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D123456

First Pitch!





NICOLE
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BRONCOS



KYLE
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WARRIORS



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WILDCATS



RYAN
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Daily Herald

Baseball & Softball

Preview 2017



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Downers Grove South**Coach:** Darren Orel.

Last year: 24-10, 12-6, second in West Suburban Gold; lost 5-2 to Plainfield Central in Class 4A Downers South regional semifinals.

Top players: Michael Hall, Jr., 3B; Cameron Crowley, Jr., P-OF; Nick Stacey, Jr., OF-P; Brett Riegler, Jr., C; Mike Greco, Jr., 1B-P; Mike Hoes, Jr., SS; Anthony Stellato, Jr., 2B; Keegan Garland, Jr., C-1B; Mike Wagner, Jr., C.

Scouting report: An inexperienced, smaller group — 16 total players and only one starting senior in Greco — still should claim its standard spot at or near the top of the Gold standings despite the graduation of Danny Oriente, who last season hit .500 and is now at Louisville. The key is the further development of four juniors who spent last season on varsity. "We're going to make some mistakes because of how young we are, but we'll be better as we go along," Orel said. Last year's sophomores — Crowley, Hall, Stacey and Riegler — made an immediate impact. Crowley hit .421 and won five games on the mound. Riegler and Hall each hit over .380. Sophomores Hoes, Stellato and Garland aim for similar results this year. Stacey, Greco and others must deepen the inexperienced pitching staff behind Crowley.

Fenton**Coach:** David Schwabe.

Last year: 14-20, 8-11, sixth in Metro Suburban West; lost 4-1 to Lincoln Park in Class 4A Lane Tech regional quarterfinals.

Top players: Bryan Larsen, Jr., SS-P; Joey Simoncelli, Jr., 2B; Garrett Focht, Jr., 3B; Tommy Mach, Jr., C-P; Danny Lucas, Jr., P-1B; Jordan Vogel, Jr., P; Tim Beecroft, Jr., 1B-P; Ryan Kielbasa, Jr., C-P; Nick Mercado, Jr., OF.

Scouting report: The Bison beat three of the four MSC West teams

The DuPage Dozen*Scouting the top baseball players in DuPage County*

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.
Joe Donovan	Westmont	Sr.	C-IF-OF
Ryan Eiermann	Naperville Central	Sr.	P
Kyle Ferguson	Willowbrook	Sr.	2B
James Gargano	Nequa Valley	Sr.	SS
Connor Gurnik	Naperville Central	Sr.	SS
Zach Heck	Glenbard North	Sr.	C
James Kulak	Nequa Valley	Jr.	P
Alex Luka	Montini	Sr.	P-1B
Dan Mazzei	Hinsdale South	Sr.	OF
Alex Schram	Waubensie Valley	Sr.	P
Tim Sullivan	St. Francis	Sr.	SS-P
Matt Vass	Metea Valley	Sr.	P

Glenbard North**Coach:** Rich Smelko.

Last year: 9-27, 5-19, eighth in DuPage Valley; lost 16-4 to St. Charles North in Class 4A Hoffman Estates regional semifinals.

Top players: Zach Heck, Jr., C; Nick Frawley, Jr., SS-P; Anthony Sottile, Jr., OF-P; Zach Bachara, Jr., 1B-P; Jim Zay, Jr., IF-P; Mike Wellman, Jr., OF-P; Anthony Ferreri, Jr., IF-OF; Dom Rotondo, Jr., IF; John Marron, Jr., P; Giuseppe Riggio, Jr., OF.

Scouting report: Three of the Panthers' top four hitters return as the team strength shifts to offense. "Our middle of the order guys should be pretty good," Smelko said. "The key is piecing together the back half." Heck is a two-time all-DVC honoree, and last season he hit .420 with 18 RBI. Frawley came on late and wound up batting .333 with 15 RBI. Bachara hit .302 with 18 RBI. There are plenty of sticks to drive in runs if guys like Sottile can get on base ahead of them. Pitching is a work in progress, but there's a positive in the numerous options. Frawley, Bachara, Wellman and Marron are among the contributors. "If our pitchers can throw strikes and we make the routine plays, we should be OK," Smelko said. "We just need to get some of

of the lineup. Ficarella, healthy from a football injury, is another speedster. Pitching consistency and depth will be much improved with Kaske, who won 4 games, Fenske and Monocchio. "This is the group that could turn the corner for us," Schultz said.

Hinsdale Central**Coach:** Jason Ziemer.

Last year: 23-14, 11-7, third in West Suburban Silver; lost 12-0 to Plainfield North in Class 4A Metea Valley regional final.

Top players: Mitchell Mulvihill, Jr., SS; Travis Pelton, Jr., 3B-P; Peter Pigatti, Jr., C; John Harzich, Jr., OF-IF; J.P. Medick, Jr., OF; Andrew Zapka, Jr., OF-P; Kyle Wisch, Jr., P-3B-DH; Matt Deiss, Jr., P-1B-OF; Peter Mercurio, Jr., P-IF; Murphy Juska, Jr., P.

Scouting report: It's a small senior class, but all five will contribute. Combined with a junior class that won 20 games last year and claimed the Silver title as freshmen, this should be a solid three-class team. Wisch is a hard-throwing sophomore already receiving significant college attention. "We have a lot of new guys, but they're talented," Ziemer said. "It's just a matter of getting them varsity experience." Zapka posted a 2.59 ERA in 27 innings while notching 4 wins. After Wisch the staff is uncertain, but that's because of the numerous options thanks to depth. Mulvihill was one of last year's leading hitters with a .352 average and 22 RBI. Pigatti, coming off injury, batted .338 while Zapka drove in a team-high 26 runs. The offense could roll with Medick's leadership from the top of the order.

Hinsdale South**Coach:** Paul Hoel.

Last year: 29-7, 17-1, first in West Suburban Gold; lost 10-2 to Downers North in Class 4A Plainfield East regional semifinals.

Top players: Dan Mazzei, Jr., OF; Engstrom, Jr., IF; Sam Fenske,

Salvi returning. Morris and Sutton both could see time at leadoff. The pitching staff has a solid 1-2 tandem with Russ and Reed.

"We have a lot of good baseball players, and that's going to give us a lot of flexibility," DeAngelis said.

Lake Park**Coach:** Dan Colucci.

Last year: 22-13, 14-10, tied for third in DuPage Valley; lost 5-4 to St. Charles North in Class 4A Schaumburg sectional semifinals.

Top players: Paul Beverly, Jr., P-IF; Sean Cummins, Jr., OF; Zach Aehlert, Jr., C; Dan Defino, Jr., P; Anthony DeConcillis, Jr., SS; Joe Amore, Jr., 1B; Matt Latoria, Jr., 2B; Ian Renger, Jr., 3B-P; Isaac Bracher, Jr., OF; Jay Palmer, Jr., P.

Scouting report: The Lancers graduated their entire starting lineup from last year's regional title team, but they're reloading quickly. Six seniors played a lot last year while four juniors — Beverly, Aehlert, DeConcillis and Palmer — were up on varsity throughout their sophomore campaign. Last summer the combined group went 21-3. "They have talent, it's just unproven," Colucci said. "If we get off to a good start, we think we can be in the mix at the end of the season." Of the 20 players on the roster, 14 are pitchers. The depth should counter the inexperience of only 20 innings returning to the mound from Beverly and Defino. Aehlert, Beverly and DeConcillis all contributed to the offense as sophomores. "It's hard to predict what the lineup will look like right now," Colucci said. "We've got a lot of options right now."

Lisle**Coach:** Pete Meyer.

Last year: 16-15, 7-9, tied for second in Interstate Eight North; lost 4-3 to Timothy Christian in Class 2A Timothy Christian regional final.

Scouting report: There may

season, many and injuries all hit over .300 and Luka drove in a team-high 29 runs. Walsh will slide into the leadoff spot. The Broncos graduated their top pitchers, leaving some work to be done on the mound. Luka had 5 wins last year while Rogers and Mallory combined for 45 innings. Quick was the best pitcher on last year's sophomore team. "We don't have a dominant ace, but we have a bunch of pitchers capable of stepping up," Janor said.

Naperville Central

Coach: Mike Stock.

Last year: 24-11, 16-8, tied for first in DuPage Valley; lost 4-3 to Neuqua Valley in Class 4A Bowlingbrook regional final.

Top players: Ryan Eiermann, sr., P; Connor Gurnik, sr., SS; Jack Hughes, sr. C; Gabe Soria, sr., 3B; Charlie Walzer, sr., P; Tyler Brinker, sr., P; Nick Rietz, sr., P; Ben Rietz, sr., P; Blake McClung, sr., P; Tommy Carlson, Jr., OF; Josh Boomgarden, sr., OF; Kyle Bennington, sr., OF.

Scouting report: With Eiermann committed to TCU, and Gurnik committed to Cal Poly, back for a third varsity season, the senior-heavy Redhaws will be a contender to repeat in the DVC and forge a strong postseason run. "They've all worked so hard, and as seniors the urgency isn't lost on them," Stock said. Eiermann won 6 games with a 2.45 ERA, striking out 70 in 55 innings. Walzer and Brinker return extensive pitching experience, while McClung and Nick and Ben Rietz also pitched some last season. With Eiermann in the lead, they'll form one of the area's top staffs. There are many more questions in the lineup, where about half the positions remain undecided. Certainties are Gurnik and Hughes in the middle of the order, Carlson possibly at leadoff and Soria in a key spot.

Naperville North

Coach: Carl Hunckler.

Last year: 16-15, 13-11, tied for fifth in DuPage Valley; lost 5-3 to

North State trophy. "This is the deepest team we've ever had," Renner said. "We'll have guys on the bench who would have started for us in past years." The Wildcats boast the experience of returners like Gargano, who last season hit .356, and Waeghe, who won 5 games — a duo that's headed to play at Butler. The senior class is strong and bolstered by a junior group that lost only four games the last two years. Kulak and Castro combined for 12 wins. Keep an eye on another junior in Rannekev. With Wheeler, Herdman, Schneider and Nelson hitting behind Gargano, the Wildcats will hit one through nine.

St. Francis

Coach: Nick Hall.

Last year: 21-13, 9-12, seventh in Chicago Catholic Blue; lost 15-8 to Willowbrook in Class 4A Lake Park regional semifinals.

Top players: Tim Sullivan, sr., SS; Nolan Pechan, sr., OF; Zach Crescenzo, sr., OF; Connor Quinn, sr., OF-P; Tommy Mayor, sr., P; Nick Kosmetatos, so., 2B; Shane Walker, sr., 1B; Trevor Hicks, so., C; Tom Siurek, so., C.

Scouting report: The Spartans graduated five of the first six batters in their order as well as their top three pitchers. Combined with another year in Class 4A and the CCL Blue, they'll have their hands full but will improve as the season progresses. "The senior class was so strong for us last year," Hall said. "It's going to take about 10 games to see how everything fits together." Sullivan is a three-year starter who last season hit .296 and scored 34 runs. He'll be in the top three of the order and, unlike last year, he'll also be a main pitcher. Kosmetatos made his presence felt as a freshman, batting .346 in the second half of the season. Pechan is another bat in the top half of the order. Pechan, Kosmetatos and Quinn, who returns 23 innings, lead the pitching staff. "There's potential," Hall said. "I really think this is a group that'll get better every week."

quarterfinals.

Top players: Matt Dall, sr., SS; Keaton Lauro, sr., IF; Matt Natzke, Jr., P-1B; Mike Sawicki, Jr., C; Jeff Zajac, sr., P-IF; Rob Szulczewski, sr., OF; Billy Lietzow, Jr., IF; Chris Bangert, sr., P-OF; Marc Pischetola, Jr., P.

Scouting report: Nall replaces longtime West Chicago coach Dan McCarthy, who retired from teaching at the end of last school year. Nall is a Schaumburg graduate who played eight years in the Dodgers minor-league organization. An assistant and head coach at various levels, Nall's goal is to hit the ground competing.

"I couldn't be happier with where I landed," he said. "We just want to compete from the first pitch on." The Wildcats suffered significant graduation losses, but Dall is back to anchor the defense at shortstop and lead the offense after last season batting .317.

Szulczewski hit .295. Lietzow at the top of the order, Lauro, Natzke and Sawicki must fill in around them. The pitching staff graduated more than 120 innings. Arms must develop among Natzke, Zajac, Bangert and others.

Westmont

Coach: D.J. Cocks.

Last year: 21-15, 7-9, tied for second in Interstate Eight North; lost 6-4 to St. Joseph in Class 2A St. Joseph regional semifinals.

Top players: Joe Donovan, sr., C-IF-OF; Dan Fredericks, sr., P-IF; Michael Kokoszka, Jr., P-IF-OF; Chad Johnson, Jr.,



Class 3A Vernon Hills regional final.

Top players: Harrison Taylor, sr., OF-SS; Payton Sowa, Jr., P-SS; Jake Koslosky, Jr., P-IF; Kellen Mitchell, sr., P-IF; Anthony Vavrinchik, sr., 2B; Isaiah Bedrossian, sr., OF; Jason Poulos, sr., P; Max Martin, so., P; Mike Cortez, so, P; Jimmy Paganis, so., P.

Scouting report: Behind a trio of three-year starters in Taylor, Vavrinchik and Mitchell, the Warriors will make a strong run at defending their conference title. "You never know how they're going to react, but I like the way this group is coming together," Byrne said. Taylor is the top returning hitter after last season batting .275. Sowa drove in 22 runs. With Vavrinchik, Koslosky and Mitchell, the Warriors hope to improve upon last season's .279 team average. Sowa and Mitchell combined for 9 victories and 95 innings while posting sub-3.00 ERAs. Koslosky returns another 32 innings and earned 2 wins. There are four sophomores on the roster, and all of them will pitch for a deep staff and contribute to a deep lineup. "I don't think we've had this kind of depth in the 10 years I've been here," Byrne said.

Wheaton North

Coach: Dan Schoessling.

Last year: 19-16, 13-11, tied for fifth in DuPage Valley; lost 6-1 to St. Charles North in Class 4A Hoffman Estates regional final.

Top players: Erik Mueller, sr., 3B; John Carlson, sr., SS; Ben Leander, sr., IF; Jackson Gray, Jr., P; Andrew Nelson, sr., P; D.J. Hagen, Jr., OF; Chris Donahue, Jr., OF; Connor Olson, Jr., OF; Mitch Creer, sr., C; Jonathan Vesevick, Jr., P; Bjorn Bostrom, Jr., P.

Scouting report: It took a grind for the Falcons to pull out 19 wins last year. It'll take a similar grind this season with an inexperienced pitching staff that graduated three arms accounting for 150 innings and 18 wins. "The first few weeks we'll need to get the pitching

benefits of that young arm

Willowbrook

Coach: Vic Wisner.

Last year: 18-17, 11-7, third in West Suburban Gold; lost 4-3 to Lake Park in Class 4A Lake Park regional final.

Top players: Kyle Ferguson, sr., 2B; M.J. Ranieri, sr., SS; Jon Kelso, sr., OF; Trevor Jaloszynski, so., OF; Alec Michaelson, sr., P; Scott Kohrt, sr., P; Will Hines, sr., P; Ben Espinoza, sr., OF; Dan Gusel, sr., C; Mike Dembowsky, sr., 1B; Ryan Mintz, so., P; Jack Hines, so., P-SS; Jack Nilles, so., P-SS.

Scouting report: Last year's freshman team went 28-2 with three players up on the sophomore team and Jaloszynski on varsity. The team then went out and won 20 straight games in the summer. While that guarantees nothing, it makes the Warriors an interesting team to watch. "We don't want to rush this group but they look ready," Wisner said. Look for seniors to anchor the top of the batting order. Ferguson is a three-year starter who drove in 32 runs last season. Kelso drove in another 19 and Espinoza launched 3 homers in the summer. The batting order isn't set, but there are options. Michaelson went 5-0 with a sub-1.00 ERA in the summer. Will Hines and Kohrt also have pitching experience. Mintz, Jack Hines and Nilles need to step up.

York

Coach: Dave Kalal.

Last year: 19-15, 10-8, fourth in West Suburban Silver; lost 14-4 to Lane Tech in Class 4A Lane Tech regional semifinals.

Top players: Nick Lee, sr., OF-1B-P; Joey Chiappetta, Jr., 3B-OF-P; Ian Steinorth, so., 2B; Ryan Ross, so, SS; Joey Yaeger, Jr., 1B-DH; Burke Corcoran, sr., P; Mike Bernal, sr., C-3B; Andrew Deardurff, Jr., OF; Mike Pastuovic, Jr., 1B.

Scouting report: The Dukes took a look at their future last season, and now they hope to reap the benefits of that young arm

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Addison Trail

Coach: Mark Olson (fifth season).

Last year: 10-20, 2-10 in West Suburban Gold (sixth place); lost to Elgin 4-1 in Class 4A St. Charles North regional quarterfinals.

Top players: Marie Baumgartner, sr. IF; P; Jessica Bach, sr. 3B; Sophia Hawkins, soph. C-OF; Ally Pohlad, soph. P-IF; Vincenza Zaccaro, jr. OF; Kathleen Lacini, jr. OF; Gianna Trippiedi, jr. C-1B; Gianna Sari, jr., 2B.

Scouting report: The Blazers return eight starters, yet only three are seniors. "We had a little baptism by fire last year. We're hoping that pays some dividends, although we're still young," Olson said. Baumgartner is a four-year starter who with Pohlad will rotate pitching and infield duties. Bach is a three-year starter. Trippiedi will split time catching with Hawkins, the other 2016 starter as a freshman. "For us it's going to be doing the little things," Olson said. "When we do it, we've been successful, but that'll be the ultimate challenge."

Benet

Coach: Jerry Schliff.

Last year: 5-21, 2-12 in East Suburban Catholic Conference (seventh place); lost 8-4 in Class 3A regional final to St. Francis.

Top players: Kiara Gallagher, sr., 1B/OF; Alexis Potapczak, jr., 3B; Allie Goettsch, jr., SS; Meagan McCormick sr., C/3B; Elena Stevensen, soph., P/2B; Danielle Bernicky, sr., RF; Nina Hulet, sr., LF.

Scouting report: A young Redwings squad may look to as many as six freshmen to deliver key contributions this spring, but seven starters are back from 2016. Team Offensive MVP Gallagher is back after earning all-conference honors as a junior. "We struggled last year," Schliff said. "But a lot of young players got experience last spring." Freshmen pitcher/1B Megan Seranko and infielder/utility player Allison Forney are in

while Payton Buresch opted not to play her senior season. Meyer, who was 7-1 with a 2.43 ERA, is the only pitcher with significant varsity experience. McKay, a Wisconsin-Green Bay recruit, and Hermann were all-conference last year. "Our team is developing a new identity based on the tradition of our past successes," Berg said. "We are working hard to be explosive and relentless. This team is one of the hardest-working teams that I have ever coached. We have girls that truly want to work hard and to the best of their abilities."

Fenton

Coach: Dave Mello.

Last year: 11-27, 1-11, last in Metro Suburban Conference West Division, lost in regional final.

Top players: Taylor Spizzirri, sr., P; Jenna Geraci, sr., P/OF; Isa Lozada, so., SS; Payton Pugliese, so., 2B; Rose Riley, jr., 3B; Annie Gonzales, sr., OF.

Scouting report: After a tough regular season, the Bison caught fire and beat Proviso East and Niles North in the playoffs before losing 1-0 to Whitney Young in the regional final. That performance, in their first foray into the Class 4A postseason, has the Bison excited for 2017. Spizzirri, who will play at Aurora, and Elmhurst-bound Geraci will lead the way for a relative young team that includes eight newcomers. They will be tested early against ranked teams Fremd, Trinity and Elk Grove. "We love the way the first week (of practice) went," Mello said. "Everyone is working hard and we are trying to prepare them for what is a very difficult first few games. Our philosophy has always been to play these types of teams so that we can do what we did last year in the postseason. We want to be ready to play our best ball in late May."

Glenbard East

Coach: Dawn Chantros.

Last year: 10-21; lost 17-2 in 4A regional semifinals to Conant after opening the playoffs with a

The DuPage Dozen

Scouting the top softball players in DuPage County

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.
Sydney Bajusz	Metee Valley	Sr.	OF
Mady Carli	Glenbard South	Jr.	CF
Bri Clifton	Montini	Jr.	P
Nicole Cuchran	Montini	Sr.	3B
Bailee Flanagan	Glenbard South	Jr.	1B
Natalie Grubczak	Lake Park	So.	P
Abbey Place	Naperville Central	Sr.	P
Savannah Rodriguez	Downers North	Jr.	P/1B
Annie Tassi	Naperville Central	Sr.	3B
Zoe Varsbergs	Downers North	Sr.	1B/OF
Shelby Winkelman	St. Francis	Jr.	3B/P
Veronica Zahn	Waubensie Valley	Sr.	CF

Last year: 25-6, 12-0 and first place Metro Suburban Conference West Division; Lost to eventual state-champion Montini 3-0 in Class 3A sectional final.

Top players: Mady Carli, jr., CF; Bailee Flanagan, jr., 1B; Daniella Little, soph., P/3B; Sarah Marsden, sr., catcher.

Scouting report: Four-year starter and league MVP Payton Carli will be missed, along with fellow 2016 Daily Herald All-Area player Ashley Cohen, who pitched and played short last spring, but once again the Raiders will be a tough team to beat. "We are a mix of youth and experience that will give any team a run for their money," Fonda said. "We return nine from last year's team so the core is strong. The infield is returning and we have filled the gaps with some talented sophomores and juniors. Expectations are high." With Little a sophomore, there's youth on the mound, but she did gain invaluable experience last year and is hungry for more success.

Glenbard West

Coach: Mary McGrane.

Last year: 7-21, 3-9 and sixth in the WSC Silver; lost in Class 4A regional quarterfinals 6-2 to Glenbard East.

Top players: Katherine Porter, sr., 2B; Lexi Gregule, jr., CF.

Scouting report: The young Hilltoppers will count on new-

in outfielders Alyssandra Eccardt and Brooklyn Campos and third baseman Dani Murillo. "Our strength is probably hitting and our weakness is we are really young and will take time to jell," Reaber said.

Lake Park

Coach: James Chellson.

Last year: 29-8, 15-1, first place in the DuPage Valley Conference; lost 2-1 in the Class 4A regional final to St. Charles North.

Top players: Natalie Grubczak, soph., P; Courtney Worcester sr., 3B; Jessica Gaseor, jr., OF; Melanie Bogus, jr., C; Emily Frank, jr., P/DH; Abby Rodriguez, soph., SS; Alyssa Sturino, soph., OF.

Scouting report: The Lancers will lean heavily on Grubczak — the DVC Player of the Year — to take charge again in the circle and make another run at the conference championship. "Last year we were unsure of Natalie's full potential but knew we had a special player that could lead us on the mound even as a freshman," Chellson said. "Last year's seniors provided tons of offensive support so Nat could afford to make some freshmen mistakes without feeling she needed to be perfect." The Lancers return seven starters from the 2016 team and hope to continue the offensive run support needed to compete in the tough DVC. Leading the offensive charge will be Worcester, Gaseor and Grubczak. "We know the target is on our back this year and hopefully we embrace that challenge and continue to stay hungry for another DVC title and successful run in the state playoffs," Chellson added.

Lisle

Coach: Trent Schalk.

Last year: 13-16, 5-11 in Interstate Eight Conference Small Division, lost to St. Edward in Class 2A Lisle sectional final.

Top players: Catherine Coppin, sr., CF/C; Amanda Ericson, jr., P; Tiffany Harmon, sr., IF; Anna

and experience. "The senior leadership will be key in helping our young players develop and learn the system quickly. We will be young on the mound so we will need to depend on a solid defense and our offense will need to consistently produce runs," Kalivas said. Sophomore pitcher Kelly Collins, freshman pitcher Rissa Bajusz, senior outfielder Amy Foulis, junior Brianna Falk, freshman Moira Danko and sophomore Samantha Golminas are also expected to contribute. Sydney Bajusz (Cleveland State), Harrington (North Central College), Hinkle (Lakeland University) and Zenkel (Trinity Christian College) will all continue playing next season in college.

Montini

Coach: Mike Bukovsky.

Last year: 37-3, 15-1, first place in GCAC; Class 3A champion.

Top players: Nikki Cuchran, jr., 3B; Bri Clifton, jr., P; Naomi Alonzo, sr., P/1B; Lauren Latoria, soph., 2B; Emily Alexander, soph., OF; Alyssa Filkowski, soph., OF.

Scouting report: Five players now playing in college departed after the school's first softball state title, but the Broncos still return plenty of firepower, beginning with Cuchran, a two-time All-Area selection who hit .596 with 15 HR while picking up first team All-State honors and runner-up Gatorade Player of the Year in Illinois status. On top of that, Montini returns both pitchers, including ace Clifton, who went 22-1 as a sophomore. "First of all, the game is all about pitching and we bring back our No. 1 and No. 2 pitchers in Clifton and Naomi Alonzo," Bukovsky said. "It starts with them and we feel real good about them. Defensive star Alexander returns to the outfield and key newcomers to line up include senior shortstop Serena Almudovar, senior left fielder Tia Sondej and junior catcher Sam Feruzza. "We have a new challenge this year, and we're not going to be able to sneak up on anybody," Bukovsky said. "These nine are looking to

Top players: Caroline Caesar, so., C/1B; Carlee Clark, so., P/1B; Becca Imbrogno, jr., OF; Josie Smith, jr., SS; Shelby Winkelman, jr., P/3B.

Scouting report: Youth is the key word for the Spartans this season. "This is the youngest team we've ever had. There are no seniors, but there's quite a bit of talent. We will get a lot better as the season goes on," Remus said. He said the Spartans' two pitchers, Winkelman and Clark, are strong. "The offense is a little head of the defense, but the defense has talent and will improve as time goes on," the Spartans coach said. Imbrogno, Caesar and Smith are also expected to be key to St. Francis' chances of success. Winkelman was GCAC White Player of the Year last season, hitting .540 with 45 RBI. On the mound, she was 14-1.

Timothy Christian

Coach: Lindsay Slovey.

Last year: Lost in regional semifinal.

Top players: Emily Gifford, sr., P/1B; Hope Zastrow, sr., C; Bianca Jimenez, fr., 3B/OF; Allison Heersink, so., P/3B; Liv Schuringa, jr., 1B/OF; Lauren Gehrke, so., 2B/OF.

Scouting report: Slovey is in her first year and still getting to know the program. She's got one future college player in Gifford, who recently signed with Trinity International. "While we are working to strengthen and rebuild our softball team, we are optimistic and excited to start the season," Slovey said. "We are looking forward to working hard and succeeding with our returning players." The top newcomers include senior shortstop Samantha Leide, junior outfielder Emily Penning, sophomore outfielder Ande Dixon and freshmen Elizabeth Arcos and Kelly Tameiling. "Our goals this season will be to play our best and look at each game as a possible win," Slovey said. "We're looking forward to competing in our conference and the postseason."

Waubonsie Valley

Coach: Val Wood.

is crucial to the Wildcats and that's why she is on the top of the batting order. Dehaeseleer is entering her second season on the varsity. Sophomores Hernandez and Trigueros were all-conference selections. "We're

they will build on that success. "We have a strong group of juniors who all played varsity last year," Zapinski said. "They struggled hitting varsity pitching last year, but with a year under their belt we look forward to them

Top players: Megan Gagliano, sr. CF; Maddie Ebeling, jr. SS; Andi Pwaronas, sr. P/1B; Haleigh VanWagner, jr. C; Courtney Kimane, jr. P/1B; Julia Palmer, jr. IF/OF; Cassie Bonga, jr. IF; Ashley Valente, sr. OF; Krysta Deutsch, jr. OF/IF.

leading the Falcons in average runs, on-base percentage and 6 home runs from the leadoff spot. Gorzak, who will be a third-year starting pitcher, was special mention all-DVC. Oviatt was among RBI leaders with Gerry.

Willowbrook

Coach: Rachel Karos.

Last year: 14-16, 5-5, fourth place in WSC Gold; lost in Class 4A regional semis 12-0 to Elk Grove.

Top players: Jiana Furtetas, jr., SS; Megan Talan, sr., 2B; Katie Smith, jr., C; Samantha Mishlove, soph., CF; Veronica Swan, sr., P; Emily King, sr., utility.

Scouting Report: The combination of young talent and experienced seniors and juniors should help the Warriors in many areas of the game this year. "With the addition of some speed and improved bats in the lineup, we are hoping to improve our offensive game," Karos said. "What I admire about my team this year is their hustle and their love for the game. These characteristics are helping us further develop our strengths and improve on our weaknesses. Our main goal for the season is to compete and to continue to get better and more confident with each game." Newcomers to watch this spring include Amy Bussa, Maddie Campbell, Anna Carson, Ali Letson, Marissa Marcello, Katie Pettinger and Chloe Zunkel.

York

Coach: Elizabeth Munn.

Last year: 13-12, 6-6 in WSC Silver, lost in sectional semifinals.

Top players: Kyra Kroll, jr., CF; Andrea Meagher, jr., P/1B; Katherine Karnatz, so., SS/2B; Mia Tran, jr., 2B/OF; Julia Durkowski, so., P; Izzy Smith, so., 3B; Madison Collins, jr., C.

Scouting report: First-year coach Elizabeth Munn takes over a team that is rebuilding after winning a regional championship. But there is still talent to make another postseason run. Kroll has already committed to Western Illinois and several other Dukes are being recruited. Munn wants a top-three finish in the WSC Silver, a tall task considering Oak Park is the reigning Class 4A champion and several other teams are usually strong. "This team is still very young and we are in a rebuilding year after losing several seniors," Munn said. "Rebuilding is always tough, but I definitely



Girls soccer season preview

D123456

how the coaching staff would like them to play and to become familiar with their positions and develop team chemistry, both on and off the field" and see better results. Juniors Rebecca Barreto, Aurelia Carulli and Jess West and sophomores Hannah Arista and Victoria Szeklarczyk return. "We need to stay together, and if we do, this group could become very competitive," Stanfield said.

Lake Park only went 5-15-2 and was winless in the DuPage Valley Conference, but the Lancers were competitive and should be even better this spring. "We have strong senior leadership, and a large group of juniors that we are looking to develop over the course of the season," Lancers coach Sean Crosby said. "Our central midfield is a strength and we have some very versatile players that can play multiple positions." Senior Natalie Morales, juniors Briana McAllon, Jaclyn Lamz and Lauren Tarchala and sophomore Cynthia Martinez return.

Several area teams have the good fortune of club players joining their squad, including Metea Valley, which welcomes back Nicki Hernandez and Maeve Reardon, who both played for the Mustangs as freshmen. They returned to club but now are back as seniors. "Nicki provides a nice scoring threat from the midfield and Maeve provides speed and energy from the wing," Mustangs coach Chris Whaley said. Hernandez and Jade Eriksen-Russo should be a wonderful combination, along with Abby Severson. Chesney Wargo, Katherine Wieland and goalkeeper Amy Ahern also return. "We have 10 returning starters from last year's group that made it to the sectional finals," Whaley said. "We should have good team chemistry and lots of experience."

It's become a common theme at Naperville Central. The Redhawks are going to play you tough and every match is likely going to have a chance

take some time for the girls to get accustomed to playing with each other.

Waubonsie Valley's 19-year coach Julie Bergstrom likes to keep it simple. The goal for her Warriors is "to be better today than we were yesterday." Senior midfielder Sarah Griffith is coming off an outstanding season and will look to duplicate that effort. Sophomore Natalie Massa offers added strength in the midfield, while junior Sarah Young, who saw just about all of the action in net last year, expects action in net last year of experience. The Warriors outscored teams 47-31 last year but only earned an 11-8-1 record. They'll look to improve on that.

Wheaton North will look to get over .500 after a 9-9-4 season. The Falcons were tough in the DVC with a 3-4-1 mark. "We have a very solid defensive unit with multiple players capable of playing at the collegiate level, including our goalie," Falcons coach Tim McEvilly said. "We will need to work to find a combination of players who help us consistently put the ball in the back of the net, but there is a collection of kids with the talent to do so. Seniors Niamh Kane, Morghin Klein and Kate Sullivan return.

Wheaton Warrenville South lost some excellent players to graduation but returns a couple three-year players and six who have been on the club for two seasons. "Our speed of play should have us competing for a DVC title, regional final and hopefully a sectional final," Tigers coach Guy Callipari said. "We'll have a good mix of young players and experienced players, coupled with team depth should carry us deep into the playoffs barring injury." The Tigers went 14-7-3 overall and 4-4-0 in conference last spring. Sophomores Paige Miller and Allie Anderson both return.

Glenbard East had an unforgettable season in 2016, advancing to the state finals

provide great leadership and control the midfield while senior Emma Gaggioli provides security in the net and in leading the young backline.

Addison Trail coach Sergio Nunez begins his 15th season with the Blazers. Seniors Giselle Euriotes and Meryem Ahmed and junior Evelyn Dominguez all return. "Our biggest strength is that they're all coachable and willing to mentally prepare for the challenges that will be put before us," Nunez said. "Our weakness is the amount of good restaurants around here make healthy eating difficult." Addison Trail only went 6-12-2 overall last year so it will look to improve better there and it will begin with better play in the West Suburban Gold. Sandy Herrera, Brismar Rodriguez and Suhel Valbuena are a few newcomers that will look to boost the team.

Downers Grove South returns six players for their third year and 10 for their second year for a team that went 16-7 and undefeated in the West Suburban Gold. "Our biggest strength comes from familiarity," Mustangs coach Chris Hernandez

Willowbrook has a new coach in Julio DelReal, who has the challenge of overcoming the loss of six four-year varsity starters, although he believes he has a strong core of talented leaders returning. "We have a group this year who are a great combination of great athletes, good soccer players, and more importantly, great students/citizens of the community," DelReal said. Jessica Ragucci and Valentina Poggi return as part of the backline, Kassandra Darrus and Sarah Poirier return in the midfield and sophomore Zoe Ericson is back in goal.

Glenbard West has been a work in progress the past couple seasons with so much youth. Those youngsters have turned into upperclassmen now so the Hilltoppers have reason to be excited. They only had one senior a season ago and now have 10 as well as nine juniors and no underclassmen on their roster. Former assistant coach Morgan Kasperak takes over the job this spring. She'll look to find success in a conference that has been dominated by Hinsdale Central.



and junior Maggie Bleyer return, while senior Miami of Ohio recruit Elizabeth Kowalski will add to the defense.

Benet will look to defend its East Suburban Catholic Conference title and make a deep run in the Class 2A playoffs after it dropped down from Class 3A. "We have an experienced roster with 10 of 11 starters returning from a team that won the ESCC championship and lost 1-0 to Naperville North in the regional final to Naperville North last season," said first-year coach Gerard O'Coner. "We will be bolstered by a strong freshman class." Katie Gesior, Betsy Keefe, Erin Flynn, Mary Kate Wilhelm and Maddie Becker are all back and all but Becker was an all-conference selection, Gesior was conference MVP, and Keefe was the Offensive POY.

Montini is coming off a 9-8-4 season. The Broncos return junior defenders Sonia Finch and Kate Crotty, along with sophomore Ellie Krick and junior Alondra Holler. "Our defense is solid, but it will take time to get them all to work as a team," Montini coach Sue Brown said. "It's a well-rounded team. If they

Brooke said. "I think we will be a tough team to slow down in that area." Other standout returnees include defenders Emmerson Fuller and Izzy McNally.

IC Catholic Prep welcomes back Olivia Hurt, Grace Fuller and Tessa Langan from last year's 13-11 team. "We are looking forward to working with a large amount of skilled players," coach Tom Schergen said. "As a 1A school, we traditionally have a few experienced soccer players; however, this year we feel confident about the team." Senior defenders Kaitlyn Grady and Tess Reardon will lead the backline, while freshmen Bella Leslie, Abi Wagner and Annie Guinan and junior Liz Mahoney are new to the squad.

Timothy Christian is aiming for its third straight regional title and hopes to climb the conference ranks. "We have some flexibility in our formations because we have lots of girls who have played various positions," Trojans coach Jon Hamelinck said. "On the other hand we have a lot of girls who are very green and can be molded and shared to fill empty slots." The program has good numbers but just enough to field two teams so they have to stay healthy. Allison Zielstra and Heather Kocot both return.

Fenton brings back a lot of talent, including defender Lizbeth Reyes, midfielders Maria Lara, Natalie Diaz and forwards Mia Ciavelli and Giselle Vargas. "The midfield will be our strength along with three returning defenders," Bison coach Victor Ruiz said. "We will be looking to cap more goals in the net and finish. Last year we didn't capitalize on opportunities."

Lisle once again will have a smaller roster so avoiding injuries is crucial. "We are working on becoming a more physical defensive team this year and will continue improving our possession game on the offensive side," Lisle coach Paul Kohorn said.

Willowbrook math team wins regional title; qualifies for state event

Willowbrook High School's math team made history when it won a recent Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) regional competition. The school's math team had never won an ICTM regional until the recent Division 3AA competition, which took place Feb. 25 at Joliet Junior College. As the winning team, Willowbrook qualified for the upcoming ICTM State Math Contest, which will take place May 6 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Members of the team include seniors Camille Claudio, Nida Sultana, Vineet Patel and Rachel Wiedman; juniors Emily Luna, Alliya Rizvi, Katherine Elvery, Quinn Nolan, Lillian Muss, Kala Terselic, Ethan Rojek, Noah Kamm, Daniel Moses, Nick Johnson, Syed Quadri and Ebad Hussaini; sophomores Max Polanek, Michael Danielson, Thomas Danielson, Joe Garner, Will Stout, Sam Munoz, Max Tuecke, Anthony Agin, Drake DelValle, Bahgat Hassan and Zayd Mujahid; and freshmen Jacob Gordon, Brandon Young-Eleazar, Kayla Beitzel, Elizabeth Swastek, Emma Staunton, Stacy Casiro and Emma Kamm.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Montini Mathletes add up to winners

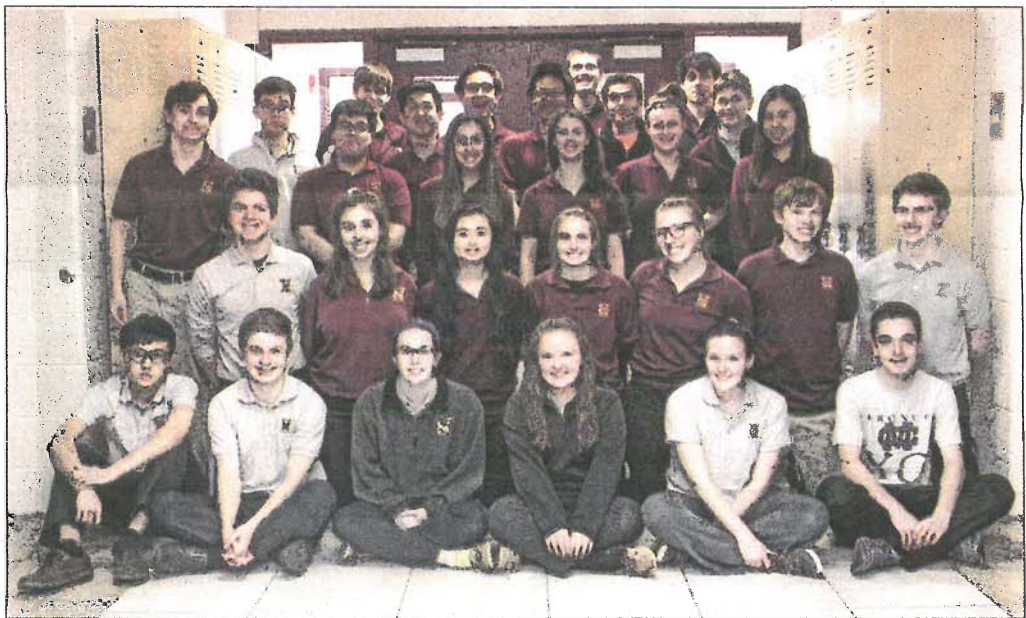
After taking Second Place in the 2A ICTM Regional Meet on Feb. 25 at North Central College in Naperville, Montini Catholic's Mathletes are preparing for their 17th consecutive state competition.

"We were very happy to qualify," said teacher Christine McManus. "This marks our team's 19th time going to state."

Below are Montini Catholic's rankings at the ICTM 2A Regional Meet:

- Overall Team: Second place;
- First place: Junior-Senior 8-Person Team;
- Second place: David Batka, Individual Algebra I; Monica Oleski, Individual Algebra II; Algebra I Team; Algebra II Team; Frosh-Soph 8-Person Team; Calculator Team; Junior-Senior 2-Person Team; and Oral Team;
- Third place: Pre-calculus Team and Frosh-Soph 2-Person Team;
- Fourth place: Geometry Team.

The State Math Competition will be held on May 6 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian-Villa Park Review

Members of Montini Catholic's Mathletes team are front row sitting (left to right): Chen Yu Kuo, Allen Nilson, Gabriella Lambesis, Olivia Herrman, Marissa VanDeVeer, Dominick Moran; second row (left to right): Rafael Ortiz, Maggie White, Monica Oleski, Anna Martinello, Lauren Mikolajczak, Mike Watson, Andrew Ernat; third row (left to right): Daniel Lopez, Pakorn Urramporn, Gabriella Rossi, Abby Moser, Elaine Nielsen, Jin Liu; back row (left to right): Zuang Liu, Pakorn Urramporn, Shaeler McGee, Shing Hei Wong, Rob Mrazek,

Nicky Roteros, Thomas Bakta, Jake Mondschean, Brandon Sakas and David Batka.

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Kindergarten registration begins at District 4

Addison School District 4 is holding 2017-218 Kindergarten Registration for children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2017. Registration for all Addison School District 4 Kindergarten will be held at Army Trail School, 346 Army Trail Blvd., on Thursday, March 23, 4-7pm and Wednesday, April 12, 4-7pm.

Parents are encouraged to pick up a registration packet in advance so they will have time to gather all necessary documents and complete the required paperwork before coming to register their child. Registration packets are available at the District Office, 222 N. Kennedy Drive (Door 18), at each of the school offices, and on the District website, www.asd4.org. Parents must register in person.

All kindergarten classes in ASD4 are full-day classes.

Students whose primary language is not English will be screened when they come to register in order to determine class placement.

In 2017-2018, a two-way dual language program will be available to students in the Stone and Wesley School attendance areas. This program is for children whose primary language is English and who want dual-language instruction (English and Spanish) through fifth grade and



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

A future District 4 student patiently waits with his sister while his mother takes care of his registration materials to enter Kindergarten this coming fall.

for Stone and Wesley attendance area children whose primary language is Spanish. All students interested in the two-way dual language program will have the ability to sign up for the program at registration.

All future Kindergarten parents should also mark their calendars for ASD4's Kindergarten University on May 17, 6-8pm. Kindergarten University is designed to show parents what skills their child should have

before school begins in August. The event will feature a presentation on Kindergarten Readiness skills along with fun, easy educational ideas families can use to make sure their child is Kindergarten ready!

Students nominate 37 staff who earn Golden Apple awards

Each semester, Addison Trail students have the opportunity to recognize a teacher or a staff member for going above and beyond and making a difference in their life through the school's Golden Apple program.

On March 6, 37 staff members were recognized and honored with the Golden Apple. That award is one way students can give back to staff members for all they do. It also is a reminder to staff their hard work and continuous effort matter each and every day.

The 37 staff members who were recognized are:

Matt Bauers, math (nominated by sophomore Isea Cabrera)

Tom Bendicson, world languages (nominated by senior Jessica Bach)

Lindsay Bugajsky, math (nominated by sophomore Eddy Espinoza II, sophomore Josiah Varghese and se-

nior Katherine Castellano)

Mayra Carrera, physical education (nominated by senior Marie Baumgartner)

LeVonne Cescolini-Boyer, social studies (nominated by seniors Hannah White, Jessica Bach, Timothy Deguzman and Adeline Saavedra)

Jessica Clark, English (nominated by junior Nicolette Scorza)

Denise Cochran, special education (nominated by senior Kenyota Robinson)

Jorge de Leon, Social Worker (nominated by seniors Jessica Bach and Klea Gjonaj)

Carolyn Erwin, science (nominated by senior Isabelle Hernandez)

Amy Ferraro, English Department Chair (nominated by senior Klea Gjonaj)

Mike Galfi, math (nominated by sophomore Rafal Kaczowka)

Steve Gilliam, physical education (nominated by senior Kaitlin Martinez)

Karen Grady, Counseling Department Administrative Assistant (nominated by seniors Andrew Felix and Annalise Morrone)

Justin Hegner, math (nominated by sophomores Eddy Espinoza II and Kevin Hochstatter)

Jose Hernandez, social studies (nominated by freshman Sofia Cambron and senior Penelope Reyes)

Katie Inzinga, English (nominated by senior Penelope Reyes)

Anna Jakubka, English (nominated by junior Michael Renc)

Laura Magnavite, social studies (nominated by senior Penelope Reyes)

Dana Marine, Guidance Counselor (nominated by senior Katherine Castellano)

Sabrina Miller, English (nominated by freshman Tania Fernandez)

Steve Nelson, science (nominated by sophomore Noe Alvarez)

Eric Norberg, math (nominated by sophomore Fernando Nava)

Mark Olson, social studies (nominated by senior Jessica Bach)

Maria Oplawski, Deans Office Administrative Assistant (nominated by senior Kaitlin Martinez)

Jim Perusich, English (nominated by senior Sabrina Majeed)

Julie Rana, math (nominated by sophomore Maria Lopez)

Hayley Russell, math teacher aide (nominated by senior Katherine Castellano)

Rob Serio, physical education (nominated by sophomore Marco Yanez)

Natalie Stach Wilen, math (nominated by seniors Jessica Bach and Klea Gjonaj)

Curtis Tate, Dean (nominated by sophomore Breanna Marie Trejo)

Lindsey Thomas, English (nominated by senior Penelope Reyes and junior Isaac Silvestre-Morales)

Christina Trapani, social studies (nominated by freshman Tiffany Truong)

Patricia Vendegna, Spanish/ESL (nominated by sophomore Arianna Ortiz)

Judie Vitiritti-Lynch, world languages (nominated by junior Maria Chavez and sophomore McKenna Gayon)

Laura Wells, literacy teacher aide (nominated by junior Maria Hernandez)

Theresa Wilson, math (nominated by juniors Haneen Kazkaz and Sana Farooqui)

Sheila Wojcik, math (nominated by sophomore McKenna Gayon)



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured are the Addison Trail staff members who were honored with the school's Golden Apple award on March 6. They are pictured with the students who nominated them.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Independent

District 88 holds Dennis Doyle 3-on-3 basketball classic

(top row, left and second from left): Participants compete in the Dennis Doyle 3-on-3 Classic District 88 Foundation Basketball Tournament on March 4 at Addison Trail. (top row, third from left): Dist. 88 Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Adam Cibulka (right) and WB Boys Basketball Sophomore Coach Ryan Tyskiewicz participate in the tournament. (top row, right): WB Boys Basketball Head Coach Chris Perkins (left) makes a play. Pictured at right is Addison Trail Boys Basketball Coach Cory Little. (bottom row, left): Pictured are (from left): WB senior Freddie Clay, senior Ryan King and sophomore Scott Tumilty. Bottom row, middle: (from left) Marcus Rivera, Nick Torres and Anselmo Garcia with the Addison Police Department enjoy the event. (bottom row, right): The annual tournament takes place in memory of WB staff member Dennis Doyle, who passed away in 2011. Pictured are relatives and friends of Doyle, who helped with the event. They are (from left) Julie Fese, Irene Doyle, Mary Eufrazio and Maryann Fese.

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District 88 Board of Education honors business partners

During its March 6 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education, along with the District 88 Administration, recognized Knights of Columbus Damen Hildebrand Council No. 650, Knights of Columbus Juan Pablo II Council No. 14069 and Anyway's restaurant as Business Partners for their support of Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools.

The Knights of Columbus councils have supported District 88 students through initiatives such as generously donating to the Best Buddies club at Addison Trail, which focuses on enhancing the lives of people who have an intellectual disability, the District 88 LIFE Transition Program and the Transition Program's Perks & Possibilities Café.

That program helps individuals ages 19 to 21 who have disabilities learn life skills, obtain job training in a community setting and transition to life after District 88. The Perks & Possibilities Café is one of the program's job-training sites and is located inside the Addison Public Library.

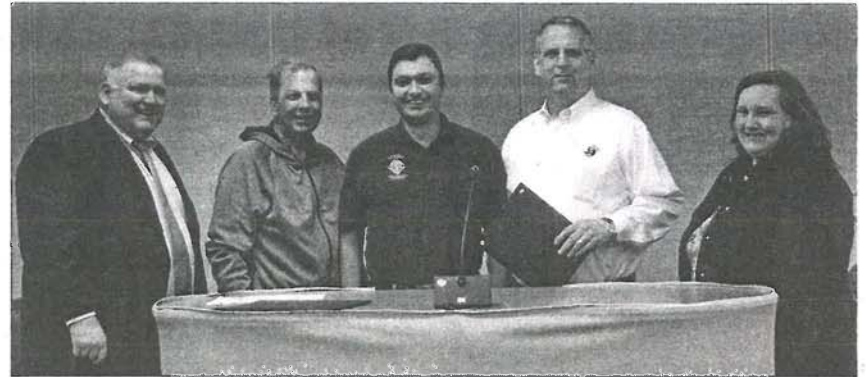
Anyway's also serves as a job-training site for Transition Program students and has provided gift certificates for District 88 Foundation and Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation events as well. Anyway's also provides gift certificates for our students who receive the 88's Best award, which honors 18 students each school year for reaching their personal best in academics, highly improved performance, extracurricular activities,

service work or performing arts/electives.

Knights of Columbus Damen Hildebrand Council No. 650 Grand Knight Mike Bruntz, Deputy Grand Knight Jack Ochocinski and Chancellor Chris Pudelek, as well as

Knights of Columbus Juan Pablo II Council No. 14069 Grand Knight Chris Agdeppa, Treasurer Chuck Seriano and Three-Year Trustee Guillermo Ruiz thanked the Board for the honor. District 88 Board of Education President Donna Craft Cain and

District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton presented certificates to the Business Partners for their support. Anyway's Owner George Lamberis was unable to attend the meeting and will receive his certificate at a later date.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Independent

Viewpoint Conroy legislation helps children with autoimmune disorder

Continuing her work with local parents to help children suffering from a rare autoimmune condition, State Rep. Deb Conroy (D-Villa Park) passed legislation out of a House committee last Tuesday that would ensure families of children diagnosed with Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections and Pediatric Acute Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANDAS/PANS) have access to health insurance coverage.

"When faced with a complex disease and expensive treatment options, families should not be forced to endure significant financial hardship in order to provide their child with the treatment they desperately need," Conroy said. "This bill is an important step in ensuring that children suffering from PANDAS/PANS have access to the resources necessary for recovery."

PANDAS/PANS is an abnormal autoimmune response to a common

strep infection. Symptoms include anxiety, severe changes in personality, deterioration in handwriting skills, phobias that develop suddenly, and motor or vocal tics that mimic Tourette syndrome.

House Bill 2721 requires insurance companies to offer coverage for PANDAS/PANS treatment. Conroy has been working with Kate Grobe Drury of Lombard and Wendy Nawara of Naperville for the past three years after learning of their children's PANDAS/PANS diagnosis.

"Kate and Wendy's tireless advocacy on behalf of their children has made Illinois a leader in raising awareness about this debilitating diagnosis," Conroy said. "I am heartened by today's vote and remain optimistic about passing this legislation with support from Democrats and Republicans alike in both chambers so that these kids have the opportunity to recover."

During its March 6 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education, along with the District 88 Administration, recognized Knights of Columbus Damen Hildebrand Council No. 650 as a Business Partner for the group's support of Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools. Pictured are (from left) District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, Deputy Grand Knight Jack Ochocinski, Chancellor Chris Pudelek, Grand Knight Mike Bruntz and District 88 Board of Education President Donna Craft Cain.



During its March 6 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education, along with the District 88 Administration, recognized Knights of Columbus Juan Pablo II Council No. 14069 as a Business Partner for the group's support of Addison Trail and Willowbrook high schools. Pictured are (from left) District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, Treasurer Chuck Seriano, Grand Knight Chris Agdeppa, Three-Year Trustee Guillermo Ruiz and District 88 Board of Education President Donna Craft Cain.

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Witold Sliwinski exhibit coming to Center for the Arts

From March 22 through April 22, the Addison Center for the Arts will be presenting a magnificent exhibit of glass sculpture done by Polish born artist, Witold Sliwinski. "Compilations" is dedicated by the artist in memory of his parents.

These fascinating pieces of art will be exhibited at the Addison Center for the Arts, located at 213 N. Lombard Road, Door 4 of Addison Trail High School. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. If a private viewing of "Compilations" is desired, it can be arranged by calling the office, 630-458-4500 or email, info@addisoncenterforthearts.com.

Witold was born in Krosno. He

graduated at the State Secondary Art School in Miejsce Piastowe, from the Faculty of Applied Art Forms, as a disciple of the famous sculptor, Wladyslaw Kandefer, who in turn studied under the great Ksawery Dunikowski. At that time Sliwinski was a student at the Post-secondary Photography School in Krosno.

At the beginning of his artistic career he initially dealt with drawing and graphics, but went on to design and produce artistic and applied works of art in leather.

By 1996, he had created many works of art in glass.

"I became fascinated in working with glass as a medium," Sliwinski

explained. "... after a period of time, some different ornamental forms began to appear in my work, which could almost be defined as being sculptures."

Slowly these forms began to influence and dominate his way of thinking giving way to the development of contemporary artistic glasswork.

Artist's reception

There will be an artist's reception on Friday, March 24 from 7-9 p.m. It is free open to the public. Sliwinski will be there alongside his work that evening. Visit: addisoncenterforthearts.com for details and updates.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

The Glasso Group, Inc. team: Tom and Hunter showing two samples of Witold's glass sculptures.

AT celebrates International Fest Week

From Feb. 21 to 24, Addison Trail hosted its annual International Fest Week, during which more than 20 presenters spoke to more than 2,000 students in nearly 150 classes about their travels and experiences from throughout the world. Through those presentations, students were able to learn about many different cultures.

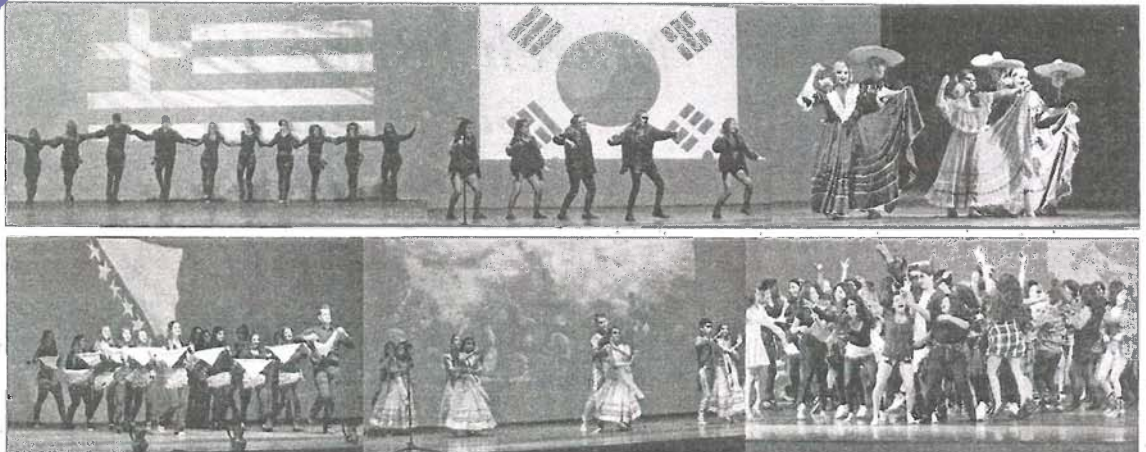
Addison Trail partnered with Junior Achievement of Chicago to coordinate and organize the presenters.

The week culminated with the annual International Dance Show, which featured 17 dances that represented various countries/cultures. A portion of the proceeds from this year's show will be donated to Maestro Cares Foundation. According to its website, "Maestro Cares Foundation improves the quality of life of orphaned and disadvantaged children in Latin America and the U.S. (It does) so by providing housing, educational programming and the essential resources to support their growth and development, so they can become tomorrow's leaders."

Women's Club plans spring fundraiser

The Women's Club of Addison announces plans for its annual spring fundraiser that will be held on Thursday, April 20, at Empress Banquets, 200 East Lake Street in Addison. This year's event, Women on Fire, includes dinner and raffles and fun with "hot shots." Cost is \$45 per person and reservations are due April 6. For information or reservations, contact LaVerne at 630-543-3428.

In the last five years, the Women's Club of Addison has raised over \$70,000 for student scholarships and donations to local charities. The Women's Club invites you to be part of its effort to raise funds that will be awarded this spring to benefit scholarship recipients and charities in our local community.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

From Feb. 21 to 24, Addison Trail hosted its annual International Fest Week, where students learned about various cultures and countries. The week culminated with an International Dance Show on Feb. 24, featuring 17 dances that represented various countries and cultures, pictured above.

Candidates for Village Offices

Village of Addison

Addison Mayor (vote for 1)
Richard H. (Rich) Veensura
Addison Village Clerk (vote for 1)
Lucille A. Zucchero
Addison Village Trustee (vote for 3)
Harold (Harry) Theodore
Catherine L. (Cathy) Klaczny
Sam Nesti
Addison Library Trustee (vote for 3)
Sandra L. Super
Maria Siskole
Linda Durac
J. Thomas Willis
Candidate for Fire Districts
Addison Fire Protection District No. 1 (vote for 1)
Fire Trustee (full term)
Charles E. Baxa, Jr.

Candidates for Addison Park District

Park Commissioner (vote for not more than 2)
Frank Angiulo
Michael Cap Capazzano
Donald Jensen
Ron Maxwell

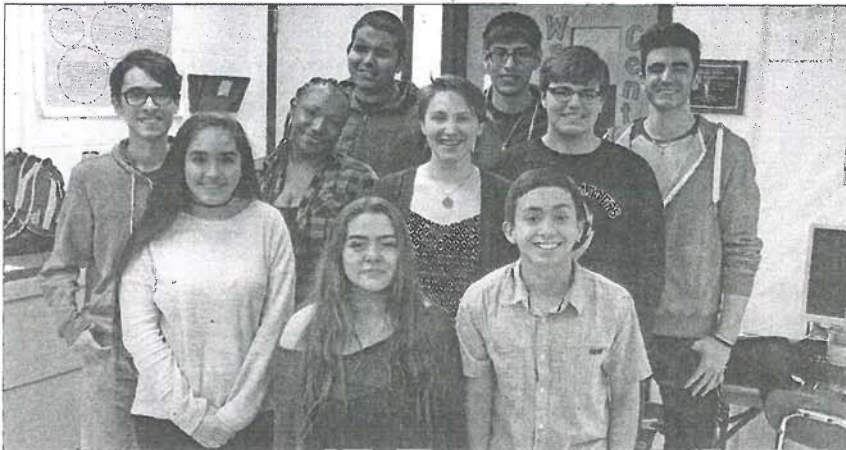
Proposition on the Ballot for Addison Township:

1. "Should the Federal Aviation Administration and the City of Chicago make the "Fly Quiet" program at O'Hare Airport permanent for the residents of Addison Township?"
 2. "Should the State of Illinois increase the residential and senior homeowner exemptions to help reduce property taxes for the residents of Addison Township?"
 3. "Should Addison Township pursue consolidation of government entities that presently have no elected oversight?"
- Du Page High School District 88**
Member Of The Board Of Education
To Serve An Unexpired 2 Year Term (vote for 1)

Donna Craft Cain
Member Of The Board Of Education
To Serve A Full 4 Year Term (vote for 3)
Thomas C. Edmund
James (Jay) H. Irvin
Blanca Jensen
Addison School District 4 (vote for 4)
Member Of The Board Of Education
To Serve A Full 4 Year Term
Zack Frangidakis

John Daniels

Jeremiah Lange
Rudy Aranda
Taso Triantafyllidis
Candidates for Township Govt.
Addison Township
Township Supervisor (vote for 1)
Dennis M. Reboletti
Rochelle Corso
Township Clerk (vote for 1)
Pamela Joy Moretti
Robert A. Peickert
Township Assessor (vote for 1)
Christopher T. Knin
No Candidate
Township Highway Commissioner (vote for 1)
Donald Richard Holod
Michael K. O'Hara
Township Trustee (vote for not more than 4)
Matthew Joseph Lozich
Mark Joseph Nowak
Diana Lynn Kosmach
Konstantinos "Gus" Leventis
Shirley Swanson
Paula Masilotti
JoAnn Landstrom Pelikan
Richard Accomando



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured are the Addison Trail students who participated in a Poetry Slam on March 6. They are (back row, from left) senior Lucio Delgado, senior Alan Sanchez, senior Dominic Zumpano, (middle row, from left) senior Alec Montgomery, junior Jammie Jefferson, junior Fiona Levesque, senior James Krause Jr., (front row, from left) freshman Nikki Mancilla, junior Callie Weigelt and senior Jeremy Sechan.

Addison Trail hosts Poetry Slam competition

On March 6, 10 Addison Trail students participated in a Poetry Slam at the school.

Students shared their original works in the first two rounds of competition and then competed in a lightning round, where they had five minutes to write a poem based on the provided topic of "stress." Participants were junior Jammie Jefferson, junior Callie Weigelt, senior Jeremy Sechan, senior Dominic Zumpano, senior Lucio Delgado, junior Fiona Levesque, senior James Krause Jr., freshman Nikki Mancilla, senior Alan Sanchez and senior Alec Montgomery.

Participants were judged by En-

glish teacher aide Leslie Akacich, English teacher Claire Shoup, English Department Chair Amy Ferraro and Special Education teacher aide Marianne Perri.

Winners of the event are listed below. The top three finishers received gift certificates to local restaurants, and the champion was given a trophy as well.

1st place: Senior Jeremy Sechan

2nd place: Senior Dominic Zumpano

3rd place: Junior Jammie Jefferson

4th place: Senior Alec Montgomery

5th place: Senior James Krause Jr.

Community calendar

Thursday, March 16 How to download eAudiobooks to your device

Come to the Addison Public Library from 10-11 a.m. with your account information for your iPad, Android tablets. Learn how to download/stream eAudiobooks. You can bring in your devices or the library can show it on our device. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Friday, March 17 DIY Friday: St. Patrick's Day edition

Join the Addison Public Library from 1-2 p.m. on an early dismissal day for a St. Patrick's Day edition. No registration is required and all ages are welcome. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Saturday, March 18 Mid-Winter Festival of Artists

The Addison Art Guild's Mid-Winter Festival of Artists, featuring artists' demonstrations, an auction and refreshments, will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free. Info: Call 630-924-1746.

Sunday, March 19 Learning World

Come to the Addison Public Library from 2-4 p.m. for Learning World—a fun event with snacks, crafts, and giveaways for the whole family. The library will also have local preschools, daycares, and community organizations available to answer your questions and help you choose a preschool or daycare for your child. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Monday, March 20

• Between the Lines Book Club

Come to the Addison Park District, 1776 W Centennial Place, from 10-11 a.m. to discuss the title "Girl Waits with Gun" by Amy Stewart. Books are available at the Community Rec Center. Adults; no registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3334 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

• Creative Studio: 3D Print a Keychain

Learn how to use Tinkercad, free online software, to design a personalized keychain from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. After class the library will print your creation! Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3354 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Wednesday, March 22 Buying and selling a home

It's a popular time of year to buy a home. Come to the Addison Public Library from 7-8 p.m. to learn everything you can about the biggest purchase of your life. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Thursday, March 23 Circle Up

The Addison Public Library is creating a safe place for teens to talk in listen at its monthly Circle Up program from 3-4 p.m. where the library will use fun games to help teens chill out and connect. Info: Call 630-458-3319 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Saturday, March 25 • Experimenting with paint and collage

The Addison Art Guild will be hosting "Experimenting with paint and collage" with Tania Blanco of the Addison Trail High School arts department. The fee is \$40 for members, \$50 for nonmembers. Pre-registration is required. Info: call 630-250-9407.

• Youth Obstacle Course Race

Saturday, March 25 is the new date for the Addison Park District's Youth Obstacle Course Race. It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Community Park. Registration is now being accepted until Saturday, March 18. Info: addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

Sunday, March 26

• Broadway musical

Spend your Sunday afternoon from 2:00-3:00 at the Addison Public Library. Music will be presented by

crowd favorite, Steven Krage. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

• Introduction to Skype

From 3-4:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, learn about the best way to keep in touch from far away. Call, message, or even video chat across platforms for free with this popular service. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3354 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Monday, March 27

• Learn to play chess

From 1-3 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, learn to play the royal game of chess. Participants will be taught all the rules of the fascinating pastime. Instructor Bennett Joseph is an experienced coach who ranked in the top 2 percent of players in the U.S. For grades 3-5; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

• Privacy on Facebook

Do you know what personal information you are sharing with the public when you post on Facebook? From 7-8:30 p.m. at Addison Public Library, figure out who can see what and learn how to manage your privacy. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3354 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

• Spring Break Camp March: 27-31

Children ages 3-5 are encouraged to join the Addison Park District for 5 fun-filled days of crafts, sports, field trips and fun. Bring a friend and enjoy your spring break. Bring a sack lunch and a drink every day of camp. Special weekly and daily rates are available. Daily rates are \$42 for residents, \$52 for nonresidents, and the weekly rate is \$180 for residents, \$218 for nonresidents. The daily events are as follows: Monday, March 27: Sky Zone, Elmhurst, from 9-11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, March 28: Painted Penguin, Aurora, from 11:45 a.m.-3 p.m.; Wednesday, March 29: Main Event Entertainment, Warrenville; Thursday, March 30: Club Fitness pool, Addison, 7 a.m.-6:16 p.m.; Friday,

March 31: DuPage Children's Museum, Naperville, 9:15 a.m.-12 noon. Info: addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

• Spring Break Speed Camp

Stay in shape during spring break with a five-day speed school camp sponsored by the Addison Park District. Each day a new workout will be implemented. Improve your speed, agility, and quickness by developing mind-muscle connection, increasing fast twitch muscle fiber fibers, increasing strength, and improving ground reaction time through specialized training that involves core training, plyometrics, footwork drills and more. The camp will be held from 4-5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the P.I.T., located at the Club Fitness lower level. Fee: \$90 for residents, \$118 for nonresidents. Registration deadline is Monday, March 20. Info: addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

• Be Green, Save Green!

From 10-11 a.m. at the Community Rec Center, SCARCE founder Kay McKeen will show you new ways to save water, energy and money—all at the same time. To get you started, you will receive an LED light bulb and a leak detection kit for your home. Her wealth of information and unique tips will inspire you to reduce, reuse, and recycle all year long. Fee: \$5 for residents, \$7 for nonresidents. Info: addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

Tuesday, March 28

• Drop-in Play-Doh

It's spring break! From 1-2 p.m., use your imagination to create a masterpiece at the Addison Public Library. No registration is required and all ages are welcome. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

• Explore China

Explore China virtually from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. China is the third largest country in the world geographically with a diverse population of over 1 billion people. Get familiar with its history, climate and beautiful landscapes. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

addisonlibrary.org.

Wednesday, March 29 Pisanki Eggs

Pisanki are traditionally decorated Easter eggs in Poland. Come learn how to decorate traditional Eastern-European 'Pisanki' from 6-7 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. A variety of traditional Pisanki and Easter palms by Krystyna Jaro will be displayed. Registration is now under way and all ages are welcome. Info: Call 630-458-3334 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Thursday, March 30 April Fool's Day

April 1 is coming up. From 4:30-5:30 p.m., learn some funny jokes and tricks you can play on friends and family at the Addison Public Library. For grades 3-5; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Saturday, April 1 Sensory friendly Library Tour

Come to the Addison Public Library from 9:15-10 a.m. for a sensory friendly tour of what the library has to offer you and your family. This 45-minute tour will include staff introductions, first- and second-floor guided tours, and time for questions. For families with children up through 5th grade; registration is required. Info: Call 630-458-3338 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Sunday, April 2 Musical

From 2-3 p.m. at the Addison Public Library to explore the Golden Decade of Rock and Roll covers from 1954 to 1963. Adults; registration required. Info: Call 630-458-3320 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

Friday, April 13 Rick Sajewick pastel painting demonstration

Rick Sajewick will be conducting a pastel painting demonstration starting at 7:30 p.m. at Addison Trail High School, Forum Room B.

SPORTS

MARCH 16, 2017 • 19

Addison Trail boys basketball team concludes successful season

Blazers advanced to regional title game; Williams named all-conference

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

When it was all said and done, the Addison Trail boys basketball team had itself a successful 2016-2017 season.

The Blazers went 18-12 overall and advanced to a Class 4A regional-championship game. In the playoffs, Addison Trail defeated Waubonsie Valley 50-43, downed District 88 neighbor Willowbrook 81-67 and then lost 71-51 to Naperville North in the regional title game.

Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons was pleased with how his team came away with a victory against Waubonsie Valley.

"We hung in there against Waubonsie Valley," said Lyons. "It was

not our best game. We didn't shoot it well, but we played good enough defense to keep us in the game. We had the lead most of the game. It must have been nerves being the first round of the playoffs. We were able to get through it and get the win."

Michael Williams led the Blazers with 13 points. Mike Pudlo had 11 points, while Breydon Hargrove and Bobby Daniels each had 10 points.

Addison Trail led Willowbrook 33-6 at one point in the regional semifinals.

"Against Willowbrook we played one of our better games of the year," said Lyons. "We jumped out on them early and played well offensively. When they tried to get back

into it with their pressure, we kept them at arm's distance the rest of the way. In the first half we had a lot of energy and were active. We had built a big enough cushion to hang on against them."

Williams had 26 points in the game, while Hargrove had 18 points. Jack Kalbas added 15 points. Colton Noel had 12 points in his first game back coming off an injury. Daniels added 10 points.

In the regional final, Addison Trail led 29-27 at halftime. "We had a bad third quarter," said Lyons. "We got outscored 26-8 in the third quarter. They wore us down over the course of the game. They are big and strong and we gave up some second-chance points. We weren't

able to convert and they were able to capitalize. They are a good team, but that second half was one of our worst of the year."

Noel and Hargrove each had 13 points, while Williams had 11 points.

Addison Trail was in search of its first regional title since 1980.

"It was a good year and a fun year," said Lyons. "It would have been great to get that regional title, but to reach that point was impressive with pretty much every game being tough. Overall, I'm proud of the guys. It was definitely a good year."

Addison Trail's 18 wins were its most since 2001 (19 wins).

Williams was named to the all-

West Suburban Conference Gold Division team.

"That's great for Michael," said Lyons. "He ended up our leading scorer and our second-leading rebounder. He did a variety of things for us on both ends. He grew up the last two years on varsity. He will play somewhere in college and will have a great career somewhere. He's definitely on the upswing in terms of the development of his game."

Addison Trail will graduate nine seniors from this year's team. "The nine seniors we are losing accounted for 92 percent of our scoring," said Lyons. "There will be a lot of open job opportunities next year."

Lyons just completed his 10th year at the helm at Addison Trail.

Willowbrook boys basketball team has record-breaking season

Warriors set program high for most wins—finish 24-5

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Simply put, the Willowbrook boys basketball team had a record-breaking 2016-2017 season.

The Warriors set a new program record for most wins in a season after turning in a 24-5 campaign. In addition, Willowbrook shared the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title—the team's second conference title in three years.

Willowbrook also won all three regular-season tournaments it played in at Thanksgiving, Christmas and over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

"We won the Thanksgiving tournament, the Christmas tournament, the Martin Luther King tournament, shared the conference title and had the most wins in program history. It was a very successful season," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "We didn't finish the way we would have liked, but for four months we competed at a high level and won a ton of games."

Willowbrook lost to District 88 neighbor Addison Trail in a Class 4A regional semifinal game to close out its season.

"We were cold in the first quarter and Addison Trail came out on fire," said Perkins.

"It was 20-4 in the first quarter. They shot the lights out. We won the second, third and fourth quarters, but we were already down by 16 points. It's tough to play a team three times and it's definitely tough to beat a team three times (Willowbrook won the two regular-season conference meetings)."

Matas Masys led the Warriors with 16 points against Addison Trail. Freddie Clay had 13 points, while Iman Reynolds and Sikander Zafer each had eight points. Matthew Myers had seven points.

Perkins saw plenty of progress over a year's time and attributes that to the team's success this season.

"There was a lot of growth and a lot of guys took that from last season to this season," he said. "We were very young last season. We had that growth that all coaches look for but doesn't always happen. It was there for us and it happened in a major way for us."

Ethan Schaefer earned a local All-Area award honor this season.

"Ethan was all-conference as a sophomore last year and he continued to progress this season," said Perkins. "He was our best player this season."

Willowbrook graduates seven seniors including Clay, Reynolds, Ryan King, Casey King, Will Hines, Andy Shreckengost and Darryl Skinner.

"The seniors will be missed, especially a guy like Freddie Clay," said Perkins.

"Freddie was a sophomore on the varsity and was part of two conference championships. All of these seniors left a good mark on the program. They bought in and set the bar high for others classes to follow."

With many players returning, Perkins said the future remains bright. "We're definitely excited about next year," he said. "Our starting lineup returns. We have a lot of guys coming back who played at a high level and we have good players at the lower levels who are going to be able to contribute and help plug in some holes for next season."

Gymnastics team looks to continue its successful ways

Warriors won WSC Gold last year; Zeffiro returns after state-qualifying junior season

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys gymnastics team is poised to build upon its recent successes.

The Warriors return a number of key performers from a 2016 team that won the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title with an undefeated record.

Back for Willowbrook are seniors Bailly Heppner (all-around), Zach Zeffiro (vault and floor), Matt Barrantes (pommel horse) and Dylan Leska (vault), along with juniors Matthew Smith (high bar and rings) and Daniel Gonzalez (rings).

Newcomers who will help include sophomores Joel Saldana (high bar, vault, floor), Brendan Bailey (floor, rings, parallel bars), Matt Foley (floor) and Sean Luner (rings).

"We have a strong core group of sophomores who could have an impact on some events," said Willowbrook coach Caleb Strejc.

But Strejc noted Willowbrook's key strength is experience.

"We have a good amount of seniors and juniors bring great experience from successful teams the past two seasons either from contributing or being on JV and watching," he said.

Strejc noted the team's top events when at full strength should be floor, rings and vault.

"We have guys who can put together floor routines with all the requirements and decent difficulty," he said. "On vault, we have two flipping vaults and one good twisting vault, which should be our three scores. And on rings we have a lot of consistency and guys who are getting new tricks and a dismount to help boost scores."

And Strejc feels the team's biggest advancements thus far have come on the horizontal bar (high bar). "We have some more guys throwing giants now or getting closer, so once those are cleaner and we have some connections, they should be in the routines," he said.

Event specialization is something Willowbrook is focusing on more this season. "To be successful our guys will need to focus in on events they excel at," said Strejc. "We need to specialize more this season to boost our score. Also they need to buy into fixing up their form on tricks they have rather than trying to work new stuff a lot."

Strejc likes the progress returning state qualifier Zeffiro and Heppner are making. "Keep an eye out for Zach trying to return to state this year for floor and trying to make it on vault as well," he said. "Also, Bailey should contribute on a lot of events and have a chance to make it to state on parallel bars perhaps."

Strejc is seeing progress with the younger gymnasts in the program as well. "One thing I really like about the makeup of the team is all the freshmen from last year returned and have worked hard to improve," he said. "Being closest in age to the freshmen this year, it gives them an idea of what to strive for. The sophomores making so much progress really should be good motivation for the juniors and seniors to work even harder and not get comfortable where they are at because they could get passed up. It is a good dynamic."

Strejc said Downers Grove South is the team to beat right now in the WSC Gold. "It looks like Downers South is scoring in the 140s so it will be very difficult to catch them to defend our conference title," he said. "We will work our best to catch them, but I think an achievable goal would be to beat all the other teams and secure second place."

'A DREAM COME TRUE'

Lombard's Anderson earns major sponsorship, close to racing dragster

By JASON ROSSI
jrossi@shawmedia.com

ST. CHARLES – Inside an unassuming shop just off Route 25 in St. Charles, Marina Anderson is hard at work to become the next top drag racer in the country.

She is well on her way.

The 24-year-old Lombard resident earned a \$1,000 sponsorship from Champion Auto Parts as part of the Search for a Champion. Now she is one of 25 finalists for the \$50,000 grand prize in the same contest. Voting concludes March 23 at sfac.championauto-parts.com/entry/955.

"I was really nervous at the end of the voting for the first part before I found out I was a finalist. I'm even more nervous now, but I don't have control over it even though I'm asking people to vote every day," Anderson said. "Honestly, I just feel lucky to be a finalist and be able to represent Champion this year."

The \$1,000 sponsorship is nice. The big prize would be game-changing money for Anderson and her Anderson Family Dragster team, which includes father Scott Anderson and longtime family friend and crew chief Dave Daunheimer.

"It's amazing for me because Champion is such a well-known name and I don't have a lot of that backing yet," Marina said. "It's hard to put it to words because it's like a dream come true. I've been working on the car for years and been thinking about it longer than [that], and it's all coming to fruition."

Starting line

Drag racing has been a big part of Marina's life for almost as long as she can remember. Scott got the itch at age 12 when he stumbled across a race at Byron Dragway. After high school, he joined up with Daunheimer's Frantic Fueler dragster crew, which he has been a part of for 29 years.

Since she was little, Marina has been around dragsters. She always knew she wanted to race her own A-fuel dragster.

Marina, with help from her dad and



Marina Anderson of Lombard stands next to the spoiler of her top-fuel dragster March 9 at the Anderson Family Dragster shop in St. Charles.

Photos by Sandy Bressner - sbressner@shawmedia.com

Numbers to know

- 8** Number of cylinders
- 16** Number of spark plugs, two per cylinder
- 9** Gallons of fuel consumed on a quarter-mile run
- 48** Gallons per minute fuel pump can handle
- 421** Cubic-inch hemi engine
- 2,150** Weight, in pounds
- 7,000** RPMs

Daunheimer, who owns Competition Fabrications in Lilly Lake, started fabricating her car in 2010 when she was 17 years old and still in school at Willobrook High School.

Work continued nights and weekends while she was in college. Nights and weekends are still busy times for Mari-



LEFT: Lombard resident Marina Anderson displays the certificate she earned at the Detroit Autorama show in March 2014.

na and her crew at the shop at her dad's house, a property he specifically bought because it had an existing shop owned by former drag racer Rick Nichols.

"I couldn't not quantify how many hours we've put in," Marina said. "Every Tuesday and Thursday night and every Saturday."

Throttling up

When Marina got her car on the

track for the first time, at Byron Dragway in October 2015, it was a step in the right direction. She hopes the 2017 season will bring many more.

In early March, the team was in the process of putting the car back together after a winter spent breaking it down and inspecting the parts with the goal of getting it track ready for testing in April.

See DRAGSTER, page 15

Live video
online

For live broadcasts, replays and highlight clips of events from area high schools, visit www.mysuburbanlife.com/video/live.

Sports to
your phone

Visit <http://shawurl.com/texts> to sign up for sports scores and alerts to your phone from Suburban Life.



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@shawmedia.com

Marina Anderson of Lombard works with Dave Daunheimer (right) and her dad, Scott Anderson (background), on her dragster March 9 at the Anderson Family Dragster shop in St. Charles. The team hopes to have the dragster ready for the 2017 racing season.

• DRAGSTER

Continued from page 13

The work isn't thrilling, but it's necessary to make sure the car is ready to go and passes the NHRA testing process. Earning an NHRA license takes one half-track pass and two quarter-mile runs under six seconds.

"It should be relatively easy to get through that, but tuning these things is not as easy as it looks on television," Scott said. "You've got a lot of things going on there."

The end goal is to participate in four races over the summer, starting with the Lucas Oil series in Indianapolis in late April and the NHRA Division 3 race in Joliet in early June. Daunheimer knows there's still work to do to make that happen.

"We've worked on my car for many hundreds of hours and serviced it so many times that everything just falls into place," Daunheimer said. "That's where we need to be with [this car]."

Go time

If the typically iffy late April weather breaks right and the team is successful in testing the car and passing NHRA licensing, it would allow Marina to race any NHRA, ADRL or International Hot Rod Association races.

So if all goes according to plan, Marina will be flying down the track

at speeds that would scare most people. At Byron in 2015, she was clocked at 1.14 seconds over 60 feet, but that wasn't a full burn. Speeds in excess of 270 mph are her future.

"Once you take off, everything slows down," she said.

Finish line

Even though she has been working on her car for the better part of a decade, the end is far from close. Being licensed is just the start. The car needs to be certified every season, which means there will be more nights and weekends. That is just fine with Marina and her team.

"I made a lot of life choices based on this," Marina said. "I went to Elmhurst College because I could stay at home ... while still working on my dragster."

"That is something that sets me apart from other drivers, that I'm the owner, tuner and driver. I couldn't do it without [Daunheimer and Scott], but I also love to learn all of it."

Daunheimer knows plenty about putting together a dragster, and he didn't hesitate to praise Marina's hands-on approach and dedication to making her dream come true.

"When she decided to go do this there was no question who the crew chief was going to be, but she built the car with me. She welded with me, she knows how to bend tubing, she knows how to cut sheet metal without cutting her finger off," Daunheimer said. "She's the next generation."

Suburban Life

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



JOEY
DAVIDSON

TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN
Senior | Boys basketball!

Why Davidson was selected:

Davidson concluded his high school basketball career with perhaps his best season, which included numerous off-the-court accolades.

Joey Davidson didn't get into basketball in order to rack up gaudy stats. The big numbers came naturally. A three-year varsity starter for the Trojans, Davidson was a Metro Suburban all-conference honoree and became the 11th player in school history to score 1,000 points, finishing in ninth place all-time with 1,031 points. Also a varsity baseball player, Davidson, the Suburban Life Athlete of the Week sponsored by Gracik Makinney Real Estate Group, spoke with sports editor Jason Rossi about his career milestone, being a two-sport athlete, and more. Here's an edited transcript:

Rossi: How does it feel to go over 1,000 points? Did you know you were close?

Davidson: It feels good. It's a nice accomplishment. I knew there was a decent chance I could do it this season, but I wasn't keeping track of it or anything.

Rossi: Do you like playing basketball

or baseball better?

Davidson: It's hard to say. During the season I like whichever sport I'm playing, but I've probably put more work into basketball.

Rossi: What do you like about each sport?

Davidson: There's something about the big crowds at the basketball games that makes it fun. Baseball is completely different than basketball and I've always played it. It's something I like to do. It's a fun sport to end the school year with. It's a little more laid-back.

Rossi: Are you just itching to get outside for baseball?

Davidson: The last week of the basketball season [in late February] it was probably the warmest it's ever been that time of year, and now it's snowing when baseball is starting, but we'll go to Myrtle Beach [starting March 28] to play, so that will be nice.

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Naperville North's Jon Jon Pettinger looks to pass around Naperville Central's Brad Sanford during boys water polo at Naperville Central on Tuesday.

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"Once we learned how they were playing and adapted, it just took one goal to get us going," Rydberg said. "From there, all the momentum kicked in and we started connecting, finding feet, and it's just a matter of putting it in the back of the net."

Three minutes after intermission, Rydberg took it up the middle and fired it in high from about 20 yards out. Eight minutes later, she got the hat trick on a shot that bounded into the net.

"We were playing a very good, defensive-minded Bartlett team that puts you under a lot of pressure, so they caused us to play a little bit rushed at the start," said St. Charles North coach Brian Harks. "I think the more the girls started calming down and playing together, they were able to string together some passes and create some opportunities. Once

they had those opportunities they stayed composed in front of the net. Hailey did an amazing job capitalizing."

Sarah Andrey finished the scoring with a long run up the right shot and a nice shot from that side.

"We didn't manage No. 2 on their team (Rydberg) and she took advantage of us," said Bartlett coach Vince DiNuzzo. "We were too consumed by (Gia Wahlberg) and I thought we managed her well, but we forgot about (Hailey Rydberg) who just picked us apart."

Early in the season, it sometimes just takes awhile to put everything together.

"This is only our second opportunity to play on a full field, so we're still trying to figure things out, how to work off of each other, and how to use this beautiful, big

win the game. Unfortunately, the Huskies, we couldn't put a string together."

Cole Jacobs led Naperville North with 4 goals, JonJon Pettinger added 3 and both Nick Zillier and Popiolek scored 1. Naperville Central got 3 from Luke Klein Collins, 2 apiece from May, Reagan and Sanford and a single Lucas Nervig goal.

Huskies goalie Brandon Morrow thought a 2-goal spread sure beat that 10-goal margin earlier this month.

"Coming back 11-9, that's a huge win for us," said Morrow, who made 8 saves. "It may not say a win on the score sheet or the scoreboard but we really came out and I think we shocked some people. That's as close to a win as we can get at this moment."

Boys volleyball

Rams' new faces top Willowbrook

By PHIL BROZYNSKI

Daily Herald Correspondent

Glenbard East won 23 matches and shared the Upstate Eight Conference title last year riding the broad shoulders of dynamic All-Area do-it-all Tyler Greene.

But Greene graduated last spring, so this season the Rams are looking to his understudies — Mason Arnold, Adrian Cebula and Justin Murphy — to carry the load.

Arnold had 9 assists, 4 kills, 2 blocks and 13 digs, Cebula added 7 kills and 6 digs and Murphy contributed 7 kills and an ace as Glenbard East rolled past neighborhood rival Willowbrook 25-9, 25-13 in both teams' season opener Tuesday in Villa Park.

"We have 10 or 11 guys back from last year, and I think we work well together as a team," said Arnold, a 6-foot-1 setter/outside hitter. "We have a good offense and our defense has been pretty solid so far. We have a team that likes to hustle."

"If we keep practicing and working hard like we have been, it will come through in games like it did today," he added.

Glenbard East raced to leads of 10-3 in Game 1 and 10-4 in Game 2 despite the absence of two injured starters and a third key player sidelined for the early part of the season. That forced coach Marci Maier to make

some adjustments to her lineup, such as moving Cebula from the middle to the pin.

The switch didn't seem to bother the 6-foot senior.

"I started out as a middle," he said. "Then during my 18s year in club, I was moved to the outside. So now I'm playing both. I really like outside because it's something new, but the middle has always been my thing."

Despite the loss of Greene and his 265 kills, 108 digs and 22 blocks, the Rams still expect to do some good things this spring.

"When we walk into practice, we get down to business," Cebula said. "The coach (Marci Maier) expects it of us. The expectations are high."

Willowbrook coach Ryan Bazon expects improvement from his team, which got 5 assists from Calvin Linnig, 4 assists and 2 kills from Nick Cookingham, and 3 digs and 3 kills from Brendan Waldorf.

"It's always nice to play Glenbard East first because you know where you're at right away," he said. "I told the guys we'll get back to the gym and get some stuff figured out."

"We have a lot to learn," Bazon added.

"We're really young. Some of the kids were nervous. We have nine juniors who played JV last year and only four seniors. It showed a little bit."