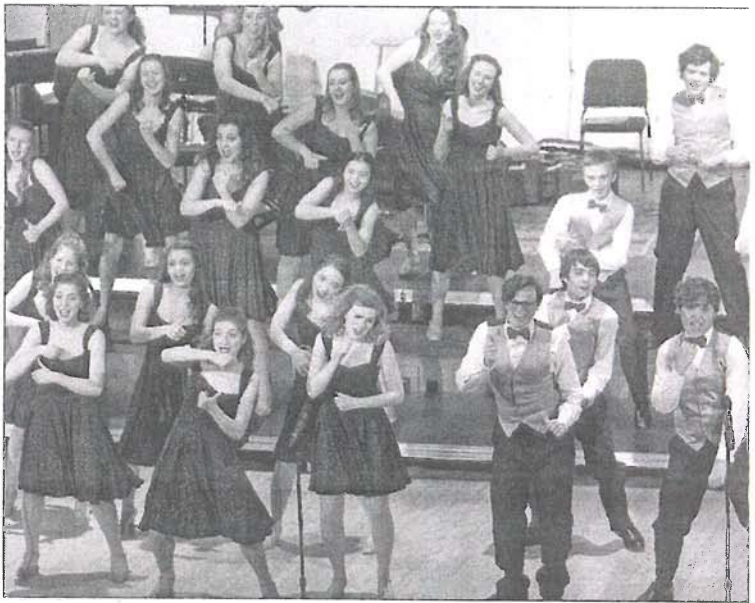




CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Holiday concert at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School's music department presented a holiday concert last week in the school auditorium. The Dec. 7 concert included performances from the jazz band, the rock band and the CenterStage show choir. One photo shows (left to right) junior Sydney Keehner and senior Genevieve Corkery during the rock band's performance of "Hit Me With Your Best Shot"—a 1980s classic by Pat Benatar. The other photos show the CenterStage show choir, which performed four songs, including "HandClap" by Fitz and the Tantrums.



Police announce extra enforcement effort to target impaired drivers

The Villa Park Police Department is teaming up with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois State Police and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state in a year-end "Drive Sober

or Get Pulled Over" enforcement event. The campaign will take place from Dec. 18 through the early morning hours of Jan. 2.

"Now through New Year's Day, motorists will notice increased en-

forcement watching closely for anyone who is driving impaired," said Villa Park Police Sgt. James Cihak in a news release issued by the police department. "It is vital that we keep our travelers safe, not just at

the holidays, but every day. That's why we'll arrest anyone who chooses to drive impaired by alcohol or drugs."

Officers also will be looking for, and ticketing individuals who aren't buckled up. It is the law in Illinois to wear your seat belt, no matter where you are seated in the vehicle.

According to the police department's news release, more than 37,000 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United States last year. Of those killed, 28 percent—more than 10,000 people—died in crashes in which a driver had a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) over the limit of .08.

"We are committed to do whatever it takes to help save lives by keeping impaired drivers off the road," added Villa Park Deputy Police Chief William Lyons.

Impaired driving offenders off serve jail time, lose their driver license, are charged higher insurance rates and pay unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing, repair and lost wages. The ultimate cost impaired driving is causing a traffic crash that injures or kills.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement effort is made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by IDOT.

Villa Park briefs

Willowbrook students' art on display at Funky Java through Dec. 20

Artwork created by Willowbrook High School students will be displayed through Dec. 20 at The Funky Java Coffee House, 40 S. Villa Ave., Villa Park. An opening reception was held at Funky Java on Dec. 13.

Youth theater group performs holiday production this weekend

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.

Online survey is open to Willowbrook parents and guardians

District 88 is joining the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in the sixth statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions, referred to as the Illinois 5Essentials Survey.

Through Jan. 31, 2018, teachers, students and parents/guardians are able to complete this research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment and have a voice in improving their schools. The survey will allow schools to reflect on progress since the last statewide implementation. Teachers will receive an e-mail with details about how to take the survey. Willowbrook students will receive details at school about how to take the survey. Parents and guardians can take the survey by going online to <https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2017>. They can also take the survey during Willowbrook's Booster Club meeting on Jan. 9; the Willowbrook Parent Organization meeting on Jan. 10 and the Athletic Club and Citizens Advisory Council meetings on Jan. 17.

Tickets are on sale for foundation's 2018 fundraiser

The Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation invites you to attend an evening of entertainment, dining and fun to raise money for students in DuPage County school districts 4, 45, 48 and 88.

The PIE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves public school students in those districts.

The PIE Foundation's 2018 fundraiser will take place on March 11, 2018, at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. The evening will feature a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," as well as dinner, raffles and an auction.

Tickets, which could make a great holiday gift, are \$90 per person if

bought before Feb. 1, 2018, a \$95 per person if bought after Feb. 1. Tickets can be bought online the foundation's website—www.piefoundation.org.

If you're unable to attend the musical, you can support the foundation through making an online donation <http://piefoundation.org/donation.html>.

Founded in 2009, PIE is designed to be the foundation that supports a long-term partnership among community, businesses, schools and, most importantly, the child served.

For more information, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink at 630-533-9899, or at dbrink@dupage88.net.

What a comeback!

Rams rally from a 20-point deficit to beat South Elgin

Nelson's six 3-pointers lead team to an overtime win in its conference opener

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

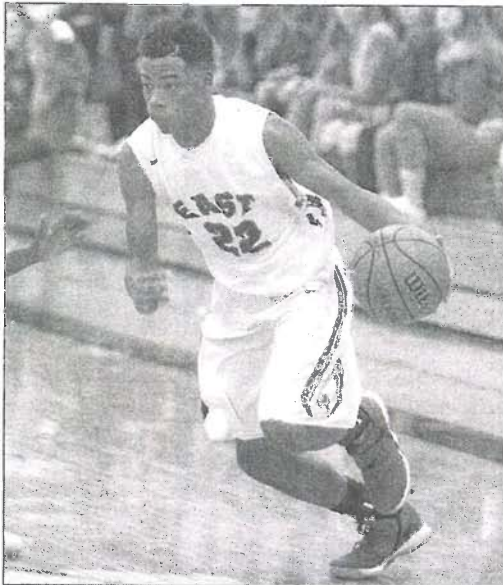
The Glenbard East boys basketball team staged a massive comeback to pull out a victory in Saturday's Upstate Eight Valley Conference season opener at South Elgin. The Rams, who trailed by 20 points at one point in the third quarter, rallied to earn a 74-73 overtime victory.

Glenbard East, which improved its overall record to 5-2, will play West Aurora in this Friday's conference game in Lombard. The Rams will play a non-conference game at Palatine on Saturday.

South Elgin led the Rams 24-14 at the end of the first quarter. The Storm's lead stood at 39-27 at halftime. Leading by as many as 20 points in the third quarter, the Storm held what seemed to be a commanding 55-40 lead by the end of the period. South Elgin scored the first three points of the fourth quarter to expand its lead to 58-40.

Glenbard East sophomore Alijah Nelson caught fire from 3-point range in the fourth quarter, hitting four long-distance shots. Senior Korvante Davis added a pair of 3-pointers for the Rams during the fourth quarter. Glenbard East and South Elgin were tied at 67-67 at the end of the fourth period.

"We forced a bunch of turnovers and made four or five threes in a row," said Glenbard East coach Scott Miller of the fourth-quarter uprising. "A lot of good things came out of this game. It was our first conference game against one of the better teams we're going to play in our league. We were able to fight from behind. Now our guys know they can come back."



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Sophomore Alijah Nelson (No. 22) of the Glenbard East boys basketball team scored a team-leading 27 points to help the Rams to a 74-73 overtime victory at South Elgin on Saturday. The Rams trailed South Elgin by 20 points during the third quarter of the Upstate Eight Valley Conference opener. The Storm held a 58-40 lead early in the fourth quarter, but Nelson sank four 3-point shots during the rest of the period to help send the game to overtime. Nelson made one 3-pointer during the overtime period. He finished the night with six 3-pointers. Glenbard East improved its overall record to 5-2 with the victory. The Rams will play a conference home game against West Aurora this Friday.

Nelson connected on one more 3-pointer during the overtime period. He fouled on the shot and made the free throw to complete a four-point play. Senior James Peterkin

accounted for Glenbard East's three other points of the overtime period with a field goal and a free throw.

Nelson, who didn't score during the first quarter, finished the night

with a team-leading 27 points. He sank six 3-point shots.

Davis and senior Kenny Adams both scored 14 points. Peterkin scored seven points, while senior Anthony Janega contributed six points.

Warriors crush Addison Trail to gain some revenge from last season's playoff loss

Playing its first home game of the 2017-18 season, the Willowbrook boys basketball team crushed Addison Trail 80-38 on Friday night in Villa Park. The lopsided victory moved the Warriors to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in West Suburban Gold Conference play. Willowbrook opened its conference season with an overtime loss at Proviso East on Dec. 1.

The Warriors had plenty of motivation in their rout of Addison Trail. The Blazers ended Willowbrook's 2016-17 season by beating the Warriors 81-67 in an IHSAA Class 4A regional semifinal game in Batavia on March 1. Willowbrook beat Addison Trail twice during the regular season, but the Blazers dominated the post-season meeting. A 23-0 run during the first half carried Addison Trail to a 33-6 lead in the second quarter of the playoff contest. The Blazers held a 40-23 halftime lead on their way to the victory, which ended the Warriors' special season. Willowbrook posted an overall record of 24-5 in 2016-17. The Warriors surged to a 21-1 record; their 24-win total set a new program record for victories in a season. Willowbrook finished the season with three straight losses.

"That score was on the board," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins, referring to the score of last year's playoff loss being on the board in the locker room. "That was a reminder. We also watched that game film earlier this week. We only

watched the first quarter. They [the Blazers] put it to us. I just wanted to remind the guys, so they could remember what that feeling was in the locker room. Our guys were ready tonight. They came out ready to play, and they were in attack mode the entire game."

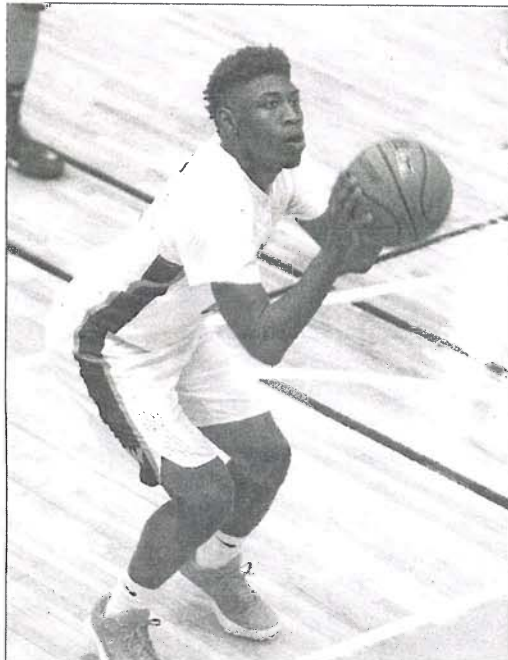
Nearly everything went the Warriors' way in the first half of Friday's game. Willowbrook held a 22-10 lead at the end of the first quarter. The lead ballooned to 46-18 by halftime. Junior Matas Masys sank a 3-point shot to give the Warriors a 27-12 lead with about seven minutes left in the first half. Senior Ethan Schuemer's baseline jumper pushed the lead to 40-15 with about two minutes to play in the half. Senior Marshawn Phillips made a 3-pointer to move the lead to 43-15, and junior Levi Bentsen drained a 3-pointer at the first-half buzzer to give Willowbrook its 46-18 halftime advantage.

Phillips, who made a pair of 3-point shots during the game, finished the night with a team-leading 16 points. Bentsen drained five of six attempts from 3-point range to tally 15 points. Schuemer and junior Matas Masys each scored 13 points. Masys connected on three of his five 3-point attempts.

"We had to come out ready today," said Phillips after Friday's decisive victory. "We've got a lot of goals this year. One of the goals is winning conference; we also want to beat last year's record."

"We knew we're the better team," added Schuemer, who is beginning his third varsity season. "We definitely wanted to come out here and take care of business. We've got a really deep lineup with guys who know how to play together, so it's really a fun team this year."

The Warriors will play a conference home game against Hinsdale South this Friday.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook's boys basketball team crushed Addison Trail 80-38 in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors improved to 5-1 overall and 1-1 in conference play. Willowbrook gained some revenge against its District 88 rival with the victory. Addison Trail defeated Willowbrook in an IHSAA Class 4A playoff game in March to end the Warriors' season. Senior Ethan Schuemer (No. 32-above left) is shown shooting and making a shot in the second quarter of Friday's game. Senior Marshawn Phillips (above right) is pictured at the free-throw line, while junior Levi Bentsen (No. 35-right) is shown as he prepares to make his fifth 3-point shot of the game. Phillips provided a team-leading 16 points in Friday's win. Bentsen added 15 points, while Schuemer and junior Matas Masys each scored 13 points.



VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

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Vol. 58 No. 51

Thursday, December 21, 2017

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Coffee house welcomes Willowbrook students' artwork

The creations of Willowbrook High School art students were on display at Villa Park's Funky Java Coffee House during the last week. About 100 students contributed pieces that were shown at the coffee house, which is located at 40 S. Villa Ave. The opening reception on Dec. 13 kicked off the display, which ran through Dec. 20.

"The kids are at school every day; the romance of having something else at the school kind of wears off," said Willowbrook art department chair John Epple at the reception. "Having an offsite location is exciting; having it at a fun environment like the coffee house is fantastic."

For about 10 years, Willowbrook students displayed their art at Funky Java during the spring. According to Epple, changes in Willowbrook's schedule made the December time frame a better fit. The presentation shifted to December last year. Epple praised Funky Java owner Larry Poggi for welcoming the students' art.

"Larry is so flexible and wonderful," said Epple, who noted the display included a mixture of drawings, paintings, ceramics and sculpture, along with some graphic design.

"This is a cross-section of what we offer at Willowbrook," added Epple, who mentioned that the display included the full range of the school's art students, from beginners to those in advanced classes.

A string quartet of five students from Willowbrook's music department enhanced the opening reception.

"It's not just parents that come out here and appreciate this," said Epple at the reception. "A variety of people see how many talented kids are going to Willowbrook."

"The school is so supportive," said Poggi in describing his enthusiasm about the art display. "We have such a melting pot here. As a business owner, I feel like we need to help all of our students out. They are important to our community. We want to make this something where these kids feel inspired."

The Willowbrook art students spent the two days before the reception placing their pieces at Funky Java. Poggi provided food and refreshments for the students.

"High school goes by so fast," said Poggi, whose business features local artwork throughout the year. "We're trying to make this a memorable experience."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Villa Park's Funky Java Coffee House featured Willowbrook High School students' artwork during the last week. The creations of about 100 of the school's art students were displayed at the coffee house from Dec. 13-20. Funky Java owner Larry Poggi has welcomed the artwork of Willowbrook students for over 10 years. The students' work used to be shown during the spring; the display was shifted to December last year. One photo from this year's opening reception on Dec. 13 shows junior Danielle Lee (below left) with one of her ceramics pieces on display. Another photo shows junior Kathleen Mitchell (below middle) holding one of her ceramics pieces. A string quartet (below right) of five Willowbrook music students performed during the reception. Pictured left to right are: senior Kaylynn Kattiyaman on cello, junior Faith Fabian on violin, senior Michael Johnson on bass, junior Miriam Youhannoun on violin and senior Sophia Parrillo on violin.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Holiday donation

The Villa Park Lions Club held its Christmas party at KI's Steak and Seafood in Glendale Heights on Dec. 7. Guests were asked to bring a toy for donation to the York Township Food Pantry's "Adopt a Family" program, which will distribute the gifts to pantry client families with children. Pictured left to right are Villa Park Lion Bill Reeves, York Township Food Pantry Director Angela Tanner and York Township Supervisor John Valle. "On behalf of York Township Food Pantry clients and staff I would like to express our appreciation for the ongoing support of the Villa Park Lions Club," stated Valle. "The Lions are known for their big hearts. Every year their generous donations put smiles on the faces of a lot of children during the holiday season, and throughout the year."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook students honored

Willowbrook High School presented its Outstanding Student awards to 11 students during a Dec. 7 breakfast held in their honor. To be selected for the award, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement and outstanding effort along with commendable attitude and motivation. Students who receive the award must also display the ability to overcome obstacles and give a continuous exemplary performance. Each of the honored students received their awards after being nominated by a staff member of Willowbrook's various departments. The award-winning students (pictured left to right) are: (front row) junior Teresa Noah (science), senior Marissa Smith (career and technical education), senior Annie Ramirez (learning services), junior Julia Langer (physical education) and freshman Orlina Abdhussain (English); (back row) sophomore Sam Tumilty (social studies), senior Samuel Pakeltis (math), senior Isabella Ledonne (music) and sophomore Isal Aparicio (literacy).

Villa Park briefs

Submit historic photos to village's holiday photo contest

The Village of Villa Park invites residents to share their historic holiday photos by entering them into the Villa Park Holiday Photo Contest. Photos will be accepted until Jan. 1, 2018. Winning photos will be posted on the village's social media pages, and on the home page of the village website. Submissions can be entered via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or by sending an e-mail to tpensis@inwillapark.com.

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The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement effort is made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by IDOT.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Holiday concert at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School's music department held a holiday concert in the school auditorium on Dec. 14. The concert featured performances from several groups, including beginning guitar, guitar ensemble, beginning mixed chorus, treble choir, symphony orchestra, concert choir and chamber orchestra. One photo shows members of "Hallelujah Chorus" from George Frideric Handel's Messiah.

Sports

**LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW**

Explosive Warriors overwhelm Hinsdale South A 16-0 rally highlights a win over the Hornets

The Willowbrook boys basketball team unleashed a furious third-quarter rally to spark Friday night's 61-53 victory over Hinsdale South in a West Suburban Gold Conference game in Villa Park.

The Warriors trailed the visiting Hornets 23-18 at the end of a low-scoring first half. Hinsdale South extended its lead to 27-20 early in the third quarter. Willowbrook proceeded to catch fire, scoring 16 straight points to take a 36-27 lead with about 3:40 left in the period. The Warriors held a 45-35 advantage by the end of the third quarter.

Willowbrook improved to 6-1 overall and 2-1 in conference play. Hinsdale South dropped to 7-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

Senior Ethan Schuemer excelled on both ends of the floor for the Warriors. He scored 20 points, grabbed 14 rebounds and blocked 10 shots.

"At halftime we knew we weren't playing the way we should be playing," said Schuemer after the victory. "We got hyped up and we just came out and we did everything right in that third quarter. Hinsdale South is definitely a top-three team in our conference. We knew we had to pull this one out."

Senior Marshawn Phillips made a pair of 3-point shots and scored 12 points for the Warriors. Junior Cornelius Paxton provided 11 points, while senior Sikander Zafar and junior Matas Masys each scored seven points.

"We picked up our energy level; we picked up our intensity; we got a couple steals and we got the energy and the momentum turned on our side," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins of the third-quarter eruption. "We started playing our type of game in the second half. In the first half we were really sluggish."

The Warriors delivered a balanced scoring attack during their second-half surge. A 3-pointer by Zafar and a steal and basket by Masys completed the 16-0 run that built Willowbrook's lead to 36-27. Paxton



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook's boys basketball team improved to 6-1 overall and 2-1 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with Friday's 61-53 win over Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The Warriors trailed the Hornets 23-18 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored Hinsdale South 27-12 during the third quarter. Photos from Friday's game show seniors Matt Myers (No. 20-above left), Ethan Schuemer (No. 32-below left) and Sikander Zafar (No. 5-above right).

added a basket off a turnover later in the quarter. Schuemer's inside basket gave the Warriors a 42-30 lead with less than two minutes to play in the period. Masys drained a 3-point shot to account for his team's final points of the period. Masys added another 3-point shot at the start of the fourth quarter to give the Warriors a 48-35 lead. Senior Matt Myers sank a pair of free throws to push the lead to 50-35 with 7:01 to play.

"Everybody that was in there was contributing," said Perkins. "I was pleased with our performance; not with the first half, but we addressed that at halftime. We picked it up and played much better in the second half."

The Warriors won't play another conference game until Jan. 9, when

they will face Morton. Willowbrook will play four games at Glenbard West's holiday tournament. The War-

"We started playing our type of game in the second half. In the first half we were really sluggish."

- Chris Perkins, Willowbrook coach

riors, who won the tournament one year ago, will open this year's event with this Saturday's game against Glenbard North.

Rams' conference record drops to 1-1 after an overtime loss to West Aurora

Glenbard East opened its Upstate Eight Valley Conference season with two consecutive overtime games. The Rams pulled out a 74-73 victory at South Elgin in their conference opener on Dec. 9. Six days later, Glenbard East dropped an overtime battle against West Aurora.

The visiting Blackhawks edged the Rams 68-61 in overtime in Friday night's meeting in Lombard. Glenbard East fell to 5-3 overall and 1-1 in the conference. The Rams dropped to 5-4 one night later, when they lost a 57-42 non-conference game at Palatine.

The Rams trailed West Aurora 20-12 at the end of the first quarter. Sophomore Alijah Nelson made a pair of 3-point shots during a second-quarter run to cut the Blackhawks' lead to 25-21. Senior Kenny Adams buried a 3-pointer to reduce the lead to 27-24 with less than three minutes left in the first half. Moments later, Adams made two free throws to trim the West Aurora lead to 27-26. The Blackhawks held a 29-28 lead at halftime.

The two teams were tied at 57-57 at the end of regulation. West Aurora outscored the Rams 11-4 in the four-minute overtime period.

Nelson, who made five shots from 3-point range, scored a team-leading 18 points. Adams, who made a pair of 3-pointers, added 15 points. Senior James Peterkin scored 11 points, while sophomore DaRon Hall tallied nine points.

Nelson made four 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 14 points in Saturday's loss at Palatine. Hall scored 11 points, while Adams contributed seven points. Palatine held a 17-6 lead after one quarter. Its lead swelled to 38-20 by halftime.

The Rams will play a non-conference home game against Rich South this Friday. Glenbard East will play at York High School's Jack Tosh Tournament from Dec. 27-30. The team will play its next conference game against Bartlett on Jan. 5.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Rams lose in overtime

The Glenbard East boys basketball team faced West Aurora in Friday night's Upstate Eight Valley Conference game in Lombard. West Aurora defeated the Rams 68-61 in overtime. Friday's loss sent Glenbard East's conference record to 1-1. One night later, the Rams fell to 5-4 overall with a 57-42 non-conference loss at Palatine. The photos from Friday's game show seniors Kenny Adams (No. 3-above left), Korvante Davis (No. 20-above right) and Anthony Janega (left).



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Warriors rout Addison Trail to pick up their first conference win

The Willowbrook girls basketball team earned its first West Suburba Gold Conference victory of the season when it defeated Addison Trail 61-42 in a Dec. 12 contest in Vill Park. The Warriors moved to 2-overall and 1-3 in the conference with the win over their District 8 rival.

Junior Katelyn McCann poured in a team-leading 22 points for Willowbrook. McCann sank nine of 24 field goal attempts, making one 3-point shot, and drained all three of her shots from the free-throw line. Juno CeCe Lizaunain added 18 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors, who led the Blazers 23-19 at halftime. The Willowbrook lead swelled to 48-31 by the end of the third quarter.

Junior Emma Barrington provided nine points for Willowbrook. Senior Jayla Smith contributed six points, eight assists and nine rebounds.

The Warriors fell to 2-8 overall and 1-4 in conference play following Friday's loss at Hinsdale South.

Willowbrook will play a home game against Walther Christian Academy this Friday. The Warrior will play at Wheaton North's holiday tournament from Dec. 26-29.

Rams lose to the Blackhawks

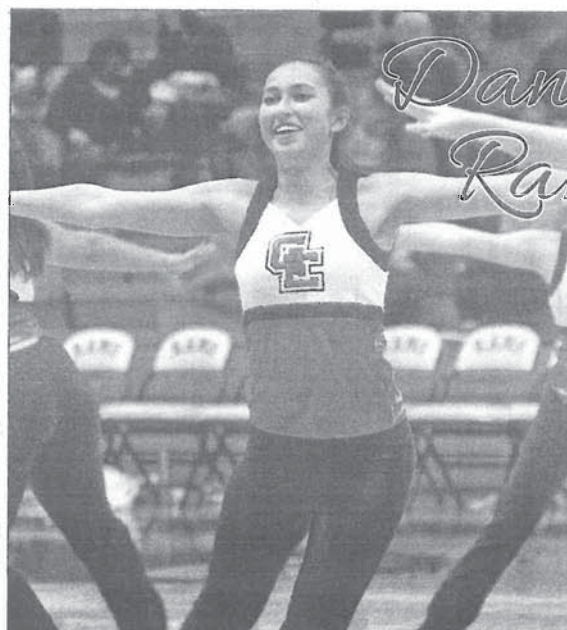
The Glenbard East girls basketball team fell to 0-2 in the Upstate Eight Valley Conference following Friday's 47-36 loss to West Aurora in Lombard. Senior Sam Dooley (No. 5) made four 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 12 points for the Rams. Dooley made three 3-pointers during the first quarter and added one more in the second period. Senior Sommer Dolinski (No. 40) provided 11 points. She scored six of those points during the fourth quarter, when she made all four of her free-throw attempts. Senior Katie Hansen added eight points for the Rams, who trailed the Blackhawks 30-23 at halftime and 35-28 at the end of the third quarter. The Rams will play a non-conference game at Addison Trail this Friday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Playing at the next level

Glenbard East senior Tyler Reitz recently signed a letter of intent to continue his academic and golf careers at Millikin University in Decatur. Reitz is pictured with his parents and uncle during the signing ceremony at Glenbard East. Reitz won the Upstate Eight Conference's player of the year honor during the 2017 season. He completed the season, and his career as a Ram, at the IHSA Class 3A sectional at Glendale Lakes Golf Club in October. Reitz was one of four players who shot a 5-over-par 76 in his 18-hole round at the sectional. Those four players moved on to a playoff to determine who would claim the event's final berth into the individual state meet. One of the three other golfers won that berth with a birdie on the first playoff hole.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Glenbard East's competitive dance team performed during halftime of Friday night's boys basketball game against West Aurora. The photo at left shows senior Dana Corso. The photo below shows junior Carly Snyder. The dance team will compete in an IHSA Class 3A sectional in Mundelein on Jan. 20. The IHSA state meet takes place Jan. 26-27 in Bloomington.



SPORTS

DECEMBER 21, 2017 • 16

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team off to strong start

Squad records wins against Leyden and Downers Grove South

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op boys swimming team got off to a hot start by winning its first two West Suburban Conference Gold Division meets.

AT-Willowbrook recently won 48-46 over Leyden and 101-82 against Downers Grove South at the varsity level. At the frosh-soph level, AT-Willowbrook defeated Leyden 50-44 and lost to Downers Grove South 93-69. At the varsity level, AT-Willowbrook is 2-1 overall.

This year, Willowbrook returns seniors Phillip Campbell (diving, Willowbrook), Jack Wentworth (backstroke, Willowbrook), Jacob Grygo (50, 100, Addison Trail), Mikey Strycharz (100, 500, Addison Trail) and Lucas Walsh (butterfly, breaststroke, Addison Trail), along with juniors Jack Burns (50, 100, Willowbrook) and Evan Zimmerman (IM, backstroke, Addison Trail) and sophomore Thomas Holmes (breaststroke, Willowbrook).

Key newcomers to the team include seniors Patrick Florey (freestyle,

Willowbrook) and Zack Thompson (backstroke, Willowbrook), sophomore Aidan Nichols (breaststroke, Willowbrook) and freshmen Kyle Haake (backstroke, freestyle, Willowbrook), Sean Pienkos (freestyle, Willowbrook) and Salvatore Ciaccio (butterfly, Addison Trail).

At the Rolling Meadows invitational, AT-Willowbrook placed ninth. The 200 medley relay team of Haake, Holmes, Zimmerman and Grygo took fourth.

Burns was sixth in the 50, while the 400 relay team of Walsh, Grygo, Zimmerman and Burns took fifth. The 200 medley relay team of Wentworth, Nichols, Burns and Holmes placed sixth.

The 100 free relay team of Haake, Marco Chaidez, Burns and Grygo won the event.

In the win against Leyden, the 200 medley team of Zimmerman, Nichols, Haake and Grygo took first. Wentworth won the 200, while Florey was third. Zimmerman won the IM. Burns was second in the 50 followed by Grygo in third.

Ciaccio took second in the butterfly,

while Chaidez was third. Burns took second in the 100, while Wentworth was third in the 500. The 200 relay team of Strycharz, Grygo, Haake and Burns took second. Zimmerman was second in the backstroke, while Haake was third in the 100. Holmes places second in the breaststroke, while Nichols was third. The 400 relay team of Zimmerman, Florey, Eric Hoda and Burns won the event.

Against Downers Grove South, the medley relay of Thompson, Holmes, Zimmerman and Strycharz took first. Haake was third in the 200. Zimmerman won the IM, while Thompson was third.

Burns was second in the 50, while Grygo was third. Walsh won the butterfly, while Ciaccio was third. Burns took second in the 100, while Grygo was third.

Haake was second in the 500 and Sawicki was third. The 200 relay team of Zimmerman, Grygo, Strycharz and Burns took first.

Thompson won the backstroke, while Zimmerman was second. Holmes took second in the breaststroke and Walsh was third in the

event. The 400 relay team of Wentworth, Hoda, Grygo and Burns also was victorious.

"The guys have really enjoyed racing, finishing well and winning our meets," AT-Willowbrook coach Jen Burns said. "We have some great sprinters on our team and we have a depth in talent that we have been developing over the years. As a team, we can finish in the top two for every race. Our strength is our combined talents and versatility."

Burns, who noted the team has been strong in the sprint events out of the gate, said team chemistry has been strong in the early going. "The guys have really started to come together as a team," she said. "We have eight seniors this year. Some of them took a season or two off, but have stepped in and helped to fill in any gaps in experience. There are several freshmen from the Addison Frogs and Villa Park Mariners that have contributed to our strong presence at our meets. They bring a tremendous amount of swimming experience that helps us fill up each event with a strong competitor."

Burns added the team's middle distance and distance events will continue to evolve as the season goes on. "Our middle distance and distance events will get better as the season continues," she said. "It is difficult to find adequate pool space in DuPage County for swim programs. Neither high school has their own facility so the guys need to find outside pro-

grams to train in for the off-season. I hope eventually we will have our own training facility. Not only will it help our program, but it also will help develop the next group of swimmers."

Burns has been thrilled with the variety of contributions she's seen up and down the roster. "It's hard to pick one or two guys who have stepped up," she said. "Each meet many of them do what they need to do to help us get the points we need for the win."

Willowbrook's Burns and Addison Trail's Grygo are the team captains this season.

"Jack has a calm and steady discipline and helps to make sure our practices run smoothly and he anchors our relays," said coach Burns. "Jacob brings the guys together at the end of each practice and gives us the power we need for our relays. Both young men help to bring out our team's strengths."

AT-Willowbrook returns to action Friday, Jan. 5 against Proviso West.

"The team seems to be transitioning well since they have to adjust to a new coach," said Burns, in her first season as head coach of the team. "Our assistant coach Amy Martello helps to make sure we have continuity from last year to this year. I have been impressed with the competitiveness and their love for the sport of swimming. Each season brings a new group of competitors and I have been very proud of how they have risen to the challenge and have been willing to try new events."

Willowbrook girls basketball team defeats Addison Trail

Smith turns in all-around strong performance for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team notched a 61-42 West Suburban Conference Gold Division victory recently against District 88 neighbor Addison Trail.

Willowbrook led 12-7 after the first quarter and 23-19 at halftime. The Warriors turned things up in the third quarter, outscoring Addison Trail 25-12 before holding a 13-11 edge in the fourth quarter.

Katelyn McCann led Willowbrook with 22 points, five rebounds, three steals and three assists. CeCe Lizuzian had 18 points, eight rebounds and two steals. Emma Barrington finished with nine points and two steals, while Jayla Smith had a strong game with six points, nine rebounds, eight assists and five steals.

"We've been very up and down so far this season," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell late last

week. "We have good games and bad games. We've won two games and have had some other good efforts. We're still getting better."

In the Addison Trail game, Harrell was pleased with how his team distributed the ball. "We had 22 assists," he said. "The best thing we did was we moved the ball well. We shot a lot better. Sometimes you make yourself feel better by saying the other team's defense makes you squirrely. In some of our games it hasn't been like we have been missing jump shots. Shooting has been an issue. Against Addison Trail we shot the ball a lot better at 39 percent which is very good for us. We need to be around there for us to be successful as a team."

Earlier, Willowbrook lost to Proviso East in WSC Gold play. "We ran into a Proviso East juggernaut," said Harrell. "We're always looking to win. The girls are positive and playing well at this point. We're going to keep looking to improve going forward."

McCann continues to play well for the Warriors. "She's always in double digits," said Harrell. "She's had a couple big games with 25 and 22 points. She accepts the idea that she

is a scorer. She's making shots. Her role is to be a shooter. Addison Trail was her first game since we talked about that and she had 22 points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals. That's a heck of a game. She filled the stat sheet in other areas as well."

Smith also drew praise from Harrell. "She has played well the entire year," he said. "She's averaging 4.5 assists per game and had nine against Addison Trail. She also threw in some steals. She's having a very good year. We've been playing well with our backcourt, but we just haven't been consistent as a team."

Overall, Harrell is happy with the direction the team and the program is headed in. "We're making good progress," he said. "We don't have a lot of seniors. We're still developing, but I like the way we are moving as a team. Our developmental levels are playing well. The sophomores are playing well and the freshman team is a juggernaut. We played them at the JV level and they were winning a game by 35 points. We have a good feeder program (West Suburban Sharks) that keeps them in the gym. If we keep doing that, we will be pretty good."

The Don of A New Day in Sports

'A Great Time for Sports'



DON FIGARELLI

What a weekend for us Bears and Bulls fans. The Bears finally dominated an NFL team and beat the Cincinnati Bengals - 33-7. At times they look very good and at others, not so much. You could say the same thing for the Chicago Bulls, who have now have won 5 games in a row. They handily beat the Boston Celtics; the NBA team with the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Isn't this time of the year great for sports? The college football season is starting their playoffs. (BTW - I'm pulling for Oklahoma) The college basketball season has started and I think both Northwestern and Illinois will make the NCAA tournament come March.

Answer any of the trivia questions below to win a Chicago Cubs t-shirt:

- How many Home Runs did Ernie Banks hit?
 - Who was nicknamed, "Sweetness"?
 - Who Chicago Blackhawks player wore #9?
- Got the answer? Call Don at (630) 530-7061.

Willowbrook girls bowling team continues to roll

Helsper, Sasenick and Jones leading the way for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team has continued its strong play by getting off to a 3-0 start in West Suburban Conference action.

The Warriors were recent winners over District 88 neighbor Addison Trail at both the varsity and junior-varsity levels.

Holly Helsper led the Warriors with a 611 series, while Brianna Bryant had a 604 series.

Bryant also had the high game at 241.

Willowbrook also took second at the recent Streamwood invitation. Dana Sasenick led the team with an 1,151 series, which placed her third individually among the field.

Through late last week, Helsper, a junior, was leading the team with a 184 average.

Sasenick, a senior, and Makaylah Jones, a sophomore, both were averaging a 180.

Willowbrook coach Kevin Allen had high praise for the recent performances of Sasenick, Bryant and Helsper in particular, starting with Sasenick.

"Dana has stepped up this year and has really taken a leadership role for the team," he said. "Dana has been not only bowling good

this year, but she has been a terrific teammate. Dana always has been a teammate who cheers on other players at any time of the game."

Allen brought up Bryant's 241 high game during conference play. "Brianna has been bowling wonderfully this year," he said. "She has taken full advantage of starting and has bowled some very important big games for us. She has really improved her game, which is showing in a big way."

In that 611 series, Helsper had games of 202, 207 and 202. "Holly currently is leading the team in average and has been our most consistent bowler thus far," said Allen. "Her consistency is something that has been important for our team to

be successful."

Allen noted the team is focusing on picking up spares. "We're working on making our spares during

pressure situations," he said. "Making high-quality shots on the first ball will result in leaving only single-pin spares or getting strikes."

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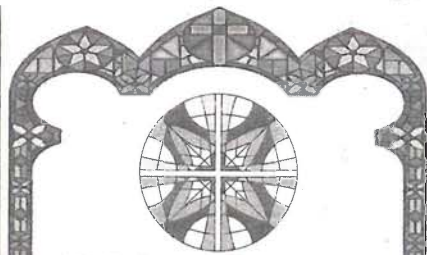
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New Year's Day Masses
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VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

Vol. 58 No. 52

Thursday, December 28, 2017

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A special performance next month

The Jackson Middle School Concert Choir will perform at next month's Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria. The Jackson students will perform under the direction of Jackson music teacher Sarah Giordano on Jan. 27 in the Scottish Rite Cathedral. According to Giordano, the students in the concert choir have been preparing for this performance since the current school year began in mid-August. "We have regular rehearsals twice a week before school," said Giordano. The students have been working with local arranger/clinician Cathy DeLaney, who will be guest conducting her own arrangement of "By the Waters" in Peoria. The students will perform pieces from nine selections.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review



Willowbrook speech team holds a home tournament

SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook High School's speech team held a home tournament on Dec. 16. Competing in a field of 21 teams, Willowbrook finished in a third-place tie. The photo shows members of the team who placed during the event. Pictured left to right are: (front row) sophomore Vincenzo Ledonne and senior John DeAngelo; (middle row) senior Juilia Cicero, senior Kathleen Cicero and Junior Renee Maggard; (back row) senior Isabella Ledonne, sophomore Chloe Devens, freshman Sean Shepherd, freshman Michael Poirier, sophomore Letisha Sepulveda and senior Genevieve Corkery. DeAngelo and Isabella Ledonne teamed up to win first-place honors in the Dramatic Duet Acting category. DeAngelo and Vincenzo Ledonne claimed first place in the Humorous Duet Acting category, while Corkery won the first-place award in Humorous Interpretation.



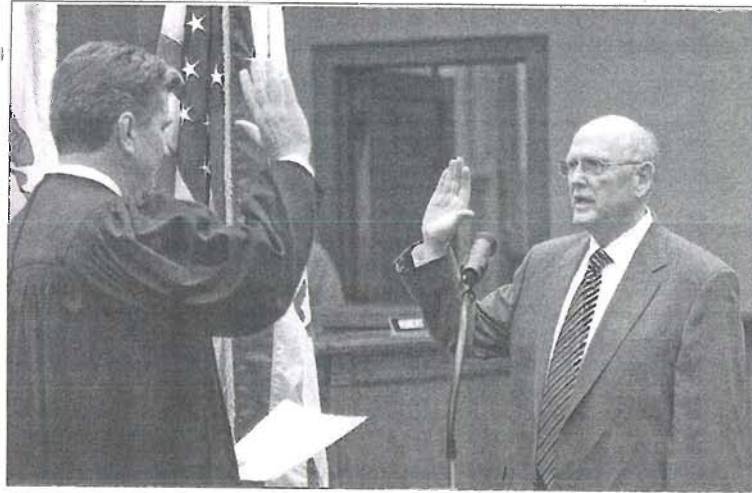
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CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Villa Park Review

A new village president in 2017

The April 4 election provided some of the Village of Villa Park's highlights for 2017. Albert Bultuis won the three-way race for village president, defeating Trustee Robert Taglia and longtime resident Chuck Pickerill. Bultuis, who spent 10 years as a village trustee before becoming village president, received 1,506 votes in the April 4 election. Taglia garnered 1,102 votes, while Pickerill won 766 votes. Bultuis was sworn in as village president during the May 8 village board meeting. He is pictured with DuPage County Circuit Judge Robert Kleeman during the swearing-in ceremony. Bultuis replaced outgoing Villa Park Village President Deborah Bullwinkler (also pictured on May 8), who did not run for a second term. Four candidates ran for three available village trustee seats in the April 4 election. Incumbents Nick Cuzzone and Robert Wagner were re-elected to the board. Cuzzone received 2,331 votes, while Wagner won 2,058 votes. Cheryl Tucker won a seat on the board by receiving 1,784 votes. David Cilella earned 1,609 votes. Bultuis, who had two years remaining in his term as village trustee, appointed Cilella to serve the remainder of the term. Cilella was sworn in during the June 26 village board meeting.

Villa Park briefs

Submit historic photos to village's holiday photo contest; deadline is Jan. 1

The Village of Villa Park invites residents to share their historic holiday village photos by entering them into the Villa Park Holiday Photo Contest. Photos will be accepted until Jan. 1, 2018. Winning photos will be posted on the village's social media pages, and on the home page of the village website. Submissions can be entered via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or by sending an e-mail to tpenesis@inwillapark.com.

Police announce 24/7 opioid misuse helpline; 1-833-2FINDHELP

The Villa Park Police Department recently announced the establishment of the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances at 1-833-2FINDHELP. The helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for individuals experiencing opioid use disorders.

Dialing the helpline is confidential and free. Helpline specialists are trained in evidence-based approaches to help connect callers with treatment services and recovery support services.

Created by the State of Illinois Opioid Task Force, the goals of the helpline are to:

- Provide individuals and families with information and timely access to opioid use disorder (OUD) behavioral health treatment, rehabilitation and recovery support services.
- Provide individuals and families with information and referral to a comprehensive range of OUD services and resources available to meet their needs.
- Assist callers with eligibility and insurance enrollment resources.
- Offer outreach and engagement to assist in connecting callers to care, when possible.
- Provide OUD behavioral health crisis intervention services.

The overall goal of the task force is to reduce opioid overdose deaths in Illinois by one-third within the next three years. Illinois Department of Public Health data show that in 2016, opioid overdoses killed 1,946 people in Illinois – more than one and a half times the number of homicides and nearly twice the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents. In addition, data from the Illinois Department of Human Services estimates that approximately 248,000 Illinois residents need, but do not receive treatment, for illicit drug use.

Online survey is open to Willowbrook parents and guardians

District 88 is joining the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in the sixth statewide survey of school climate and learning conditions, referred to as the Illinois 5Essentials Survey.

Through Jan. 31, 2018, teachers, students and parents/guardians are able to complete this research-based survey to help identify strengths and weaknesses in their school's learning environment and have a voice in improving their schools. The survey will allow schools to reflect on progress since the last statewide implementation. Teachers will receive an e-mail with details about how to take the survey. Willowbrook students will receive details at school about how to take the survey. Parents and guardians can take the survey by going online to <https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2017>. They can also take the survey during Willowbrook's Booster Club meeting on Jan. 9; the Willowbrook Parent Organization meeting on Jan. 10 and the Athletic Club and Citizens Advisory Council meetings on Jan. 17.

Tickets are on sale for foundation's 2018 fundraiser

The Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE) Foundation invites you to attend an evening of entertainment, dining and fun to raise money for students in DuPage County school districts 4, 45, 48 and 88. The PIE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves public school students in those districts.

The PIE Foundation's 2018 fundraiser will take place on March 11, 2018, at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. The evening will feature a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," as well as dinner, raffles and an auction.

Tickets, which could make a great holiday gift, are \$90 per person if bought before Feb. 1, 2018, and \$95 per person if bought after Feb. 1. Tickets can be bought online at the foundation's website — www.piefoundation.org.

If you're unable to attend the musical, you can support the foundation through making an online donation at <http://piefoundation.org/donations.html>. Founded in 2009, PIE is designed to be the foundation that supports a long-term partnership among the community, businesses, schools and, most importantly, the children served.

For more information, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink at 630-530-3989, or at dbrink@dupage88.net.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

District 88's Best for December

Willowbrook senior Genevieve Corkery (right) of Villa Park was named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for December. Corkery, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left), was honored at the District 88 Board of Education's meeting on Dec. 18. The district's board and administration created the 88's Best award to honor students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The honor is presented to one student from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—during each month of the school year. Corkery has pursued the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook. When she graduates, she will have completed 10 Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses, along with several honors courses. Corkery has been named to the Distinction Honor Roll in each semester of her high school career. She is an inductee of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society, Civitas (Willowbrook's social studies honor society), Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society, along with the math and world language honor societies. Corkery is involved with Willowbrook's theater, band and choir programs. She has participated in 10 theatrical productions at Willowbrook, earning IHSA All-Sectional and All-State cast recognition. She's also served as a head drum major for the marching band. Earlier this year, she was named to the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Honors Chorus. Additionally, Corkery is a co-captain of Willowbrook's speech team. She plans to attend Tulane University, Albion College or Roosevelt University. Corkery intends to pursue a double major in musical theater and digital media production to prepare for a career in theater, film, acting and directing.

Lauren Kiefer Foundation supports York Township 'Adopt a Family for Christmas' program

State Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, is seeking high school and college students interested in state government and community outreach to apply for an internship in her Villa Park district office.

"Internships are an excellent way for students to learn about government through hands-on experience," Conroy said. "This internship provides students an opportunity to learn about the power of civic engagement and the many skills necessary to successfully reach out and serve diverse communities. Many of my past interns have gone on to study political science or pursue careers in government."

Interns will have the opportunity to act as a liaison between constituents and the state of Illinois, research legislation and plan community outreach events. Students will gain invaluable experience

that will be beneficial for any future career. Hours are flexible and the internship will be based in Conroy's constituent office at 28 S. Villa Ave. in Villa Park.

"Interns play an essential role in our ability to successfully serve our constituents. I look forward to working with dedicated students determined to make difference in our community," Conroy said. "I am asking members of our community to spread the word and encourage motivated and interested students to apply."

Conroy's office may work with academic advisors for students eligible to earn college credit. Interested students should send their resume and availability to Conroy's office at RepDebConroy@gmail.com.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Ex-Bears wideout visits Villa Park

Wendell Davis' career cut short by devastating injury; likes Trubisky, Cohen

By Mike Sandrolini
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

Chicago Bears fans who watched the post-Super Bowl XX championship team era squads no doubt remember Wendell Davis.

Davis was a productive wide receiver for the Bears during the last five years of Mike Ditka's tenure as head coach and the first season of Ditka's successor, Dave Wannstedt.

A first-round selection by the Bears in the 1988 draft (27th overall) following an all-American career at Louisiana State University, Davis was the Bears' leading receiver for three straight years (1990-1992).

However, Wannstedt's inaugural season would end up being Davis' final NFL campaign.

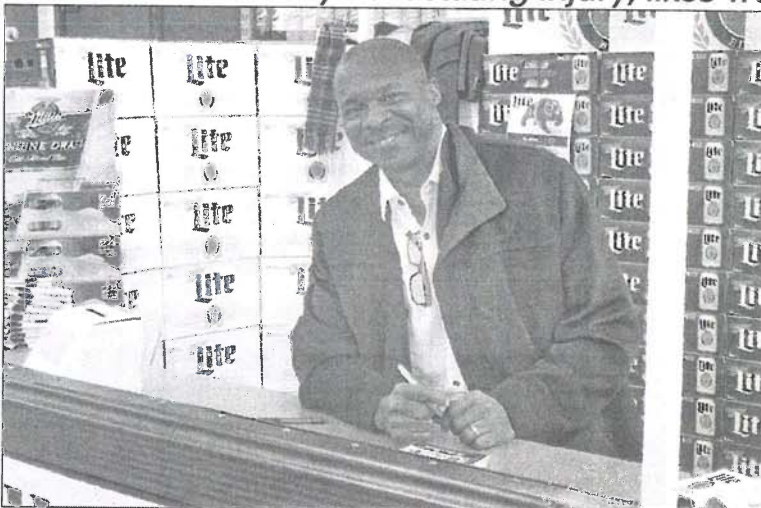
Davis' pro career essentially ended in a Week 6 game at Philadelphia's Veteran's Stadium on Oct. 10, 1993. He tried to plant his feet in order to catch a pass that was underthrown, but his cleats got stuck in the stadium's AstroTurf. He tore the patella tendons in both legs so severely that his kneecaps were pushed into his thighs.

It was listed by bleacherreport.com as one of the most gruesome injuries in NFL history.

A favorite target of quarterback Jim Harbaugh—who went on to coach the San Francisco 49ers and is now the head coach at Michigan—Davis' best year as a pro occurred in 1991 when he caught 61 passes for 954 yards and six touchdowns while averaging 15.5 yards per catch—all career highs.

Harbaugh attempted to loft a pass to Davis on the play he was injured. Davis spent several months in a wheelchair following surgery with a cast on each leg from the thigh to the ankle.

Davis, who recently visited Sal's Beverage World in Villa Park to meet Bears fans and sign autographs as part of a Miller Lite promotion, is nearly a quarter century removed from his career-ending injury (he attempted to make a comeback in 1995 with the Indianapolis Colts, but didn't appear in a game). He smiles now as he talks about the injury, but



Former Chicago Bears wide receiver Wendell Davis, who led the team in receiving three straight years in the early 1990s, recently appeared at Sal's Beverage World in Villa Park.

it was no laughing matter when it happened.

A November 1993 story by *Sports Illustrated's* Peter King said that "Davis felt something snap simultaneously in both knees, and he flopped to the artificial turf as if he'd been shot. He began screaming in pain. He tried to move his legs but couldn't."

"There were so many emotions going through that period," Davis said. "The pain, the agony, just the thought of not being able to do what you love to do. It was an up and down period but fortunately for me, I had my family and a strong foundation to help me get through it. I also had the opportunity to try to come back, and that meant a lot to try to get out there but I just couldn't do it anymore."

Davis then had to make the transition from NFL player to a more traditional career.

"I started a business when I was playing so I've always had an

entrepreneurial spirit," he said.

Davis emphasizes to young athletes the importance of getting an education and having something to fall back on in case their dream of playing in college or perhaps professionally doesn't pan out.

"I tell kids to continue to dream because you never know," he said. "Your dream could come true. But you've got to run your train on two rails. Don't be a monorail; you can only go so far. I tell them to put it on a two-track system—education and athletics. You can do both; that's why they call you a student-athlete."

These days, Davis is the manager of minority business development at NMPL Steel Company in Elk Grove Village.

"It's a great opportunity to meet people, a great opportunity to make a difference in communities," said Davis, who recently started at the company.

Davis still keeps his hands in the

game. In addition to doing eight or nine appearances for Miller Lite around the Chicago area during football season, Davis serves as a volunteer coach at Wendell Phillips Academy High School in Chicago, which went undefeated this past season and won the Class 5A state championship.

His son, Malcolm, is a running back at Cal-Poly University in San Luis Obispo, California.

"My wife (Patricia) and I are empty-nesters now," said Davis, who once coached wide receivers for the San Francisco 49ers when Bears Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary, his former teammate, was the 49ers' head coach. "We're just living life and enjoying Chicago."

Davis still follows his old team and hopes the Bears can get on the right track after enduring what will be a third straight under-.500 season under head coach John Fox and general manager Ryan Pace. The

Bears haven't had a winning season since they went 10-6 in 2012.

"My personal opinion is when you're rebuilding, and you come up with injuries that you don't expect and you're not really settled at the quarterback position, those things kind of piled up," Davis said of the 2017 Bears' campaign. "When they pile up like that, you tend to have a pretty subpar season."

"They're struggling in every way, but it's the game of football. You have to continue to play through the season. Hopefully from this, they can build something. A lot of fans are expecting them to do well next year so it's a real challenge."

One reason for optimism is the continued development of rookie quarterback Mitchell Trubisky.

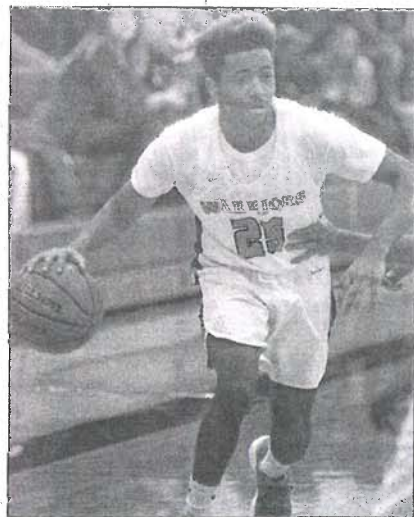
"I think so far he's proven to be a good quarterback," Davis said. "I think it remains to be seen if he can take it to the next level, but I do like what I've seen on the field. I think he has an arm and he uses his legs very well and he seems to be a smart guy."

One rookie that certainly has caught the attention of Bears fans, in general, and Davis, in particular, is 5-foot-6 running back and kick returner Tarik Cohen. Davis says the electrifying Cohen reminds him of Dennis Gentry, another one of Davis' former Bear teammates who was around Cohen's size and also returned kicks.

"My wife calls him Dennis Gentry," Davis said. "I used to play with Dennis; he's one of my best friends and he really reminds me of Dennis Gentry because you can put him in open space and he makes things happen and he's an exciting player."

Davis is pulling for wideout Kevin White to return to the field. White, the No. 7 overall pick in the 2015 draft, has been riddled with injuries throughout his brief NFL career. He's appeared in only five games over a three-year period.

"My heart goes out to him because I've been that position before," Davis said. "It just so happens that unfortunately it happened for him two years in a row. He's a talented player and he just hasn't had the opportunity to show it."



Warriors crush Glenbard North

The Willowbrook boys basketball team opened Glenbard West's holiday tournament with Saturday's resounding 66-34 win over Glenbard North. The Warriors improved their overall record to 7-1 with the victory. Willowbrook held a 12-1 lead at the end of the first quarter. The lead ballooned to 28-1 late in the second period. A basket by senior Sikander Zafar gave the Warriors a 20-1 lead. A 3-point shot from senior Cornelius Paxton pushed the lead to 23-1. Junior Levi Bentsen's 3-pointer gave Willowbrook a 26-1 cushion. A driving basket by senior Matt Myers gave the Warriors their 28-1 lead. Glenbard North scored the last three points of the second quarter, leaving Willowbrook with a 28-4 halftime lead. The Warriors' edge grew to 52-15 by the end of the third quarter. Paxton (No. 25-above left) scored a team-leading 12 points for the Warriors. Senior Martique Barksdale finished with 10 points, while senior Ethan Schuemer (No. 32-above middle) scored eight points. Myers (pictured above right), junior Matas Masys, junior Charlie Flak and junior Jack Hines each scored six points. Willowbrook, which won the Glenbard West tournament last year, will complete the eight-team event this week.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

A narrow loss for the Rams

Glenbard East's boys basketball team lost 55-53 to Rich South in last week's non-conference game in Lombard. The Rams' overall record dropped to 5-5 following the Dec. 22 loss. Glenbard East held a 32-31 halftime lead and a 45-44 edge at the end of the third quarter. The Rams managed to score only eight points during the fourth period. Sophomore Alljah Nelson scored a team-high 16 points for the Rams. Nelson made four 3-point shots—two apiece in the first and fourth quarters. Senior Kenny Adams (pictured-far left) added 13 points, while sophomore DaRon Hall (pictured at left) contributed 10 points. Seniors Korvante Davis and Jared Rech (No. 10-above) scored six and four points, respectively. The Rams are playing in this week's Jack Tosh Holiday Tournament at York High School in Elmhurst.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

A convincing win for the Broncos

The Montini girls basketball team played its first home game of the season on Dec. 21, when they faced Mother McAuley. The Broncos defeated Mother McAuley 59-30 in Lombard. Montini, which improved its overall season record to 14-1, held a 22-3 lead at the end of the first quarter. The lead grew to 32-9 by halftime and 45-16 at the end of the third period. Senior Lindsey Jarosinski (No. 50-above left) provided a team-leading 18 points for the Broncos. Jarosinski, who will play at Wake Forest University, scored six baskets and made six of seven attempts from the free-throw line. Senior Aaliyah Patty (No. 32-above middle), who will play at Ohio State University, scored eight points. Senior Ilysse Pitts (No. 4-above right), who will continue her academic and basketball careers at Vaiparaiso University, also scored eight points, as did junior Sam Mitchell (No. 2-right). Sophomore Sydney Prochaska contributed seven points, while freshman Taris Thornton scored six points. The Broncos are playing in their own 16-team holiday tournament this week. The tournament championship game takes place on Saturday night.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Warriors lose at home

The Willowbrook girls basketball team lost 66-39 to Walther Christian in last week's non-conference contest in Villa Park. The visiting Broncos built a commanding 36-10 lead by halftime of the Dec. 22 game. Junior Maura Heneghan (No. 14-above right) led the Warriors in scoring with 12 points. Sophomore K'Allyha Herron (No. 15-above left) added eight points, while senior Jayla Smith scored six points. Willowbrook is playing in this week's holiday tournament at Wheaton North High School.

2017 SPORTS STORIES OF THE YEAR

State champions and the loss of a legend

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

With the calendar about to flip over to 2018, there is no better time than now to look back on the top stories of 2017, to recognize the sensational performances of area athletes and more. Here is a look at some of those top stories:

Oh, what a Knight

Lazerick Eatman saved his last game for a record performance.

The IC Catholic Prep senior running back ran for 237 yards and a Class 3A finals record-tying four touchdowns, and the Knights repeated as state champions with a resounding 35-0 win over Pleasant Plains in November in DeKalb.

The Knights (13-1) won their fourth state championship.

ICCP led 6-0 at halftime, and then scored on four straight possessions to turn the championship game into a rout.

"Any hole we open up, [Eatman] will hit it," ICCP All-State offensive lineman Dylan Packer said. "And once he gets to the second level he's usually gone."

Remembering a legend

He left a legacy that will last generations after he's gone.

Joe Newton, who led York's boys cross country team to 28 state titles and another title in boys track over a 57-year career, passed away in December at age 88.

Newton led York to 45 state trophies in 61 years at the school. Newton's Dukers won five straight state titles on two occasions, six consecutive from 1989 to 1994.

And he did so with class. "There are many people that say he is Illinois cross country," said Mike Newman, who ran for Newton at York



York's Joe Newton coaches during the 2005 state cross country meet.

Shaw Media file photos



Pleasant Plains' Tristen Tewes (82) tries to catch up to IC Catholic's Lazerick Eatman during the Class 3A state championship game Nov. 24.

in the 1970s. "His legacy is through every runner that puts on the green and white."

Willowbrook's program-changer

When Jack Jessen arrived at Willowbrook, the Warriors' football team hadn't won a

playoff game since 1990 or an outright conference championship since 1982 and never a West Suburban Gold title.

He helped end all three of those droughts.

This fall Jessen led Willowbrook to that first-ever Gold title and back-to-back playoff

Jessen has carved quite a career in two sports.

The future Northwestern wrestler went 50-0 last season before losing in the state championship match. Something to save for 2018, perhaps.

Kolie Allen crowned state tennis champion

Glenbard East senior Kolie Allen capped a triumphant return to high school tennis in grand fashion.

Allen, an Ohio State recruit, defeated Evanston's Anastasia Goncharova 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 to win the Class 2A state singles title in October.

Allen made the state quarterfinals as a sophomore, but did not play high school tennis as a junior. She returned for her senior season to win Glenbard East's first state title in tennis.

"[Winning state] was pretty much the only reason I came back," Allen said. "This means everything."

Also at state tennis, Timothy Christian's doubles team of Abygale Ahn and Cassandra Lee took third in Class 1A, the school's first medal in tennis.

Montini girls basketball team takes third in state

Montini seniors Kaylee Bambule and Claudia Kunzer went out in style.

Kunzer scored 10 points and Bambule added six, including her 294th career 3-pointer, as Montini beat Fremd 35-22 to claim third place in the Class 4A state finals in March.

The win was a sweet end to a bittersweet weekend for Montini (33-2). The Broncos' attempt to win their fifth state title ended with a 37-35 semifinal loss to Edwardsville.

"I think it's always special to end on a win," Bambule said. "There's only two teams that get to end with a win."



Glenbard East's Kolie Allen celebrates a point during the Class 2A state finals match in October.

quarterfinals for the first time since 1976. And he finished his career with nearly 4,800 rushing yards.

"I would love to say that this year, but I'm not," Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth said.

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No doubting Timothy Christian's Thomas

By BOB NARANG
editorial@mysurbanlife.com

ELMHURST – The Timothy Christian boys basketball team is undergoing an overhaul this season.

Scott Plaisier was named the new head varsity coach.

The Trojans ushered in a shiny new gymnasium on Dec. 1 by defeating defending Metro Suburban Red champion Chicago Christian in comeback fashion.

And after a 17-11 record last season, the Trojans welcomed another change – a fast start.

The Trojans split their first two games at the Jack Tosh Hol-

iday Classic, which is hosted by York, to put their record at 9-2 through 11 games.

Although senior guard Michael Thomas is no stranger to the program, his new-and-improved game is part of the Trojans' renaissance this season.

Thomas led the Trojans to an impressive 62-55 win over Providence on the first day of the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic. Thomas shot 8 for 13 from the field to finish with 17 points and three rebounds.

A second-year varsity player, Thomas said he's a completely different player this season. His aggressiveness was evident in the win over

the Celtics. He made consecutive shots midway through the fourth quarter to help erase a three-point deficit that turned the game around.

"Last year I came off the bench, but this year I've been playing a lot and I'm just happy, happy with the coaches and the ways we can create our shot and we have more freedom," Thomas said.

The 6-foot Thomas is one of the reasons for the Trojans' quest for the program's first 20-win season since posting a 25-6 record in 2009-10.

Thomas' chemistry with sophomore guard Matt Owens is easy to spot on the court.

Both players have a good understanding of each other's strengths and weaknesses, and even favorite spots on the court. Owens led the Trojans with 20 points against Providence.

"Michael and Matt play a lot of basketball together in the summer, and you can tell they feed off each other," Plaisier said. "They shoot the ball with confidence."

Thomas said he's been receiving some interest from local Division III schools. He credits an improved outside shot to expanding his overall game. Thomas is averaging nearly 14 points, three rebounds and 2.5 assists per game.

"I've become a better shooter and have more of an opportunity to shoot," he said. "I've been working on it a lot."

Plaisier said Thomas had a run of "six or seven" quality games heading into the Naperville North loss Dec. 27. Thomas shot 1 for 6 and scored two points against the Huskies.

"Michael has really developed and can score in a bunch of different ways," he said. "He's so energetic and gets a lot of his buckets by continuing to be active all the time. When we can get the game a little more up-tempo, that opens things up. ... He's really creative in that sense."

PREP ROUNDUP

York advances to quarterfinals at Jack Tosh Holiday Classic

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Nick Kosich scored 14 points, and York held Minooka to eight second-half points to advance to the quarterfinals of the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic with a 46-26 win Dec. 27. John Milling added 12 points for York.

Nate Shockey scored 11 points and Angelo Martucci had 10 for the Dukes in a 54-40 first-round win over TF South on Dec. 26.

Glenbard East

Alijah Nelson scored 15 points and James Peterkin added 13 for the Rams in a 58-42 win over Rolling Meadows in the consolation bracket of the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic on Dec. 27. Korvante Davis and DaRon Hall each added 10 points.

Kenny Adams scored 21 points and Davis added 14 in Glenbard East's 68-63 first-round loss in overtime to Metea Valley on Dec. 26. Peterkin added 11 points and Nelson 10.

Willowbrook

Ethan Schuemer had 13 points and nine rebounds and Sikander Zafar had nine points and five rebounds to lead the Warriors past Hoffman Estates 59-40 on Dec. 27 at the Glenbard West Holiday

Classic. Matas Masys scored 24 points and Schuemer had 19 points and seven rebounds in Willowbrook's 71-55 win over St. Francis on Dec. 26. Cornelius Paxton scored 12 points in Willowbrook's 66-34 win over Glenbard North on Dec. 23.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

York

Emily Rohman scored 14 points and Matty Stark added 11 as the Dukes (9-2) rolled past De La Salle 62-19 on Dec. 27 at the Riverside-Brookfield Tournament.

Danielle Dennis poured in 26 points, hitting five 3-pointers, in York's 54-36 win over Taft on Dec. 26.

Timothy Christian

Jordyn Strube had 23 points, four rebounds and five steals to pace the Trojans to a 51-35 win over Addison Trail on Dec. 27 at the Lisle Cage Classic. Emily DeBoer added nine points and eight rebounds and Heidi Westra had six points, nine rebounds and four assists.

Olivia Schuringa had 14 points and 12 rebounds in the Trojans' 56-31 win over IC Catholic Prep on Dec. 22. Strube added 14 points and four rebounds and Hannah Schuringa had 13 points and nine rebounds.



Glenbard East's Kenny Adams works his way through the Metea Valley defense Dec. 26 during tournament play at the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic at York High School.

Bill Ackerman - For Shaw Media

Ohio State recruit Aaliyah Patty showcases talent for Montini

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

Aaliyah Patty accepted the pass, eyed the basket and calmly hit the corner 3-point shot.

A 6-foot-3 high school girl shooting threes?

Patty's coach, Montini's Jason Nichols, doesn't mind it a bit.

"When I make them," Patty said, laughing.

All kidding aside, Patty at times resembles a guard trapped inside a post player's frame.

It's a big reason why Patty, a Montini senior, is committed to Ohio State. Her talent was on full display Dec. 27 at the Montini Christmas Tournament as Patty had 17 points, four rebounds and four steals in the Lady Broncos' 75-25 first-round win over Huntley.

Ilysse Pitts added 15 points and Sam Mitchell had 11 for Montini (14-1), unbeaten against in-state opponents this year.

At alternate times against Huntley Patty resembled a true post, and at other times she fluidly operated on the perimeter. The latter usually came when Patty was paired with 6-foot-5 Wake Forest recruit Lindsey Jarosinski.

Patty dropped in a perfect high-post pass to Jarosinski for Montini's first score. Later in the second half, she took a pass at the top of the key, faked and gracefully drove guard-like down the lane.

It's those kind of skills that Ohio State has encouraged Patty to develop.

"That's one thing they emphasize is I'm going to have to play more outside," Patty said. "I'm average height in college. They tell me to work on my threes, ballhandling. I'm trying to work on that."

She's still comfortable in the post, like when Patty dropped in a baby hook from the post against Huntley.

"I still have to go inside where there are people shorter than me," Patty said. "When people can match

my size, I can go outside and play both. At the college level, you have to work on both."

Hard to believe now, but Patty was somewhat of a late bloomer.

She played primarily on the sophomore level as a freshman, with cameos on varsity. By last year she was one of the best players on Montini's team that took third in Class 4A. Now Patty is clearly the alpha female.

"Some times kids just aren't ready [when they first get to high school]," Nichols said. "It took her a little time. It didn't mean she wasn't going to be good."

Patty is very good now, averaging 15 points and 10 rebounds a night. She's even made close to 20 3-pointers this year, shooting the highest percentage from beyond the arc on Montini.

Nichols asks who's better in Illinois' senior class. And he thinks she can be better.

"I still think she can bring a little bit more to the table," Nichols said. "I think she can score more, be efficient more. To me she's a 20 and 10 kid every night, a player who can go inside and out. She is easily one of the top players in the state of Illinois. I love her. She just has to show up every night. I want her to dominate even more. I know she has it in her."

With Patty and Jarosinski, Montini has twin posts that few teams can match. Depth, though, is an issue. Junior guard Zoe Zacker tore her ACL in Montini's first game of the season - her third ACL injury in high school.

That depth could be put to the test this week with opponents such as unbeaten Nazareth and Geneva.

"We need [Francesca Kokkines] and Sydney [Prochaska] to be more consistent because we don't have a lot of depth," Nichols said. "But we're trying to develop. You can still be good when you have good seniors and good juniors, and we have that."

Suburban Life ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**JACK
JESSEN**
WILLOWBROOK
Senior | Wrestling

Why Jessen was selected:

Jessen won the 182-pound championship at the Dvorak Invitational at Harlem High School in Machesney Park. Jessen, ranked No. 3 nationally, won a 3-2 decision over No. 8-ranked and Wisconsin recruit Jared Krattiger, and won 6-4 over No. 14-ranked and Illinois recruit Zac Braunagel of Belleville Althoff in the final for Jessen's third Dvorak Invitational title. Jessen, who will wrestle collegiately at Northwestern, improved to 26-0 on the season.

Jessen, the Suburban Life Athlete of the Week sponsored by Gracik Makinney, spoke with sports editor Joshua Welge about the season. Here's an edited transcript:

Welge: How significant was winning this tournament?

Jessen: It means a lot. This year especially was a particularly hard year. There were a lot of ranked kids, state-recognized kids. I knew it would be a tough one. This was my third time winning it, and probably the best one.

Welge: What stood out from the last two matches?

Jessen: The semifinal, the first period I got taken down. I was losing 2-0 and was able to get a reversal at the end of the first period to tie. I rode him out the second period and was able to keep the lead. I knew the kid in the

final. I trained with him for nationals. I knew to come at him real hard in the first period. It was 4-1 at the end of the first period. After that I kept the pressure on.

Welge: I saw that you aspired to reach 1,000 takedowns for your high school career. Where are you at with that?

Jessen: It's definitely a goal. I think I'm less than 100 away. In our wrestling room we have posted on the wall all the records, like season record for takedowns. I wanted to be on top of all the boards.

Welge: What kind of work did you do between high school seasons?

Jessen: I do a lot of training. I go to Northwestern for workouts. I also train with Team Illinois. I went to Fargo and won Greco-Roman and took second in Freestyle.

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Addison Trail names December recipient of 88's Best recognition

Lauren Stamatopoulos has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. A senior, Stamatopoulos was recognized during the Dec. 18 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

During her high school career, Stamatopoulos has taken 10 Honors courses and 10 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses. Her grades and test scores rank her at the very

top of her class, and she has worked hard to be successful. She is an AP Scholar and a State Scholar and has been on the honor roll all four years.

"Stamatopoulos was consistently the most prepared and engaged student in my AP Language class," said Amy Ferraro, English Department Chair. "She actively participated in class discussions and was willing to take risks when answering challenging questions or an-

alyzing complex texts. Stamatopoulos is a thoughtful and reflective writer, who eagerly accepts feedback on her work. Her willingness to ask questions and seek clarification was beneficial to the entire class on a daily basis. She is organized, responsible and extremely motivated to succeed. More importantly, Stamatopoulos is genuinely curious and interested in learning. She seeks perfection for personal growth more than for good grades and points on assignments."

Outside of being an excellent student, Stamatopoulos also excels in her extracurricular activities. She serves as Treasurer for Student Council, Business Professionals of America (BPA) and the Class of 2018. Stamatopoulos has been a member of Student Council, Key Club, National Honor Society, Pay It Forward, Blazer Ambassadors and the Addison Trail Girls Gymnastics Team, of which she is a Captain this season.

"Stamatopoulos is not the best gymnast on the Addison Trail Girls Gymnastics Team, and you won't see her doing the highest-level skills in the gym," said Eric Norberg, Girls Gymnastics Team Coach and math teacher. "However, Stamatopoulos is the Captain of our team and is still the most valuable gymnast on our team. She is a natural leader; someone the older gymnasts respect and the younger gymnasts look up to. She is very much deserving of the District 88's Best award."

Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher and sponsor of the Class of 2018 Jennifer Kowalski agreed.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Stamatopoulos these past three and a half years, as she has served as Treasurer for the Class of 2018," Kowalski said. "She always goes above and beyond her duties as Treasurer. She often took the leadership role and was a tremendous help when planning prom. Stamatopoulos was the one we could always count on to be there



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Pictured with Addison Trail Principal Michael Boiden is senior Lauren Stamatopoulos, who has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition.

for any fundraiser, meeting or activity we hosted. She has exceptional organizational skills and always puts her all into everything she does. I am so thankful I was able to get to know her these past few years, and I know she will be successful in her future endeavors. I wish her nothing but the best!"

After graduating from Addison Trail, Stamatopoulos plans to study actuarial science. Her top three choices for college are the University of Alabama, Ohio State University and University of Kentucky.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

NEDSRA campers come to Library

Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association's campers spent the morning exploring all things snow at the Addison Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 27. Here, a camp leader looks on as a young man uses a tissue to create snow for the snowman seen on the table in front of him.

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Sports

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming's Burns victorious at York invite

Addison Trail's Grygo thriving at Benedictine University

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op boys swimming team recently tied for eighth place at the 12th annual York Invite in Elmhurst.

AT-Willowbrook was two points out of seventh place.

AT-Willowbrook's Jack Burns won the 50 freestyle in 22.95. Mikey Strycharz was 11th in 24.56. Burns also took fifth in the 100 with a time of 52.43.

Zachary Thompson tied for 20th with a time of 57.11.

Kyle Haake was 16th in the 200

with a time of 2:04.85, while Strycharz was 20th in time of 2:10.04.

Haake was 15th in the 500 with a time of 5:39.94. Eric Hoda was 21st with a time of 6:13.34.

Thompson placed seventh in the backstroke with a time of 1:01.93, while Jack Wentworth was 22nd in 1:09.53.

Aidan Nichols was 21st in the breaststroke with a time of 1:16.19. Thomas Holmes was 23rd in 1:16.85. Marco Chaidez was 19th in the butterfly with a time of 1:06.79, while Salvatore Ciaccio was 21st with a time of 1:07.63.

Nichols placed 11th in the 100 IM with a time of 1:08.07, while teammate Lucas Walsh was right behind him in 12th place at 1:08.11. Patrick Florey took 15th with a time of

1:08.66.

Evan Zimmerman took 10th in the 200 IM with a time of 2:22.52, while Ciaccio was 19th in 2:33.62. Sean Pienkos was 21st in 2:34.95.

AT-Willowbrook was fifth in the 200 relay with a time of 1:37.54 with Zimmerman, Hoda, Strycharz and Burns.

AT-Willowbrook was 11th in the 400 relay with a time of 3:44.49 with Zimmerman, Wentworth, Strycharz and Burns. AT-Willowbrook also was 15th in the 200 medley relay in 2:04.55 with Nick Mitchell, Holmes, Chaidez and Pienkos.

Grygo at Benedictine

Addison Trail graduate Eric Grygo is enjoying a strong season with the Benedictine University men's bas-

ketball team.

Through the first 10 games of the season, Grygo was averaging 12.3 points per game and was leading the team in rebounding at 9.0 per game.

Grygo, a 6-6 sophomore forward, started all 10 games and was averaging 26.3 minutes of playing time per game. He was shooting a strong .620 from the field and .800 (24-for-30) from the free-throw line. He also ranked second on the team in blocks with 15.

In a recent 97-90 overtime loss to Elmhurst College, Grygo had 13 points and 11 rebounds in 32 minutes of action.

In a 73-64 win over Kalamazoo, Grygo had four points and nine rebounds in 21 minutes of play.

In a 102-98 overtime win against

Wisconsin Lutheran at the Rice Center in Lisle, Grygo had 11 points and 12 rebounds in 35 minutes of action. He added 13 points and eight rebounds in 21 minutes in a win against Rockford University.

Willowbrook wrestling

Willowbrook wrestling standout Jack Jessen was ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3A in the most recent Go Earn It Wrestling Apparel individual rankings on the Illinois Matmen website.

So far this season, Jessen has won the Hoffman Estates tournament. He took second in the state as a junior at 182 pounds and was third in the state at the same weight as a sophomore and was second at 170 pounds as a freshman.

Willowbrook girls gymnastics team faring well in early going

Warriors off to 3-1 start in conference action

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team continues to make improvements as the calendar heads into the final third of the season.

Through late last week the Warriors were 3-3 overall at the varsity level in dual meets and 3-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action. Willowbrook's junior-varsity team was 3-2 overall and 3-0 in WSC

Gold meets.

In recent action, the Warriors took fourth at the varsity level at the Glenside West quad meet, while the JV team took third.

At the Downers Grove North tri-meet, Willowbrook was second at both the varsity and JV levels.

In a recent loss to Hinsdale South in WSC Gold action, Willowbrook recorded a season-high 125.2 at the varsity level.

The Warriors also were winners against WSC Gold foe Leyden at the varsity level and they took fourth at

the Addison Trail invitational with a 121.7 score, finishing ahead of their District 88 counterparts.

Top returning gymnasts from last year's team include sophomore all-arounder Karli Wilson and junior Autumn Palacios, who competes on beam and floor exercise.

Key newcomers to the team include freshmen all-arounders Maeva Costello, Alexis Fitzgerald, Kylie Rodgers, Riley Wieringa and Abby Wrenn.

Willowbrook coach Deanna Zuchowski said one thing she's

been impressed with thus far is the group's embracement of the team concept. "That encourages the athletes to push one another to make each other better," she said. "We talk a lot about bettering yourself for your teammates. 'Once you get better, we all get better.' It's easy for a team concept to get lost when gymnastics is such an individual sport, but at the high-school level it's important for them to help each other. They are assisting each other with their routines, what to do in each of their routines and important critiques they all

can learn from. The girls have been working on connecting their skills on beam. Now they just have to perfect them and start hitting their tricks during a meet."

Thus far, the Warriors have excelled on beam and vault. "They all have tried new and more difficult routines and have been successful in accomplishing the new skills," said Zuchowski. "The girls also have been trying new skills on beam and trying to do their connections with

See GYMNASTICS, Page 9

Dr. Kelly Talks Straight About Sciatica

Are you suffering from back pain or sciatica? Then it's likely your biggest problem is pain. But there's another major problem: bad information.

To end sciatica misery you must have the right information. Pay close attention because local doctor Kelly Synowitz-Moroney DC is going to destroy sciatica myths and give you the facts.

MYTH: Sciatica will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a doctor who is knowledgeable in sciatica immediately. Left untreated, sciatica can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with sciatica.

FACT: In severe cases, sciatica can lead to the inability to control your bowels or bladder - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with sciatica.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure the root cause of sciatica.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to get sciatica."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to sciatica. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can cause sciatica. Sciatica can affect anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to overcome sciatica.

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve sciatic pain and prevent the pain getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

MYTH: Sciatica requires surgery.

FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain. It's a new procedure called Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results from this treatment have been published in major medical journals. Success rates are up to 88%.

MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

FACT: With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in sciatica, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

MYTH: Getting Sciatica properly diagnosed is expensive.

FACT: Not true. We are currently offering an initial consultation right here in Elmhurst for Just \$43.

We have helped over 1,483 patients find relief from agonising back pain and sciatica. We are one of the first places to use Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

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diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica. This means superior long-term results for most people."

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Patient Jeff P. from Berwyn wrote, "My back pain was unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg... my wife insisted I see doctor Dr. Kelly. I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

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• Gymnastics

(Continued from front page)

ease. We have started to hit full sets during meets."

Wilson recently took ninth in the all-around scoring at the Addison Trail invitational.

"Karli has stepped up and has really become an important asset to this young group of girls," said Zuchowski. "Karli is an all-around great teammate. She comes in early, stays late to perfect her skills she may have missed the previous meet and she encourages her teammates at all levels. She has goals not only for herself, but for the team as a whole. She always is looking toward the future of the team and how she can help each individual."

Zuchowski likes the progress her squad as made this season. "We have a young team again this year," she said. "We have had to overcome some early obstacles with injuries and sicknesses with this young team to get them ready for the quick season. The new freshmen have stepped up of late and are starting to feel more comfortable. From the top down, the girls have progressed."

Willowbrook returns to action this coming Monday against Glenbard South and face District 88 neighbor Addison Trail on Thursday, Jan. 11.

Fenton wrestlers continue to rack up victories

Bison boys basketball team scores win against Walther Christian

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton wrestling team continues to put check marks in the win column.

Late last week, the Bison won a quadrangular meet against Metea Valley, Blue Island Eisenhower and Rolling Meadows. Fenton downed Metea Valley 43-30, defeated Eisenhower 48-15 and scored a 36-28 win against Rolling Meadows to move its overall mark to 14-3 in dual meets.

Earlier, Fenton dropped matches to Addison Trail, Montini and Chicago Brother Rice. The Bison lost 47-24 to Addison Trail in non-conference action, dropped a 66-15 contest to Montini in non-conference competition and also lost 41-33 to Brother Rice in another non-conference affair. Montini recently was ranked No. 5 in the nation.

"Those three squads (Addison Trail, Montini and Brother Rice) are talented and have many experienced wrestlers, but we did not wrestle to our potential or with much toughness," said

Fenton coach Brian Hastings.

On the individual front, Hastings has been thrilled with the performances of many. Through late last week senior Dylan Butts was 20-1 with 17 pins at 182 pounds. Senior Jack Butts was 17-5, while sophomore Danny Ramirez was 14-5 at 132 pounds.

Sophomore Jeremy Piskorz was 13-6 at 126 pounds with 10 wins by pin. Senior Isaiah Brock was 14-6 at 285 pounds with 11 pins.

Senior Anthony Park was 10-2 at 170 pounds, while freshman Jonah Koskiewicz was 9-2 at 106 pounds.

Senior Carlos Mercado was 11-8 at 145 pounds. Senior Danny Sotelo was 10-6 at 145 pounds, while senior Mateo Valdez was 11-8 at 220 pounds. Freshman David Burch was 7-5 at 126 pounds.

"We need to continue to push the pace, be fundamentally solid and wrestle with toughness," said Hastings.

Earlier this week, Fenton headed west to the Doc Buchanan Invitational in Clovis, Calif.

"We are excited about visiting the sites of San Francisco, hiking in Yosemite and Sequoia national parks and competing against some of the toughest competition in the country," said Hastings.

Fenton has won 45 of its last 48 regular-sea-

“We are excited about visiting the sites of San Francisco, hiking in Yosemite and Sequoia national parks and competing against some of the toughest competition in the country.”

Brian Hastings, Fenton coach

son dual-meet contests.

Dylan Butts had an honorable-mention ranking in the Class 2A individual Go Earn It Wrestling Apparel state rankings on the Illinois Matmen website (www.IllinoisMatmen.com).

Fenton boys basketball

The Fenton boys basketball team went 1-3 at the recent IC Catholic Prep-Westmont holiday tournament.

The Bison opened play with a 74-49 loss to Montini. Fenton then lost 47-39 to Elgin St. Edward. Fenton came back to record a 46-25 win against Walther Christian before ending the tournament with a close 44-43 loss to Elmwood Park.

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VALID JANUARY 2-15, 2018

Community calendar

Thursday, Jan. 11

AAG monthly meeting

At 7:30 p.m., members of AAG will hold a Peer Critique with fellow artists critiquing art accomplished by others either as a finished product or in a developing stage. Meetings are held at Addison Village Hall in room 1301 A & B. Guests welcome.

Thursday, Feb. 8

AAG monthly meeting

At 7:30 p.m., the Addison Art Guild will hold its regular meeting AAG at Addison Village Hall in room 1301 A & B.

This month's program will be on Fibre Art presented by Sharon Malec. Guests welcome.

Saturday, Feb. 10

AAG Workshop

From 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., AAG workshop: "It's Hip to be Square- Graphics on Glass" led by Irene Boutzarelos, at Addison Trail H.S., Art Department, room 140, 213 N. Lombard Road.

Fee: AAG Members: \$50;

Non-Members: \$60

All supplies provided

Entry deadline: Monday, Feb. 5.

For more information, call 630-250-9407

Ongoing events

• Get your high school diploma

The Addison Public Library is

now offering adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online through a new program, Career Online High School (COHS). The library is providing a limited number of free scholarships to qualified adult learners who are looking to advance their careers, prepare for workforce entry, or continue their education. You must live in Addison and be 21 or older. Call 630-458-3334 or visit addisonlibrary.org

• Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs will meet on the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or wow.cfsites.org.

• Active Adults Senior Club

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from noon-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. For more information, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275, option #2.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: Independent@rvpublishing.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

ATHS recognizes December graduates

Pictured are Addison Trail students who were recognized as December graduates on Dec. 14. They include (listed alphabetically, not as pictured): Lizbeth Acevedo, Areli Aguilar, Cristian Betancourt, Jaqueline Cabral, Esteban Carrasco, Aryana Carreras, Roci Ceballos, Maritza Cervantes, Julia Dlugon, Jocelyn Garcia, Jaqueline Gil, Juan Hernandez, Katia Isais, Yesenia Jacintov, Andjela Lukic, Jocellyn Manzilla Garcia, Destiny Martinez, Walter McNally, Ashton Murray, Riddhi Patel, Reyna Pena, Stephanie Perez, Cynthia Posada, Haley Prenant, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Walter Rodriguez, Paula Roque, Lizeth Salazar, Brandon Trujillo, Viviana Valderrama, Ian Vargas, Ethan Witt, and Abdulqadir Yaseen.

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Willowbrook Concert Choir to honor Mark Johnson

Piece created in memory of late alumnus and board member

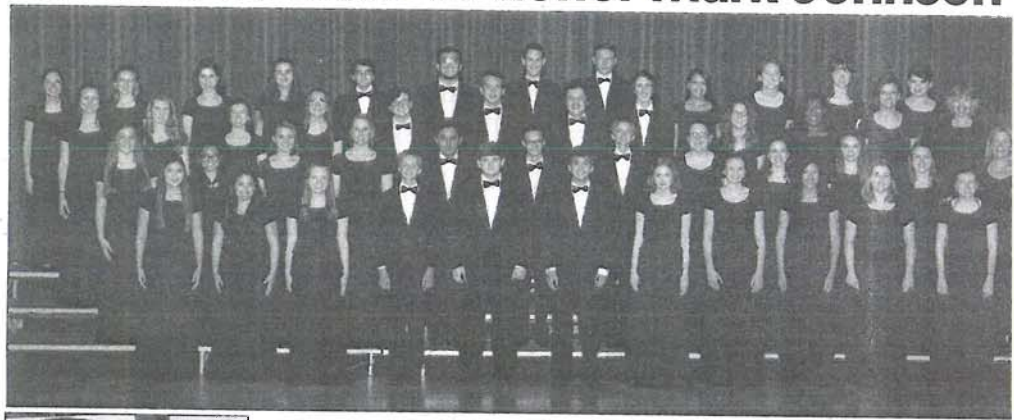
The Willowbrook High School Concert Choir will soon premiere a piece created in memory and honor of former District 88 Board member Mark Johnson.

Johnson, a 1966 Willowbrook graduate who received the school's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012, died in December 2014 after battling cancer.

In recognition of Johnson's commitment to Willowbrook and District 88, the choir will sing "I thank You God for most this amazing" during the Illinois Music Education Conference on Jan. 27, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Peoria. The Willowbrook Concert Choir auditioned for and was selected for the performance.

"Mark was always an advocate for the arts and went out of his way to support the students in District 88, so when the Concert Choir achieved the high honor of performing during the conference, my first thought was this would be a perfect event to honor his life," said Karyn Wolcott, Willowbrook Choir Director and music department chair. "I had the privilege of teaching three of Mark's daughters and first knew of him as a very involved father and a pillar in the community. He and his wife, Phyllis, were very active in the Music Booster Club. Long after their children graduated, they were at more concerts than I can count. They also were out at the football games and parades supporting our marching bands, on Saturdays at the Illinois High School Association Solo and Ensemble Contest and in the theatre supporting our plays and musicals. Where there was a performance or a special event for our students, Mark was there with a kind word of encouragement."

Wolcott described the music piece



SUBMITTED PHOTO AND FILE PHOTO Villa Park Review

The Willowbrook High School Concert Choir will soon premiere a music piece composed in memory of Mark Johnson. The choir will perform the piece at the Illinois Music Education Conference on Jan. 27. Johnson, a graduate of Willowbrook, spent several years on the District 88 Board of Education. He passed away in December 2014. Johnson was a member of the Villa Park Police Department for more than 30 years. He was promoted to deputy chief in 2004 and retired in 2009. The file photo shows Johnson on his final day with the department.



as ethereal and hopeful and said it's about appreciating and acknowledging God's blessings and not taking anything for granted. The text for "I thank You God for most this amazing" is from the poem by E. E. Cummings, which was selected by Johnson's wife and their four daughters.

"This poem by E. E. Cummings was one of Mark's favorite," said Johnson's wife, Phyllis. "He was always thankful for what he had and found something wonderful in each day."

Phyllis said Johnson participated in music and theater when he was a

student at Willowbrook, and the performing arts were a part of him all his life. He and Phyllis both earned degrees in music and sang in choirs together, and they shared that passion with their children as well.

"We loved watching and hearing the students learn and grow in the performing arts - they always impressed us," Phyllis said. "I can't think of a more wonderful way to honor Mark's years of service than through music. He would be humbled and very thankful for this tribute."

Johnson grew up in Villa Park, attending Washington Elementary School and Villa Park Junior High School (now Jackson Middle School). After graduating from Willowbrook in 1966, he attended Illinois State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He earned his master's degree in choral music. Johnson was a long-time member of St. Paul Lutheran

Church in Villa Park. He also spent several years as a choral director at Christ Church in Oak Brook.

In 1978, Johnson began working as an auxiliary officer with the Villa Park Police Department. He was hired as a full-time officer in 1983. In 2004, Johnson was promoted to the rank of deputy chief. He retired from the police department in 2009.

Johnson spent more than a decade as a member of the District 88 Board, including several years as board president.

To help the Willowbrook choir prepare for the debut in Peoria, Eduardo Garcia-Novelli (Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities and Chair of the Music Department at Carthage College, where he conducts the Carthage Choir) hosted a clinic with the students on Dec. 11. During his visit, Garcia-Novelli shared advice with regard to applying and auditioning for college music programs and offered techniques

to assist the group in getting ready for the conference. He also works with the Willowbrook musicians in November, when they attended the Lakeside Choral Festival at Carthage College.

The choir will film a dress rehearsal of the performance, which will be shown during the District 88 Board meeting on Jan. 22.

"Mark's impact on District 88 will be felt for years to come," said I. Scott Helton, District 88 Superintendent. "His legacy will be seen in every student who walks across the stage at Carthage College. Mark was involved in the community of District 88 for more than 50 years and represents all District 88 students - building futures for students and working for the continuous improvement of student achievement."

Villa Park briefs

Christmas tree recycling runs from Jan. 8-18

The Village of Villa Park reminds residents that Christmas tree collection will take place on their regular garbage collection day during the second and third week (Jan. 8-18) of January. All of the collected trees will be recycled by Roy Strom Company, instead of being placed in a landfill. Residents should remove all ornaments, lights, wiring and any decorations from trees left for disposal. Any plastic bags and string or wires used to move trees to the curb should also be removed. Trees placed out beyond the third week of January will require residents to arrange a special pickup with Roy Strom. The village also advises residents not to leave brush and yard waste on the parkway. Roy Strom made its final yard waste pickup for the season in December.

Holiday lights must be removed after 90 days

Temporary exterior holiday lights, including Christmas lights, are permitted in Villa Park for a maximum of 90 days. The Village of Villa Park advises residents to remove Christmas lights af-

ter the end of the holiday season. All temporary lighting will need to be removed by April 1. If you don't plan to use your lights again, the village advises you to recycle them.

Police announce 24/7 opioid misuse helpline; 1-833-2FINDHELP

The Villa Park Police Department recently announced the establishment of the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances at 1-833-2FINDHELP. The helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for individuals experiencing opioid use disorders.

Dialing the helpline is confidential and free. Helpline specialists are trained in evidence-based approaches to help connect callers with treatment services and recovery support services.

Created by the State of Illinois Opioid Task Force, the goals of the Helpline are to:

- Provide individuals and families with information and timely access to opioid use disorder (OUD) behavioral health treatment, rehabilitation and recovery support services.
- Provide individuals and families with infor-

mation and referral to a comprehensive range of OUD services and resources available to meet their needs.

- Assist callers with eligibility and insurance enrollment resources.
- Offer outreach and engagement to assist in connecting callers to care, when possible.
- Provide OUD behavioral health crisis intervention services.

The overall goal of the task force is to reduce opioid overdose deaths in Illinois by one-third within the next three years. Illinois Department of Public Health data show that in 2016, opioid overdoses killed 1,946 people in Illinois—more than one and a half times the number of homicides and nearly twice the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents. In addition, data from the Illinois Department of Human Services estimates that approximately 248,000 Illinois residents need, but do not receive treatment, for illicit drug use.

Tickets on sale for foundation's 2018 fundraiser

The Partnership for Inspired Education (PIE)

Foundation invites you to attend an evening of entertainment, dining and fun to raise money for students in DuPage County school districts 4, 48 and 88. The PIE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves public school students in those districts.

The PIE Foundation's 2018 fundraiser will take place on March 11, at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. The evening will feature a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," as well as dinner, raffles and a auction.

Tickets are \$90 per person if bought before Feb. 1, and \$95 per person if bought after Feb. 1. Tickets can be bought online at the foundation's website—www.piefoundation.org.

If you're unable to attend the musical, you can support the foundation through making an online donation at <http://piefoundation.org/donations.html>. Founded in 2009, PIE is designed to be the foundation that supports a long-term partnership among the community, businesses, schools and most importantly, the children served.

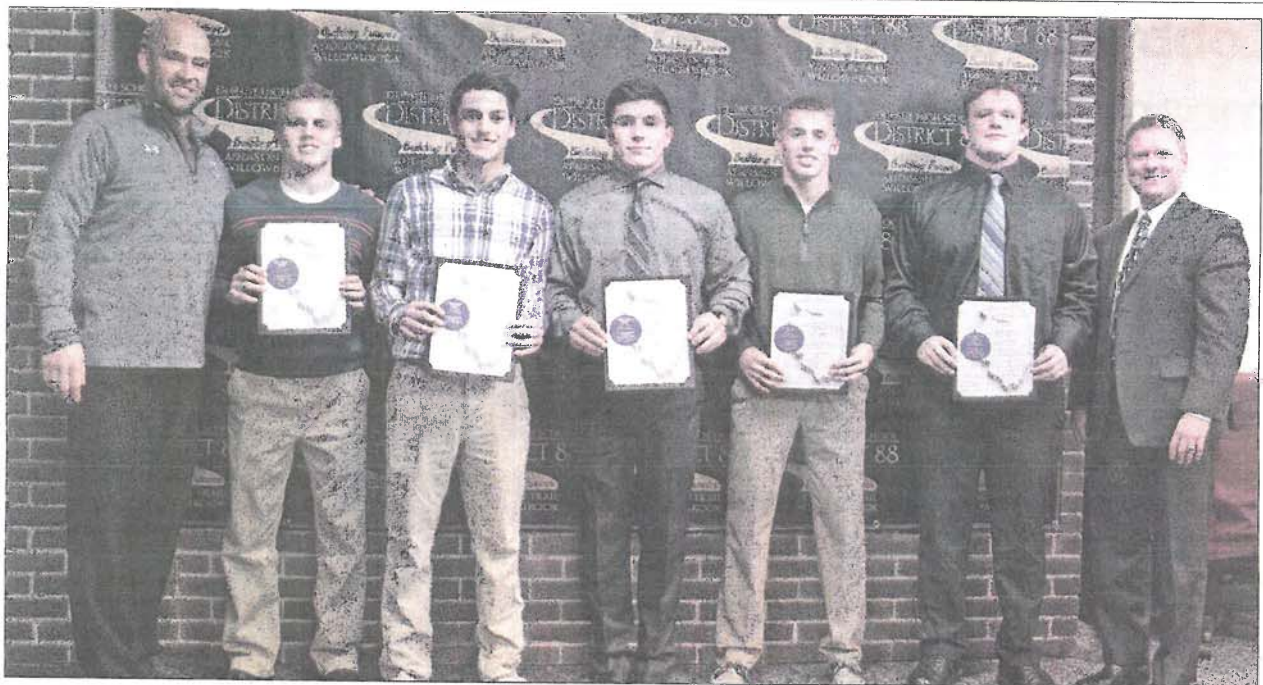
For more information, contact District 88 Director of Community Relations Dani Brink at 630-530-3989, or at dbrink@dupage88.net.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

December graduates

Willowbrook High School recently recognized 45 students as December graduates for the 2017-18 school year. The students have met the requirements set by District 88 to earn a high school diploma. The 45 graduates were honored on Dec. 13.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook football players honored

The District 88 Board of Education recently recognized several Willowbrook and Addison Trail student-athletes for their state-level achievements during the fall season of the 2017-18 school year. The honorees at the Dec. 18 board meeting included several members of the Willowbrook football team, which posted a 10-2 record, won the West Suburban Gold Conference title with a perfect 6-0 record and advanced to the quarterfinals of the IHSA Class 6A playoffs. Pictured left to right are: Willowbrook head football coach Nick Hildreth, sophomore Sam Tumilty, senior Nick Sabatino, senior Jack Jessen, junior Scott Tumilty, junior Matt Knudtson and Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause. Jessen was named to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association (IHSFCA) All-State First Team. He also received IHSFCA Academic All-State recognition and was selected as the West Suburban Gold Conference's most valuable player. Scott and Sam Tumilty both received Academic All-State honors. Scott Tumilty also earned honorable mention to the All-State football team. Knudtson and Sabatino also received the IHSFCA Academic All-State recognition, as did (not pictured) senior Brandon Loth. Senior Kevon Dobbins (not pictured) was an honorable mention selection to the All-State football team.

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Speaker: Tom Koleski
Financial Advisor
13+ Years in Financial Industry

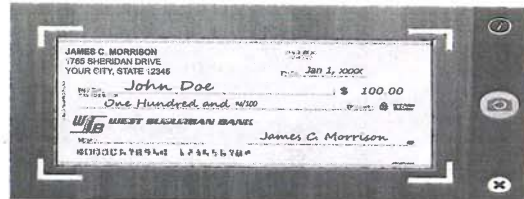
Tom provides comprehensive financial planning to business owners, corporate executives and high net worth individuals. The financial planning process generally includes the following areas for analysis and recommendations: Retirement Income Planning, Retirement Cash Flow Projections, Asset Allocation, College Funding, Cash and Debt Management.

Tom earned a BA from The University of Dayton. Tom also holds both the Series 7 and Series 66 licenses.

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Warriors fall to Glenbard West in tournament final

Cold shooting costs Willowbrook against the Hilltoppers

The Willowbrook boys basketball team failed in its bid to win a second straight title at Glenbard West's holiday tournament. The Warriors played in the championship game of this year's event, losing a 53-51 decision to the host Hilltoppers on Dec. 28 in Glen Ellyn.

The Warriors won their first three games of the tournament to advance to the title contest. The loss to Glenbard West, which improved to 8-4, left Willowbrook with an overall season record of 9-2.

The Warriors posted three decisive wins over Glenbard North, St. Francis and Hoffman Estates to advance to the championship game. Three days after pouncing Glenbard North 66-34, the Warriors earned a 71-55 win over St. Francis on Dec. 26. One day later, Willowbrook beat Hoffman Estates 59-40.

Both Willowbrook and Glenbard West played their third game in three days in the Dec. 28 championship meeting. Playing on their home court, the Hilltoppers grabbed a 31-22 halftime lead against the Warriors, who struggled to make shots. Willowbrook connected on seven of 33 field-goal attempts during the first half. The team wound up making 18 of 61 shots.

"We didn't shoot the ball well at all," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the game. "I think that was the difference. These weren't typical numbers for us. We average over 70 points a game. Today we managed only 51. We had energy defensively. We held them to 53 points. That's a game we should have won."

In addition to having a poor shooting night from the field, the Warriors had trouble from the free-throw line, making eight of 17 attempts. The team has made more than 70 percent of its free throws this season.

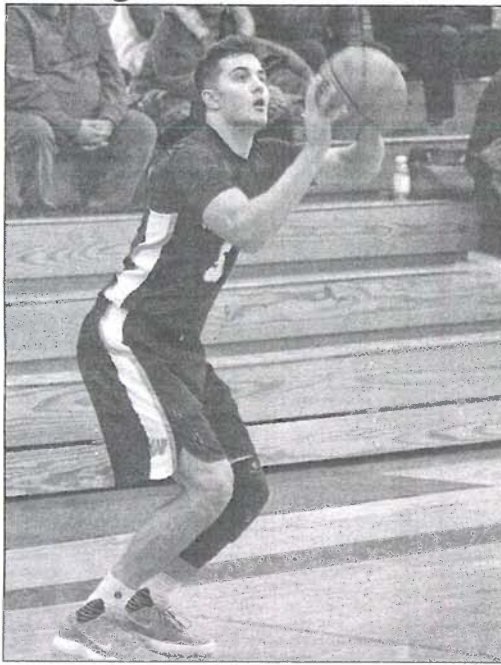
“We didn't shoot the ball well at all. I think that was the difference. These weren't typical numbers for us. We average over 70 points a game. Today we managed only 51. We had energy defensively. We held them to 53 points. That's a game we should have won.”

— Chris Perkins, Willowbrook coach

Glenbard West scored in the opening seconds of the second half to take a 33-22 lead. Junior Matas Masys then hit a 3-point shot to cut the lead to 33-25. Senior Ethan Schuemer added an inside basket to trim the lead to 33-27. Three baskets from senior Matt Myers and a pair of baskets from senior Sikander Zafar helped the Warriors cut Glenbard West's lead to 38-36 by the end of the third quarter.

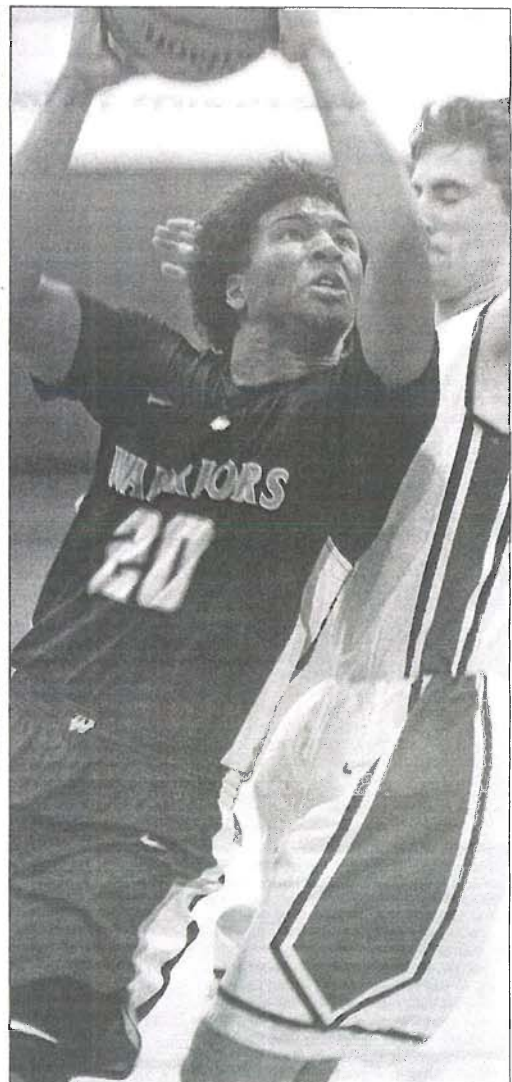
Willowbrook rallied to take the lead during the fourth quarter. Zafar drained a 3-point shot to tie the game at 42-42 with less than six minutes to play. Myers gave the Warriors a 44-42 lead when he sank two free throws with 5:08 remaining. Glenbard West connected on a 3-point shot about one minute later to regain the lead. Willowbrook grabbed a 46-45 edge on a basket by junior Jack Hines, but Glenbard West proceeded to score five straight points to take a 50-46 lead with about one minute to play.

Myers scored with about 50 seconds to play to cut the Hilltoppers' lead to 50-48. He then stole the ball and drove toward the hoop, missing a shot that would have tied the game. Glenbard West made two free throws with about 15 seconds to play. The Hilltoppers added one more free throw with about five seconds left in the game. Masys made a long shot



The Willowbrook boys basketball team lost the championship game of Glenbard West's holiday tournament. The host Hilltoppers defeated the Warriors 53-51 in the title contest on Dec. 28. Both teams advanced to the final of the eight-team event by winning their first three games of the tournament. One photo from the first-place battle shows senior Sikander Zafar (No. 5-above left) preparing to sink a 3-point shot that tied the score in the fourth quarter. Another photo shows senior Cornelius Paxton (No. 25-above right) launching a shot. Junior Matas Masys (No. 21-below left) is shown firing and connecting on a 3-point shot in the third quarter. One more photo shows senior Matt Myers (No. 20-below right). The Warriors ended the Glenbard West tournament with an overall season record of 9-2.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review



from 3-point range with about one second to play. The game ended with Glenbard West throwing a long in-bounds pass, which was deflected out of bounds. The buzzer sounded as the ball went out of bounds.

Masys, who made four of 10 attempts from 3-point range, scored a team-leading 13 points. Myers scored 12 points, while Zafar and Hines scored seven and six points, respectively.

Senior Cornelius Paxton scored five points, while Schuemer and junior Scott Tumilty both scored four points. Schuemer, the team's leading scorer, dealt with foul trouble during

the game. He picked up four fouls. Schuemer did snare a team-leading 10 rebounds.

"We came up short; these things happen," said Perkins. "We should be able to bounce back."

The Warriors' season continues with this Saturday's non-conference game at Hinsdale Central.

Schuemer scored a team-leading 13 points in the Warriors' win over Hoffman Estates. Masys made five shots from 3-point range and scored a team-leading 24 points in the victory over St. Francis. Schuemer provided 19 points, while Myers tallied 16 points.

Willowbrook upset in title game by Glenbard West

By **MATT LE CREN**
editorial@suburbanlife.com

GLEN ELLYN – Glenbard West star Evan Taylor didn't want to watch the last three minutes of the Glenbard West Holiday Tournament championship game from the bench.

But he liked what he saw.

Taylor had 11 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots before fouling out with 3:34 remaining. Even without him, the Hilltoppers rallied to upset Willowbrook 53-51 on Dec. 28 at Biester Gym.

Glenbard West (8-4) avenged a loss to the Warriors in last year's tournament title game. The Hilltoppers also made a statement that Taylor has plenty of help.

"It shows that we're definitely a step up from last year," Taylor said. "We really took that one last year to heart because it was a tough game as well."

Junior guard Kyle Dell had a crucial effort at both ends for West, finishing with a team-high 12 points and eight assists to go with three steals.

Most of Dell's assists came in the first half as the Hilltoppers sank their first five shots to jump out to a 14-3 lead en route to a 31-22 halftime advantage.

Dell tallied nine of his points in the final four minutes, including a go-ahead 3-pointer to give the Hilltoppers a 45-44 lead.

The Warriors (9-2) retook the lead on a layup by Jack Hines. Taylor fouled out on a charge soon after that play. Ben Reifel took a charge to give the ball back to West, and Dell responded by sinking both ends of a 1-and-1 for a 47-46 lead with 3:01 remaining. He then hit a floater from the right baseline with 2:19 to go.

"I think it was a testament to Kyle being a leader of this team," Taylor said. "He did a very good job of focusing on not making turnovers and just cutting to the basket or getting to where we needed to be in our offense, which I really appreciated because that was a tough one to get fouled out of."

Matthew Myers had a game-high 14 points and Matys Masys added 13 for the Warriors, but West's Caden Phillips held Willowbrook star center Ethan Schuemer to four points, 12 under his average. The 6-foot-6 Schuemer was 1 for 9 from the floor and 2 for 8 from the line.

"Ethan probably played his worst

game of the season," Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins said. "He didn't have the lift or the legs.

"We had energy defensively and we had a lot of good looks. It's just we didn't have the legs today to finish plays offensively and I think that was the major difference. But it was a great game."

Timothy Christian

Justin Baez scored 16 points and Matt Owens added 11 as the Trojans (9-4) lost to Palatine 80-57 on Dec 29 to wrap up play at the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic.

Brandon Orange scored 19 points for the Trojans in a 61-37 loss to Highland Park on Dec. 28.

Glenbard East

Alijah Nelson scored 12 points and James Peterkin had 11 in Glenbard East's 66-53 loss to McHenry on Dec. 29 at the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic.

Peterkin scored 16 points and Nelson had 12 in a 57-46 loss to Downers Grove South on Dec. 28.

Nelson scored 15 points and Peterkin added 13 in Glenbard East's 58-42 win over Rolling Meadows on Dec. 27.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

York

Danielle Dennis and Caylin Rufus each scored eight points for the Dukes (11-3) in a 35-18 loss to Glenbard West on Dec. 30 in the championship game of the Riverside-Brookfield Tournament.

Rufus scored 14 points, Matty Stark added 11 and Dennis had 11 in York's 60-33 win over Niles North on Dec. 29.

Stark scored 13 points and Rufus added 12 in York's 52-49 win over Argo on Dec. 28.

Timothy Christian

Jordyn Strube, named to the all-tournament team at the Lisle Cage Classic, had 14 points, eight rebounds and four assists in a 59-58 overtime loss to Antioch on Dec. 30. Heidi Westra and Emily DeBoer each added 12 points.

Hannah Schuringa had 12 points and Olivia Schuringa 10 points in Timothy Christian's 61-42 loss to St. Edward on Dec. 29.

Hannah Schuringa had 14 points and Strube nine points in the Trojans' 60-38 loss to Harvest Christian on Dec. 28.



York guard Nick Kosich goes up for a shot and gets fouled during a game against West Aurora earlier this season. Kosich and the Dukes went 3-1 at the Jack Tosh Holiday Classic last week.

David Toney - For Shaw Media

Led by Kosich, York goes 3-1 at 32-team Tosh Classic

By **BOB NARANG**
editorial@suburbanlife.com

ELMHURST – York boys basketball coach Vince Doran gleamed with pride from his vantage point during the championship game of the 44th annual Jack Tosh Holiday Classic on Dec. 30.

Ideally, Doran would have preferred roaming the sidelines and seeking a championship in Game 67 of the five-day, 32-team tournament.

But watching the lead change twice in the final seven seconds of the title game, highlighted by Conant's Joe Arriaga draining an 11-footer with 2.3 seconds left to spark the Cougars to a 54-53 double-overtime win over Brother Rice, was a nice consolation.

Plus, the host Dukes finished with a 3-1 record. They beat Thornton Fractional South, Hinsdale South and Minooka and lost to champion Conant.

"It was fun to see all the hard work come to fruition because so many people are involved and to have it end by watching such a great championship game was special," Doran said. "We had so many people involved with the tournament, and it's a great statement to our school and community to put together such a great event. It's quite a production."

This year, Doran said they added a website dedicated to the tournament and allowed sponsorship "of about 20 sponsors that was new, which helped offset the cost of the tournament."

Doran credited Mark Tomczak for his hard work producing statistics and handling the social media aspect of running such a large tournament.

"Mark probably worked 18-hour

days during the tournament," Doran said. "His work with Twitter and the website, updating the scores, the records are almost instantly [updated] after the game. I think what separates us from other tournaments is Mark's work with social media. Getting a website going wasn't an easy thing to do. There are so many people involved, from the parents with the concessions and the hospitality room."

Regarding his team's performance, Doran noted the overall improvement after playing a number of high-caliber programs in a condensed period. The Dukes (8-5) missed an opportunity to add to their recent run. They won the tourney twice and finished second in a six-year run leading up to the 2017 tournament.

"Our kids get really excited about the tournament," he said. "It's a different feeling. I thought it was a great performance by us this year."

York junior guard Nick Kosich was the only Duke named to the 2017 Jack Tosh All-Tournament Team. Kosich averaged 11.3 points, two rebounds, two assists and 2.8 steals per game.

"Nick is a really talented kid," Doran said. "We're a really balanced team, but I felt Erik Cohn or Angelo Martucci could've received that award as well. All three do special things for the team. Angelo played a lot better in terms of handling the ball and Erik shot the ball really well, especially against Conant. He's a player with tremendous upside."

The Dukes have some momentum heading into a key West Suburban Silver showdown Jan. 5 against Oak Park-River Forest (9-2) before playing five games in three days next week.

Jessen, Villalobos doing big things again this season

By KEVIN MCGAVIN
Daily Herald Correspondent

Wrestling notes

Wrestlers venturing into the West Suburban Gold have a most unenviable task when drawing either Jack Jessen or Sergio Villalobos.

Jessen, a Willowbrook senior headed to Northwestern, and the uncommitted Villalobos, from Downers Grove South, are once again in rarefied territory among local athletes.

The top-ranked wrestlers in Class 3A at 182 and 195 pounds, respectively, both are undefeated after vanquishing all comers last weekend at Sycamore.

Jessen has been extraordinary in his four seasons at Willowbrook in searching for an ever-elusive first state championship.

"He has never lost to anyone but (an eventual) state champion," Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy said of Jessen.

In his first three years at the Villa Park high school, Jessen has two runner-up finishes and a third-place result at the individual state tournament.

Jessen has an opportunity to rewrite the state record books. "He is a kid who likes records," Murphy said.

The senior has an overall record of 184-7 after extending his season-opening winning streak to 34 matches with his triumph at Sycamore last Saturday.

Jessen recently broke the program record for pins — set by two-time Class AA champion Mike Behnke with 103 — and also has exceeded 1,000 varsity takedowns.

"I don't think that stat (100-plus falls and 1,000-plus takedowns) has ever been reached," Murphy said.

Jessen could become only the fifth wrestler ever to exceed 200 wins by running the table for the remainder of the season.

Former Montini greats Garrett Goebel and Stephen Robertson share the all-time wins distinction with 201 each.

Villalobos, third at 195

pounds last year, is 27-0 after claiming his title right after Jessen in Sycamore over the weekend.

The athletes have drawn raves from the coaches of the two West Suburban divisions.

"(Jessen) is unbelievable," Addison Trail coach Rob Serio said. "In my opinion he's the best kid in the country. He deserves a (state) title. He'll get one, for sure."

"(Jessen) jumped out as a freshman," Glenbard West coach Nick Posegay said. "If it wasn't for him going against our guy, he would be fun to watch."

"I think they both have the ability to be first-year All-Americans next year," Hinsdale South coach Bobby O'Brien said. "They are so far ahead of the competition they have seen this year."

Willowbrook and Downers South will not see each other in their conference dual for 10 days.

"(The coaches and I) were joking that we are going to give Jessen an award for the most takedowns ever against a Downers South wrestler," Mustangs coach Sean Lovelace said. "(Villalobos) has all the attributes to be an elite wrestler. Sergio definitely has tough competition ahead of him. He knows that."

"It's going to be hard to stay No. 1, but I think I can manage to do it," Villalobos said.

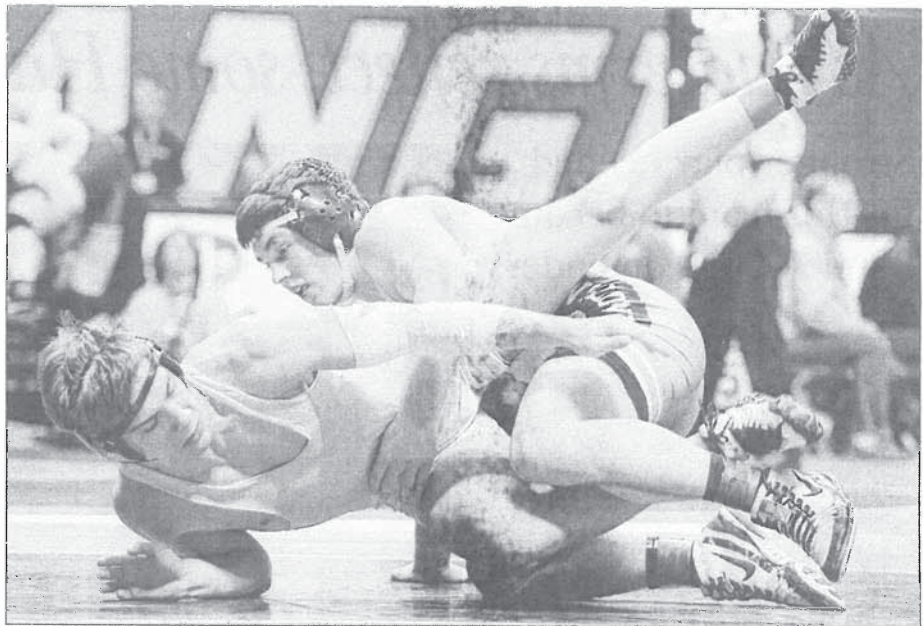
Bianchini thinking big again:

Jessen and Villalobos are not the only area athletes atop the illinoismatmen.com rankings.

IC Catholic Prep senior Joey Bianchini is No. 1 among Class 1A 138-pounders.

One year after being runner-up at 106 pounds, Bianchini earned the first state championship in program history in Champaign last winter with his victory at 113.

Bianchini suffered all three of his losses at the famed Dvorak Tournament over the winter holidays.



MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com

Willowbrook's Jack Jessen, top, placed third in Class 3A last season. He is undefeated again this year.

The uncommitted senior has physically changed since standing atop the podium at the University of Illinois' State Farm Center.

"He grew a couple of inches," IC Catholic Prep coach Kevin Sliva said of Bianchini moving up four weight classes. "He packed on some pounds. He started working out consistently for the first time in his career. I don't think he cares at all about the rankings. It all depends on how you do in February."

The Knights also return Victor Vargas, sixth last year at 195 pounds.

The IC Catholic Prep roster was immeasurably fattened when 19 members of the state-championship football team augmented the six athletes to start the season.

"It's the most we have ever had," Sliva said.

Another Montini juggernaut:

Montini has been a juggernaut this season as no fewer than half of its 14 starting wrestlers are either top-ranked or No. 2 in the latest matmen.com rankings.

The Broncos, ranked sixth in the nation, had seven champions in claiming the prestigious Cheesehead Invitational in Wisconsin over winter break.

Dylan Ragusin and Peter Christensen won titles at 113 and 195 pounds for the Broncos.

Joey Melendez followed Ragusin by snaring the 120-pound crown.

But Montini has one of the most fearsome collections of athletes in consecutive weight classes in recent memory as Real Woods, Fidel Mayora, Jake Stiles and Will Lewan all were crowned champions between 132 and 152 pounds.

The consensus top-ranked Broncos destroyed No. 2 Oak Park-River Forest 806-481 to claim a second national tournament this winter.

"I don't think anyone can beat them in Illinois," said Metea Valley coach Claudio Torres, who opened the season against the Broncos in a triangular. "They are going to cause some major damage."

Like Torres, Neuqua Valley first-year coach Mike Mucha — a former Montini standout — was in attendance at the Cheesehead.

"I'm not surprised (Montini) competed well," Mucha said. "I'm a little surprised by the margin of victory. They were aggressive. They scored a lot of bonus points. They won a lot of close matches."

Jacob Boumans, a junior 170-pounder, and

heavyweight Roberto Pena were both fifth for the Wildcats at Cheesehead.

Metea Valley failed to place any wrestlers.

"Our season is going about where I thought it would," Torres said. "We have eight kids new to the varsity lineup. That may be frustrating for some coaches, but I'm a realist."

Waubonsie Valley adjusting:

The first two established Indian Prairie high schools, Waubonsie Valley and Neuqua Valley, have had to adjust to the opening of Metea Valley in many different sports.

"It's tough," Waubonsie Valley coach Brad Caldwell said. "You're hurt on both sides. We're drawing from the same place, but it's a smaller pie. It's been a rough road. Our numbers are low. We're doing pretty well in tournaments, but we're giving up too many forfeits (in dual meets)."

The Warriors are led by senior Lucas Bratland at 145 pounds, and junior 195-pounder Garrett St. Clair, an Aurora Central Catholic transfer.

Winning at home:

Glenbard West and Wheaton Warrenville South both

won their home invites over the two-week winter holidays.

The Hilltoppers shared their title with Prairie Ridge as four individual champions for Glenbard West enabled the squad to amass 180 points.

Catron Frazier, Aaron Castellanos, Peyton Nimsakont and Connor Skryd emerged victorious for Glenbard West at 113, 132, 145 and 220 pounds.

Will Vesevick joined his senior teammates with a runner-up finish for the Hilltoppers.

"Our schedule has been pretty tough," Posegay said of an 11-10 dual-meet record. "I think those five guys are really strong. They have a chance to be all-conference and make some noise at the regional and sectional."

WW South turned back Dixon 218-188 behind three titlists: Adam Waszak (106 pounds), Micah Burgess (126) and Lukaz Szudarski (170).

"It helped out tremendously," WW South Matt Janosek said of the Tigers' momentum heading into Geneva last weekend. "It helped the guys get ready and focused for the second half of the season. We know we have a long way still to go."

Notice

To report scores: Coaches, please report all scores to the Daily Herald Dispatch Office by e-mailing prepsports@dailyherald.com, calling (630) 427-4483, or faxing results to (800) 675-7708. When faxing results, please make sure that results are legible, and include names and statistics for all teams involved.

Boys basketball

Monday's results

DePaul Prep MLK Tournament
RIVERSIDE-BROOKFIELD 69, ST. FRANCIS 68

Girls basketball

Monday's results

WESTMONT 45, HEISCHER 35

LISLE vs. CANTON CITY 35

Canton City — Skoctic 3 0-0 6; Carles 1 0-0 3; Stopka 1 0-1 2; Flint 1 0-0 2; Chapman 1 0-0 2; Kuzlaric 5 6-8 17; Ohren 1 1-3 3; Haley 0 0-0 0; Glenn 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 7-12 35.
Lisle — Struzewski 0 0-0 0; Takahashi 7 4-6 21; Weaver 1 5-6 7; Wagoner 1 0-0 2; Buchert 0 1-2 1; Weeber 1 2-4 4; Reed 2 0-4 1; Totals 12 12-19 39.
3 point baskets: CC: Carles, Kuzlaric; L: Takahashi 2. Fouled out: CC: Chapman, Ohren.

Girls gymnastics

Monday's results

WILLOWBROOK 115.6, GLENBARD SOUTH 110.25

Vault — Nardella (SS) 8.4, Wilson (W) 7.8, Rogers (W) 7.7; Ohrensen bars — Wilson (W) 7.65, Kibbey (SS) 7.55, Fitzgerald (W) 7.15; Balance beam — Kibbey (SS) 8.1, Maloney (SS) 7.3, Wilson (W) 6.8; Floor exercise — Fitzgerald (W) 8.15, Kibbey (SS) 7.55, Wilson (W) 7.3; All-around — Kibbey (SS) 31.05, Wilson (W) 30.5, Fitzgerald (W) 29.0.

Upcoming events

TODAY

Boys basketball
Dekalb at Hinsdale South, 7 p.m.
Lisle at Hickory-Bly Rock, 6:45 p.m.
Mata East at Addison Trail, 7 p.m.
St. Lawrence at Glenbard West, 7 p.m.
West Chicago at Wheaton Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Willowbrook at Morton, 6:30 p.m.
Girls basketball
Addison Trail at West Chicago, 7 p.m.
Oakdale at St. Francis, 7 p.m.
Fenton at Walther Christian, 6:30 p.m.
Glenbard North at Wheaton Warrenville South, 7:15 p.m.
Glenbard South at Chicago Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Lake Park at Metea Valley, 7:15 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at Ridgeway, 7 p.m.
York at Oak Park-River Forest, 7 p.m.
Wrestling
C Catholic Prep at Ida Crown, 6 p.m.
Boys swimming
Wheaton Co-op at Naperville Central, 5 p.m.
Boys bowling
Eight at Fenton (Wood Dale Bowl), 4 p.m.
Hinsdale South at St. Joseph (Eden Lanes), 4 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Lake Park (Roselle Brunswick), 4:30 p.m.
Providence at Naperville Central (Eden Lanes), 4 p.m.
Girls bowling
Downers Grove North at Leyden (River Grove Brunswick), 4 p.m.
Downers Grove South at Hinsdale South (Woodridge Brunswick), 4 p.m.
Metea Valley at Lake Park (Roselle Brunswick), 4 p.m.
Naperville Central at Waubesa Valley (Parkside Lanes), 4 p.m.
Naperville North at Nequa Valley (Parkside Bowling Center), 4 p.m.
Streamwood at Glenbard East (Glenelco Hts Brunswick), 4 p.m.
Willowbrook at Hinsdale Central (Suburbanite Bowl), 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Girls basketball
Glenbard West at St. Charles North, 7 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Downers Grove North, 7:30 p.m.
Naperville North at Nequa Valley, 7:15 p.m.
Wrestling
Downers Grove South at Hinsdale South, 6 p.m.
Walther Christian at Westmont, 5:30 p.m.

Willowbrook finds energy to notch win at Glenbard S.

By CHRIS WALKER
Daily Herald Correspondent

Returning back to school early in the morning and having your first meet in 17 days later that evening can break even the most disciplined gymnast.

It wasn't entirely smooth sailing, but Willowbrook did more than enough good things to win at Glenbard South on Monday, 115.6 to 110.25, in nonconference action.

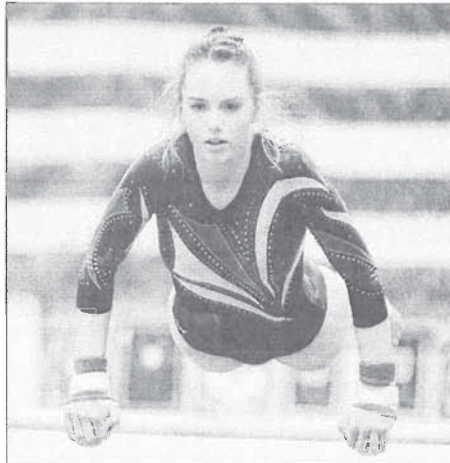
"It was a little rough," Willowbrook coach Deanna Zuchowski said. "They came in a little groggy, but they stepped it up and really tried to push through the tiredness and back-to-school stuff."

Girls gymnastics

Karli Wilson has been stepping up all season despite being only a sophomore. She's also contributing more than scoring as she's quickly blossomed into a veteran leader since the Willowbrook roster is so young.

"Last year we had a group of four freshmen, but then with some illness and moving out, Karli has had to really step up," Zuchowski said. "We have at least six freshmen now and they're all vying for that varsity spot so Karli has been a real asset in helping them push through and get that gymnastics understanding and meet mentality."

Wilson led the Warriors, who had five all-arounders in the lineup with Alexis Fitzgerald, Caitlyn Owen, Maeve Costello and Kylie Rogers also having busy nights. Fitzgerald, Costello and Owen are freshmen.



Glenbard South's Megan Jessen competes on the bars Monday.

"A lot of the girls weren't really in the swing of things at the start, but we tried to go as strong as we could and I think we really pulled it through," Wilson said. "We had some bumps in the road, but we're strong and like family so we pushed each other through."

New skills were added to a lot of Willowbrook's routines. As expected, some worked, others didn't.

"We'll continue to try to build on them," Zuchowski said. "With it being our first meet back, I was pretty impressed with how well they did."

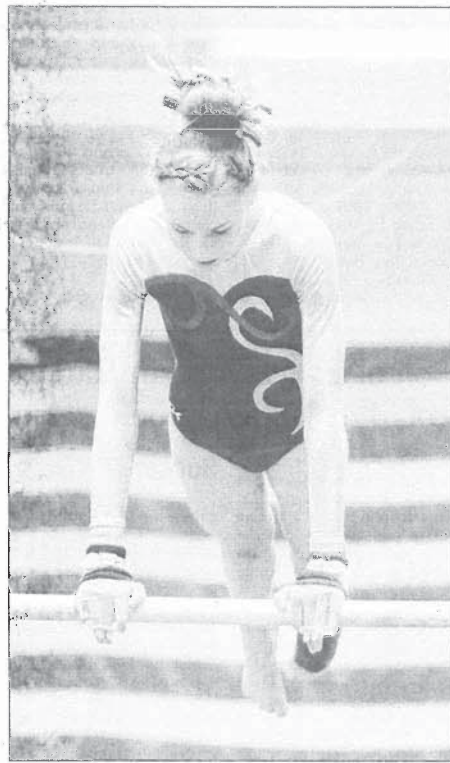
The Raiders were celebrating Senior Night in what was their first and only home competition of the season.

Junior Katie Kibbey earned the top score on beam and won the all-around with a 31.05 to pace the Raiders.

Senior Sarah Nardella shined on vault, winning with an 8.4 for the Raiders. It was a nice honor for Nardella as she has battled anxiety while competing the past few years.

"After club (gymnastics) this has been a good-to-get-back-into-it place," she said. "It's not too fast like club, but it's definitely something I liked to incorporate back into my high school life."

Senior Megan Jessen was happy to land her full again on floor, a move that has plagued her. Lately, she's been enthusiastic with her progress.



PHOTOS BY MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com

Willowbrook's Karli Wilson competes on the bars during varsity girls gymnastics against Glenbard South on Monday.

"I don't land my full a lot," she said. "I don't know what was different this time either. I guess it was complete luck."

It was also a fitting way for Jessen to compete for the last time in the comfy environs of Glenbard South.

"I've just been trying to go all out even if I don't land it, I have nothing to lose," she said. "When I do hit the whole team gets excited since I don't

land it frequently. That's what makes it fun."

Another Raiders senior, Aine McGovern, competed on bars and beam. She wasn't overly thrilled with her scores but still had fun.

"I've done better before, but I still had fun," she said. "It's a really friendly environment here and I've been able to learn some stuff and try new things. I'm happy I'm part of the team."

Blazers hold on in second half

BY KEVIN SCHMIT
kschmit@dailyherald.com

Boys basketball

There was only one problem with Addison Trail's first-half effort that bordered on flawless.

No way the Blazers could match it in the second half.

Addison Trail's boys basketball team notched a season high in points with Tuesday's 70-54 victory over visiting Maine East in a game played as part of the Lake Zurich MLK Classic.

Even though the Blazers (9-8) didn't play as well in the second half, they were still pretty strong. It's just that the first half was amazing, especially on offense.

"All around it was a great team effort," said Blazers senior guard Connor Palesch. "It's been a process with us offensively. We've just got to have faith in each other."

In the first half the Blazers made 14 of 21 shots from the field and committed only 3 turnovers as seven players knocked down shots. Junior Adem Mehmeti set the tone by hitting all five of his first-half shots including three 3-pointers.

After building a 21-11 lead by the end of the first quarter, the Blazers extended the

advantage to 15 throughout the second quarter.

"We were all sticking together out there," Mehmeti said. "We knew where everyone was going to be. Defense is always going to be there, but offensively we still have our off days. If we're on our offensive game like that, it'll be hard for teams to beat us."

Addison Trail struggled to shake Maine East (5-10) in the second half as the turnovers doubled to eight and the Blue Demons continued to knock down 3-pointers. They made eight in the game and also converted four 3-point plays.

Maine East pulled within 6 points midway through the third quarter but Addison Trail responded with a 9-0 run.

Mehmeti led all scorers with 19 points while Palesch scored 18 points. Ramon Casey Jr. tallied 12 points off the bench and A.J. Parnell added 9 points. J.C. Noriega led Maine East with 13 points.

"That was probably our best half of the year," said Blazers coach Brendan Lyons. "The second half we weren't as good as we wanted to be, but we were still able to build a cushion."



MARK BLACK/mbblack@dailyherald.com

West Chicago's Sam Wiegele (14) drives around Addison Trail's Berenice Berumen (45) during Tuesday's game in West Chicago.

Wheaton Academy wins big vs. Wildcats

BY DAVE OBERHELMAN
doberhelman@dailyherald.com

Boys basketball

It wasn't West Chicago's fault, nonetheless Wheaton Academy made the Wildcats pay.

Coming off a flat loss last week at Riverside-Brookfield, the Warriors boys basketball team sought to maximize their effort Tuesday. After a close first half everything worked in an 80-49 nonconference home win in West Chicago.

"We wanted to come back and respond. I think the guys did a great job of coming back. We played a lot harder, I think we played a lot smarter," said Wheaton Academy coach Steve Thonn, whose squad already has three more wins than last season after scoring its season high.

Wheaton Academy (9-4) needed Jayston Williams' 20-first 3-pointer at the first

"We're outsized most of the time, we have a really small team," said Wildcats guard Jordan Wilkins, who joined Jason Gimre with 10 points, each behind team leader Sam Ricci's 14. "So we've really got to just box out and play more physical than the other team, but tonight that didn't happen."

What did happen was Wheaton Academy successfully worked the high-low game, it cleared the boards, pushed the pace and, inevitably, made 31 of 50 field-goal tries.

"We're just really trying to work the ball inside, play an inside-out game," said Williams, who scored 23 points to Marcus Bult's 19 and J.D. Gunn's 10. "So that caused them to collapse and we know we have great shooters on the outside. That just opens

West Chicago stops Addison Trail

BY STAN GOFF
Daily Herald Correspondent

Girls basketball

Like most coaches, West Chicago's Dan Vashinko has a list of goals in mind before each game and an idea of what it will take to come home with a win.

Right after knocking off a short-handed Addison Trail squad 50-38 Tuesday night in West Chicago, he rattled off a few of those goals, including holding teams to 38 or less points, rebounding well, having three players score in double figures, and scoring at least 48 points. All of those goals were achieved on the court and that's why he was not surprised to see his team notch the win.

"We have game goals that we go by, and if we make 10

out of the 15 that usually spells a win," he said. "One of those goals is we want to have three of our girls in double digits and we met that goal. Then there's rebounding and I think we did a nice job rebounding. Another one is holding teams to 38 points, and we want to score 48 points, so we did that as well."

Senior guard Sierra Koenig led the trio of Wildcats to score in double figures with 16 points, tallying eight in each half. Sofia Radice and Sam Wiegele also reached double digits as the hosts improved to 4-12 on the season with their second straight strong effort of the new year.

"I feel like we're doing good

coming into the new year, we really stepped up," said Koenig, who notched a pair of baskets as West Chicago built a 16-10 lead after one quarter. "Because over Christmas break we really started falling, and now our first game after new year was against West Aurora and we played well that night. We played good again tonight so I'm hoping it will carry over."

Wiegele led all scorers with 10 points in the first half and Radice knocked down a pair of 3-pointers to go along with the point guard's solid night of ballhandling and distributing as the Wildcats led 31-23 at the half.

"There have been nights where one of us is in double digits, but it's nice to have all of us in double digits," Koenig

said. "That's more scoring and that's the way to victory. It's not a one-person game. Also, Sofia gets a lot of assists. She really looks to pass inside which is a real good thing."

Maggie Culver chipped in with five of her seven points in the third quarter as West Chicago increased its lead over the Blazers to 42-29 heading into the fourth quarter.

Berenice Berumen made 8 of 11 free throws while pacing Addison Trail (6-10) with 12 points, and Serena Gilliam added 8 points.

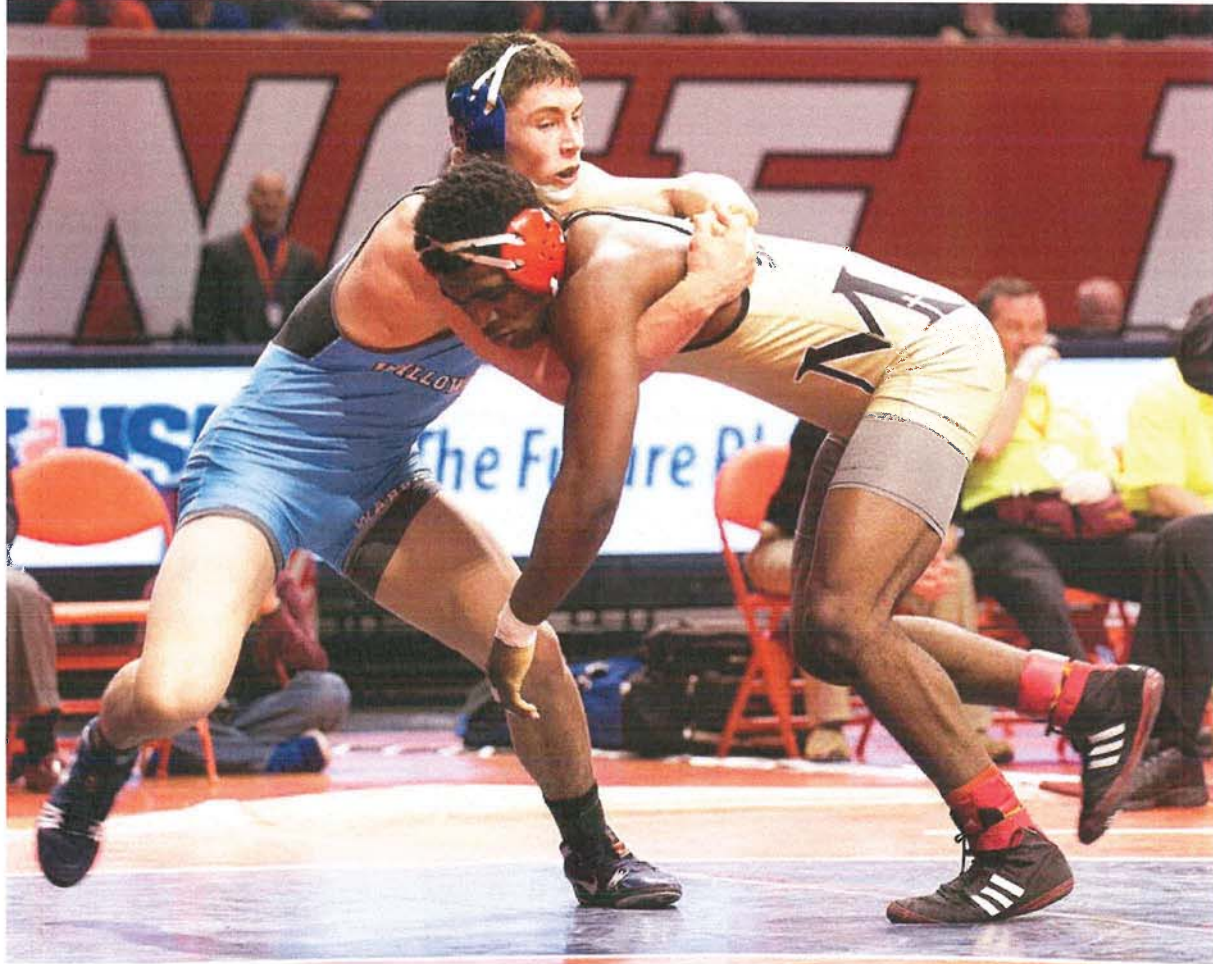
"We didn't rebound the basketball," Blazers coach Rob Schader said. "We had two kids out, two seniors, who were on vacation, which hurt us on the boards. And we didn't play hard defensively until about the last three minutes."

Wrestling: Willowbrook's Jack Jessen hungry for missing ingredient in Champaign

Northwestern recruit searching for state title to cap off his storied career

By KEVIN McGAVIN - editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

5:30 am



Douglas Cottle/PhotoNews for Shaw Media

Caption

He has already established himself as one of the most decorated wrestlers in the history of the sport.

But there is a hard-to-fathom missing ingredient to the storied career of Willowbrook senior Jack Jessen: an individual state championship.

The Northwestern-bound 182-pounder has a national championship to his credit —the Greco title — as one of eight All-American efforts the last three-plus years at the famed Fargo tournament. But Jessen suffered three of his seven career high school losses in either the finals or the semifinals of the Class 3A state wrestling tournament.

“I think about it every day,” Jessen said of his twin runners-up and one third-place result at the state meet in Champaign. “To come that close and not get [one state title]. I relive the things I could have done differently, the little mistakes I made.”

Jessen is in a customary spot as the last third of the season comes into focus.

After extending his season-long winning streak to 34 matches with yet another tournament triumph in Sycamore last weekend, Jessen is ranked No. 1 in the authoritative illinoismatmen.com rankings among large-school 182-pounders.

Jessen was 50-0 last season heading into his state-championship match, only to be denied by Marian Catholic senior Kordell Norfleet in the finals.

After concluding an equally remarkable football career at the Villa Park high school last fall with nearly 5,000 total rushing yards, Jessen is ranked third in the nation at his weight class.

Jessen has made quite a name for himself in the West Suburban Gold during his wrestling career.

“He’s not just good in the state but also nationally,” Hinsdale South coach Bobby O’Brien said of Jessen. “He is so technically sound.”

“In my opinion, he’s the best kid in the country,” Addison Trail coach Rob Serio said. “He’s that good.”

“He is relentless,” Downers South coach Sean Lovelace said.

Jessen accumulates wrestling points like a pinball-machine phenomenon.

After averaging exactly 50 wins per season in his first three years, Jessen currently has 184 career wins.

Only four wrestlers have eclipsed the 200-win plateau in state history.

“It would be amazing to get to that 200-win club,” said Jessen, whose seven career losses have all come at the hands of eventual state champions.

In his 184 victories, Jessen has also broke the program career pin mark set by two-time Class AA state champion Mike Behnke. He's also become the first athlete in Willowbrook wrestling annals to exceed 1,000 takedowns.

“Those are the benchmarks Jack is looking for,” Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy said of adding the career win total [201] to his legacy. “He is doing unique things.”

Murphy has twin agendas for Jessen as the Warriors have fallen out of contention for a conference championship.

Nationally-ranked and consensus state top-ranked Montini is also a prohibitive favorite to represent the area programs in the dual-meet team state series.

Individuality, thus, takes center stage for Jessen.

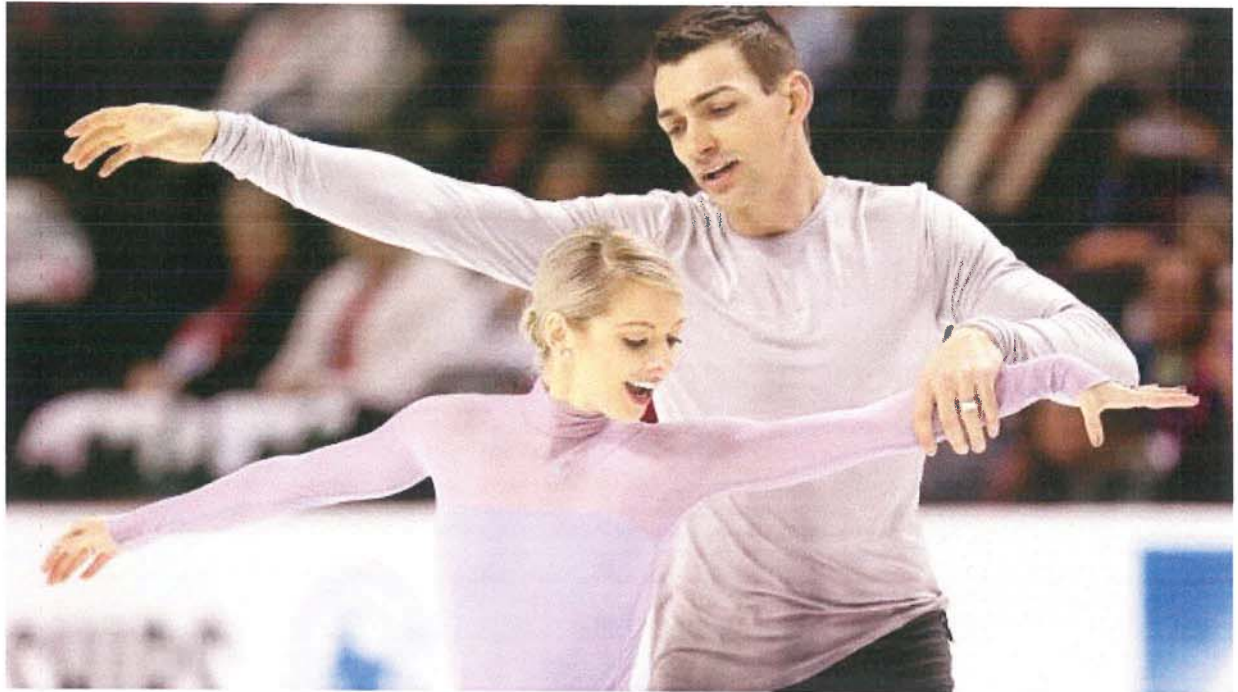
“That’s the stat we don’t like,” Murphy said of Jessen also finishing runner-up as a freshman and third as a sophomore. “His plan this year is to [win state] and get ready for college.”

Jessen inked his letter of intent to Northwestern during the early signing period last fall after orally committing to the Big Ten program as a junior.

Jessen also considered North Carolina, North Carolina St. and Stanford.

“I visited [the Evanston campus] and I instantly fell in love with it,” Jessen said. “I didn’t want to go anywhere else. Being so close to home, I get to represent Illinois and Chicago.”

But Jessen plans on a dress rehearsal at Illinois’ other Big Ten school before graduation.



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Alexa Scimeca Knierim and Chris Knierim named sole U.S. pair for 2018 PyeongChang Olympics

By Rachel Lutz Jan 7, 2018, 12:51 PM EST

Married couple and pairs team **Alexa Scimeca Knierim** and **Chris Knierim** were selected as the pair to represent the United States at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, U.S. Figure Skating announced on Sunday. The U.S. only had a single pairs quota spot at the Games, its fewest spots since the first Winter Olympics in 1924 in Chamonix, France.

The Knierims are the first married U.S. pair to make an Olympics in 20 years, since **Jenni Meno** and **Todd Sand** at the 1998 Nagano Games.

Scimeca Knierim and Knierim won the national title in 2015 and 2018, but the years in between weren't an easy ride. Starting in April 2016, Scimeca Knierim began suffering from a **debilitating stomach illness**. She was even throwing up the night before her wedding to Knierim in June 2016. They missed most of the season, returning to competitive ice at the 2017 Four Continents Championships. Incidentally, that event took place inside the same venue that will host 2018 Olympic figure skating.

"This proves that everything I went through was so worth it," Scimeca Knierim said in a press conference. "I'll never forget how hard we had to work to get back to the place that we are now."

The pair has been the U.S.' strongest, partly due to their high-flying signature element, the quad twist. They are the first U.S. pair to execute the element in competition, doing so en route to their first national title in 2015. They brought it back for 2018 nationals, when Scimeca Knierim's stomach had healed enough to start training the element in earnest.

At the past three world championships, the Knierims have been the top placing U.S. team:

- 2017: 10th
- 2016: 9th
- 2015: 7th

As the only pair team for the U.S. in South Korea, the Knierims will be responsible for the team event competition short program and free skate on top of the pairs event short program and free skate in the span of about a week. Scimeca Knierim said because they train at altitude in Colorado Springs, Colorado, their bodies would hold up. Plus, she said, she has a spirit that would compete forever; at their first Olympics, they're seeing this extra responsibility as an honor.

The Knierims join the singles skaters named to the team earlier: **Nathan Chen**, **Adam Rippon**, and **Vincent Zhou** for the men, plus **Bradie Tennell**, **Mirai Nagasu**, and **Karen Chen** (no relation to Nathan).

Tarah Kayne and **Danny O'Shea**, the 2016 U.S. champions and this year's silver medalists, were named as the alternate team. Kayne suffered a concussion in the 2017 nationals short program and had to withdraw, then recovered from an unrelated knee surgery for much of this season. Kayne and O'Shea only returned to competition in December.