.1 points per contest while limiting the majority of its opponents to under 10 points each game (94 points allowed in 14 games). Ten of the Knights opponents scored six or less points and eight failed to score a point, including Carlinville in the Class 3A state title game.

For context, even though the Knights played four more games than three of its foes in the Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division, the next highest point total from a MSC Blue team was 289 points (average of 28.9 points per game).

The domination for IC Catholic Prep was equally impressive from an individual statistical perspective.

The Knights averaged 291 yards rushing per game, well above the national high school average according to one national statistical service and scored 100 total touchdowns, again well above the national average.

Quarterback Luke Ricobene completed 142 of 217 passes for 2,389

yards. He threw 30 touchdowns against only nine interceptions and had a very strong quarterback rating of 124.8.

In the backfield, standout Jordan Rowell carried the ball only 178 times, but gained a whopping 2,297 yards (12.9 yards per carry or more than a first down every time he touched the ball). He scored 37 rushing touchdowns and broke the 100-yard rushing barrier in 11 games he played in. He averaged 164 yards a game on the ground and had a 99-yard long run.

Lazerick Eatman ran 80 times for 523 yards (6.5 yards per carry) and scored five touchdowns. Ricobene ran 49 times for 648 yards and scored 11 touchdowns. He averaged 13.2 yards per carry (again, more than a first down every time he ran with it). As a team, the Knights averaged just over a first down (10.4 yards per carry) every time a running play was executed.

Matt Sutton led a balanced receiving unit with 30 catches for 580 yards (19.3 per catch). He scored eight touchdowns and had a long catch of 76 yards. Rowell caught 32 passes for 543 yards and scored five receiving touchdowns. He averaged 17.0 yards per catch. Khalil Saunders caught 19 passes for 302 yards and four touchdowns (15.9 yards per

catch) and Eatman had 19 catches for 253 yards (13.3 yards per catch) and five touchdowns. Seven different IC Catholic Prep receivers caught touchdown passes (Luke Calles, Khalil Sanders and Brendan Russ round out that group).

IC Catholic Prep also turned the ball over only 10 times this season on offense.

Rowell finished with 2,882 all-purpose yards. Eatman had 931. Ricobene finished with 3,037 total yards of offense.

On defense, sophomore Kemon Reese led the team with 152 total tackles (3 tackles for loss). Chris Johnson, a senior, had 149 tackles and seven tackles for loss. Jimmy Kenneally had 82 tackles and led the team with 17 tackles for loss. Matt Jordan had 61 tackles and six tackles for loss. Saunders had 59 tackles and three tackles for loss. Sanders had 62 tackles and two tackles for loss. Dylan Packer had 48 tackles and six tackles for loss. Robert Vitek had 40 tackles and three tackles for loss. As a team, IC Catholic Prep had 53 tackles for loss.

The Knights also had 30 quarterback sacks. Kenneally had eight sacks for 65 yards in losses and also had 14 hurries. Jordan had six sacks for 53 yards in losses. Reese had three sacks for 23 yards in losses and

Ricky Mysliwiec, a sophomore, had three sacks for 27 yards in losses.

IC Catholic Prep also had 26 interceptions and 16 fumble recoveries for a turnover ratio of plus-32 (42 on defense minus 10 turnovers on offense).

Saunders led the team with four interceptions. Jordan, Sutton and Rowell each had three interceptions. Ricobene had two picks that were returned 65 yards. Sutton had 52 return yards on interceptions.

Eatman and Rowell led the team in pass deflections with seven. Saunders and Sutton each had six and Sanders had five. Saunders led the team with six fumble recoveries. Kenneally had two fumble returns for 45 yards. He

also led the team with five forced fumbles. Reese had four forced fumbles. Jordan and Mysliwiec each blocked a punt.

Sam Buffo kicked 72 extra points and made three field goals. The Knight also made 26 two-point conversions with Rowell leading the way with 12. Ricobene had six.

Rowell had 42 total touchdowns, followed by Eatman with 12 and Ricobene with 11. Sutton had nine and Saunders had seven. Jordan was credited with a safety. Jordan, Saunders, Eatman and Sean Hips-kind each returned an interception for a touchdown. Saunders did it twice. Eatman returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

Fenton wrestling team off to strong start

Bison win their first six contests

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton's success on the wrestling mat continues.

The Bison got off to a fast 6-0 start through their first six contests. Fenton counted wins against Glenbrook South, Hoffman Estates, Highland Park, Maine West, Mather and Elk Grove.

Fenton, under the direction of coach Brian Hastings, went 20-6 last year and won the Metro Suburban Conference title for a fifth year in a row. Fenton also won a team regional title and won the Weiss invitational.

Fenton also had a pair of state qualifiers last year in Manny Morales (113 pounds) and Sebastian Kaspar (120 pounds).

Fenton has been led thus far by returning wrestlers Dylan Butts (182,

Jr.), Angel Navá (138, Sr.), Kacper Piskorz (132, Sr.), Ryan Mencini (132, Sr.), Nikko Castaneda (160, Sr.), Kyle Higgins (170, Sr.), Isaiah Brock (285, Jr.), Jesse Galeana (285, Sr.), Ivan Rodriguez (195, Sr.), Anthony Park (195, Jr.) and Tim Wolf (195, Sr.).

The Bison also have two freshmen starters in the lineup in the form of Jeremy Piskorz (120) and Danny Ramirez (126).

"We expect to have a successful season as a team and for many of our individuals," said Hastings. "We hope that our guys will continue to improve and to challenge themselves to reach their potential. We have a really nice junior and senior class that should bode well for the squad."

Fenton hosted the prestigious 37th annual Weiss invitational this past weekend. The Bison return to action Saturday at Waunakee in Wisconsin. Fenton then heads to Walther Christian on Dec. 14 for a triangular meet.

• Bowling (Continued from page 16)

skill levels as the season goes on."

Addison Trail competed in the recent Willowbrook quad. Schmelter led the Blazers with a 511 series, which included games of 170, 180 and 161. Martinez bowled a 183 team-high game in the third game. Soucie had a 151 in the first game.

Cruz had the junior-varsity team's high game at the Willowbrook quad.

The Blazers returned to action earlier this week against Hinsdale South and will face Hinsdale Central today on the road and then compete in the Streamwood invitational on Saturday.

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Addison Trail beaten by Larkin

BY JARED BIRCHFIELD
Daily Herald Correspondent

Girls basketball

Ordinarily free-throw attempts by a player when her team is leading by 16 points with 2:41 left to play in a game does not generate a buzz among the spectators.

But when Larkin's Marlee Kyles found herself in that position Tuesday night in a nonconference contest against Addison Trails in Elgin, the home crowd was just as excited as if the game was on the line.

Kyles connected on both shots, her last of the night, to score her 40th and 41st points of the game and set a new Larkin girls single-game scoring record.

The Royals downed the Blazers 60-43 snapping a four-game losing streak.

"It's a school record and it's a personal record. She broke it last year with 36 at Streamwood," said Larkin coach Steve Knapp. "Marlee is tough to stop. You can press her, you can box-and-one her, but she still finds a way to get herself open and the best thing about her is, when somebody else is open, she makes sure she dishes the ball to them."

"She played really well, hit a bunch of shots and she ran things," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader.

In the first quarter, Addison Trail (5-4) employed a box-and-one defense in an effort to keep Kyles from scoring.

The strategy worked as the Arizona-bound senior scored only 6 points in the first quarter, which ended in a 13-13 tie.

Larkin (4-4) responded in the second quarter by going to its running game, getting down court before the Blazers could set up their defense. Kyles scored 15 points in the quarter to help put the Royals up 30-22 at the half.

"It's always fun to beat your own record," Kyles said of her 41 points. "When we run — we are a good running team — we're all down the court, pushing the ball and we get layups."

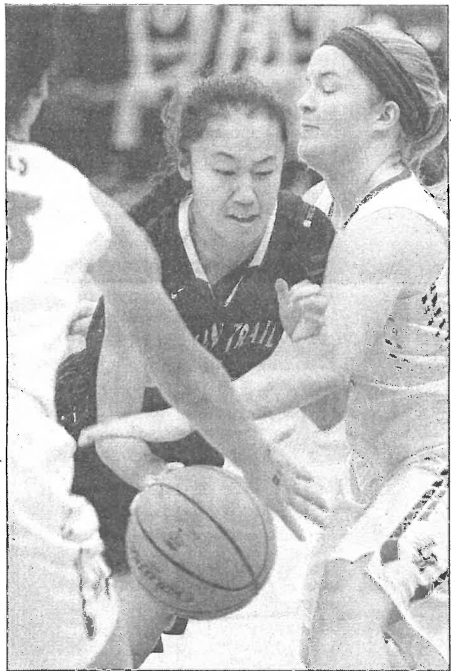
The Blazers switched to a zone defense in the second half, but to no avail as Larkin pulled away, finishing the quarter with an 8-0 run and starting the fourth quarter with a 47-29 lead.

Addison Trail made a run to start the fourth quarter, cutting the Royals' margin to 49-36 on a Diamond Pikulyk layup with 5:42 left to play. Pikulyk scored 16 points.

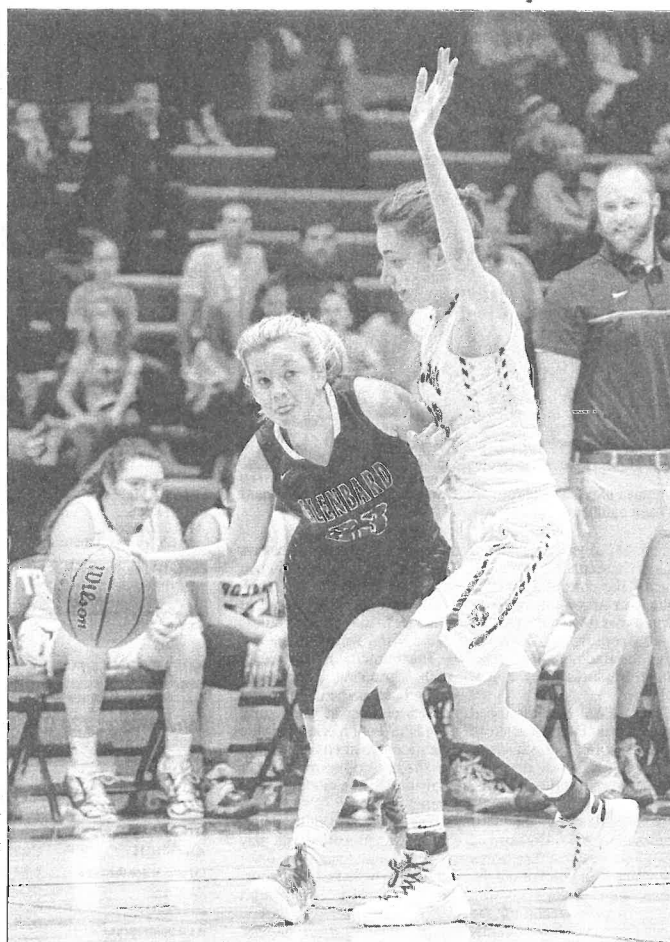
But the Blazers got no closer as Kyles went on a 9-5 run ending with the two free throws.

Aaliyah Dixon scored 8 points for the Royals while teammate Haley Bohne chipped in 6.

Alyssa Pham notched 8 points for Addison Trail and Marie Baumgartner tallied 5.



PATRICK KUNZER/pkunzer@dailyherald.com
Addison Trail's Alyssa Pham, center, drives past Larkin's Haley Bohne, right, during varsity basketball action at Elgin on Monday night.



MARK BLACK/mbblack@dailyherald.com
Glenbard West junior Sammy Harris dribbles around Downers Grove North's Hannah Ilyavi during varsity girls basketball in Downers Grove on Monday. The Trojans won 31-26.

Trojans make their scoring count against Glenbard W.

BY MATT LE CREN
Daily Herald Correspondent

Girls basketball

Julia Kramper didn't make a basket Monday night. Neither did Quinn Stephens.

But the Downers Grove North sophomores were money when and where it mattered most.

Kramper and Stephens sank both ends of 1-and-1 situations down the stretch to help the host Trojans beat Glenbard West 31-26 in West Suburban Conference Silver Division girls basketball action in Downers Grove.

Kramper's free throws came with 1:22 remaining and extended Downers North's lead to 27-24. They were her only points of the game.

"It was (a lot of) pressure and I was really nervous, but in the end I had to calm myself and I focused on the basket," Kramper said. "I just knew that we needed it and I focused and put them in."

But Stephens, a reserve forward who had 3 points, made two free throws with 41.5 seconds to go.

"Kramper, I trust the ball in her hands," Downers North coach Stephan Bolt said. "She does a good job handling it and usually makes good decisions."

"I thought Quinn did a great job too. She came in as a (defender) and a rebounder, more or less. She got fouled and down the stretch, (shot) pressure free throws. She knocked them down, which was huge."

Any kind of score was huge on a night in which both teams were colder than the weather on offense. The Hilltoppers shot 9 for 39 while the Trojans (4-5, 1-3) were 9 for 38.

The difference came at the line, where the Trojans made 8 of 11 and the Hilltoppers 3 of 8. Hannah Ilyavi, who led

minute.

"Neither team set the world on fire tonight on the offensive end," Glenbard West coach Karen Persinger said. "I felt we didn't take very good care of the basketball."

"You hold a team to 10 points in the second half, you'd think you would be in good shape to win. They just seem to have our number and I can't quite put my finger on it."

Indeed, the Trojans have now beaten the Hilltoppers twice, giving up an average of 27 points. Only three players scored for Glenbard West, which got 6 points each from Cameron Kruse and Samantha Skirvin.

Downers North made only two baskets after halftime, both by junior Julie Pospisilova, who finished with 10 points, 5 rebounds, 4 blocks, 3 steals and 3 assists.

"It was not the best night for offense, but our defense was for the most part really solid," Kramper said. "That gave

Girls basket Platou Huski win in blow

BY STAN GOFF
Daily Herald Correspondent

While only a Naperville North green Platou has plenty experience and considered one of the veteran leaders.

She played the perfectly Monday, sparking Naperville offense early on an lead a trapping del caused Plainfield C as the Huskies won conference girls 1 game 51-23 in Nap.

Platou scored 7 the Huskies took a after one quarter, led all players with as the hosts built manding 33-7 lea half.

"So far the big for us as a team played some quarter than others, really tried to working a whole game and working hard game," said Platou shed with 5 rebound 3 steals to go wit points.

It was a defense forced 7 first-quarter and 13 through quarters that caused 1-10 Wildcats much. Freshman point guard Kara Rivard had and, like Platou, Kotrba also came a trio of takeaways.

"We know we have athletic girls so we to make sure to speed, use that at to kind of trap the get those fastbreak Platou, who this moved from point shooting guard. "I really helped out the game and worked out really our traps."

"I've played point in past years so I always had to kind a half leadership now as someone older on the team to do that, and I'm helping the young out."

With the win, the Huskies improved to 11-1, always had to kind of action at home includes a match defending state Benet. Coach Jase knows an effort 1 day's is great for 1

PREP ROUNDUP

Meurer's buzzer-beater lifts IC boys basketball team to victory

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

ELMHURST – Alex Meurer took Austin Reed's feed and knocked down a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to lead IC Catholic's boys basketball team to a 73-70 win against Riverside Brookfield on Dec. 2.

Reed finished the game with 21 points, nine rebounds and six assists to lead the way for IC.

The Knights improved to 6-0 overall and 1-0 in Metro Suburban Conference play ahead of a Dec. 9 home game against Aurora Central Catholic.

BOYS BASKETBALL Glenbard East

A 69-34 loss against Perspectives Charter on Dec. 3 dropped the Rams' record to 0-5 on the season.

Montini

Raymond Dennis (19 points), Mychale Hyland (18 points) and Matt Morrissey (15 points, nine rebounds) led the way for the Broncos in a 68-58 nonconference win at Carmel on Dec. 3. Montini improved to 5-1 before a Dec. 9 game at Marmion.

Timothy Christian

The Trojans fell 54-51 in their home opener against Chicago Christian on Dec. 2 and will look to rebound when they face host Walther Christian on Dec. 9.

Willowbrook

After knocking off West Suburban Gold heavyweight Proviso East 59-53 on Dec. 2, the Warriors topped Morton 64-52 in WSG play on Dec. 6 as they improved to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

Willowbrook led 28-7 at one point in the first half but had to fend off a Mustangs rally in the second half.

Ethan Schuemer tallied a game-high 28 points and 14 rebounds to lead

the way for Willowbrook, which hosts district rival Addison Trail on Dec. 9.

GIRLS BASKETBALL IC Catholic

After leveling their record at 3-3 with a 45-32 win against Aurora Central Catholic on Dec. 1, the Knights fell 50-18 against Glenbard South on Dec. 6.

Montini

The Broncos jumped out to a double-digit lead midway through the first quarter and maintained it throughout the game in a 66-39 win on Dec. 6 against a Trinity team that ended Montini's season last winter.

Kaylee Bambule finished with 14 points, Sam Mitchell had 13 points, Lindsey Jarosinski added 11 points, and Aaliyah Patty had 10 points and five rebounds as Montini improved to 9-0 before a Dec. 10 home game against Rock Island.

Timothy Christian

Ava Venema had 15 points and nine rebounds in a 50-38 win against Elmwood Park on Dec. 6 as the Trojans improved to 4-3 on the season.

Jordyn Strube tallied 10 points, Olivia Schuringa had nine points and four rebounds, and Olivia Hoekstra finished with eight points and eight rebounds for Timothy Christian.

Willowbrook

Katelyn McCann had nine points off the bench and Hannah Konrath added seven points, but the Warriors lost 54-26 against Downers Grove South on Dec. 3. Willowbrook is back in action at Addison Trail on Dec. 13.

York

After a 57-49 loss at Proviso West on Dec. 3, the Dukes got back on track with a 60-54 win against Hinsdale Central on Dec. 6.

Suburban Life ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**MICHAEL
PEDOTE**

YORK
Sophomore | Boys basketball

Why Pedote was selected:

Pedote drained a 3-pointer from the left wing with under a minute to play to give the Dukes the lead for good in a 46-43 win against Glenbard West on Dec. 2.

Pedote saw a pair of third-quarter 3-pointers come up short and rim out, but his aim was true when it mattered most. The varsity newcomer sank a trey with 52.4 seconds left that gave the Dukes the last lead of the game as they went on to win the West Suburban Silver opener against defending conference champion Glenbard West. Pedote, the Suburban Life Athlete of the Week sponsored by Gracik Makinney Real Estate Group, spoke with sports editor Jason Rossi about his game-winning shot, playing with two other sophomores and more. Here's an edited transcript:

Rossi: What was going through your mind when you stepped up to take that three?

Pedote: After I shot the first two [3-pointers] and came up short, coach [Rob Wostratzky] just told me to keep shooting. I saw Erik [Cohn] drive, I was open, he passed it back to me and it felt good. Both wings are my favorite [places to shoot threes].

Rossi: What has it been like having success with the team early on this season?

Pedote: I've played with two other starters – Nick Kosich and Erik Cohn – my entire life, and [Nick Trapani] and Jordan [Gray] they've really helped us get together and bond and become good.

Rossi: Does it help to have other starters who are sophomores on the team?

Pedote: Yeah, we have good chemistry. I know how they play and they know how I play, so we can make good passes to each other and all that.

Rossi: Since the start of the season, where have you improved the most personally?

Pedote: I've probably progressed most in the plays we run. When I first came in I didn't know too many of the plays, but now I'm really comfortable with all of them.

This Athlete of the Week is brought to you by

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