

VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Bulthuis makes his case for village president

Longtime village trustee campaigns in three-way race

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF
REPORTER

Villa Park Village Trustee Albert Bulthuis has spent the last decade on the village board. After 10 years as a trustee, he's hoping to win this year's election for village president.

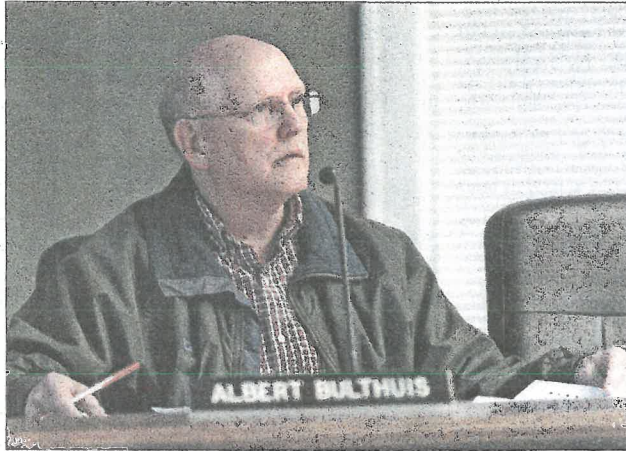
Bulthuis is running in the three-way race for village president in the upcoming April 4 election. He's facing Villa Park Trustee Robert Taglia and longtime village resident Chuck Pickerill. The winner, who will replace outgoing Village President Deborah Bullwinkel, will serve a four-year term. Bullwinkel's successor will be sworn into office in May.

Bullwinkel announced at the end of 2016 that she would not seek a second term as village president. After serving as a trustee, Bullwinkel was elected village president in 2013. She succeeded Tom Cullerton, who was elected to the position in 2009. In November 2012, shortly before finishing his term as village president, Cullerton was elected to the Illinois State Senate.

"I knew that Deborah Bullwinkel wasn't running, and I think consistency is important in government," said Bulthuis in explaining his position to run for village president. "We have a number of things going, and I have some of my own ideas I want to work on. Consistency is a big thing. We've made a lot of progress."

A 30-year resident of Villa Park, Bulthuis was first elected to the village board in 2007. He won re-election to four-year terms in 2011 and 2015. If he does not prevail in next month's election, he will continue to serve as a trustee. His current term expires in 2019. Taglia's four-year term on the village board expires this year.

Bulthuis is making his second run for village president. He joined Cullerton and Villa Park Village President Joyce Stuepiga in the



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park Village Trustee Albert Bulthuis is a candidate for village president in the upcoming April 4 election. Bulthuis, who is pictured during a 2016 village board meeting, has been a trustee since his election in 2007. He was re-elected to four-year terms in 2011 and 2015. Bulthuis made an unsuccessful bid for village president in 2009.

2009 race. Cullerton won that election, with Bulthuis finishing second and Stuepiga placing third.

Making his case in this year's election, Bulthuis said he has worked in the last 10 years to make Villa Park safer, and to improve the village's economic climate.

"I'm the guy who introduced Crime-Free

Housing," said Bulthuis, referring to a program that's been implemented in the village. The Crime-Free Housing program helps to educate landlords of their legal rights related to the eviction of tenants.

"It's in place as strongly as the state allows as a non-home-rule community," said Bulthuis of the program.

Bulthuis also noted that he instituted the village's vacant-building ordinance, which requires the owner of a vacant house to register with the village. He said that before the ordinance was implemented, the village wasn't always aware of who owned the property. The current law, he said, has helped maintain a higher standard of upkeep of vacant properties.

Bulthuis also mentioned his involvement in updating the village's comprehensive plan—a sort of road map of a vision for Villa Park.

"It's ongoing—we can change and tweak it," he said of the comprehensive plan.

In discussing important issues facing the village, Bulthuis referred to infrastructure projects, including road work and storm water management.

"People still have sewage backups in their basements; that's not acceptable to me," he said. "Nobody should have to put up with that."

Bulthuis said another pressing issue in the village is what to do about Villa Park's two public pools. Jefferson and Lufkin pools are both in need of substantial repairs.

"The pools are failing; something needs to be done almost immediately," he said.

Bulthuis said he looks forward to meeting residents and campaigning for their votes during the next month.

"The biggest thing in Villa Park is that you have to knock on doors," said Bulthuis. "People really want to meet the candidates. It's enjoyable to meet everybody. They're willing to listen and very accommodating."

Bulthuis, Pickerill and Taglia all conducted recent interviews with the Villa Park Cable Commission. Those interviews can be seen on the commission's TV Villa Park Style page at youtube.com. Enter "TV VP Style" into the YouTube search section.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park Trustee Albert Bulthuis is running in next month's three-way race for village president. Bulthuis, who has served on the village board since 2007, is running against Chuck Pickerill and Villa Park Trustee Robert Taglia in the April 4 election. The winner will succeed Village President Deborah Bullwinkel, who is not seeking re-election. The winner of the upcoming election will be sworn in to a four-year term in May.



STEVE SPODEN PHOTO Villa Park Review

The five members of Lombard's 2017 Lilac Court pose for their first official photograph on Sunday, Feb. 26, after being selected from a field of 15 contestants. The preliminary judging for the contest was held on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Sunset Knoll Recreation Center. Pictured are (left to right) Princess Emma Peca, Princess Liana Pavese, Princess Amanda O'Brien, Princess Taylor Balsitis and Princess Kyla Denwood. Balsitis and Denwood are both students at Villa Park's Willowbrook High School. Balsitis is a junior. Denwood is a senior. Pavese graduated from Willowbrook in 2015. Peca and O'Brien both attend Glenbard East High School. One of the five princesses will be coronated as the 2017 Lilac Queen on April 30 in Lombard's Lilac Park.



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Villa Park briefs

District 45 kindergarten registration for 2017-18 begins in March

School District 45 will hold kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year in March. Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2017, should contact their local school regarding kindergarten for the 2017-school year.

Registration will be conducted at five District 45 schools, including two Villa Park schools, in March.

Registration at Ardmore School (225 S. Harvard Ave.; 630-516-7370) will take place Wednesday, March 15, at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

North School (150 W. Sunset Drive, 630-516-7790) will hold kindergarten registration from 3-7 p.m. on March 15, and each school day during the week of March 13 from 8 a.m. until 3:15 p.m.

According to District 45, kindergarten registration may also be completed during normal school hours from March 13-17. Contact the office of each school for more information.

VP Junior Women's Club holds candidate forum on March 8

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club will hold a candidate forum at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8. The forum will take place at Villa Park Village Hall, 20 N. Ardmore Ave., and will feature candidates running in village races in the April 4 election.

Quarterly SALT meeting takes place March 8

The Villa Park Police Department will hold the next quarterly Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at the Villa Park Community Recreation Building, located at 320 E. Wildwood Ave. Residents and guests are invited to

arrive at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy coffee, pastries and fellowship before the meeting.

The event will include a presentation by Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkel and Villa Park Library Director Sandra Hill.

The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will sponsor a lunch for all guests immediately after the presentation.

VP Chamber of Commerce holds scholarship breakfast on March 9

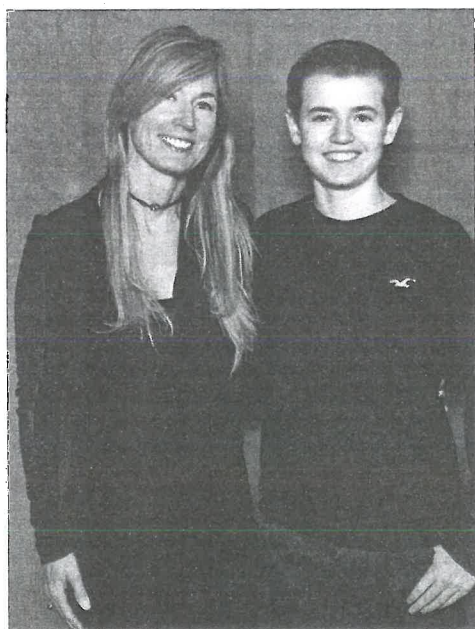
The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce will hold a scholarship breakfast on March 9 at Willowbrook High School. Tickets for the breakfast cost \$25 per person. Doors open at 8 a.m. The breakfast will begin at 8:15 a.m. Optional tours of the school will begin at 9 a.m.

All proceeds go to the chamber's scholarship fund, which benefits high school students from Villa Park.

The deadline to RSVP is March 7. Call the chamber at 630-941-9133 for more information, or e-mail vp-chamber@sbcglobal.net.

District 45 to hold Fine Arts Showcase on March 18

School District 45 will hold its inaugural Fine Arts Showcase from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, at Schafer School, located at 700 E. Pleasant Lane, Lombard. The showcase will include art from every school in the district. Students were invited to submit pieces created by drawing, painting, photography and sculpture. Vocal and instrumental selections will be included during the evening. Students were invited to audition for the event by singing, dancing or performing a skit. The showcase will also include a special performance from the North School Marching Penguins Drumline.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Montini holds mother-son brunch

Montini Catholic High School's annual mother-son brunch took place in February at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. The brunch is held to honor Montini's mothers and thank them for their influence in their sons' lives. The event began with a special Mass celebrating the mother-son relationship. "The brunch is the most lovely of events sponsored at Montini," said Gail Casey (left) of Villa Park, who attended the event with her son Liam (right), a sophomore at the school. "I have attended with both of my sons in different years, and the experiences were just as memorable each time. You always find yourself among friends."

Appellate Court affirms conviction in 2012 murder of Lombard woman

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin announced last week that the Second District Appellate Court of Illinois has affirmed the first degree murder conviction of Todd Mandoline, 31, for starting a 2012 fire that claimed the life of his former girlfriend, Paula Morgan, 24, of Lombard.

On Jan. 20, 2012, a jury found Mandoline guilty of first degree murder and aggravated arson. On April

30, 2015, Judge John Kinsella sentenced him to consecutive terms of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections—27 years for murder and 12 years for aggravated arson.

On July 21, 2012, Mandoline attended a birthday party Morgan held for herself at her home in Lombard. During the party, Mandoline was asked to leave, which he did. In the early morning hours of July 22,

however, Mandoline returned to the home and set fire to Morgan's mother's car located in the driveway. The fire spread to the home and ultimately claimed Morgan's life and severely injured a friend of Morgan's.

"It is my sincerest hope that with the Appellate Court's decision, Paula Morgan's family and friends will now be able to proceed with their lives knowing that Mr. Mandoline will pay for what he has taken from them."

—Robert B. Berlin, DuPage County State's Attorney



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook students receive Top Tech Challenge honors

Willowbrook students Matthew Seymore (left) and Bryce Johnson (right) earned first-place honors at the recent Universal Technical Institute (UTI) Automotive Top Tech Challenge. Seymore is a junior at Willowbrook. Johnson is a senior. The challenge, which took place Feb. 16, involved hands-on and written automotive testing on vehicle parts, brakes, diagnostics and electrical systems. As champions, Seymore and Johnson each earned a \$10,000 scholarship to UTI, while Willowbrook received a tool set valued at \$3,000. UTI is a nationwide provider of education for students interested in careers as technicians in the transportation industry.

Village invites residents to meetings related to referendum question

First meeting set for March 7

The Village of Villa Park will hold a pair of community outreach meetings regarding the sales-tax referendum on the ballot in the April 4 election. The meetings will take place Tuesday, March 7, and Thursday, March 23. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa Ave.

The referendum question in the

upcoming election asks voters if they want to approve an increase in the village's sales tax, from 7.5 to 8 percent. If approved, the increase would reportedly produce about \$1.5 million annually for the village. That money would be used to pay for infrastructure projects, including the installation of water mains and storm sewers.

The question as it will appear on the ballot in the April 4 election asks: "Shall the Village of Villa Park increase the Village's Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax

and Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax (commonly referred to as a "municipal sales tax") from one half of one percent (.5%) to one percent (1.0%) for expenditure on public infrastructure, including the installation, replacement, and maintenance of sanitary sewer, storm sewer and water main systems, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Sections 8-11-1.3 and 8-11-1.4 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.3 and 65 ILCS 5/8-11-1.4)?"

Villa Park Junior Women's Club welcomes applications for 2017 scholarships

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club (VPJWC) is accepting applications for its annual scholarships. The club will award two scholarships this year—one for \$1,500 and another for \$500.

The scholarships will be awarded to female high school students who are graduating in the spring of 2017. Eligible students must be full-time residents of Villa Park.

The club began accepting applications in February. The deadline to apply is April 15.

Winners are chosen based on their applications and recommendations. The scholarships are not awarded based on financial need.

To qualify for the scholarship, an applicant must be a senior in high school with a minimum grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

(or equivalent).

Applicants must have participated in a minimum of one community-service activity for at least two years, including the current semester. Applicants must also provide two letters of recommendation from non-family members.

For more information, or to download an application form, go online and visit vpjwc.org/scholarship.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Warriors complete regular season with a loss to Downers Grove North

Trojans close game with a 10-0 run

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

The 2016-17 Willowbrook boys basketball team, which set a new program record for victories in a season, will enter the IHSA playoffs on a losing streak.

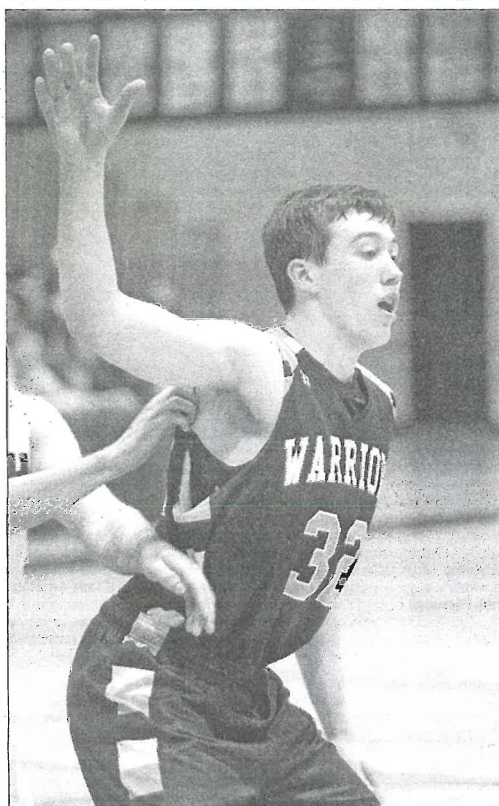
The Warriors finished the regular season with a 60-57 loss to Downers Grove North in a Feb. 21 crossover game between West Suburban Conference foes in Downers Grove. Willowbrook held a 57-50 lead with over four minutes to play. The Trojans closed the contest with a 10-0 surge, including a last-second 3-point shot. The final shot, which caromed off the backboard and through the hoop, broke a 57-57 tie and gave the Trojans their only lead of the second half.

Willowbrook, which held a 40-30 halftime lead and a 51-45 edge through three quarters, completed the regular season with an overall record of 24-4. The Warriors' held a 24-2 mark before losing their West Suburban Gold Conference finale at Downers Grove South on Feb. 17. That loss left Willowbrook, Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South as co-champions of the conference. Each of the three schools finished the season with 9-3 conference records.

Willowbrook opened its season with seven straight wins before losing a conference game at Hinsdale South on Dec. 16. The Warriors then reeled off 14 straight wins before dropping another conference battle to the Hornets on Feb. 3. Willowbrook proceeded to win its next three games before losing 58-48 at Downers Grove South on Feb. 17.

Four days after losing at Downers Grove South, the Warriors visited Downers Grove North for the crossover game against a team from the West Suburban Silver Conference. Willowbrook appeared to be on the way to its 25th victory when it held a 49-34 lead in the third quarter, but the Trojans unleashed an 11-0 run during the period to trim the Warriors' lead to single digits.

Junior Ethan Schuemer's dunk gave Willowbrook a 57-50 lead with over four minutes left in the game. The Warriors committed multiple turnovers as they went scoreless in the game's closing minutes. The turnovers included a five-second violation with about 1:30 to play and an



over-and-back violation with nearly 30 seconds remaining. The Trojans, who had tied the score at 57-57 with about 50 seconds to play, held the ball on their final possession before connecting on the long-range shot as time expired.

"We didn't get a shot off in the last two minutes," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the loss. "We did it to ourselves. We played a beautiful first half. We weren't getting movement, and we were turning the ball over in the fourth quarter. Silly turnovers came back to haunt us. That's how you lose a game."

Schuemer scored a team-leading 17 points for the Warriors. Junior Neil Paxton contributed 10 points by making all four of his shots from the field and sinking two of three free-

throw attempts. Junior Matas Masys, who drained a pair of 3-point shots, provided nine points. Senior Freddie Clay scored eight points, while junior Matt Myers added five points.

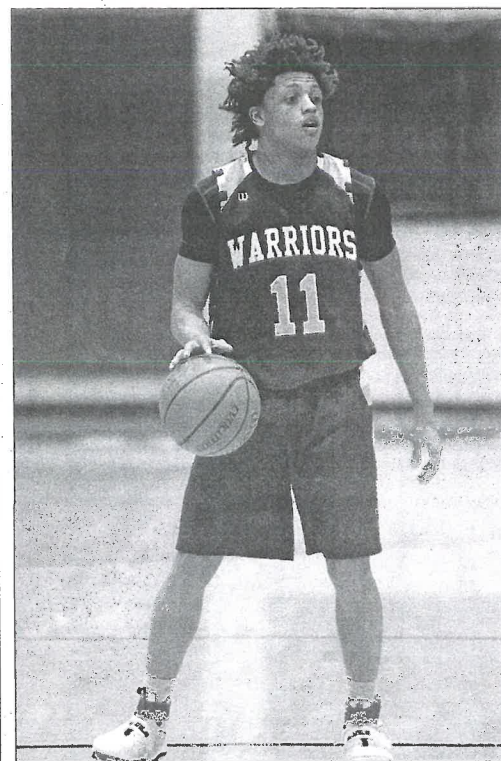
The loss at Downers Grove North came eight days before the Warriors' opening game in the IHSA Class 4A playoffs. Willowbrook will take on Addison Trail in this week's semifinal game at the Batavia Regional. A victory would propel the Warriors into this Friday's regional championship.

"This should sting, but going into the playoffs, everybody is 0-0," stated Perkins after the loss at Downers Grove North. "This was just a tune-up for the playoffs. We can't get stale in practice. We have to be sure we're mentally ready."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Willowbrook boys basketball team wrapped up the regular season with last week's 60-57 loss at Downers Grove North. The Warriors held a 57-50 lead with over four minutes to play, but the Trojans closed the Feb. 21 game with a 10-0 run. Downers Grove North tied the score at 57-57 with about 50 seconds remaining. The Trojans made a winning 3-point shot as time expired. Left: Junior Ethan Schuemer (No. 32) scored a team-leading 17 points for the Warriors. Above: Junior Neil Paxton (No. 25) contributed 10 points. Below: Senior Freddie Clay (No. 11) scored eight points. Willowbrook finished the regular season with a 24-4 record. The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 4A playoffs at this week's Batavia Regional.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Bukovsky receives special honor

Former Montini wrestling coach Mike Bukovsky served as a grand marshal at the 80th annual IHSA individual state wrestling tournament. Bukovsky joined three other coaches to lead the annual grand march of finalists before the Feb. 18 championship bouts of the individual state meet, which took place at the State Farm Center in Champaign. Bukovsky, who graduated from Montini in 1983, guided the Broncos to their first IHSA dual-meet state title in 2000. The program won four straight IHSA state dual-meet titles from 2002-05. Bukovsky guided the program to three more state championships from 2008-10 before handing the reins to current coach Israel Martinez. The Broncos won five straight IHSA state titles under Martinez from 2011-15. On Saturday, Montini earned second-place honors at the IHSA Class 3A dual-meet state tournament in Bloomington. In 2016, Bukovsky guided Montini's softball team to its first state championship. Shortly after the conclusion of the 2016 football season, Bukovsky was named as Montini's new head football coach. He succeeds Chris Andriano, who guided the program to six state titles.

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Local Sports

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Scouting Friday's boys basketball regional finals



MARK BLACK/mbblack@dailyherald.com

Addison Trail's Bobby Daniels will play for the school's first regional championship since 1980 when the Blazers meet Naperville North on Friday at Batavia.

No. 3 Prospect (23-5) vs.

No. 11 Lake Park (14-14)

Class 4A Prospect regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Outlook: After staging one upset with Wednesday's 50-48 semifinal win over No. 6 Buffalo Grove, the Lancers must pull off an even bigger upset to win their second regional title in three years. To topple the Knights — one of the sectional favorites along with Fremd and Conant — Lake Park must contend with standout guard Frankie Mack, who scored 27 points in Tuesday's win over Rolling Meadows. And the Lancers must do it on Prospect's home court. The Lancers are battle-tested, though, and Garrett Fant is among the sectional's top players. He had 20 points on Wednesday. Dan Speicher came up big with 17 points for a Lake Park team getting contributions from several players, including Andrew Vega.

Advancement: The winner advances to the Wednesday Robert Morris University sectional semifinal against the winner of the Palatine regional final between No. 2 Conant and No. 11 McHenry.

No. 13 Nequa Valley (15-15)

vs. No. 5 West Aurora (20-8)

Class 4A Plainfield North regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Outlook: Despite West Aurora's 62-45 win over Nequa Valley way back in November, Nequa's 47-39 victory over 21-win No. 4 seed Minooka indicates the Wildcats can contend for a ninth regional title. Defense, rebounding and minimizing West Aurora's free throws will again certainly help its cause. Nequa senior Blaise Meredith plays defense and scores 16 points a game. Center Alex Filo, forward Nathan Scott and guard Noah Herdman may even have to improve upon solid marks against Minooka. West Aurora leaper Cameron Donatian's 16.5 points, 3.4 assists and 3 steals lead the Blackhawks. The Upstate Eight Valley winner also brings 6-4 shot-blocker Jared Crutcher and 6-3 senior forward Caleb Siler.

Advancement: The winner advances to the Tuesday Lincoln-Way East sectional semifinal against the winner of the Sandburg regional final between No. 1 Bolingbrook and No. 9 Lemont.

No. 1 Wheaton Warrenville South (28-1)

vs. No. 9 Hinsdale Central (16-11)

Class 4A West Chicago regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Outlook: If the top-seeded Tigers win their first regional title since 2005, they'll match the program record for wins in a season set in 1985. WW South leans on Dillon Durrett, the DuPage Valley Conference's player of the year, but the Tigers showed the true strength of their team on Tuesday by beating Glenbard West with Durrett scoring 2 points before fouling out. Drew and Jake Healy, Parker Robinson, Chase Stebbins and Jake Ruggles give the Tigers plenty of options. Hinsdale Central beat one of the sectional's most talented teams by knocking out Downers South. The Red Devils' guard-heavy attack of Jack Holberg, Chris Eck, Trevor Hamilton and Michael Yaeger combined for 51 of their 54 points.

Advancement: The winner advances to the Tuesday Hinsdale Central sectional semifinal against the winner of the Batavia regional final between No. 4 Naperville North and No. 12 Addison Trail.

No. 4 Naperville North (22-5) vs.

No. 12 Addison Trail (18-11)

Class 4A Batavia regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Outlook: One regional championship drought is coming to an end. While Naperville North seeks its first since 2006, the Blazers, appearing in their first regional final since 2001, aim for their first title since 1980. The Huskies' tandem of 6-foot-6 Mitch Lewis and 6-7 Chris Johnson is just the beginning of the matchup problems facing Addison Trail. Six-seven Tom Welch, Youcef Merabet and others also have double-digit scoring potential. Five Addison Trail players scored at least 10 in Wednesday's upset win over Willowbrook. With Jack Kalbas knocking down 3s, 6-6 Cotton Noel controlling the post and Michael Williams on the wing, the Blazers present their own matchup problems for opponents.

Advancement: The winner advances to the Tuesday Hinsdale Central sectional semifinal against the winner of the West Chicago regional final between No. 1 Wheaton Warrenville South and No. 9 Hinsdale Central.

No. 2 Geneva (28-2) vs.

No. 10 Hinsdale South (18-11)

Class 4A Downers Grove North regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Outlook: Geneva started the season 26-0 before losing back-to-back games to St. Charles North and Quincy. With two straight wins, including Tuesday's over Lyons Twp., the Vikings appear to be back on track. Six-foot-five forward Dom Navigato had a huge game in the semifinals, scoring 21 points and grabbing 17 rebounds. Not only was he strong around the basket, but he also thrived on the perimeter. It presents an intriguing potential matchup with 6-5 Hornets junior Zion Griffin, who came up with his own double-double in Wednesday's win

over Downers North. The Hornets are at their best when spread scoring — especially when Karol Lipiszko is knocking down 3s

Advancement: The winner advances to the Wednesday Hin Central sectional semifinal against the winner of the York regional final between No. 3 Benet and No. 6 Wheaton North.

No. 3 Benet (23-6) vs.

No. 6 Wheaton North (22-6)

Class 4A York regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday.

Outlook: It'll be raining 3-pointers in Elmhurst. Both teams love the perimeter play, but both teams also flashed strong defense in the finals. Benet held York to 34 points while Wheaton North limited it to 45. Jack Nolan and Liam Lyman, returning starters from Benet state runner-up team last season, combined for nine of the Redw. 12 3-pointers on Tuesday. Luke Anthony and Rowan McGowan combined for nearly 140 3s on the season. Those four players lead the way, but it could be the supporting cast deciding this one. For Benet that means Justin Enochs or Matt Teglia. And for Wheaton North, Bennett and Matt Brcka are among the many other options.

Advancement: The winner advances to the Wednesday Hin Central sectional semifinal against the winner of the Downers Grove North regional final between No. 2 Geneva and No. 10 Hinsdale South.

No. 4 Glenbard South (13-14) vs.

No. 1 Burlington Central (26-3)

Class 3A Marmion regional final

Game time: 7 p.m. Friday

Outlook: Glenbard South seeks its second straight regional title. Raiders will look inside and aim to control the ball and pace. Burlington Central point guard TaVontae Harris leads the Rockets with 3.5 st game. Joe Ratzek and Emmanuel Wells are right behind, translating a high-scoring flow in which 6-1 senior Zach Schutta heads six players who average at least 5.7 points. Glenbard South's 6-6 Charlie Bai averages 17 points and 11 rebounds a game. Adding 6-2 leaper I Jeske and Billy Powers, sneaky inside at 6-1, the Raiders hope to paint. In order to do so, guards Kevin Enright, Ethan Sowl, Tavlon and Brandon Whiteside, who averages 15 points, must handle the

Advancement: The winner advances to the Wednesday Genoa-Kington sectional semifinal against the winner of the Richmond-Burton regional final between No. 2 Marengo and Richmond-Burton.

— Dave Oberhelman and Kevin



JOE LEWNAW/Jlewnaw@dailyh

Lake Park will try to upset Prospect in Friday night's boys basketball regional championship game at Prospect.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

Appellate Court affirms conviction in 2012 Lombard murder

*Man who set fire that claimed one life,
severely injured another, will serve terms*

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin announced last week that the Second District Appellate Court of Illinois has affirmed the First Degree Murder conviction of Todd Mandoline, 31, for starting a fire in 2012 that claimed the life of his former girlfriend, Paula Morgan, 24, of Lombard. On Jan. 20, 2012, a jury found Mandoline guilty of First Degree Murder and Aggravated Arson. On April 30, 2015, Judge John Kinsella sentenced him consecutive terms of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections - 27 years for murder and 12 years for Aggravated Arson.

On July 21, 2012, Mandoline attended a birthday party Morgan held for herself at her home in Lombard. During the party, Mandoline was asked to leave, which he did. In the early morning hours of July 22, however, Mandoline returned to the home and set fire to Morgan's mother's car located in the driveway. The

fire spread to the home and ultimately claimed Morgan's life and severely injured one of Morgan's friends.

In his appeal, Mandoline argued that probable cause did not exist for his arrest; he did not voluntarily reinstate questioning after the initial interrogation has ceased, due to his invocation of his right of counsel; his statements to police were not voluntary, knowing or intelligent; statements he did make were in violation of law that requires electronic recording; and the trial court erred in its jury instructions.

In its affirmation, the Appellate Court found that the Trial Court acted properly and within its power on each of the issues raised by Mandoline. Justice Birkett delivered the judgment of the Court with Justices Burke and Spence concurring.

Mandoline's appeal was defended by Edward Psenicka of the DuPage County State's Attorney's Criminal Appeals Division.

Addison Trail students tour Village Hall

On Feb. 21, 13 Addison Trail students in teacher Paul Parpet Jr.'s Branches of Government class visited Village Hall in Addison. During their tour, Addison Community Relations Director Don Weiss shared information about the village's Rotunda and Village Green areas.

The students then met with Ad-

dison Mayor Rich Veenstra, who spoke about the various village departments and the responsibilities of each group. He also discussed the partnerships the village has with other Addison intergovernmental agencies such as the fire protection

See STUDENTS, Page 19



Boys in a Bubble

Two students get "trapped" inside a bubble at Ben's Bubble Show, performed by Ben Jimenez (not pictured) at the Addison Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 22. More than 80 people attended the program.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

INSIDE:

Police Reports.....6 Sports.....17
Viewpoint.....8 Classifieds.....20-21

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District 88 celebrates African-American History Month

Throughout the month of February, Addison Trail and Willowbrook students and staff have participated in events to celebrate African-American History Month.

At Addison Trail High School:

- Students watched the movie "Hidden Figures" on Feb. 9, which tells the story of a team of African-American women mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. (pictured above)

- The Addison Trail Black Student Union participated in the Black Student Leadership Conference on Feb. 21 at College of DuPage. During that conference, students from 12 high

schools participated in a College Admissions Panel, Student Panel, Career Exploration Panel and a Mock Admissions Activity. The students also had an opportunity to attend a college fair with about 60 representatives from colleges and universities.

- Students participated in International Fest Week from Feb. 21 to 24, a weeklong event that taught students about various countries and cultures and culminated with the International Dance Show on Feb. 24.

- Students continue to participate in Youth Equity Stewardship Series (YESS!) training from the Youth Voice Leadership Series, presented by Benjie Howard and Wade Col-

well-Sandoval with the New Wilderness Project. The goal is to prepare students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them.

At Willowbrook High School:

- The Library Media Center created a showcase display featuring books that highlight prominent African-Americans.

- Students watched the movie "Hidden Figures" on Feb. 9, which tells the story of a team of African-American women mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. (pictured above, under Addison Trail)

- A spirit day took place on Feb.

17 to celebrate African-American History Month, which included staff and students wearing T-shirts that promoted the month.

- Willowbrook students attended the Black Student Leadership Conference on Feb. 21 at College of DuPage. During that conference, students from 12 high schools participated in a College Admissions Panel, Student Panel, Career Exploration Panel and a Mock Admissions Activity. Four Willowbrook alumni – Daja Coffee (class of 2014), Shantel Powell (class of 2016), Whitney Goolsby (class of 2015) and Victoria Phillips (class of 2013) – were part of the Student Panel. The students also had an

opportunity to attend a college fair with about 60 representatives from colleges and universities.

- Information about the history, accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans is being shared with students and staff through announcements every Tuesday and Thursday during February.

- Students continue to participate in Youth Equity Stewardship Series (YESS!) training from the Youth Voice Leadership Series, presented by Benjie Howard and Wade Colwell-Sandoval with the New Wilderness Project. The goal is to prepare students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Willowbrook alumni (from left) Victoria Phillips (class of 2013), Whitney Goolsby (class of 2015), Shantel Powell (class of 2016) and Daja Coffee (class of 2014) help lead the Student Panel portion of the Black Student Leadership Conference on Feb. 21 at College of DuPage. Also pictured is Nezuqua Valley High School alumna Shamekka Williams. During that panel, they shared with participants their experience of transitioning from high school to college and answered questions from current high school students.

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District 88 participates in Lincoln Readers' Choice program

District 88 students recently participated in the Abraham Lincoln Readers' Choice Award program, where students vote for their favorite book from a provided master list.

The program is designed to encourage high school students to read for pleasure and to become lifelong readers, according to the Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA).

For a book to reach the master list, adult and young adult fiction

and non-fiction titles must be nominated by teachers or librarians and vetted by the nominations committee. While the popularity of a particular title is important, the overall quality of the work is of primary importance. Each year, a panel of high school librarians, teachers, public librarians and students determines the final master list of 20 titles. Registered schools promote those books, and students who have read four or more titles are eligible

to vote.

In the selection process on Feb. 14, Addison Trail students voted for "Red Queen" by Victoria Aveyard, and Willowbrook students voted for "I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai. As a district, 57 students participated in the program - reading a total of 342 books. Students who read at least four titles from the list were able to enter a raffle to win prizes. Raffle winners were:

From Addison Trail, senior Sa-

brina Majeed won a Kindle Fire tablet; sophomore Yvette Beltran, a Portillo's gift card; junior Jammie Jefferson, a Culver's gift card; and senior Carla Reyes, a Jimmy John's gift card.

From Willowbrook, junior Samuel Pelsor won a Kindle Fire tablet; junior Diyahvion Skinner, a Culver's gift card; junior Syed "Faizan" Ali, a Sonic gift card; and freshman Jendi Quibal, a Jersey Mike's Subs gift card.

Cantigny celebrates Women's History Month

March events include Clara Barton and Alice Paul living history performances. February 22, through March is Women's History Month and Cantigny Park will mark the occasion with four events at the Robert R. McCormick Museum, 1 S 151 Winfield, Wheaton. All are free to attend with \$5 paid parking.

**Saturday, March 11
from 12 noon-3 p.m.
McCormick Museum
Freedom Hall**

The museum continues its 2017 Second Saturday series with a celebration of the 19th Amendment, which in 1919 granted women the right to vote. Visitors can make suffragette sashes and pins, and visit a mock voting booth to make their voices heard!

Second Saturday is a free drop-in program for families with a different theme each month; no registration is necessary.

**Saturday, March 11
from 11-3 p.m.
McCormick Museum
Freedom Hall**

Living history actress and scholar Leslie Goddard portrays Alice Paul, an American pioneer in the cause of women's suffrage (right to vote). The program is ideal for families and children ages 10 and up. It is free attend but advance registration is required: 630.260.8162 or register@cantigny.org.

**Sunday, March 12 at 3 p.m.
McCormick Museum
Freedom Hall**

Museum tour guide Laurie Russell examines the history of female journalists at the Chicago Tribune, the newspaper where Cantigny benefactor Robert R. McCormick served as editor and publisher for nearly 50 years. The program is geared to adults. It is free to attend but advance registration is required:

630.260.8162 or register@cantigny.org.

**Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m.
McCormick Museum
Freedom Hall**

Living-history actress and scholar Leslie Goddard presents Clara Barton, the pioneering Civil War battle-

County, SCARCE host Sustainable Design Challenge for high schools

This April, DuPage County and SCARCE will celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Sustainable Design Challenge, promoting environmental and stormwater education within Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum in local high schools.

"The Sustainable Design Challenge is something we at the County look forward to every year. The Challenge has grown and improved significant-

ly over the past 11 years," said DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee Chairman Jim Zay. "Each competition brings increasingly advanced designs demonstrating how much water is being detained or energy is being conserved. At this point, the students are teaching us some of the newest technologies in sustainable construction."

The annual event, slated for Tuesday, April 4, encourages participating schools and students to design buildings and landscapes using sustainable design techniques, including green infrastructure to capture and treat stormwater runoff. Last year's event drew the largest number of participants to date, and this year's attendance is anticipated to surpass that record.

SCARCE Founder and Executive Director Kay McKeen credits the success of the competition to local teachers who recognize the importance of bringing real life situations into the classroom.

"It's difficult for teachers to deviate from their set curriculum, but these DuPage teachers are proving that not only is it possible, but it is also an amazing learning opportunity for students," said McKeen. "I think the experience for the students really does carry over into real life situations they will find themselves in during college and beyond."

All high schools are encouraged to participate and join groups who are frequent competitors including students from: Wheaton Warrenville South (Wheaton), Wheaton North, Naperville North, Glenbard South (Glen Ellyn), Glenbard East (Lombard), Addison Trail, College Preparatory School of America (Lombard), Neuqua Valley (Naperville), York High School (Elmhurst), Willowbrook (Villa Park), Downers Grove North, Downers Grove South, Hinsdale Central and Westfield Middle School (Bloomington).

For information on participating in this year's challenge, as well as to view a video from last year, visit scarce.org/event/sustainable-design-challenge2017.

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AT music students enjoy EC jazz performers

On Feb. 22, Addison Trail music students had the opportunity to watch a performance by a jazz combo from Elmhurst College under the direction of Mark Colby and featuring baritone saxophonist

Denis DiBlasio.

The clinic was part of a promotion for the 50th Annual Elmhurst College Jazz Festival, which takes place from Feb. 23 to 26.

Several Addison Trail students

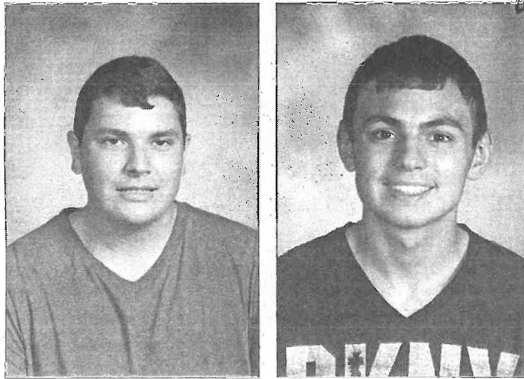
were then invited to play with the group. They are juniors Alejandro Salazar on drums, Kenneth Bartkiewicz on trumpet and Sofia Koulouvaris on alto saxophone and seniors Zachery Michaliska on trum-

pet and Trevor Yurek on trombone. NBC 5 News reporter Dick Johnson recently did a story on the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival, which highlighted Addison Trail Orchestra Director Alex Stombres

as a successful alumnus of the college.

To watch a video of the event, go to <http://tinyurl.com/z7pueur>.

For details about the festival, go to elmhurst.edu/jazzfestival.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

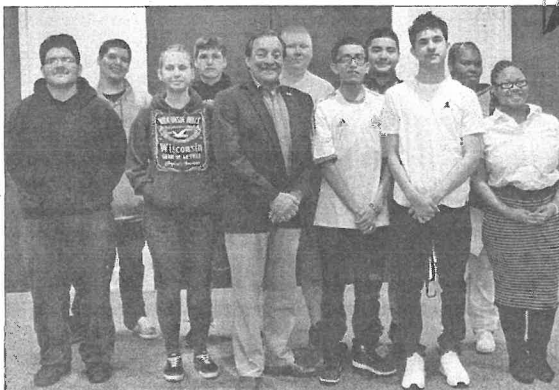
AT students earn third place in UTI Automotive Challenge

Pictured are Addison Trail junior Ryan Selvaggio (left) and senior Anthony DiSilvestro, who earned third place at Universal Technical Institute's (UTI) Automotive Top Tech Challenge on Feb. 16. The event involved hands-on and written automotive testing on vehicle parts, brakes, diagnostics and electrical systems. As a result of their top-three finish, both students earned a \$5,000 scholarship to UTI and Addison Trail received a tool set valued at \$2,000.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

On Feb. 22, Addison Trail music students had the opportunity to watch a performance by a jazz combo from Elmhurst College under the direction of Mark Colby (third from left) and featuring baritone saxophonist Denis DiBlasio (right). Also pictured are Addison Trail Orchestra Director Alex Stombres (left), who is an alumnus of Elmhurst College, and Addison Trail Band Director/Music Department Chair Mark Corey.



• Students (Continued from front page)

district, the library, the park district and the school districts.

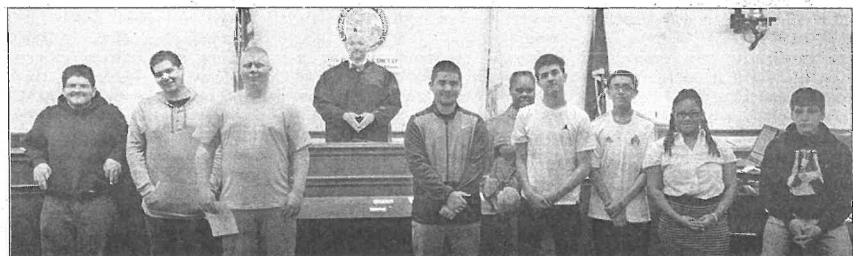
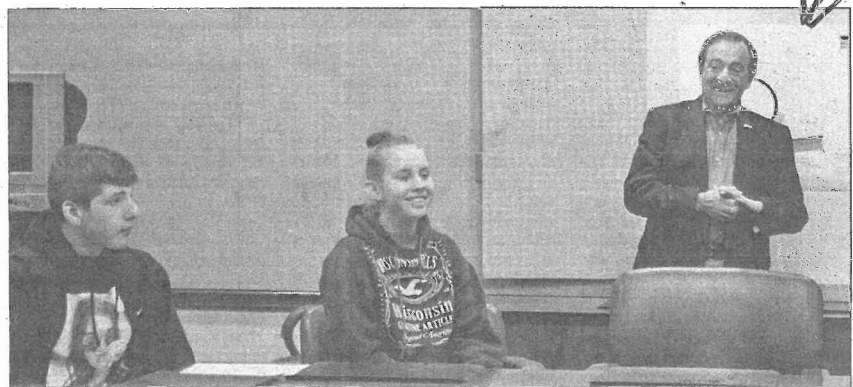
The students learned about the budget process and the mayor said the village focuses on meeting the needs of Addison residents, while being fiscally responsible and fair to taxpayers. Students also were able to ask Veenstra questions about what it's like to be mayor and how he chose that career path. He said the village is 133 years old and has about 240 employees. Veenstra added he is proud to be the 16th mayor of Addi-

son.

"Addison has a wonderful atmosphere," he said. "It's a great place to work and live."

The students also watched a court session and were able to meet with DuPage County Associate Judge Brian Jacobs, who spoke about the legislative process, his caseload and the challenges of that field.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to see firsthand what they're learning about in the classroom," Parpet said.



Addison Trail students visit Addison Village Hall on Feb. 21 to learn about the governmental aspects of the village. Top left and right: The students had an opportunity to speak with Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra. Bottom: The students also met DuPage County Associate Judge Brian Jacobs (center).

SPORTS

MARCH 2, 2017 • 17

Addison Trail boys basketball team opens postseason

Blazers finish regular season with 16 wins

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys basketball team closed out the regular season with a pair of games against Hinsdale South and Proviso West.

The Blazers lost 67-56 to Hinsdale South in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play. Addison Trail

also lost 59-56 to Proviso West in the WSC crossover placement contest.

"In both games we didn't defend particularly well," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "Ultimately that hurt us. To give up more than 60 points and close to 60 points in the two games. That's not a recipe for success for us. The most glaring thing was defensively in those two games. The good thing is we were competitive in both those games and you hope that's the case at this time of the year. It's a long year and our guys are still getting after it. At this stage of the game you would like to be at the peak of your execution on

both ends of the floor. We saw some of that in these two games and we hope it all rights itself in the playoffs."

Jack Kalbas scored 24 points in the Proviso West game, while Michael Williams had 17 points. Bobby Daniels scored 16 points against Hinsdale South, while Kalbas had 14 points and Stevan Jones added 10 points.

Addison Trail finished the regular season with a 16-11 overall mark and went 5-7 in WSC Gold Division action.

The Blazers had been playing in recent times without Colton Noel, a

key figure for the team. Lyons said he was hopeful Noel would return for this week's playoffs.

"With him out we had a big hole to fill on offense and defense," said Lyons.

Lyons lauded the recent play of Williams, Kalbas and Daniels. "Michael Williams has been a workhorse for us all year," said Lyons. "He's done really good things for us. His effort is consistent. Jack has been shooting the ball well of late and Bobby Daniels has come on strong and has knocked down some big shots in games. He's stepped up."

The Blazers opened the Class 4A

playoffs earlier this week against Waubonsie Valley at Batavia High School.

A win against Waubonsie Valley would have sent Addison Trail to a third game of the year against District 88 neighbor Willowbrook on Wednesday at Batavia.

"We were playing real well in January and February," said Lyons. "Ultimately we would like to have a few wins behind us heading into the playoffs. We keep competing each game. I would like to see the execution where it needs to be and that's something we have to have to be successful in the state series."

Willowbrook boys basketball team starts regional play
Knudtson advances to sectional round of state 3-point shooting contestBy Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team closed the season with a pair of games against Downers Grove South and Downers Grove North.

Willowbrook lost 58-48 to Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Conference Gold Division game. The loss forced a three-way tie for the WSC Gold title between Willowbrook, Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South.

The Warriors then dropped a 60-57 contest to Downers Grove North in the WSC crossover placement game.

Willowbrook finished the regular season with a 24-4 record.

The Warriors opened Class 4A Batavia regional play Wednesday against either No. 12 seed Addison Trail or No. 21 seed Waubonsie Valley.

Willowbrook is the No. 5 overall seed in the Hinsdale South sectional.

If Willowbrook won its game Wednesday it will play for the regional title Friday at 7 p.m. against either Batavia, Metea Valley or No. 4 sectional seed Naperville North.

Knudtson advances to sectional round

Willowbrook girls basketball player Shannon Knudtson advanced to the sectional round of the Class 4A state 3-point shooting contest recently. Knudtson competed in the recent Class 4A Argo sectional in Summit. Knudtson advanced to the sectional by being one of the top four shooters at the Oak Lawn regional.

Telling it like it is
Willowbrook three-time state wrestling medalist Jack Jessen reflects on his junior seasonBy Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Willowbrook junior Jack Jessen deserves a lot of credit for his candor.

In the aftermath of losing his only wrestling match of the season in the Class 3A 182-pound state title match, Jessen shared his thoughts with the Independent on this past season and what lies ahead for him.

"I'm not really happy with how the season ended," he said. "Overall, the season was good. I was undefeated going into the finals but I wasn't able to finish it off. I wanted the state title more than anything. It's something I've wanted ever since I was a little kid."

Jessen dissected the state title match where he dropped a 13-3 decision to Mt. Carmel's Kordell Norfleet, who moved to 43-0.

"I got away from my game plan and didn't wrestle my match," he said. "That's the reason I lost. He is a very good wrestler. He was a state champion last year in 2A."

Jessen said there was some pressure associated with going into the match 50-0.

"Being undefeated does have its pressures," he said. "There was that little added pressure

because I was undefeated. I was very proud of being undefeated going into the finals."

And now Jessen has but one more goal on his mind as he looks ahead to his senior season at Willowbrook.

"My goal is to never lose another high-school match—ever," he said. "I'm very motivated."

Jessen said he's going to train in freestyle and Greco during the off-season and will continue his work with the Izzy Style club wrestling program.

"Izzy Style has helped me out tremendously," he said. "Izzy (former West Aurora standout Israel Martinez) has been vital in my development in wrestling. I'm hungry and am looking forward to getting back on the mat."

Jessen said he's also looking forward to his senior football season. Jessen played a major role in Willowbrook advancing to the Class 7A state quarterfinals this past season.

"Our football program has gone up every year I've been here," he said. "We had our best season last year and made it very far in the playoffs."

Jessen, who has a 153-8 career record at Willowbrook, now has three top 3 state

wrestling medals to his credit. He's finished second twice and third once in his first three years of high school.

"I do think that is an accomplishment, but my main goal is to win a state title," he said. "That would mean a lot to the school, the community and to our team. That's the ultimate goal."

On his way to racking up 50 wins in a row, Jessen said one match in particular that stood out was his victory over a Wisconsin state champion in the finals of the prestigious Dyvorak tournament over the holidays.

"That was a big win," he said. "I beat him by fall."

Jessen also is excited about his future beyond high school. He's made a verbal commitment to continue his wrestling career at Northwestern.

"I really like the coaching staff there," he said. "I'm familiar with some of the coaches from when they've helped coach the Team Illinois Greco and freestyle teams. I like the program. It's not only the coaches but it's the team members and the academics. It's a great school."

And it's a school that will be gaining one of Illinois' best high-school wrestlers.

Montini Catholic's Nicole LaMantia brings home USA Hockey Gold

Montini Catholic junior, Nicole LaMantia, received a warm welcome from her high school peers upon her return to the U.S. from the Czech Republic earlier this year with a gold medal in hand. Nicole, who has been playing hockey since the ripe age of three, was selected as a member of the Womens U18 Hockey team in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships. She played in the 3-1 victory over Canada in the gold medal game. This year marked her last year as an eligible contender for the Under-18 National Team.

The adventure began for Nicole when she left on December 29 and headed to New Jersey where she trained for six days. "We used that time to get adjusted to our teammates and to get into the flow of the team," she explained. "While there, we were fortunate enough to be recognized by the New Jersey Devils NHL Hockey Team during their December 31 game!" Nicole and teammates then traveled to the Czech Republic and spent several days practicing and adjusting their sleep to the new time

zone. "We also needed time to adjust to the larger international ice rink size," she said. "Every ice rink always feels a little different." The games began on January 7 and ended with the gold medal game on January 14.

"Winning gold was a moment I will never forget. It is a chilling feeling to be able to stand on the blue line and sing your national anthem alongside your teammates with a gold medal around your neck," said Nicole. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to represent your country in a World Championship,

but to actually win gold is a feeling that cannot be explained."

This isn't the first time Nicole has been in Montini's news. The athlete made headlines last year when, as a sophomore, she committed to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She accepted a full scholarship to play hockey under the leadership of Coach Mark Johnson. A skilled defenseman, Nicole is currently part of the Chicago Mission (Coyote) Hockey program. She is very much looking forward to becoming a Badger.

See photos on pages 9 and 11.

Bair, Glenbard South

-2 sophomore led the Raiders to Suburban Conference Blue and was named all-conference. The only girl in DuPage County to double-double this season with 18 and a county-leading 11.2 a game. "Offensively, she has aspects to her game, making her very difficult to play with her back to the rim, take you off and shoot 3s. Defensively, she can guard a post, a anyone in between," coach Morgan Kasperek said.

**Baird, Wheaton North**

ous all-DuPage Valley Conference foot-2 sophomore guard also was ment at the Falcon Classic. Baird cruited by a number of Big Ten 2 colleges. She led the Falcons in le averaging 10.5 points a game range on her 3-point shot. "The imit with her. She's young, she's g, which is a great thing for us and for her. She's a tremendous player," coach Dave Eaton said.

**Bambule, Montini**

Daily Herald DuPage County ptain also was the GCAC player of ume MVP at Hinsdale South and at Montini, first-team all-state and he Broncos into this weekend's inals. She averaged an incredible 3-point shooting for the Broncos u years. This season she is averaging 13.6 points. We've had some great shooters in the history of id she is by far the best," coach Jason Nichols said. guard will play for Ohio University next season.

**areck, Hinsdale Central**

guard was all-West Suburban year and named to the Hinsdale DeKalb all-tournament teams. Red Devils in every major category, averaging 14.5 points, ids, 3.2 steals and 2.0 assists a made 60 3-pointers and finished insdale Central's all-time scoring list. "She became a player. She was our best defensive player. She was an offensive threat every time she stepped on the ach Tom McKenna said.

**Denris, York**

guard was all-West Suburban ell as all-tournament at Riverfield and York. She averaged 14.0 6.3 rebounds a game and made of her free throws, getting to the line 148 times. "Danielle is a petitor. Her athletic abilities alone shed by most kids at this age and ore importantly, she was the toughest player on the y day in every drill," coach Maggie Ely said.

**iseckas, Benet**

play at Truman State, the senior st Suburban Catholic Conference, ent at Montini and MVP at North and honorable mention he averaged 11.5 points, 7.6 nd 2.2 blocks while leading the o the Elite Eight. "She is one of the lockers and rebounders in the school's history," coach said.

**Johnson, WW South**

st player, Johnson averaged s a game. She was an unanimous Valley Conference pick and rnement at Schaumburg ing and the State Farm holiday its. "Jayla continues to improve of her game. Shooting 55 m the field. Improving her range er to another level next year. Great competitor and," coach Rob Kroehnke said.

**Konkle, Metea Valley**

more post player made the a matchup problem for smaller was an unanimous all-DuPage erence selection and also was ent at Oswego East. Konkle 13.6 points and 7.8 rebounds a a sophomore, being named as a her team, that speaks volumes ach Cedric Williams said, citing tion to make herself a better player.



Tracing the arc of Bambule's game

By MATT LE CREN
Daily Herald Correspondent

Montini senior Kaylee Bambule has been playing basketball for as long as she can remember, but it wasn't until six years ago when she ventured out to 3-point land.

"Probably around sixth grade I started shooting more out there and I thought it was a lot of fun," Bambule said. "I've always just loved being in the gym shooting."

Of course, shooting is always fun when you make your shots, and Bambule has done that with incredible efficiency over her four years in high school.

The 5-foot-8 guard is the Broncos' all-time leading 3-point shooter. Despite missing 14 games due to injury, she has made 292 3-point shots, breaking the previous mark of 276 held by Kateri Stone and Lea Kerstein. That ranks 11th on the IHSA's all-time list.

This season has been Bambule's finest. The Ohio recruit is 115 for 292 from beyond the arc and leads Montini in scoring at 13.6 points a game. Her varsity 3-point percentage is 45 percent.

For her efforts Bambule is the Daily Herald's DuPage County All-Area Girls Basketball Team captain.

More numbers

"When you shoot at a 45 percent career clip, that's amazing," Montini coach Jason Nichols said. "It's outstanding."

"There may be kids that hit more 3s, but she's efficient. Every kid is going to have a bad shooting night. She does not have three or four bad shooting nights in a row."

Bambule, who 1,242 total points heading into this weekend's Class 4A semifinals, is the best player on arguably the best team in the state. The Broncos (32-1) are two wins away from winning their fifth state championship since 2010. They are 127-11 during Bambule's four years.

But Bambule is as humble as she is accurate when asked about her success this season.

"I just think how our team is set up this year, everyone shares the ball," Bambule said. "That's just how it is. All we've ever done is give each other the ball, so if I'm open I shoot it and it just goes in."

And it will go in from anywhere. Bambule has NBA range and is not afraid to shoot from long distance.

"She can bomb," Nichols said. "At the Christmas tournament against Geneva, they were trying to guard her hard and she popped a 26-footer and hit nothing but net, so she's got big-time distance."

Other teams know this and sometimes face-guard Bambule out near midcourt.

"If you started a game and you spread her out to Roosevelt Road (a half-mile from campus), they would guard her," Nichols said. "You have to, she's that good."

The ironic thing is Bambule, a first-team all-state selection, often goes unrecognized by the uninitiated. She has guard skills in a power forward's body and is seemingly more suited to playing fullback.

"Some kids will walk in the gym and just look the part," Nichols said. "She plays it but she doesn't necessarily look it."

"When college coaches that didn't know her would come into the gym earlier in her career, I'd say, 'That's our best player and leading scorer over there.'"

"They're like, 'That kid?' But after the open gym they'd be like, 'Wow.'"

Bambule knows she isn't the most athletic player, but she has made herself great by studying the finer points of the game and listening to her coaches.

DuPage County girls basketball captains

1988-89 — Tammy Kocher, Montini

1989-90 — Ann Hoving, Montini

1990-91 — Jennie Driscoll, St. Francis

1991-92 — Andrea Miller, Willowbrook

1992-93 — Kelly Miller, Lake Park

1993-94 — Terri Zemais, Downers Grove South

1994-95 — Autumn Braddock and Amy Wardle, Hinsdale Central

1995-96 — Casey Leonhardt, Downers Grove North; T.J. Williams, Naperville North

1996-97 — Ashley Luke, Waubonsie Valley

1997-98 — Ashley Luke, Waubonsie Valley

1998-99 — Ashley Luke, Waubonsie Valley

1999-2000 — Charliss Ridley, WW South

2000-01 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central

2001-02 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central

2002-03 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central

2003-04 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central

2004-05 — Kelly Krumwiede, Glenbard West

2005-06 — Erica Carter, Naperville Central

2006-07 — Keilani Moeaki, WW South

2007-08 — Samantha Arnold, Lake Park

2008-09 — Toni Kokenis, Hinsdale Central

2009-10 — Toni Kokenis, Hinsdale Central

2010-11 — Whitney Holloway, Montini

2011-12 — Meghan Waldron, WW South

2012-13 — Meghan Waldron, WW South

2013-14 — Meghan Waldron, WW South

2014-15 — Kathleen Doyle, Benet

2015-16 — Kathleen Doyle, Benet

2016-17 — Kaylee Bambule, Montini

Coach's kid

If that sounds like something a coach would say, it's because Bambule is the daughter of a high school coach and aspires to become a college coach.

Her father, Jeff, coached the boys team at Romeoville for 20 years before stepping down so he could watch Kaylee play in high school. He joined the Montini staff this season as an assistant.

"She's totally a kid who is a product of being a coach's daughter," Nichols said. "You could just tell she knows the game inside and out."

The Broncos have relied on Bambule more than ever in the postseason. She tallied a team-high 15 points the 67-52 win over Young in the sectional final, going 6 for 6 from the free-throw line.

In Monday's supersectional Bambule saved the season when she scored on a driving layup to force overtime. The Broncos went on to defeat Homewood-Flossmoor 39-35 in double overtime and remain unbeaten against Illinois opponents.

Bambule rarely drives to the basket, so her layup was as surprising as it was spectacular. But it was just another example of her ability to do the right

TyAnn LeGrand-Melton, Lisle

The senior guard was all-Interstate Eight Conference player for a third straight year and was named all-IEC Tournament and all-tournament at the Ridgewood Thanksgiving Tournament. LeGrand-Melton led the Lions to 20 wins and a regional title. "TyAnn has grown into a complete player. She did everything for our team. She was our leader," coach Nick Balaban said. LeGrand-Melton averaged 12.4 points, 9.7 rebounds and 2.3 steals a game.

**Tsimba Malonga, Benet**

The junior point guard is weighing offers from a number of Division I universities. The honorable mention all-state selection averaged 12.0 points, 3.0 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 2.2 steals a game while leading the Redwings to the Elite Eight. She was all-East Suburban Catholic Conference and all-tournament at Naperville North and Montini. "Tsimba has been the sparkplug to ignite Benet's full-court pressure and fastbreak offense," coach Joe Kilbride said.

**Aaliyah Patty, Montini**

The 6-foot-3 junior post player is being recruited by a host of Division I universities. She was all-GCAC and an honorable mention all-stater, and she led the Broncos to this weekend's state semifinals. Patty is averaging 10.4 points and 7.4 rebounds. "Her growth from sophomore year to junior year was pretty significant. If she continues like that she could have an extraordinary senior year," coach Jason Nichols said.

**Diamond Pikulyk, Addison Trail**

The senior post player could be dominant for the Blazers. She was all-West Suburban Gold and also all-academic for the league. She will play at Edgewood College next season. Pikulyk averaged 12.0 points and 8.7 rebounds a game. "Diamond was the rock of our team this year. Her dedication to becoming a better basketball player and maturation from her junior to senior season was like no other player I have ever coached," coach Rob Schader said.

**Julie Pospisilova, Downers Grove North**

The 6-foot-1 junior guard/forward has earned the attention of number of Division I universities. She was all-tournament at Wheaton North and Glenbard East, plus all-West Suburban Silver. She averaged 13.4 points, 6.1 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.7 steals and 1.7 blocks a game. "She is a talented basketball player, but even more importantly a wonderful young lady. She played wherever we needed her to play all season and was a tremendous addition to the makeup of our team," coach Stephan Bolt said.

**Catherine Reedy, Glenbard West**

The senior guard earned all-West Suburban Silver honors and was all-tournament at Riverside-Brookfield for the tournament champion Hilltoppers. She made 78.5 percent of her free throws and averaged 13.6 points a game. "Catherine's done so many things for us. Not only does she have the ability to shoot the ball well — she's a great shooter — but her leadership and ballhandling and her defense, putting her on top of the press this year was huge for us."

**Lucy Schmid, Naperville Central**

The 6-foot-2 sophomore post player was an all-DuPage Valley Conference pick and all-tournament at Dundee-Crown. She led the Redhawks in rebounds and was second in 3-point baskets. Schmid averaged 10.5 points a game. "She worked on it. To her credit she was a dramatically improved player from her freshman year to her sophomore year," coach Andy Nussbaum said.

**Hannah Swider, Wheaton North**

The DuPage Valley Conference co-MVP, the 5-foot-9 junior guard also was all-tournament at the Falcon Classic. Swider led the Falcons to the DVC title by averaging a school-record 16 points a game. She made 85 percent of her free throws, the best in DuPage County. Recruiters from a number of major and mid-major Division I colleges are taking notice. "She's a special player. She's just committed to trying to be the best player she can be," coach



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MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com

Naperville North's Mitch Lewis was one of the top boys basketball players in DuPage County this season.

Wrapping up the boys basketball season

Top stories of 2016-17

Benet wins 20 games for the eighth straight season.

Hinsdale South claims its first West Suburban Gold title, sharing it with Willowbrook and Downers Grove South.

Tai Bibbs makes 15 of 20 field-goal attempts in a 41-point effort as West Chicago beats Belvidere North 73-55 at DeKalb.

Wheaton Warrenville South goes 16-0 and wins the DuPage Valley Conference for the first time since 1999.

Willowbrook sets a program record for wins in a season.

The starting five

Tai Bibbs (West Chicago, sr., G), Dillon Durrett (WW South, sr., F), Mitch Lewis (Naperville North, sr., F), Jack Nolan (Benet, sr., G), Ethan Schuemer (Willowbrook, jr., C).

Super sophs

Five sophomores to watch in 2017-18

Caden Anderson, Westmont: The 6-2 swingman averaged 15 points, 6 rebounds.

Eric Cannon, Waubonsie Valley: Already owns two DVC honors.

Matas Masys, Willowbrook: 3-point specialist a two-year varsity contributor

Evan Taylor, Glenbard West: Team leader in scoring, rebounding.

Tom Welch, Naperville North: 6-7 inside-outside talent critical to Huskies' rotation.

Long-distance marksmen

The top 3-point shooters

Denis Alibegovic, Downers Grove South

Tai Bibbs, West Chicago

Jason Gimre, West Chicago

Rowan McGowen, Wheaton North

Jack Nolan, Benet

Distributors

The leaders in assists

Garrett Fant, Lake Park

Drew Healy, WW South

Nick Kosich, York

Ty Merrick, Timothy Christian

Luke Seeman, West Chicago

Glass cleaners

The top rebounders

Charlie Bair, Glenbard South

Ethan Schuemer, Willowbrook

Colton Noel, Addison Trail

Brandon Orange, Timothy Christian

Zion Griffin, Hinsdale South

Five teams to watch in 2017-18

Benet: Tough to argue with eight straight 20-win seasons.

IC Catholic Prep: Returning four playoff starters.

Downers North: Two starting sophs, four in rotation.

Wheaton Warrenville South: Three returning starters for DVC champ.

Willowbrook: All five starters return from program's winningest team.

— Dave Oberhelman and Kevin Schmit



MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com

Wheaton North's Hannah Swider led the Falcons to the DuPage Valley Conference championship this season.

Wrapping up the girls basketball season

Top stories

Wheaton North wins DVC outright, first holiday tournament title since 1990

Montini wins 14th straight sectional championship.

Glenbard South wins sixth straight regional title and goes undefeated in MSC Blue without a senior on the roster.

Naperville Central coach Andy Nussbaum wins 600th game.

Benet's bid for third consecutive state championship ends at supersectional.

Games to remember

Dec. 26: Glenbard South 38, Hinsdale Central 37
Class 3A Raiders prove they can beat good Class 4A teams.

Dec. 29: Wheaton North 57, St. Charles East 55, OT

Falcons win first holiday tournament title since 1990

Jan. 16: Benet 43, Bradley-Bourbonnais 42
The Redwings overcame a 13-point halftime deficit at Subway Classic.

Feb. 4: Wheaton North 30, Naperville Central 29
It wasn't a pretty game to watch, but Falcons clinch DVC in dramatic final seconds.

Feb. 17: Montini 46, Downers Grove North 39
Trojans nearly pulled huge upset in regional final.

Feb. 27: Montini 39, Homewood-Flossmoor 35.

Next up

Five juniors to watch in 2017-18

Lindsey Jarosinski, Montini

Mia Lakstigala, Naperville Central

Aaliyah Patty, Montini

Julie Pospisilova, Downers Grove North

Hannah Swider, Wheaton North

Super sophs

Five sophomores to watch in 2017-18

Maggie Bair, Glenbard South

Nikki Baird, Wheaton North

Lucy Schmid, Naperville Central

Lauren Stack, Benet

Zoe Zacker, Montini

The top youngsters

Five freshmen to watch in 2017-18

Elise Hayes, St. Francis

Nikki Kwilosz, Naperville North

Darrione Rogers, Lake Park

Lindsey Rogers, Benet

Brooke Schramek, Benet

Teams to watch

Benet

Will hunt for another state title.

Montini

Jair, Glenbard South

ir-season games this junior center had 17 bles in points and re-strict 87 and Glenbard West ent, the Illinois Wesleyan Glenbard South season and ounding records at 294 spectively. Repeating as rban Blue all-conference, ed 16.6 points, 11.3 rebounds, 1.4 blocked s going to give you everything he's got g he's doing," said Raiders coach Wade



s, West Chicago

ior guard, deciding be-llage offers, is the DuPage Area boys basketball team st Chicago's third all-time is averaged 26 points, Js, 2.4 assists and made of 240 free throws. Twice all-Upstate Eight Valley, this year's Valley e year hit 74 3s and can tomahawk slam with is overall skills are limitless," said Wildcats ecchia.



ord, Downers South

to Western Michigan, rificed gaudy numbers to istangs win back to back ties. The 6-foot-6 senior, r starter, was a threat to s and on the perimeter. aged 11.9 points, 7.9 nd 2.4 assists. "His number always what he can do for the team," coach aid.



irrett, WW South

s Valley Conference's le player makes a strong r being the area's most fter averaging 2.3 points the 6-foot-3 senior forward rs with 17 points and is while providing crucial nse for one of the DVC's smallest teams. ence allowed us to go to a different level," Healy said.



ant, Lake Park

the first time during his on varsity, Fant finally got full ability. The 6-foot-1 fashed strength and ath-a solid shooter, distributor, nd defender. Fant led the h 18.6 points, 3.9 rebounds ists. "He never let his injuries hold him back," Virostko said.



iray, York

area's strongest players the toughest matchups for An immovable force in the Iso excelled at drawing way from the basket with . The 6-foot-5 senior aged 14.1 points on 56 otting, and grabbed 5.8 He's really grown as a player," coach Vince



tin, Hinsdale South

onto the scene this junior l the 6-foot-5 forward is one of the area's premier year after leading the heir first WSC Gold title. igned 17.3 points on 58 otting and pulled down 8.2 From the beginning of the layed at a very high level," coach Brett Moore



aly, WW South

s of a team-driven point y used his experience an last year to become this season's unbeaten ey Conference champion. 3 senior rarely turned the ile averaging 3.8 assists. J 8.3 points and made 44 3-pointers in the erate offense. "He does all the little things ch Mike Healy said.



watch Bibbs practice basketball or play in a game. Wildcats assistant coach Brian Ricci remembered 21 college programs that visited throughout the season. He admitted he may have forgotten others. The still undecided sweepstakes even pitted brother against brother. The Mullins boys from Downers Grove South — Brendan an assistant at University of Illinois-Chicago, Bryan at Loyola — vied for the attention of the Wildcats' 6-foot-3 senior point guard. The attention was met by souped-up defensive schemes and hounding foes determined to dim the spotlight on Bibbs and his 16 college offers.

"Honestly, it's been difficult," Bibbs said. "Mentally and physically it's kind of taken strength to get through it. But it's definitely going to prepare me for what I have to deal with in the future, so I'm thankful for it."

If frustrated, Bibbs didn't show it. "He's a classy kid, just handled himself exceptionally well on the court the last four times we played them. He's a tough competitor, but he kept his composure," said Glenbard East coach Scott Miller.

Admiration at the high school level was widespread and profuse.

"Every single team that we have played the opposing coach has come up to me and said, by far he's the best player we've faced the entire year," said West Chicago coach Bill Recchia.

And that makes Tai Bibbs the captain of the 2016-17 Daily Herald DuPage County All-Area Boys Basketball Team.

First, the numbers

A three-year starter — teaming his first two seasons with older brother Mikey — Tai Bibbs averaged an even 26 points a game for the 16-12 Wildcats, racking up 701 points.

He made 74 3-point baskets, converting a solid 38 percent from beyond the arc. Conversely, he attempted 240 free throws and made 77 percent of them. Bibbs averaged 4.7 rebounds and led West Chicago with 1.6 steals a game. Maybe most amazing is that for a player who had the ball in his hands as often as he did, Bibbs was credited with more assists than turnovers.

He finished with 1,390 points, West Chicago's third all-time scorer behind John Konchar, now at Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne — where Bibbs holds an offer — and his own coach, Recchia.

"From an athletic standpoint Bibbs is tough to defend," said Glenbard South coach Wade Hardtke. "You can't put a 'big' on him because he's too quick. You can't put a guard on him because he jumps over you."

The most valuable player of West Chicago's Thanksgiving tournament and Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division player of the year despite his team tying for fifth place, Bibbs displayed his full arsenal at DeKalb's Chuck Dayton Holiday Classic, earning all tournament honors while leading the Wildcats to the consolation title.

In four games Bibbs averaged a tourney-best 32.8 points, made 48 percent of his 3-point shots and 59 percent from the floor overall. He surpassed 1,000 points in a 33-point effort against Hampshire and scored his high of 41 points on 15-of-20 shooting in the consolation win over Belvidere North.

"I was aware of his numbers, and his numbers are amazing on their own. But I did not realize how much everyone is doing things out of the ordinary to get the ball out of his hands," said Glenbard West coach Tim Hoder, whose hours of film study paid off by eliminating West Chicago in the Class 4A playoffs.

Box-and-1, triangle-and-2, faceguarding, double-teaming in full- and half-court, sending an extra man at him off ball screens. Bibbs kept coming. He

Honorable mention

Caden Anderson (Westmont, so., F), Eric Cannon (Waubonsie Valley, so., G), Kibet Chepyator (Glenbard North, sr. F), Joey Davidson (Timothy Christian, sr., F), Chris Eck (Hinsdale Central, sr., G), J.D. Gunn (Wheaton Academy, jr., F), Andrew Harvey (St. Francis, jr., F), Jake Healy (WW South, jr. G), Chris Johnson (Naperville North, jr., C), Nick Kramer (Naperville Central, sr., G), Bryan Larsen (Fenton, sr., G/F), Rowan McGowen (Wheaton North, sr., G), Alex Meurer (IC Catholic Prep, jr., G/F), Connor Mullins (Glenbard West, sr., G), Alijah Nelson (Glenbard East, sr., G), Colton Noel (Addison Trail, sr., C), Evan Taylor (Glenbard West, so., G), Brandon Whiteside (Glenbard South, jr., G), Jayston Williams (Montini, jr., F), Ben Wolf (Naperville Central, jr., C).

Editor's note: The 20 All-Area first-team players and 20 honorable mention players are selected from the 29 high schools in DuPage County. They are listed alphabetically.

1992-93 — Anthony Parker, Naperville Central

1993-94 — Adam Shafor, Downers Grove South

1994-95 — Eric Norberg, Downers Grove South

1995-96 — Cory Little, Addison Trail

1996-97 — Brian Wardle, Hinsdale Central

1997-98 — Henry Domercant, Naperville North

1998-99 — Tim Szatko, Naperville Central

1999-2000 — Drew Carstens, Downers Grove North

2000-01 — Kyle Kleckner, Downers Grove North

2001-02 — Derrick Clanton, Waubonsie Valley

2002-03 — Bobby Catchings, Neuqua Valley

2003-04 — Andy Mack, Lake Park

2004-05 — Bryan Mullins, Downers Grove South

2005-06 — Mike Capocci, Glenbard East

2006-07 — Mike Capocci, Glenbard East

2007-08 — John Shuma, Glenbard West

2008-09 — Drew Crawford, Naperville Central

2009-10 — Dwayne Evans, Neuqua Valley

2010-11 — Frank Kaminsky and Dave Sobolewski, Benet

2011-12 — Kenny Obendorf, Metea Valley

2012-13 — David Cohn, York

2013-14 — Sean O'Mara, Benet

2014-15 — Matt Hafferty, Hinsdale Central

2015-16 — Justin Pierce, Glenbard West

2016-17 — Tai Bibbs, West Chicago

elevated for 3s and feathery pullup jumpers. He drove for epic tomahawk dunks, picked people's pockets for breakaway slams.

"You can do a fantastic job on him and he still may score, and there's just not that many high school kids you can say that about," Hoder said.

There's more

"He is as humble as if he was the last man on the bench," Ricci said. "Your best player has to be your hardest worker, Tai fits that also. He leads drills and usually works harder than his teammates. He understands he is under a microscope and acts accordingly."

Recchia noted Bibbs' ability to accept coaching, being the first to arrive at practice and the last to leave. He praised Bibbs' desire to work with younger players; Bibbs himself called sophomore teammates Isaac Nelson and Jordan Wilkins "my younger brothers."

Those traits started at home. His parents are the former Sarah Meyers, once a star track athlete at West Chicago, and Chris Bibbs, a self-described attitude problem on the court at Lake Park.

"I was definitely more of the type of basketball player who couldn't be told anything," Chris Bibbs said. "I tried to teach my kids to be the exact opposite of who I was in high school."

It's worked. Tai Bibbs, who said his grade-point average is around 4.7 on a 4-point scale, handled all those recruiters, all those clutching defenders, with style.

"Everyone always says to try to enjoy your senior year the best you can and try to avoid all the distractions and focus on the important things," he said. "School, family and basketball. Obviously, that's important to me."

coach Matt Walpole.

Bryan Jakobsze, Downers North

Jakobsze showed what happens when skill and athleticism combine with high energy. The 6-foot-6 senior forward excelled at everything from rebounding to securing loose balls, and his scoring ability ranged from the perimeter to the post. He averaged 14.7 points and 4.4 rebounds. "He's been the linchpin in our program the last two years," coach Jim Thomas said.



Mitch Lewis, Naperville North

Lewis graduates as a three-year starter, but this was the senior's first season without injury. The 6-foot-5 forward is committed to Miami of Ohio to play football, although he easily could have chosen college basketball. Lewis averaged 14.5 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.8 assists. "Mitch might be the best player I've ever coached," coach Jeff Powers said.



Liam Lyman, Benet

Lyman spent only two years at Benet, but he helped the program win a state runner-up trophy and notch an eighth straight 20-win season. The 6-foot-4 senior forward's role expanded greatly, including some of the team's most difficult defensive assignments. He averaged 14.8 points and 6.8 rebounds. "He's been a complete player for us," coach Gene Heidkamp said.



Mark McGrath, Lisle

Lisle shortened practices because this 6-2 senior forward knows one speed — breakneck. Consistently outsized, the Wisconsin-Whitewater football recruit nonetheless averaged 18.5 points and 6.8 rebounds to head Lisle's first regional champion since 2005. The program's second-leading scorer is a repeat All-Area pick, a two-time unanimous all-Interstate Eight Conference selection with 1,421 points entering sectionals. "His greatest attribute is his desire to win," said Lions coach Mark LaScala. "That's what drives everything."



Blaise Meredith, Neuqua Valley

Wildcats coach Todd Sutton continually praised this 6-2 senior guard. Meredith entered regionals averaging 15 points then scored a season-high 26 with six 3s against Plainfield East. All-DuPage Valley Conference and all-tournament at Hoops for Healing and East Aurora, the two-year starter led Neuqua in assists, hit 73 3s on 37 percent shooting from the arc and officially took 19 charges. "He's our hardest worker and he's one tough guy," Sutton said.



Jack Nolan, Benet

Nolan always seemed to come through when Benet needed him most. The 6-foot-1 senior guard had big games last season as Benet claimed second place in Class 4A, but this year his consistency was staggering. He averaged 18 points with 88 3-pointers on 40-percent shooting. "He's been a marked man, but he's overcome it," coach Gene Heidkamp said.



Ethan Schuemer, Willowbrook

Schuemer thrived in the post while averaging close to a double-double. The 6-foot-6 junior center grew and became stronger in his second varsity season, allowing him to dominate at both ends of the court. Schuemer averaged 16.8 points and 9.4 rebounds. "He's our rock out there," coach Chris Perkins said. "He keeps getting better at what he already does well."



Michael Williams, Addison Trail

Each year, including the last two on varsity, Williams worked at adding something new to his game while growing from a 5-foot-10 freshman. The hard work paid off for Williams as a senior. The 6-foot-5 forward averaged 15 points and 5.7 rebounds. "To see him develop for us the last four years has been nice to see," coach Brendan Lyons said.

