

NOW PLAYING



RED GRANGE AWARD

DUPAGE COUNTY

RED GRANGE ALL-AREA FOOTBALL CAPTAIN



JACK JESSEN

AS THE
WILLOWBROOK WARRIOR



ILLUSTRATION BY PATRICK SZER patrick.szera.com

RED LINE ATHLETICS
YOUTH ATHLETIC TRAINING CENTERS



• SPEED • POWER • CORE
TRAIN LIKE A PRO, WITH THE PROS.

High Intensity Interval Training • Semi-Private • 1-on-1 • Team Training
1455 Busch Parkway • Buffalo Grove • 847-243-8199
RedLineAthletics.com/Bufalo-Grove

Free Athletic Evaluation
&
One Free Week of Training

Kenny Adams, Glenbard East

A 6-foot-1, 100-pounder, Kenny Adams set Glenbard East varsity records with 88 receptions and 1,287 yards receiving. The all-DuPage Valley senior caught 54 passes this season for 836 yards and 7 touchdowns, averaging 15.5 yards a catch. Raring to be a crisp route runner, he used strong hands to record an average of 6 catches a game. Adams had games of 160, 155, 145 and 140 yards receiving. "The biggest thing with Kenny is he was our go-to guy," said former coach John Walters. "If we needed a big grab, a big play, if we needed to get out of a hole, third-and-long, he was the guy."



Lavar Archibald, Naperville Central

The Redhawk entered the season expecting Archibald to play 15 to 20 snaps a game. The 6-foot, 200-pound senior defensive lineman wound up playing up to 60 snaps on his way to earning Outstanding Defensive Lineman honors in the DuPage Valley Conference. "You really had to double-team him," coach Mike Stine said. "And even when you did he was able to make the play." Seven of Archibald's 94 tackles were for loss. He had 2 sacks and 10 hurries, including a game-saver in the final seconds of a playoff win at Homewood-Flossmoor. "I'm really proud of what he brought to the team," Stine said. "He was tremendous."



Mike Baumgardner, Neuqua Valley

Neuqua Valley's middle linebacker began the season with 3 tackles for loss against Metra Valley and took off from there. Standing just 5-8, Mike Baumgardner nonetheless delivered a strong 190 pounds to the point of attack. The senior topped the Wildcats in tackles with 80, including 11 for loss with 4 sacks. All-DuPage Valley Conference, Neuqua's defensive emotional leader and captain made 17 tackles against Glenbard North, 15 against Wheaton North. He played 7 yards off the line but speed and alertness off blocks made up for it. "Mike's just got a great nose for the ball and read the offensive scheme extremely well," said Wildcats coach Bill Elinhans.



Jack Benish, Benet

Benish only played on one side of the field as a defensive end, but he still finished as the Redwings' second-leading tackler and was a force for opposing quarterbacks. "He really made it difficult for teams to throw on us," coach Pat New said. "We knew he'd have a great season for us." Up last season as a sophomore, the 6-foot-3, 220-pound senior was big and athletic with deceptive speed. Twenty-six of Benish's 97 tackles were solos, 25 were for loss and 13 were sacks for a total of 123 yards lost. He also had 15 quarterback hurries and forced four fumbles. "He'll be amazing next year," New said. "He's tough for teams to handle."



Matt Bjorson, Hinsdale Central

A three-year starter committed to Indiana, Bjorson was an offensive force in many ways. "The biggest thing he gave to the program was his toughness and tenacity to compete at this level," coach Dan Hartman said. "He broke the Dan Devils not as strong up front as previous seasons." The 6-foot-3, 225-pound senior tight end became the team's best blocker. Bjorson was the lead blocker for the ground game that piled up 2,500 rushing yards. The IHSCA all-state honoree and offensive player of the year in the West Suburban Silver caught 25 passes for 411 yards and 8 touchdowns. "He was the focal point of our offense," Hartman said.



Jackson Brusciarelli, Montini

As active as linebacker as his brother, Franklin, was a few years ago at Montini, 6-foot, 210-pound junior Jackson Brusciarelli made 136 tackles, nearly 14 a game. A two-year starter, he earned all-conference honors in the rugged Chicago Catholic League Green and was a Champaign News-Gazette honorable-mention all-state pick. Watching game film, reading keys, using his instincts and closing fast, Brusciarelli made 10 tackles for loss and forced 2 fumbles. He made 21 tackles against Lake Zurich and factored in every game. "He had a way to create a perfect path to the ball and he just seemed to do that all the time," said Broncos coach Mike Bukovsky.



Dylan Butts, Fenton

Dylan Butts' personality, physicality and motor garnered respect. Despite Fenton's 2-7 record the relentless 5-foot-1, 200-pound senior earned IHSCA Class 6A All-State honorable mention and all-Metro Suburban Blue. Everyone knew Butts was getting the ball yet he ran for 848 yards and 12 touchdowns, averaging 5.4 yards a carry. Fenton's offensive MVP broke an 81-yard touchdown run against Glenbard South and scored 5 touchdowns on 13 carries at Walther Christian. At defensive end the three-year starter made 18 tackles for loss with 7 sacks. His drive, vision, strength, quickness and leverage won battles. "He has the heart of a lion," said Bison coach Matthew Lynch.



Nick Calcagno, Naperville North

A two-year starter and two-time all-DuPage Valley Conference selection, Calcagno holds half a dozen scholarship offers, including one from Northern Illinois



University. "He's probably one of the best overall players we've had here," coach Sean Drendel said. The 6-foot-4, 220-pound senior had ideal size as a receiver. A great route runner with strong hands, Calcagno had 59 catches for 742 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also returned a punt for a touchdown while leading Naperville North in scoring. "He loves to compete and he makes big plays when it matters," Drendel said. "He consistently played with an edge and he was good at it."

Kevin Cooke, IC Catholic Prep

Rare is the sophomore who leads a state championship team in tackles, like IC Catholic Prep linebacker Kevin Cooke. Going 5-foot-10 and 160 pounds, Cooke was credited with making 155 tackles over 14 games, including 4 tackles for loss, 2 sacks, an interception, 2 fumbles recovered and 1 forced. A coach on the field, the blitzing Cooke played beyond his years, filling gaps fast and delivering jarring hits. Used sparingly on offense he nonetheless was clutch in pass protection, at tight end or slot receiver he caught 8 passes for 125 yards. "His reads are the clearest I've seen at linebacker since I've been coaching," said Knights coach Bill Kraft.



Ben Cooney, Benet

Cooney may not have snared as many interceptions as he did last season, but his overall play improved dramatically. "He was great on offense, defense and special teams," coach Pat New said. "We set the tone for the entire team." The 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior cornerback had 4 interceptions and broke up 10 passes. Cooney also showed his physicality by making 60 tackles, including 33 solos and five for loss. An offensive playmaker, Cooney rushed for 246 yards, caught 33 passes for 368 yards and scored 6 total touchdowns. "He really never came off the field this season," New said. "He's definitely one of the toughest kids I've ever coached."



Jack Crouch, Glenbard South

This 6-foot-10, 186-pound senior quarterback accounted for 2,611 yards and 27 touchdowns. A three-year starter voted IHSCA Class 5A All-State honorable mention, Crouch completed 59 percent of his passes for 1,829 yards and 14 touchdowns. He ran for 982 yards and 13 touchdowns. Fast, explosive, a leader by example and a film study guru who could improve on the spot, the all-Metro Suburban Blue picked passed for 340 yards, 4 touchdowns against Galesburg and threw for 173 yards and ran for 141 against Marian Central. Also Academic All-State, "Jack can go to any high-academic school he wants," said Raiders coach Ryan Crissey.



Aidan Cruickshank, Hinsdale Central

After working his way into the lineup midway through his sophomore season, Cruickshank became a record-breaker this junior campaign. "We thought he'd be pretty good," coach Dan Hartman said, "but nowhere near what he wound up doing." The 5-foot-11, 175-pound linebacker opened with a 20-tackle performance, notched 21 the next week and then broke the program's single-game record with 23 tackles. Cruickshank's 131 tackles were nearly twice as many as the team's second-leading tackler. He recovered three fumbles and scored a touchdown. "His knack for getting to the ball is incredible," Hartman said.



Nick D'Ambra, Glenbard South

Speed, strength, energy, heart. That's 6-foot-1, 205-pound senior Nick D'Ambra. In the playoffs he broke a 54-yard touchdown run against Payton and caught a touchdown pass against Marian Central. But the three-year starter earned IHSCA Class 5A All-State and Metro Suburban Blue defensive MVP honors with dominating linebacker play. D'Ambra made 142 tackles, 15 for loss, with 5 sacks. He stung Wheaton Academy with touchdowns on a 65-yard interception return and a 73-yard return of a blocked field goal attempt. Against IC Catholic he made 13 tackles, 3 for loss, 2 sacks. "Nick was just an absolute animal all season long," said Raiders coach Ryan Crissey.



Drake Davis, Naperville North

A Class 1A IHSCA honorable mention all-state selection at Bureau Valley a year ago, Davis was named to the IHSCA Class 6A all-state team this season with the Huskies. The 5-foot-11, 195-pound quarterback also was named Offensive Team Captain in the DuPage Valley Conference. "He works hard and makes his teammates better," coach Sean Drendel said. Davis completed 63 percent of his 314 passes for 2,724 yards and 23 touchdowns while being intercepted only six times. A dual threat signalcaller, Davis also rushed for 673 yards and 9 touchdowns. "He's a great football player and a better person," Drendel said.



Kevin Dobbins, Willowbrook

Hard to believe, but Dobbins didn't begin playing football until his freshman year. Now he's a record-breaking defensive lineman for the Warriors. "He continued to get better technically and with his football understanding," coach Nick Hidreth said. "It's still new to him, but he's already so good." The 6-foot-1, 202-pound senior end, a three-year starter, broke the program record for all-time sacks



with 22 and tied the all-time record for tackles for loss with 52. Twenty of his 86 tackles were for loss this season and Dobbins had 9.5 sacks. "Because of him we never had to blitz or do anything crazy up front," Hidreth said.

Lazerick Eatman, IC Catholic Prep

Who knows the yardage Lazerick Eatman could have accumulated had he finished IC Catholic's many blowouts? The 5-foot-10, 165-pound senior running back produced 1,514 yards and 23 touchdowns rushing and 456 yards, 9 touchdowns receiving. Also a two-year starting defensive back, Eatman averaged 9 yards a carry, 27 yards per catch. All-Metro Suburban Blue and IHSCA Class 3A All-State honorable mention, on 8 carries against Wilmington he gained 222 yards, 3 touchdowns. He ran for 237 yards and a 3A title game record-tying 4 touchdowns against Pleasant Plains. Eatman had all the moves, plus heart. "He always busted his butt," said Knights coach Bill Kraft.



Bryce Effner, Metea Valley

Bryce Effner missed the first three games caused by mononucleosis and still belted unanimous all-DuPage Valley Conference honors as an offensive lineman. The nonworking 6-foot-5, 285-pound senior tackle, a Penn State commit and three-year starter, was Kivala's ninth-rated recruit in Illinois Class of 2019. Twice all-DVC, twice Metea Valley offensive lineman of the year and this season voted IHSCA Class 5A All-State honorable mention, Effner displayed a rare combination of power, strength, size and athleticism, blocking multiple defenders on the same play. "He's unique in that he's the best athlete on our team and he weighs 280 pounds," said Mustangs coach Ben Kishansky.



Jayleen Fitzpatrick, Glenbard North

After a knee injury derailed Jayleen Fitzpatrick's junior season, he bounced back magnificently as a senior. The 5-foot-11, 215-pound tailback and linebacker was an IHSCA Class 7A All-State selection and the DuPage Valley Conference defensive team captain, a unanimous all-DVC linebacker. Glenbard North's defensive MVP made 77 tackles, 11 for loss with 3 sacks, 7 forced fumbles, 3 recovered. At Neuqua Valley he caused a fumble in the backfield and on the next play ran 16 yards for a touchdown. Fitzpatrick ran for 571 yards and a team-high 9 touchdowns. "He's one of the most explosive kids that we've ever coached," said Panthers coach Ryan Wilkins.



Connor Forrest, Waubonsie Valley

A three-year starter, the 6-foot-2, 260-pound senior outplayed the Warriors' offensive line. Forrest earned all-DuPage Valley Conference and Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Academic All-State. His 3.9 grade-point average has him looking at such schools as Carnegie Mellon, Chicago and Washington University in St. Louis. A solid line blocker, Forrest also played defensive tackle in short-yardage situations, causing 2 fumbles, 1 on Waubonsie's 1-yard line to clinch a victory. "He was a throwback," coach Paul Murphy said. "He was more of a mauler. He's very physical and if he got into you, if you didn't out-quick him, he could knock you on your butt."



J'Kolbi Grant, Wheaton North

There may have been bigger offensive linemen out there, but none were more tenacious than Grant. "He liked the physicality of the position," coach Joe Wardynski said. "He never slowed down at all." The 5-foot-9, 270-pound senior, brought up his sophomore year, was a two-year starter and a force at right guard. He didn't allow a quarterback sack, but his main contribution came while helping the ground game churn for 2,500 yards. The Falcons often ran right behind him, and he was especially effective pulling and delivering devastating downfield blocks. "He was really good last year and he was even better this year," Wardynski said.



Jackson Gray, Wheaton North

Gray's size, speed, quickness and athleticism allowed him to thrive in the Falcons' stellar secondary. The two-year starter was brought up late in his sophomore season and quickly developed into a defensive leader. "Just a great football player," coach Joe Wardynski said. "We trusted him back there and he got the job done." The 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior safety could cover a bunch of ground and deliver a big hit once he got to the ball. Gray notched 42.5 tackles and grabbed 5 interceptions, returning one of them for a touchdown. He averaged 23 yards on his 17 kick returns. "He was versatile," Wardynski said. "He did a lot for us."



Tyrik Henderson, Glenbard North

Tyrik Henderson was Kivala's No. 5 player among Illinois' Class of 2018 entering the season, DuPage County's highest-ranked recruit. In April the 6-foot, 180-pound cornerback committed to the University of Minnesota from among a reported 18 scholarship offers. His length, speed, flexibility, field awareness and ability to mirror receivers had opponents looking elsewhere to pass. The all-DuPage Valley Conference selection intercepted 1 pass, broke up 3 others and made 20 tackles, 2 for loss. Henderson averaged 32 yards on kickoff returns and also led Glenbard North with 24 receptions for 360 yards



and 3 touchdowns. "He had a nose for the ball," said Panthers coach Ryan Wilkins.

Jack Jessen, Willowbrook

The Daily Herald DuPage County Red Grange All-Area Football Captain simply did it all for the Warriors. "He's a one-in-a-career type of kid," coach Nick Hidreth said. "I'm not sure I'll ever see another one like him." A two-way starter for three seasons, this senior year the 5-foot-11, 199-pound running back and linebacker earned IHSCA all-state honors for a second time. Committed to wrestle at Northwestern, Jessen set five program records. This season he rushed for 2,550 yards and 24 touchdowns and led the team with 90 tackles. "He didn't think he should ever come off the field," Hidreth said. "He's always the toughest player on the field."



Jack Jopes, Naperville Central

For an athlete who could play anywhere, Jopes settled in nicely in Naperville Central's secondary. The 5-foot-9, 160-pound junior made an immediate impact in his first varsity season, showing equal ability to defend the pass or the run. "The guy just knows how to make plays," coach Mike Stine said. "He has an special talent for disrupting offenses." The defensive back showed strength and quickness while leading the team with 142 tackles, Jopes forced 6 fumbles and broke up 6 passes. Not bad for someone who quarterbacked the top team in the 9-C region. "I don't think he missed a 5 a.m. off-season workout," Stine said.



Rashad Khwaja, Lake Park

Something interesting happened when Khwaja started playing on both sides of the ball midway through the season. His level of play skyrocketed. "He started to play better because he was always locked in," coach Chris Bell said. "He started making huge plays for us." The 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior was a two-year starter at cornerback but worked hard to earn his way into the offensive scheme. Explosive and physical with a lightning-quick ability to change direction, Khwaja had 61 tackles, snared 2 interceptions and broke up 11 passes. "When we went on our winning streak near the end of the year, he was the one who sparked us," Bell said.



Justin Koltzow, Hinsdale South

Koltzow split time behind center last year, but he took full control of the offense this season. "He progressed and grew as a quarterback every week," coach Mike Barry said. "He continually was able to rise to the occasion in games." The 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior showed a big arm, an ability to read defenses and Koltzow could make in-game adjustments on the fly while guiding a no-huddle attack. Koltzow threw for 2,093 yards and 18 touchdowns. In a major first-round playoff upset of Crete-Monee, Koltzow completed 64 percent of his passes for 272 yards and 2 touchdowns. "He really stepped up this year," Barry said.



Josh Krajacic, Neuqua Valley

Voted unanimously by DuPage Valley Conference coaches onto the all-conference team on defensive line, Neuqua Valley senior Josh Krajacic turned speed, strength and an unyielding motor into a powerful force at end on the Wildcats' three-man front. Able to clean 275 pounds in the weight room, the two-year starter made 35 tackles, 12 of them for loss, with 6 sacks and 2 other hurries. Two of the Division I prospect's sacks came in the opener at Metea Valley. "He runs a legit 4.6 at defensive end, and that's what makes him special," said Wildcats coach Bill Elinhans. "Once he gets on the edge he'll track you down."



Ryan Laurenzo, Naperville North

Laurenzo is a two-year starter, but he's also one of the area's most improved players. The 6-foot-4, 200-pound senior receiver was a perfect complement to first-year Huskies quarterback Drake Davis. "He was unbelievable at coming up with big plays," coach Sean Drendel said. "We knew if we were going to throw the ball this year, Ryan was going to be a big part of it." Laurenzo led the Huskies with 71 catches for 1,013 yards and 6 touchdowns. He also caught a 2-point conversion pass. "He's a dynamic player with tremendous leaping ability and body control," Drendel said. "He was able to develop great chemistry with Drake."



Brandon Loth, Willowbrook

Anything his coaches threw at him, Loth gladly handled. That meant two-way play for three seasons, including two different spots on the offensive line. "Easily the most versatile lineman I've ever coached," coach Nick Hidreth said. "He could play anywhere." He played all three years at linebacker, but the 6-foot, 215-pound senior spent his sophomore and junior seasons at center before moving to tackle on offense this season. And he thrived despite not participating in the summer due to injury. Loth made 73 tackles, including 13.5 for loss. "He was so valuable for us," Hidreth said. "We rarely look him off the field for three years."



Continued from Page 2

Ricky Mysliwiec, IC Catholic Prep

"Mr. Consistency" is how IC Catholic Prep coach Bill Krefl described the 6-foot-1, 275-pound lineman...



Devin Petersen, Benet

It was going to take quite an effort to break Benet's single-season record for tackles...



Alec Pierce, Glenbard West

A contributor in all three phases, Pierce garnered IHSCFA all-state honors and was named the most valuable player...



Jayden Reed, Naperville Central

On offense, defense or special teams, Reed was a threat to score every time he touched the ball...



Connor Reid, Benet

Reid didn't start as a junior due to the tremendous seniors playing in front of him, but his addition to the lineup this year formed the Redwings' secondary...



Gino Romano, Lake Park

As a junior last year, Romano began the season behind other players but earned a starting spot with relentless work and firm stufy...

Here's a breakdown of football players: Coach Chris Ford said, 'He worked hard and hit hard in games and in practice...'



Khali Saunders, IC Catholic Prep

Khali Saunders was like a time bomb. Sooner or later the 6-foot-3, 215-pound junior exploded to make a game-turning play...



Kyle Schroeder, Waubesa Valley

A Class 8A Academic All-State player, three-year starting linebacker Kyle Schroeder used intelligence, athleticism and drive to diagnose plays...



Sam Singleton, Wheaton North

Singleton became the Falcons' feature running back last year as a junior, and they relied on him even more this season...



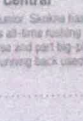
Dimitrie Skakavac, Wheaton Academy

A repeat All-Area selection, the 6-foot-2, 230-pound H-back and middle linebacker was voted Wheaton Academy's MVP...



Luke Skokna, Hinsdale Central

Already a two-year starter as a junior, Skokna has a chance to break the program's all-time rushing mark next season...



His standout receiving ability to power the Red Devils offense. Despite his size he's one of the toughest kids you'll find...



Jaiven Slater, Montini

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior defensive end and offensive tackle delivered explosive power, length, evasiveness...



Destin Talbert, Hinsdale South

One of the state's most explosive players, Talbert developed into a touchdown machine for the Hornets and the offensive player of the year in the West Suburban Gold...



Trevor Tesmond, Nequa Valley

Nequa Valley's 6-foot, 190-pound senior free safety excelled whether playing 'center field' or flying up to support against the run...



Dre Thomas, Glenbard West

For an offense that showed explosiveness throughout the season, victory often boiled down to Thomas churning out tough yards...



Payton Thorne, Naperville Central

As soon as Thorne transferred in from Metea Valley last summer, the Redhawk became a DuPage Valley Conference contender and a threat to make a deep playoff run...



We were able to do that right away with him," coach Mike Stine said. Thorne completed 59 percent of his passes for 2,794 yards and 25 touchdowns...

Scott Tumilty, Willowbrook

Brought up to varsity for spot duty last season as a sophomore, Tumilty wound up grabbing an interception in a playoff win over Glenbrook North...



Jose Vazquez, Glenbard North

If says something about this 6-foot-3, 256-pound senior offensive guard that he was named Glenbard North's offensive MVP...



Sergio Villalobos, Downers Grove South

The two-time West Suburban Gold defensive lineman of the year earned the respect of the coaches with his selection to the IHSCFA all-state team...



Nick Vogel, Naperville North

As the lone returning starter to the Naperville North's offensive line, a lot of pressure sat on Vogel's shoulders heading into this season...



C.J. West, IC Catholic Prep

IC Catholic Prep quarterback C.J. West wrote one of the season's best stories. An injury replacement, the 6-foot-2, 185-pound senior emerged from receiver coach-third string quarterback to Malm Suburban Blue...



Honorable mention

- Nate Ashford (Waubesa Valley, sr., RB), Jackson Behles (Lake Park, sr., QB), Nick Biancatura (Hinsdale Central, sr., DB), Sean Blum (Wheaton Academy, sr., DL-DL), Tyrwan Cox (Glenbard West, jr., RB), Blake Davis (Downers Grove North, sr., LB), A.J. Deonhart (Naperville Central, sr., RB), Jack Donahue (Addison Trail, sr., DL-DL), Jacob Entwistle (Willowbrook, sr., DB-WR), Jack Eschenbach (Benet, sr., WR), Jake Esvoff (Nequa Valley, sr., DB), Jon Flowers (Glenbard North, sr., WR-DB), Luke Hallstrom (Naperville Central, jr., OL), Adam Haeflisch (Glenbard South, sr., RB-DL), Trentan Hegrales (Wheaton North, sr., DB), Zane Heemsoth (Park, jr., LB), Jahleel Humphrey (West Chicago, sr., WR), Brian Jackson (Montini, sr., DL), Jeff Marach (Lisle, sr., OL-DL), Ryan Marrano (Naperville North, sr., LB), Carlos Mercado (Fenton, sr., OL-DL), Bob Mosley (Hinsdale South, sr., OL-DL), Bo Nevoalka (Wheaton North, sr., LB), Adam Nicodemus (Metea Valley, sr., WR-DB), Keonta Nixon (Lake Park, sr., WR), Garrett Dakay

- (Hinsdale Central, sr., WR-RB), Aidan O'Keefe (Glenbard West, sr., DL), Nick Orlando (Montini, sr., QB-DB), Dylan Packer (IC Catholic, sr., DL-DL), Patrick Pansalik (Lake Park, jr., OL), Randa Petrick (Addison Trail, sr., OL-DL), Ben Pham (Glenbard East, jr., OL), Tanner Prowman (Westmont, sr., DL-LB), Matt Quaglia (Montini, sr., WR-DB), Edgar Quintas (Willowbrook, sr., OL), De'Quan Ramsey (Wheaton North, sr., DL), Cameron Ratupah (Nequa Valley, sr., RB), Kellen Reese (IC Catholic, jr., DL-LB), Nick Rendina (St. Francis, sr., RB-LB), Rod Rivera (Glenbard South, sr., DB), Charles Robinson (Waubesa Valley, sr., TE-DB), Nick Sabatino (Willowbrook, sr., DB-WR), Khali Saunders (IC Catholic, jr., WR-DB), Drew Shelly (Downers Grove North, sr., RB), Cameron Stet (Lisle, TE-LB), John T... (Willowbrook, sr., DB), Mike Wellman (Glenbard North, jr., TE-LB), Tanner Westwood (Waubesa Valley, sr., DB), Ryan Wheeler (Nequa Valley, sr., DB), Ryan Young (Wheaton Warrenville South, sr., RB)

The champs



IC Catholic Prep was the only DuPage County school to celebrate a state football championship this fall.



Willowbrook senior Jack Jessen led the Warriors to the Class 6A quarterfinals playing both running back and linebacker.

Warriors' Jessen just keeps working

By KEVIN SCHMIT
kschmit@dailyherald.com

The text beamed into Nick Hildreth's cell phone sometime after midnight. Mere hours after Willowbrook's football team claimed another Friday night victory, the Warriors' coach had forgotten to send the latest game film to his players to study.

Hildreth immediately knew the texter. It had to be Jack Jessen. "Yeah, I knew it was him wanting to look at the film," Hildreth said with a laugh. "He played a whole game, probably sat in an ice bath afterward. And he still wanted to look at film that night. He never stops."

Jessen never stops. Never stops running through level after level of defenders. Never stops leveling opposing runners while playing defense.

Never stops working. Never stops winning. Jessen knows no other way. "I've been like that ever since I was a little kid," he said. "Never able to sit down, always restless, always needing to do something. My parents told me when I was a baby I always had to be playing with a ball."

And he won't stop now. With so much still to do, Jessen is the 2017 Daily Herald DuPage County Red Grange Football Captain.

"He was by far the best running back we faced, but we also always accounted for No. 24 on defense," said Downers Grove South coach Mark Molinari. "You just don't see kids like that who are that good on both sides of the ball. You see two-way players, but not that good on both sides."

Jessen...

All you need to know about Jessen's football motor is that he's a wrestler. There's no doubt the combination of the two sports helped him become one of the state's elite players the last three seasons.

"I instantly fell in love with both sports," said Jessen, who began competing in both when he was about 5 years old. "It took a lot of extra time and practice to get me where I am today, but putting in the extra work paid off."

"I definitely think wrestling helps out with football," he said. "I've been on big stages in wrestling and that's helped out with the bigger football games I've been in."

You also see the clear physical correlation.

His explosion is similar in both sports, and it allowed him to shine on both sides of the ball.

This season Jessen rushed for 2,050 yards and 24 touchdowns — both program records — while leading the Warriors with 90 tackles at linebacker. The 5-foot-11 senior set four other program records, including most starts, and is the only Willowbrook football player to be a team captain for three years.

The Warriors made back-to-back quarterfinal appearances with Jessen leading the way, and this season they won the West Suburban Gold title for the first time. Credit that never-stop attitude.

"What he's able to do is pretty special," said Willowbrook senior Tyler Guerrero, a football player and wrestler who's known Jessen since they were in kindergarten. "I truly believe it's the wrestling mentality. We're taught to score from any position on offense or defense, and I think that carries over to football."

"It's his mental toughness and conditioning," he said. "He's just a great athlete."

...Never...

Jessen's assault on the season began last summer when he actually missed part of football camp. But it was for a good cause.

Jessen, who will wrestle at Northwestern University next year, was in North Dakota winning a Junior Greco-Roman national championship. He finished second in freestyle.

After placing second twice and third once in the IHSA state tournament, Jessen has his full focus on winning a state title at 182 pounds. According to Warriors wrestling coach Brandon Murphy, a long wrestling season would give Jessen a shot at the state record for all-time victories.

"Willowbrook's always had some great multi-sport athletes," Murphy said. "There's a grit and a toughness you have to have to make it through both seasons. When it comes to that third and fourth quarter and other players start to fade, he's not nearly as tired, and that's when he really starts to perform."

It often took three or four defenders to bring down Jessen. That's because of the immense training he has dedicating his legs on the mat. He's a good tackler because of his takedowns prowess — nearly 1,000 in his first three wrestling seasons with the Warriors.

He's in wrestling shape during football season," Murphy said. "In terms of football, he's

done all he can do. Now he'll try to reach the top of his sport in wrestling."

...Stops

Jessen didn't want to miss any football time last summer, but Hildreth helped his star player recognize the priority of the situation.

"The only days he's missing, he's actually working harder with the best wrestlers in the country," Hildreth said. "So we'll gladly take that."

They'll also take Jessen's expertise at time management and strong family influence from his parents, Dennis and Blanca, and younger sister Emma. While excelling at everything he does in sports, Jessen also manages a 4.1 grade-point average on a 4-point scale.

"I just make time for everything, even if it means I'm not going out and doing stuff," Jessen said. "I might have missed out on some fun, but it's been worth it."

Being absent from anything is a rarity for Jessen, who said he hasn't missed a practice or a game since he had his tonsils taken out at about the time he started competing in football and wrestling.

This season Jessen averaged 24 carries and 7.5 tackles a game, including 48 carries in a second-round playoff win over DeKalb and 10 tackles in the season-ending loss to eventual Class 6A champion Prairie Ridge.

"I love the game of football and I love being out there as much as possible," he said. "I'm never really 100 percent, but I'm never hurt enough to miss a game. Being off the field just doesn't feel right."

Jessen's 33rd and final start didn't go as planned in a 42-7 loss to Prairie Ridge. His ankle was rolled up on and he wound up on the sideline, restless and practically begging to go back in the game.

With the game out of reach and time winding down, Hildreth let Jessen return to action.

"I looked bad," Hildreth said. "But he did not like the way he was going out. He wanted to end it on his terms."

Jessen limped back into the game. He got his last carry on the last play of Willowbrook's season.

Ten days later he returned to the wrestling mat to compete in the Warriors' meet.

Once again, Jessen never stopped.

"I don't want to miss any of it," he said.

Follow Kevin on Twitter @kevin_schmit



- First DuPage County Red Grange All-Area Football Captains
- 1989 — Jeff Thorne, Wheaton Central
 - 1990 — Bill Korosec, Naperville North
 - 1991 — Tim Miller, Glenbard North
 - 1992 — Eric Kretz, Waubesa Valley
 - 1993 — Bobby Nelson, WW South
 - 1994 — Steve Howard, Wheaton North
 - 1995 — Tim Lavery, Naperville Central
 - 1996 — Tim Stratton, York
 - 1997 — R.J. Luke, Waubesa Valley
 - 1998 — Jon Beuerman/Jon Schweighaupt, WW South
 - 1999 — Ryan Clifford, Naperville Central
 - 2000 — Kyle Kieckhefer, Downers Grove North
 - 2001 — Phil Horvath, Naperville Central
 - 2002 — Brad Blower, Hinsdale Central
 - 2003 — Tom Edwards, Downers Grove North
 - 2004 — Gody Cialenski, Downers Grove North
 - 2005 — Brett Morse, Hinsdale Central
 - 2006 — Dan Darling, WW South
 - 2007 — Jordan Tassio, Naperville North
 - 2008 — Chris Watt, Glenbard West
 - 2009 — John Whitelow, Hinsdale Central
 - 2010 — Reilly O'Toole, WW South
 - 2011 — Jordan Westerkamp, Mantzini
 - 2012 — Joey Phattiphan, Nequa Valley
 - 2013 — Justin Jackson, Glenbard North
 - 2014 — Clint Bobowski, St. Francis
 - 2015 — Sam Brodner, Glenbard West
 - 2016 — Jordan Rowell, KC Catholic Prep
 - 2017 — Jack Jessen, Willowbrook
- Editor's note: The Daily Herald DuPage County All-Area Captains merged with the Red Grange Award in 2017.

THE RED GRANGE AWARD AND THE DAILY HERALD ARE JOINING FORCES.



Coming Dec. 1, the winner of the Daily Herald DuPage County Red Grange All-Area Football Captain

The winner will be honored at halftime of the Red Grange Bowl hosted by College of DuPage on Dec. 2

All proceeds from ticket sales to the game benefit Ronald McDonald House in Winfield. Tickets available at www.cod.edu/redgrangebowl



Scouting DuPage County wrestling

Top athletes: Addison Trail: Christian Artellano, Jr., 120; Guillermo Juarez, Jr., 106; Jake Matthews, Jr., 126; Brian Reyes, Jr., 145; Nick Stamra, soph., 182. Downers Grove South: Nate Cummings, sr., 120; Jim Flavin, sr., 220; Quintan George, 170; Ethan Smith, sr., 285. Downers Grove South: Jacob Houliou, sr., 170; Dylan Knoch, Jr., 132; Matt Straus, Jr., 113; Sergio Villalobos, sr., 195. Fenton: Isalah Brock, sr., 285; Dylan Butts, sr., 182. Anthony Park, sr., 170; Danny Ramirez, soph., 132. Glenbard East: Jesus Lopez, Jr., 220; Cole Martin, sr., 160; Reese Martin, soph., 126; Alex Posada, Jr., 145; Alec Wolff, sr., 182. Glenbard North: Abe Assad, Jr., 170; Merishad Bashang, Jr., 195; Bryan Esquivel, Jr., 126; Luke Kohout, sr., 152; Anthony Marre, sr., 160; George Marre, Jr., 145; Quintin Terry, sr., 220. Glenbard South: Edin Ah, Jr., 132; Miani Alexis, Jr., 145; Adam Haussham, sr., 195; Ivan Zuniga, soph., 138. Glenbard West: Aaron Castellanos, sr., 192; Catron Frazier, sr., 113; Peyton Nimsakont, sr., 145; Connor Skryd, sr., 220; Will Vesevick, sr., 138. Hinsdale Central: Liam Dury, sr., 145; Caleb Lageste, sr., 170; Luke Skokna, Jr., 160. Hinsdale South: Easa Ariztalzar, sr., 145; Julian Kinsey, sr., 170; Derrick Singletan, soph., 113. IC Catholic Prep: Joey Bianchini, sr., 113; Victor Vargas, sr., 220. Lake Park: Anthony Gulyk, sr., 220; Demarco Lee, Jr., 195; Vince Liebig, sr., 152; Zach Schleimer, sr., 182. Lisle: Connor Keabaugh, Jr., 182; Jack Kelly, soph., 145; Kevin Paz, Jr., 285; Charlie Waldusky, Jr., 195; Zack Zwickler, Jr., 220. Melea Valley: Harsh Anchan, sr., 120; Josh LaBarbara, soph., 170; Phillip Sims, Jr., 138; Jacob Tjarts, sr., 182; Mekhi White, sr., 195. Montini: Will Lewan, sr., 152; Fidel Mayora, soph., 138; Joey Melendez, sr., 120; Matt Ortiz, Jr., 160; Real Woods, sr., 126. Naperville Central: Tyler Driessens, soph., 106; Kyle Gut-tusich, Jr., 113; Nick Keating, sr., 145; Jackson Puzuel, Jr., 182. Naperville North: Anthony Gallegos, sr., 138; Ben Kruk, sr., 120; Gabe Malar, sr., 170; John Simmelink, sr., 182; Lucas Van Poucke, sr., 126. Nequa Valley: Kyle Boskie, Jr., 220; Jacob Boumans, Jr., 170; Alec Castillo, sr., 195; Jake Mohler, Jr., 152; Dennis Murphy, Jr., 126; Robert Pena, Jr., 285; Danny Sanderson, sr., 145; Koshal Shah, Jr., 195. St. Francis: Ben Bouquadin, Jr., 126; Michael D'Orazio, sr., 113; Vincent D'Orazio, sr., 132; Colin James, Jr., 145; Danny Skold, Jr., 220. Wau-bausse Valley: Lucas Brattand, sr., 152; Evan Bruner, soph., 106; Matt Garmody, Jr., 182; Michael Foster, Jr., 160; Garrett St. Clair, Jr., 220. West



Willowbrook's Jack Jessen hopes to win a state championship and be the best in the nation in his weight class this season.

Chicago: Ernest Cardenas, sr.; Victor Castellanos, sr.; Chris Garcia, sr.; Jacob Hernandez, sr.; Noah Kotke, sr.; Malik Millazo, sr.; Carlos Munos, sr.; Cosme Ramos, sr.; Wheaton Academy: Derek Johank, Jr., 220; Connor Scanlan, sr., 160; Noah Szakjovics, soph., 126; Alex Ventimilla, Jr., 113; Graham Wall, sr., 285. Wheaton North: Logan Balosky, Jr., 106; Jeff Dowell, Jr., 160; Natan Jara, Jr., 189; Jaime Suarez, sr., 132; Wheaton Warrenville South: Peyton Berry, Jr., 145; Preston Berry, soph., 138; Nata Dalan, sr., 160; Hunter Edwards, sr., 120; Ramiro Ferrer, sr., 220; Max Wilson, sr., 195. Willowbrook: Alex Bernardino, soph., 195; Tom Iozzi, soph., 152; Jack Jessen, sr., 182; Richie Scheek, Jr., 126; Zach Seymour, soph., 120. York: Alex Gutfierrez, soph., 113; Kevon Robinson, Jr., 195.

Scouting report: The surnames Roth, Behke and Conger occupy special status in the history of Willowbrook wrestling. Jessen was looking to add his name to undefeated state champions for the Villa Park school last February in the Class 3A championship match at 182 pounds. But Marian Catholic senior Karaliff Hoffleit denied Jessen a 5-1st consecutive victory. It was the second runner-up finish for Jessen, who signed a national letter of intent to wrestle at Northwestern next fall. An eight-time All-America in three disciplines at the famed Fargo national tournament, Jessen has one aim in mind for his senior year. "I (Jessen) wants to be No. 1 in the nation," Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy said. "He is a top-ranked in some polls. (Nos. 1 and 2) and 3 in other polls." Jessen has essentially averaged 50 wins during his first three years for the Warriors. "Statistically, he has been enormous for us. There's not a lot of secrets to success other than putting the time in and patience. He has put in the time and is always patient."

Montini is clearly the local team to focus on this winter. The top-five nationally ranked Broncos have six returning all-stars. Metensky, Woods and Lewan captured state championships at 113, 126 and 145 pounds, respectively. Ragusa

was runner-up at 106 pounds; Mayora (145 pounds) and Ortiz (152) were third and fifth. "They'll be tough to beat as long as they stay healthy," former Montini luminary Mike Mucha — the new coach at the Nequa Valley — said of his alma mater. "They're ranked fourth in the country." Meta Valley coach Claudio Torres said of the Broncos after a one-sided loss to Montini to open its season. Other than Jessen and the Montini quartet, the only other area returning state medalists in Class 3A are Downers Grove athletes Cummings (North) and Villalobos (South). But there is rarely a scarcity of talented wrestlers in the area. Multiple sectional qualifiers dot the landscape as the difficulty of even qualifying to the Class 3A finals in Champaign — let alone placing — is considered a tremendous accomplishment because Illinois is routinely considered top three in the nation for prep wrestling.

Naperville North coach Tom Champion has grand hopes for returning state qualifier Van Poucke. "The state finals," Champion said of his expectations for Van Poucke. "I would love to see four qualifiers and a state finalist."

The current school year marks the conclusion of the DuPage Valley Conference as a nine-time league. Storied power Glenbard North has its remarkable runs in league championships and regional titles ended by future DuKane Conference members Wheaton North and St. Charles East. Glenbard North senior Assad should be a leading contender for top honors at 170. The Panthers' Anthony Marre is scary at 152. Terry is yet another state-medalist threat for Glenbard North. Suarez locks to do damage for defending league champion Wheaton North at 138.

Edwards and Ferrer are state-worthy bets for WW South at near opposite ends of the weight spectrum. Naperville North and Melea Valley advanced Kruk, Malar, Sims and White out of the Batavia regional, arguably the toughest in the state. Keating and Gutfierrez achieved the same distinction for Naperville Central.

The overall favorite is considered wide open in the DVC.

Waubausse Valley will ride Aurora Central Catholic transfer St. Clair. Mucha has inherited eight returning starters at Nequa Valley. Lake Park will look for senior leadership from Liebh, Schleimer and Gulyk. "They're all football players," Lake Park coach Anthony Cirincione said. "I think all three will get to the state tournament. I think there's turnover everywhere in the conference."

"We are really hoping to win the conference tournament and advance as many guys in the postseason," Mucha said of his primary first-year aim.

The two divisions of the West Suburban Conference will undoubtedly garner attention this year. The leagues eschew conference tournaments as the regular season dual meets are the sole criteria for declaring team champions. "I'm in favor of it," Downers South coach Sean Lovelace said. "There is not a team in the Gold or Silver that we don't see. We see enough of the teams already. It gives us a chance to go to another tournament." The Mustangs boast one of the top athletes in the area in Villalobos, third last year. "He is currently ranked No. 1, for what that is worth," Lovelace said. Cummings was sixth last year for Downers North at 106 pounds. With the titanic presence of Oak Park-River Forest invariably felt in the Silver, highly regarded Glenbard West will look returning state qualifier Frazier as the team anchor. "He is coming in with confidence," Glenbard West coach Nick Poseguy said of Frazier, a 113-pounder last year. "I don't think the weight-class jump will be that much of a problem for him. I think our senior-heavy team will be in the mix (for a Silver championship)."

For the smaller schools in DuPage County, IC Catholic Prep senior Bianchini won the gold medal in Class 1A at 113 pounds last year. Vargas was also all-state for the Knights with his sixth-place finish. Glenbard South, Wheaton Academy and St. Francis are looking to make noise in Class 2A.

— Kevin McGivvin

Basketball: Spartans lose

Continued from Page 6

left. The Irish then converted two pairs of super bonus free throws.

"When we're less than 50 percent from the free-throw line, we don't box out and we turn the ball over more times than we get offensive possessions, we're going to lose the ballgame," St. Francis coach Melissa Taylor said. "Although we had the lead most of the game, we didn't take care of it at times when we needed to and we let them change our tempo and didn't play at our pace, which is why they took the game over at the end."

Walker, who was injured during AAU season, made her season debut Tuesday. She scored 29 of the team's first 42 points Thursday before Fasana followed with 8 straight points for a 50-44

lead. Dzielgel and freshman Katelyn Chapparo each had 4 points.

"Getting back in the lineup is fine. It's just conditioning and running up and down the court. Overall I'll be back in it by tomorrow's game (at West Aurora)," Walker said.

"What we've been working on during practice, lessening our turnovers and not so much dribbling, transitions, all of that kind of stuff we messed up on at the end. This is just a low. Tomorrow's going to be a high."

McNamara, which has no seniors in the program, rallied even after two starters fouled out, including leading scorer Precious Browning on an offensive foul with 4:49 left. Reserve Jaelyn Vickery had 6 of her 16 points in the fourth quarter, 4 on putbacks.

"We've let a couple get away from us. (Coming back) is nice to see because we're really young," McNamara coach John Kuter said. "We did not play well at all. It was a conference game, we'll take it. They're a good club. They always hustle and are in every game. In that sense, it's a great win."



Wheaton North's Sarah Topps (25) drives the lane against the Wheaton Warrenville South defense on Thursday night.

Notice

Wheaton North's Sarah Topps (25) drives the lane against the Wheaton Warrenville South defense on Thursday night.

Football

Wheaton North's Sarah Topps (25) drives the lane against the Wheaton Warrenville South defense on Thursday night.

Girls gymnastics

Wheaton North's Sarah Topps (25) drives the lane against the Wheaton Warrenville South defense on Thursday night.

Girls basketball

Wheaton North's Sarah Topps (25) drives the lane against the Wheaton Warrenville South defense on Thursday night.

Upcoming events

Wheaton North's Sarah Topps (25) drives the lane against the Wheaton Warrenville South defense on Thursday night.



Batavia's Alex Cruz, left, hangs on to Naperville Central's Elkin Espartero in the 126-pound weight class Saturday.

Commission approves application for library expansion

Addition should be completed in 2018

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

The Villa Park Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously last week to approve an application for special use for expansion of the Villa Park Public Library. The application is related to the upcoming expansion and renovation of the library, which is located at 305 S. Ardmore Ave.

Robin Whitehurst, the chairman of the planning and zoning commission, noted that the commission's approval passes to the Villa Park Village Board, which has the right to accept, reject or modify the application.

Nearly eight months ago, in the election of April 4, Villa Park voters approved a referendum to borrow up to \$10.6 million to pay for expansion and renovation of the library, which opened in 1969. The referendum passed by a margin of about 64 to 36 percent, with 2,217 voting in favor and 1,236 votes against the proposal.

Andy Dogan of Williams Architects of Itasca—the library's architect for the project—gave a brief presentation during the planning and zoning commission's Nov. 20 meeting. Dogan noted the voter-approved referendum will allow the library to provide space for programs and services, and to remodel the existing building to address a variety of infrastructure issues.

Dogan said the addition will add about 9,200 square feet of space to the library building, which currently occupies about 22,000 square feet.

The new addition is expected to be completed in mid 2018, while the renovation should be completed in early 2019. The overall project will be completed in phases to allow the library to remain open throughout the expansion and renovation process.

Dogan said Williams Architects made the petition for special use because the project calls for substantial alterations to the existing building.

Dogan mentioned the updated library will feature a new parking lot located to the north of the existing building. The new parking lot, which will include a drive-up book drop-off, will offer 55 spaces, an increase of 17 spaces from the current lot on the south side of the library.

Dogan explained the library and the Diocese of Joliet have agreed to



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park's planning and zoning commission approved an application last week for special use for expansion of the Villa Park Public Library. The application now passes to the Villa Park Village Board. Earlier this year, voters approved a referendum proposal to spend up to \$10.6 million to expand and renovate the library. The library's architecture firm—Williams Architects of Itasca—made the application to the planning and zoning commission. The photo shows an eastward view toward the library, which was built in 1969. The rendering by Williams Architects (below) shows a view of the northwest side of the library. The updated library's main entrance and parking lot will move from the building's south side to the north side. The addition of about 9,200 square feet of space should be completed in mid 2018. The renovation of the existing building should be finished in early 2019. More renderings of the library project are available under the "Building Project" tab on the Villa Park Public Library's website at vppl.info.

swap parking lots. The library's new lot on the north side has been a St. Alexander Parish lot. As part of the swap agreement, the library's current parking lot on the south side of the building will become property of St. Alexander.

Dogan said his firm met with village staff about two months ago to discuss zoning, landscaping and storm water plans related to the project. There will be a six-foot fence on the north side of the property, said Dogan, who added that the overall landscaping plan will feature a variety of plants consistent with village requirements. He also stated that all of the windows on the existing building will be replaced.

Patrick Grill, Villa Park's director of community development, spoke briefly during the meeting and recommended that the commission approve the application. Grill said village staff was very pleased with the submittal by Williams Architects.



Nearly eight months ago, in the election of April 4, Villa Park voters approved a referendum to borrow up to \$10.6 million to pay for expansion and renovation of the library, which opened in 1969. The referendum passed by a margin of about 64 to 36 percent, with 2,217 voting in favor and 1,236 votes against the proposal.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Warriors win tournament title

Willowbrook's boys basketball team began its 2017-18 season by winning the championship at Stagg High School's John McBride Thanksgiving Classic. The Warriors won all four of their games in last week's round-robin event. Willowbrook finished the tournament with Saturday's 72-52 win over Stagg. One year ago, the Warriors began the 2016-17 season by winning the same tournament with a 4-0 record. See the sports pages for more about Willowbrook's boys basketball team.

Villa Park briefs

Joyful Traditions takes place Saturday

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Joyful Traditions celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. The event will take place near the Rugarard Gazebo, located along the Illinois Prairie Path near Ardmore Avenue and Park Boulevard.

The free family fun festival, which is co-sponsored by the chamber and the Village of Villa Park, features a tasting tent, a s'more station, horse wagon rides and a tree lighting ceremony. Children will be able to visit with Santa Claus in the gazebo. Members of the Willowbrook High School choir will sing Christmas carols.

Free leaf pickup ends next week

The Village of Villa Park's free leaf collection will continue through Dec. 8.

Residents can dispose of an unlimited number of Kraft paper bags of leaves without having to affix yellow yard waste disposal stickers, which are required during the rest of the year.

Brush must be tied in bundles no longer than four feet and not larger than 18 inches in diameter. No limbs over four inches will be accepted. Make sure to have brush and leaves ready at the curb before 6 a.m. on collection day.

Youth theater group performs holiday production Dec. 16-17

The Saint Genesius Productions youth theater group will perform "The Story of Holly and Ivy" on Saturday, Dec. 16, and Sunday, Dec. 17, at Montini Catholic High School. Saturday's show times are 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday's performance begins at 2 p.m.

Twenty-five students from local Catholic grade schools and religious education programs have joined together to create this holiday performance.

"The Story of Holly and Ivy" is about wishing. Ivy, Holly, and Mrs. Jones each have one powerful Christmas wish. Ivy, an orphan, wishes for a real home and sets out in search of the grandmother she's sure she can find. Holly, a doll, wishes for a child to bring her to life. Mrs. Jones wishes more than anything for a child. Can all three wishes come true? This festive tale is filled with the warm glow of Christmas spirit. The play has been adapted by Saint Genesius alumna Emily O'Brochta and Saint Genesius Artistic Director Sara Corkery from Rumer Godden's classic children's book by the same name.

Tickets cost \$8 and can be purchased at the door, or ordered online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3172246>.

To learn more, visit stgenesiusproductions.com.

Saint Genesius Productions, founded in 2010, was created to bring the experience of professionally produced children's theater to Catholic grade school students throughout DuPage County. This volunteer-run youth theater group provides students in fourth through eighth grade with a performing arts education and the opportunity to appear in plays and musicals.



Rams pick up their first win of the season

Pusateri's 13-point output helps Rams beat Glenbard North



The Glenbard East girls basketball team earned its first victory of the season when it defeated Glenbard North 35-22 in a Nov. 22 contest at the Rachel Bach Memorial Tournament.

The Rams wound up winning one of five games in the six-team round-robin tournament. Glenbard East completed play at the eve with Saturday's 37-16 loss to Glenbard South in Glen Ellyn. That defeat left the Rams with an overall season record of 1-5.

Glenbard East and Glenbard North were tied at 12-12 at halftime in last week's meeting in Lombard. The Rams held a 23-19 lead at the end of the third quarter. Junior Sophie Moore contributed five points including a 3-point shot, during the period. Senior Mattie Pusateri scored four points in the quarter with a pair of field goals.

Pusateri added a 3-point basket and one more field goal in the final quarter. She finished the game with a team-leading 13 points. Moore and senior Sommer Dolinski both scored six points. Seniors Sa Dooley and Katie Hansen each tallied four points.

Hansen and Moore both scored six points in Saturday's loss to Glenbard South. Pusateri, who was named to the event's all-tournament team, scored four points.

The Rams suffered losses to Geneva, Glenbard West, Down Grove North and Glenbard South during the tournament. Glenbard East opened its 2017-18 season with a 40-38 loss to Plainfield Central.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Glenbard East girls basketball team closed out the Rachel Bach Memorial Tournament with Saturday's 37-16 loss to Glenbard South in Glen Ellyn. The Rams won one of five games in the six-team, round-robin tournament. They earned their victory on Nov. 22, when they beat Glenbard North 35-22 in Lombard. The photos from Saturday show senior Katie Hansen (No. 10-above left), junior Sophie Moore (No. 14-left) and senior Mattie Pusateri (No. 25-above). Pusateri, who scored 13 points in the win over Glenbard North, was named to the event's all-tournament team.

Warriors match last year's start by winning Stagg's holiday tournament

Willowbrook wins four straight; Schuemer wins tournament MVP for the second straight year

The Willowbrook boys basketball team opened the new season in the same way it opened its last season.

One year ago, the Warriors began the 2016-17 campaign by winning four straight games and claiming the championship at Stagg High School's John McBride Thanksgiving Classic.

The Warriors repeated that feat to start this season, winning all four of their games at last week's tournament in Palos Hills.

Willowbrook earned decisive victories in all four of this year's games at Stagg's tournament. The Warriors opened the event with a 79-50 win over Argo on Nov. 20. Senior Ethan Schuemer scored a team-high 18 points for Willowbrook. Junior Matas Masys added 14 points, while seniors Matt Myers and Neil Paxton each scored 10 points. Senior Sikander Zafar provided eight points and nine rebounds for the Warriors, who held a 43-22 halftime advantage.

One night after beating Argo, Willowbrook trounced Nazareth Academy 73-46. Senior Marshawn Phillips scored 13 points, while Masys tallied 12 points. Paxton and Schuemer contributed nine and eight points, respectively.

The Warriors secured their third straight win with Friday's 60-35 victory over Lindblom. Myers sup-

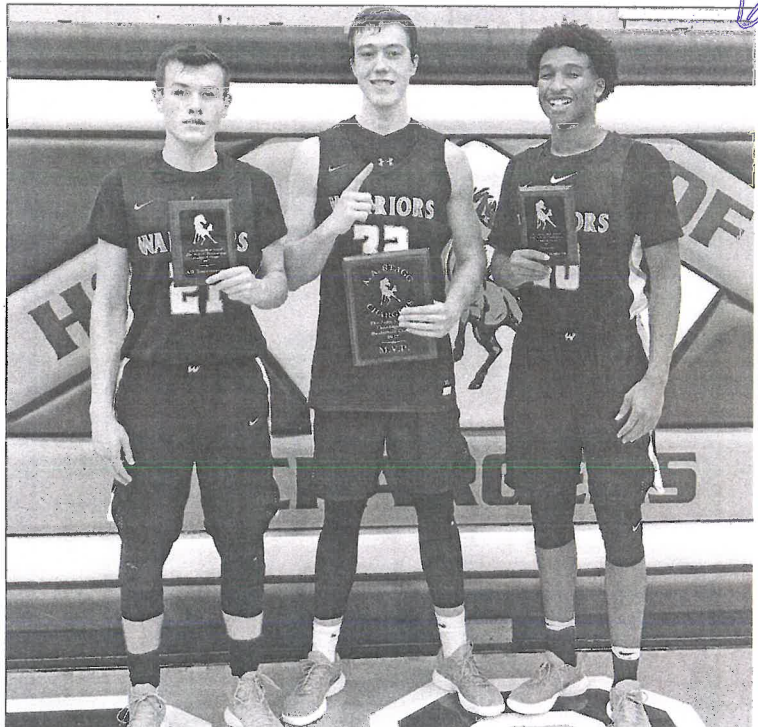
plied 14 points, while Schuemer delivered 12 points and 11 rebounds. Masys scored 10 points. Junior Scott Tumilty dropped in eight points. Phillips scored seven points.

Willowbrook completed its unblemished run through the tournament with Saturday's 72-52 win over Stagg. Masys led a foursome of double-digit scorers with 18 points. Paxton scored 17 points for Willowbrook, which held a 30-21 halftime lead before widening its margin in the second half. Phillips finished with 12 points, while Schuemer scored 11 points.

Schuemer claimed the tournament's most valuable player award for the second straight year. Two other Warriors—Masys and Myers—were named to the event's all-tournament team.

The Willowbrook boys team posted a 24-5 record last season. The Warriors established a new program record for victories in a season, eclipsing the 1969-70 team's mark of 23 wins. Willowbrook won a share of the West Suburban Gold Conference championship last season. The team posted a conference mark of 9-3.

The Warriors will begin this season's West Suburban Gold Conference schedule with this Friday's game at Proviso East.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Willowbrook boys basketball team opened the 2017-18 season by winning all four of its games at claiming the championship at Stagg High School's John McBride Thanksgiving Classic. The Warriors also opened last season by going 4-0 and winning the title at the same event. The Warriors complete this year's 4-0 effort at the tournament with Saturday afternoon's 72-52 win over Stagg. The photo from Saturday shows (left to right) junior Matas Masys, senior Ethan Schuemer and senior Matt Myers. Masys and Myers were both named to the all-tournament team. Schuemer earned the tournament's most valuable player honor for the second straight year.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

A win for the Warriors

The Willowbrook girls basketball team earned its first victory of the season when it defeated Rich Central 52-46 in last week's game at Marist High School's holiday tournament. Junior Katelyn McCann (pictured) erupted for 25 points for the Warriors. McCann, who is pictured during Willowbrook's season-opening game against Glenbard North, made nine baskets, including three shots from 3-point range. She also made four of six free-throw attempts for the Warriors, who rallied from a 27-19 halftime deficit to tie the game at 34-34 by the end of the third quarter. Juniors Maura Heneghan and Maureen Schmid both added eight points for Willowbrook. Senior Jayla Smith added five points by converting five of seven free throws.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Falcons win another Super Bowl title

The Lombard Falcons' 10U Division 1 Gold team defeated Lyons Township 6-0 in a Bill George Youth Football League (BGYFL) championship game played Nov. 19 at Benedictine University. The contest was part of the BGYFL's Super Bowl Championship Weekend. The same group of Falcons also won a Super Bowl title one year ago. Nick Irion's 1-yard touchdown run in the third quarter provided the only score of the game. Nicky Castaldo was the Falcons' defensive leader with nine tackles and two sacks. Lombard held Lyons Township to 112 total yards. The Falcons delivered two goal-line stands in the game, including a stop at the 1-yard line in the fourth quarter. Lombard's offense ran out the final eight minutes of the game with a 13-play, 93 yard drive. The Falcons, who improved their season record to 11-1 with the victory, were invited to play in the Pro Football Hall of Fame's National Championship Tournament. The team's players and coaches decided to let their season end with the Super Bowl victory. The members of the team are: Santino Florio, Will Crosse, Jonathan Yarusso, Nick Irion, Cooper Conliss, Vince Irion, Carter Naranjo, Mateo Villalvazo, Valentino Heredia, Nicky Castaldo, Ryan McGarry, Nico Castaldo, Jimmy Fitzpatrick and Vinny Knudtson. The team's coaches are: Dave Irion, Rich Pedersen, Mike Fitzpatrick, Angel Villalvazo, Jon Yarusso, Mario Florio and Nick Castaldo.

Glenbard East gymnasts finish second in their first meet of the season

The Glenbard East girls gymnastics team opened its 2017-18 season with a second-place showing at Hinsdale South's Hornet Thanksgiving Invitational. Hinsdale Central won the team title at the Nov. 22 invite with a total score of 135.80. The Rams placed second in the 10-team event with a score of 134.975.

Freshman Kali Kartheiser of the Rams placed second in the all-around standings with her score of 35.35.

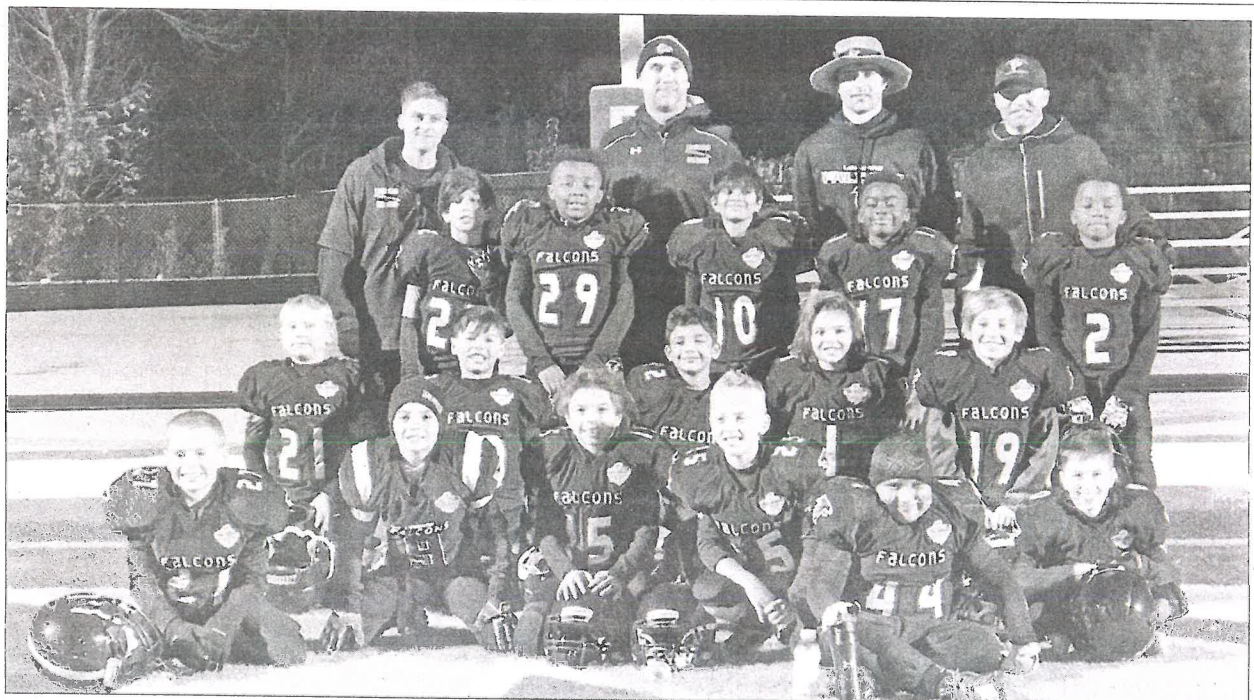
Kartheiser turned in second-place scores on the uneven bars (9.025), balance beam (9.2) and in floor exercises (8.95).

Two other Rams—junior Sierra Olson and freshman Rebecca Honig—finished in the top 10 in the all-around results. Olson placed seventh with her total of 33.325, while Honig wound up eighth with her score of 32.925. Olson tied for fifth on the uneven bars (8.375) and tied for seventh

on the vault (8.95). Honig finished ninth on the vault (8.875), 10th in floor exercises (8.2) and 12th on the balance beam (8.1).

Senior Krasimira Ganeva turned in a fifth-place showing for the Rams in floor exercises (8.625). Senior Breanna Page placed eighth in floor exercises with a score of 8.325.

Junior Sydney Nasternak tied Olson for fifth place on the uneven bars (8.375).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Falcons' 8U team wins title

The Lombard Falcons' 8U Purple team won the Bill George Youth Football League (BGYFL) championship in its division. The Falcons completed an undefeated season by beating the Elmhurst Eagles 19-12 in the Nov. 14 title contest at Montini Catholic High School. The members of the Falcons are: Andrew Ayala, Anthony Ricci, Caleb Ferguson, Gabriel Lisowiec, Jason Brewer, Joey Longo, Joey Nusteded, Johnny Nusteded, Joey Serpico, Ke'Andrea Thompson, Luca Florio, Michael Pointer, Orlando Greco, Tommy Bauman, Yaseen Khandarkter and Yusuf Ahmed.

News | updated: 12/5/2017 8:35 PM

Amazon executives part of computer science initiative in Barrington

Hour of Code shows students anyone can learn the basics



Amazon Web Services leader Hardik Bhatt discusses the computing power of his cellphone before an assembly of students during the Hour of Code initiative Tuesday at St. Anne Parish School in Barrington.

Gilbert R. Boucher II | Staff Photographer

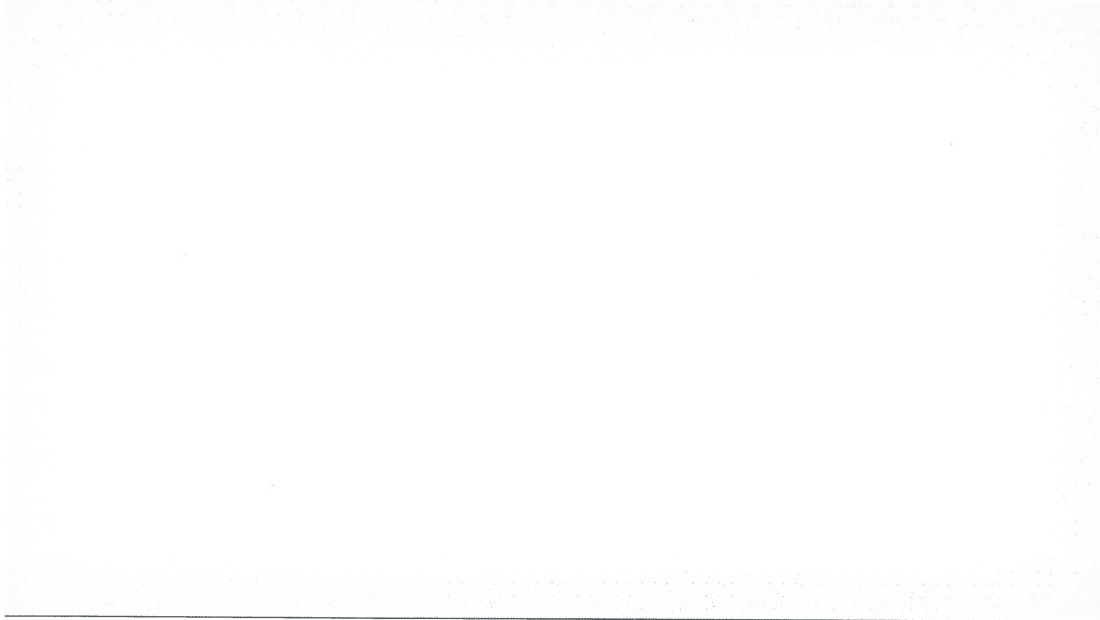


Bob Susnjara

Amazon.com Inc. executives were among those who provided encouragement to Barrington schoolchildren Tuesday as part of a worldwide computer science initiative.

Barrington Village President Karen Darch joined the Amazon executives as speakers at St. Anne Parish School's Hour of Code celebration. Barrington Area Unit District 220 also had Hour of Code activities, with an associate from accounting firm KPMG US featured in a Roslyn Road Elementary School fifth-grade classroom.

ADVERTISING



inRead invented by Teads

Hour of Code (<https://hourofcode.com/us>), which is part of Computer Science Education Week, started in 2013 and is meant to be a fun way to demystify the process and show anyone can learn the basics.


Teachers in at least 180 countries this week are expected to dedicate an hour to educating students about coding, which is a process to make computers follow specific instructions.

At St. Anne, Hardik Bhatt, who was the state's chief information officer for the past two years until he joined Amazon Web Services in September, told the students that if one day they see robots cooking and delivering their hamburgers at a fast-food restaurant, they should remember humans were behind the creation.

"Who is Mark Zuckerberg? He's a human," said Bhatt, who previously worked as the city of Chicago's chief information officer and at Cisco Systems Inc. "Who is Bill Gates? He's a human. Who is Warren Buffett? He's a human."

Bhatt also got the children to think about how technology is at work when they use a water faucet or turn on the lights.

Amazon Web Services sales executive Kim Majerus-Skonie, whose children attend St. Anne, said knowledge about science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics could lead to careers in writing, marketing and other jobs.

In addition, Majerus-Skonie had a message for girls who might be interested in technology, which remains a male-dominated profession. She said she began her tech career while an Addison Trail High School student and was the only girl who joined a Motorola Inc. work program in 1987. 

"It's OK to be different," Majerus-Skonie said. "It's OK to think about being the only one doing something different."

KPMG's Nidhi Kulkarni answered coding questions in Andrew Carter's fifth-grade classroom at Roslyn Road Elementary. Student Kaelyn Louis was among those who enjoyed the coding exercises that followed Kulkarni's presentation.

"I like how there's different choices of what you can code," Kaelyn said.

"You can code robots, but you also code different games and stuff. I like that."

Other suburban school systems participating in Hour of Code this week include Elgin Area School District U-46 and Des Plaines Elementary District 62.

Amazon, Microsoft Corp., Apple Inc. and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America are among the entities behind Hour of Code.

Related Articles

U-46 schools taking part in global Hour of Code campaign

Dec 5, 2017

Topics in this Article

[Amazon.com Inc.](#), [St. Anne Parish School](#), [Barrington village](#), [Kaelyn Louis](#), [Addison Trail High School](#), [Kim Majerus Skonie](#), [Amazon Web Services](#), [KPMG](#), [Karen Darch](#), [Roslyn road](#), [Barrington Area Unit district](#), [Andrew Carter](#), [Des Plaines Elementary district](#), [Apple Inc.](#), [Cisco Systems](#), [Microsoft](#), [Chicago](#), [America](#), [Motorola](#), [Bill Gates](#), [Mark Zuckerberg](#), [Warren Buffett](#)

CLASS 3A	W-L	Pts	Prv
School	1-1	80	-
1. Morgan Park (6)	5-0	62	-
2. Springfield Langlier	4-0	54	-
3. Marian Catholic	3-1	44	-
4. East St. Louis	6-1	41	-
5. Hillcrest	4-2	40	-
6. St. Rita	6-0	32	-
7. Centralia	6-0	21	-
8. Alton Marquette	5-0	16	-
9. Murphysboro	7-0	12	-
10. Richwoods	5-0	11	-

Others receiving votes: Springfield Southeast 10, Champlain Central 10, Carmel 4, Rich East 4, Bogan 3, Galesburg 2, Rock Falls 2, Washington 2, Lincoln 1.

CLASS 3A	W-L	Pts	Prv
School	1-1	80	-
1. Morgan Park (6)	5-0	62	-
2. Springfield Langlier	4-0	54	-
3. Marian Catholic	3-1	44	-
4. East St. Louis	6-1	41	-
5. Hillcrest	4-2	40	-
6. St. Rita	6-0	32	-
7. Centralia	6-0	21	-
8. Alton Marquette	5-0	16	-
9. Murphysboro	7-0	12	-
10. Richwoods	5-0	11	-

Others receiving votes: Springfield Southeast 10, Champlain Central 10, Carmel 4, Rich East 4, Bogan 3, Galesburg 2, Rock Falls 2, Washington 2, Lincoln 1.

Boys swimming
Wednesday's results
 St. Viator Invite
RESULTS
 1. D300 304; Prospect 249; St. Viator 228; Huntley 172; St. Francis 106; Notre Dame 102.

Girls bowling
Wednesday's results
 IHSAA State Finals, Portland 2016

O'Boye's girls classic renamed

By JOHN LEUSCH
 jleusch@dailyherald.com

Girls basketball

After 27 years the Chicagoland Girls Prep Classic will have a new name.

And it's a name very familiar to girls basketball fans across the state.

He never thought twice about renaming his event, which began at Northwestern in 1991.

Event organizer Jim O'Boye has renamed his long-running showcase event to "Coach Kipp's Hoopsfest" in honor of the late IHSAA hall of fame coach Derril Kipp.

"I believe no one has done more to grow, promote and help young girls continue their basketball and educational goals than coach Kipp," O'Boye said. "His summer league and observation tournaments at Maine West High School are legendary.

Kipp was the legendary coach for Maine West's girls basketball program, where he won 788 games in 35 seasons and an undefeated Class AA state championship (35-0) in 1988. He lost his battle with cancer in the summer of 2016.

"In the 1980s no one was making the efforts in the summer for girls basketball like coach Kipp. He and his wife, Marianne, along a couple of other Maine West staffers, organized these leagues and tournaments that were attended by thousands of young girls and hundreds of college coaches over the decades."

O'Boye announced the name change when Maine West played at the event for the 27th time last January in Villa Park.

Kipp had a hand in starting the Chicagoland Girls Prep Classic.

The event will be held again at Willowbrook High School on Jan. 13 and Jan. 15.

When he heard O'Boye was possibly planning the event, Kipp made a phone call.

The Warriors are one of only two teams who have competed in O'Boye's event all 27 years.

"He told me what a great idea it was," O'Boye said. "And

that he would bring his team if invited. He said he would promote it to the local schools in the area and talk it up to college coaches who he was connected with across the country."

Kipp also told O'Boye he was not aware of any in-season shootout formats at the time being held for girls basketball.

"And he was pretty certain this would be the original 'shootout' in the country," O'Boye said. "Looking at today's landscape of girls basketball shootouts around the country, coach Kipp was right on target about the concept being a good one."

Kipp entered the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2001. His teams won 26 Central Suburban North championships, 24 regional titles and 10 sectionals, and they appeared in the state tournament seven times from 1983 to 1993, the year his Warriors were state runners-up.

While the event has had various presenting sponsors over the years, Subway has continued its sponsorship for 2018.

IEC helps Westmont buy time

By DAVE OBERHELMAN
 doberhelman@dailyherald.com

Westmont has bought time before it leaves the Interstate Eight Conference.

IEC principals and athletic directors decided at their monthly meeting Wednesday in Morris that Westmont would remain in the conference for all sports but football in the 2018-19 school year. The Sentinels will be an independent in football.

"We're still exploring some options, but this gives us some time and it gives some of the other conferences that are

looking at us some time," said Westmont athletic director Rainy Kaplan. "And it solves the problem the Interstate Eight had with an odd number (of teams), too."

Since September, IEC members Coal City, Herscher, Lisle, Manteno, Peotone, Reed-Custer, Streator and Wilmington had all voted to withdraw from the IEC after 2018-19.

Seneca started the movement in March by opting out of the league in 2018-19. All this left Plano, Sandwich and Westmont on the outside.

In football Kaplan said the Class 3A Sentinels have

difficulty competing in the IEC due to low numbers.

"I think we have the talent, we just don't have enough (people). The boys are playing both sides, offense and defense and special teams," she said.

The Metro Suburban and Northeastern Athletic conferences are possible future destinations, she said.

Meanwhile, there's the task of molding an independent football schedule. Kaplan said Seneca, Lake View, Quincy Notre Dame and Salem have so far been "locked down."

Boys

Ben Wolf
 Naperville Central

Wolf flirted with perfection in a 53-28 DuPage Valley Conference victory at Glenbard North. The 6-foot-8 senior center, committed to Northern Michigan, scored 24 points, grabbed 8 rebounds and blocked 3 shots. Wolf made 10 of 11 field-goal attempts and all four of his free-throw attempts.

Daily Herald

High school basketball players of the week

Girls

Caylin Rufus
 York

The senior wing player helped the Dukes get off to a good start in the West Suburban Silver. She had 21 points, 11 rebounds and 4 steals in a double-digit win against Lyons Twp., then followed that with 13 points, 6 rebounds and 4 steals in a rout of Proviso West despite playing only about half the game.