

SPORTS

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Willowbrook's Jessen wins prestigious Dvorak wrestling title

Warriors girls basketball team scores two victories

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Willowbrook junior wrestling standout Jack Jessen picked up a major title over the holidays.

Jessen won the 182-pound weight class at the prestigious Dvorak invitational tournament, regarded as one of the top tournaments in the state during the high-school season.

Jessen, who remained undefeated through late last week, pinned Wisconsin state-champion Billy Pitzner

in the 182-pound final.

Jessen recorded three pins and one technical fall victory in the tournament. He won the title with a pinfall win in 3:53.

Through late last week, Jessen was ranked No. 2 in the state in Class 3A by Illinois Matmen. He has tournament titles this year at Hoffman Estates and Dvorak. Jessen finished third in the state at 182 pounds as a sophomore and second at 170 pounds as a freshman.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team recorded recent wins against Elgin and Jacobs. The Warriors were 31-25 winners against Elgin and won

39-38 against Jacobs.

Willowbrook freshman boys basketball

The Willowbrook freshman A boys basketball team won the Downers Grove North tournament to improve to 11-0 on the season.

The Warriors defeated Waubensie Valley 44-38 to advance to the championship where they downed DeKalb.

The Willowbrook freshman B team went 2-1 at Downers Grove North.

Willowbrook freshman girls basketball

The Willowbrook freshman A girls basketball team placed second at the

Downers Grove South tournament over the holidays.

Trent at Nebraska-Kearney

Willowbrook graduate Yashua Trent is now a member of the University of Nebraska-Kearney men's basketball team.

Trent has helped the Lopers get out to an 11-4 start on the season (4-2 in conference).

Through 15 games, Trent was second on the team in scoring at 14.3 points per game. He was averaging 29.5 minutes of playing time (11 starts) and was shooting an impressive .627 from the field (74-for-118), .538 from the 3-point line (7-for-13) and .674 from the free-throw line

(60-for-89). He also was averaging 3.8 rebounds per game and had a team-high 67 assists against only 43 turnovers to go with a team-best 26 steals.

Trent has led the team in scoring three times this season. He had 26 points in a win against Southern Arkansas and also scored 15 points in a victory over Henderson State. Trent had 19 points in a loss to Colorado Mines. In a recent game against Central Missouri, Trent had 11 points, two rebounds and three assists to go with two steals.

Against Southwest Baptist, Trent had eight points, four rebounds, six assists and two steals.

Addison Trail boys basketball team competes in Centraia tournament

By Mike Miazga, CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys basketball team had mixed results at the recent Centraia holiday tournament.

The Blazers went 1-2 in games against Akon, Mt. Vernon and Jacksonville. "We played OK," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. Addison Trail dropped a 62-49 decision to Alton in the first game and then scored a 62-47 victory over Mt. Vernon before losing 61-51 to Jacksonville.

"The two games we lost were similar to each other," said Lyons. "We didn't come out and have a good start. The name of the game was turnovers. We had 20-plus turnovers in each game we lost. If you look at the Jacksonville game, they scored 31 points off our turnovers. Taking care of the basketball was the deciding factor. We did some nice things on offense and defense, but we couldn't recover. We were chasing points and started doing things we don't usually do. That can only last so long. Turnovers were the big thing."

Lyons saw progress in the Mt. Vernon triumph. "That was a nice win," he said. "We have been stressing more and more the team basketball aspect and making the passes and controlling the tempo. We did that against Mt. Vernon. Guys were sharing the basketball. We were getting points from a variety of people. That was a key to our success offensively. We shared the ball and got to the offensive glass. You have to remember those three things, taking care of the basketball, sharing the ball and getting to the offensive glass."

Jack Kubas had a strong tournament for the Blazers. "Jack has been shooting it better of late, which is good for us. He's found a good rhythm," said Lyons. "He gives us a good outside presence."

Michael Williams and Cotton Noel were key contributors as well. "Michael had some nice scoring games," said Lyons. "He can score for us in a variety of ways. He's shooting it better. His bread and butter is getting to the basket and getting some put backs. Cotton is a consistent presence for us down low. He had a nice tournament as well."

Addison Trail also benefited from the debut of Breydon Hargrove, who recently became eligible to play, Lyons noted. "He was a spark plug for us and played a couple nice games," said Lyons. "He was in double-digit scoring in the two games he played. He gives us a lot of energy."

Addison Trail also scored a 77-74 non-conference win over Mundelein Carmel recently. Hargrove led the Blazers with 21 points.

In addition to Hargrove's output, Noel had 19 points, while Williams scored 15 and Kalbas had 11 in the Carmel contest.

"Anytime you have balanced scoring like that it usually bodes well for you," said Lyons. "That was a nice game coming out of Christmas. We got the win and hopefully we can get the ball rolling in the right direction with some consistency."

After the Carmel game, the Blazers were 7-5 overall and had an 0-3 record through their first three West Suburban Conference Gold Division games.

"Neither side in the Carmel game played much defense, but it was a nice game for us offensively," said Lyons. "We had been stuck in the 40s and low 50s for points."

Girls basketball team splits pair of games over holidays

By Mike Miazga

CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls' basketball team split its four games over the holidays at the Lisle tournament.

The Blazers recorded a 37-32 victory over host Lisle where Diamond Pikulyk had 12 points.

"Diamond played really well against Lisle," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader.

Addison Trail lost 63-47 to an Elgin St. Edward team that ended up playing the championship game of the tournament.

The Blazers also defeated Aurora Christian 58-52 in overtime and lost to Chicago Christian 33-28.

The 2-2 showing left Addison Trail at 8-7 overall through its first 15 games.

In the Aurora Christian game, the Blazers found themselves down by

two points at halftime.

"We played really well in the third quarter," said Schader. "We were up by seven or eight in the fourth quarter and then they hit a couple of 3s and we kind of fell apart. We shot 40 percent from the free-throw line. We missed some 1-and-1s. The good thing is we played well in the overtime."

Schader said the team had a tough outing against Chicago Christian. "We couldn't score," he said. "It was 10-9 at halftime. They stayed in a zone and we were in zone. We missed a ton of layups. It was one of those games where you couldn't hit anything. We didn't play that well. We won two games at that tournament but it wasn't one of our finer moments."

Schader noted the team was resting up after the tournament in prepara-

tion for the second half of the season. "We needed the time off. We were tired and needed to rest up," he said. "We're looking forward to getting back into the swing of things."

Looking at the first half of the season, the coach, overall, was pleased. "We are above .500, which is great," he said late last week. "We won some games and there were probably three games out there that we could have won, but we didn't take care of it. Overall, we're doing pretty well."

In addition to Pikulyk, Schader also cited strong recent play from Alyssa Pham and Jasmin Mehmeti. "The three of them have been solid all year," he said.

Addison Trail's sophomore team won the Lisle sophomore tournament and had won eight games in a row through late last week.

"That's huge for us," said Schader.

Fenton girls basketball team third at Northside Prep

By Mike Miazga

CORRESPONDENT

Fenton girls basketball coach Tim Anderson liked what he saw over the holidays.

The Bison took third at the Northside Prep tournament, going 2-2.

"We played four really good games," said Anderson. "It's what I've been waiting for."

Fenton opened the tournament with a 53-22 win over Chicago Kelly. "We played very well," said Anderson. "It was our first win of the year and it came at a great time. It was a great team effort."

Fenton then lost 41-33 to DePaul Academy. "DePaul Academy used to be Gordon Tech and is very good. They ended up winning the tournament," Anderson noted. "They pulled away in the last minute-and-a-half of the game. It was a three-or-four-point game until then. They made a couple 3-point plays. We had a great effort against a very good team. We've been

waiting for this sort of thing to happen. We got a sense of, 'Hey, wow! We can be very competitive.'"

The Bison also lost 44-41 to Northside Prep. "They had a terrific player," said Anderson. "We had a chance with three seconds left to tie, but a 3-pointer rimmed out. It was a very good effort on our part."

Fenton wrapped up the tournament with a 49-32 win over Chicago Perspectives/HIT Joslin.

"It was another great effort from our kids," said Anderson. "I've always believed in this: that players and teams take quantum leaps and you can see when they do. We've had five games now starting back with IC Catholic Prep where we aren't the same team we were before we played IC. We lost by a ton of points to Riverside-Brookfield on Dec. 15. We're not the same team now. Everybody looks different out there. It's a great feeling. I'm really excited about this. There's that old saying with accomplishment comes confidence and

with confidence comes belief. They see what they are doing and they are building off it."

Anderson said he also saw progress on the defensive end, even in the loss to tournament-champion DePaul. "DePaul, my gosh, had three girls over 6-feet," he said. "We don't have anybody taller than 5-9, but we put a defensive plan in place that had them confused. For us everything is clicking and it's really been a team effort on defense. They are doing a good job and hopefully we can keep it going."

Fenton's Amari Benbow and Ashley Lira were named to the all-tournament team. "And deservedly so," said Anderson of Benbow and Lira's awards. "Amari is kind of the catalyst of all this. She's leading us in scoring and rebounding and doing a great job."

Anderson is excited about the second half of the season.

"I'm anxious to see what we can do," he said.



AP PHOTO/Doug Ferguson

Mike and Jani Thomas pose outside the clubhouse at Waialae Country Club in Honolulu on Sunday after their son Justin set a 72-hole scoring record to win the Sony Open. Mike Thomas is a club pro and his son's only coach.

Big wins for Justin Thomas; proud moments for his father

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU — Justin Thomas used to call his father when he arrived at junior tournaments, and the conversation almost always started the same way.

"What's the number?"
The father wasn't asking what score it would take to win, the length of the course or even the entry fee. The number in question was how many greens his son would be able to reach in regulation, and not just on the par 4s.



"I was guaranteed to hit driver into at least one par 3," Thomas said.

Mike Thomas was in the gallery along the ninth fairway at Waialae Country Club when his 23-year-old son nearly left his feet while launching a 358-yard drive, setting up a wedge into the par 5. It was only his seventh-longest drive during his time in paradise.

This Aloha State adventure was the best two weeks of Thomas' career. He joined Ernie Els as the only players to sweep the Hawaii swing and became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2009 to win by at least three shots in consec-

utive bag of balls."

But the boy fell in love with golf by himself.

"I made sure there was no formal instruction until he asked for it," Mike Thomas said. "There were a lot more little lessons than big lessons."

Part of the reason is that he had a golf shop to run, members to serve and lessons to give. A larger part was that Mike Thomas had seen too many kids pushed too hard and he didn't want to be that parent.

"I decided that I wanted to be his best friend more than his father," he said. "There were times I had to get on him as a parent. But mostly we had just had a lot of fun."

Even now, when he takes time away from Harmony Landing to watch his son on tour, he stands quietly behind Thomas and caddie Jimmy Johnson without saying a word unless his son asks him to shoot video of a swing with his phone.

They will look at it together. Mike Thomas tends to wait to see if his son can figure it out first.

His fondest memories are not the tournaments he won as a junior, but the time they spent on the golf course in twilight hours, sometimes playing nine holes, other times creating games by seeing who could throw a golf ball closest to the pin.

Golf has been in the fam-

Hilltoppers find spark to stop skic

BY MATT LE CREN
Daily Herald Correspondent

Girls basketball

Catherine Reedy's outside shooting was cold and her Glenbard West girls basketball teammates needed something to light a fire under them Tuesday night.

A 14-point lead had dwindled to 2 when Reedy drove the baseline for a layup late in the third quarter. Sammy Harris then stole the inbounds pass and scored.

That seemed to do the trick as Glenbard West hung on to knock off upset-minded Hinsdale South 53-41 in a West Suburban Conference crossover in Darien.

"My shots weren't falling from outside so I thought driving inside to get some baskets would help and get my players

open," Reedy said. "Starting to drive creates a lot of open looks for players and more scoring opportunities."

The Hilltoppers (12-8) never trailed but didn't enjoy the cakewalk one would have assumed based on each team's record. The Hornets (4-18) rode the hot 3-point shooting of sophomore Emily Koziol to go on an 18-6 run.

A 3 from Koziol, who hit five of them en route to a game-high 19 points, pulled the Hornets to pull within 31-29 with 2:37 to go in the third.

That's when Reedy and Harris made their back-to-back plays. The Hornets turned it over four straight times.

"We started amping up the pressure," Harris said. "We were relaxed and we kept calm, but once we started getting steals we gained momentum and we started scoring."

The last of Koziol's 3s made it 35-32, but Reedy responded by hitting four consecutive free throws and the Hilltoppers led by at least 6 after that.

Reedy scored 10 of her 14 points in the second half and had 7 rebounds and 4 steals. She shot just 4 for 17 but went 6 for 6 from the line.

"We were flat to start," Glenbard West coach Karen Persinger said. "We were doing the right things but just kind of not at our speed and not the energy that we normally have."

"That was challenging our mental toughness. Tonight

at least we showed a little of mental toughness and ished the game strong."

Forward Samantha Sk tallied 13 points for the toppers, who snapped a 11 game losing streak. H added 9 points, 5 assists 5 steals and center Jarr Thomas scored 8 points.

Erin Collins had 13 p and 7 rebounds for Hins South, which shot 46 per cent from the floor and 80 cent from the line and e Glenbard West 26-22 on boards.

"We played hard," Hins South coach Jen Belm said. "I think we play hard home sometimes than w on the road. We'd like to a few more wins, but v starting to come together the bit."

Basketball: Glenbard South grabs key conference triumph

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of guys sick and we had a guy at a funeral and so we threw him a uniform and said, 'We may need you.'

"He got a couple of minutes Friday night and looked pretty good and we said, 'Keep it and we may need you tonight.'"

He left his teammates impressed, too.

"He stepped up big

tonight," senior Charlie Bair said. "(Clanton) killed us, but Tavion came in off the bench, was relaxed, knew his role (and) played really well."

Still, Keith showed his nerves. The guard was fouled with 34 seconds to play but missed both free throws.

"I stepped up to the line, I was thinking about it too much," Keith said.

So he tried to make up for it.

And make up for it he did, producing arguably the biggest steal of the night for the Raiders (9-8, 6-1), stealing the ball from Clanton, who finished with a game-high 30 points.

"I just tried to move my feet cause the other guard (Clanton) was really quick and I knew he was going to try that crossover move again. I just saw the ball coming, grabbed it, just tried to make a play."

He even got the chance to make up for his missed throws. With 4.3 seconds left, Keith was fouled again, sank both free throws.

"I had to come back down show everybody that I w going to give up," Keith sai was going to keep fighting."

Brandon Whiteside led Raiders with 24 points, v Bair added 14 and Billy I ers chipped in 9.

Boys basketball Top 20

Team	Comment
1. Fremd (16-0)	Key test vs. Conant on Friday
2. Geneva (20-0)	Won 3rd tournament title at LZ
3. WW South (19-1)	Beat Bloomington to win own MLK tourney
4. Jacobs (14-1)	Dropped FVC battle for first vs. Prairie Ridge
5. Conant (15-3)	Gearing up for showdown at Fremd
6. Benet (14-5)	Nolan scored 35 at St. Patrick
7. Stevenson (13-2)	Winning with authority
8. St. Charles North (13-3)	Edged Larkin by 2
9. Willowbrook (16-1)	Went 4-0 at Sterling MLK tourney
10. Naperville N. (11-4)	Last week's highlight: beating Naperville C.
11. Downers North (11-4)	Ended mini-slump by beating Wheaton N.
12. St. Charles E. (12-5)	Hosts unbeaten Geneva on Saturday
13. West Aurora (13-5)	Won 4 of 5 over MLK holiday weekend
14. Prospect (14-4)	Looking better each time out
15. Wheaton North (12-4)	Rematch at WW South Jan. 24
16. Burlington C. (16-1)	Repeat champ at own MLK Tournament
17. West Chicago (13-4)	UEC Valley biggie at South Elgin Thursday
18. Bartlett (10-7)	Hosts UEC Valley co-leader W. Aurora Friday
19. Grayslake North (12-4)	Strong showing at downstate Washington
20. South Elgin (12-6)	Went 4-0 at Jefferson MLK Showcase

Girls basketball Top 20

Team	Comment
1. Montini (21-0)	Will be challenged Saturday in Kentuck
2. Benet (18-2)	Thrilling comeback at Subway Classic
3. Hersey (18-2)	Miklasz 18 points, 6 rebounds
4. Geneva (14-3)	Missed FTs hurt vs. Oswego East
5. Rolling Meadows (15-6)	45-44 win over Maine W. at Classic
6. Wheaton North (13-4)	Looking to start a new winning streak
7. Fremd (18-5)	Solid 3rd at DeKalb; Tworek all-tourne
8. St. Charles East (16-4)	Munroe shines on emotional night
9. Maine West (17-3)	Fallon 20 points vs. Rolling Meadows
10. Naperville Central (18-6)	Redhawks have won 4 straight
11. Stevenson (15-4)	Patriots lose to Marist 48-36
12. Warren (17-3)	Blue Devils host Stevenson Thursday
13. Glenbard South (14-4)	Raiders are tough on defense
14. WW South (12-6)	Three DVC games this week
15. Antioch (18-3)	Sequoits win Lake Forest MLK tourney
16. Kaneland (16-3)	Allowed season-high 60 at Morris
17. Hinsdale Central (14-7)	Key league game vs. Oak Park this wee
18. St. Edward (17-4)	Green Wave 15-1 in last 16 games
19. Downers North (12-7)	Pospisilova, Ilyavi leading the way
20. Libertyville (11-8)	Wildcats have won last three