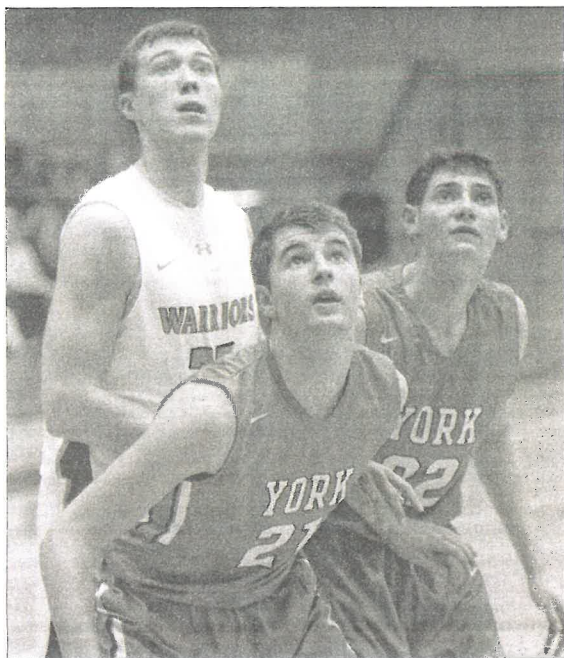


## SPORTS

MARCH 1, 2018 • 12



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Independent  
Willowbrook senior Ethan Schuemer goes for a rebound against two York players during the Warriors' 68-62 West Suburban Conference crossover victory in Villa Park on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

## Willowbrook boys basketball team heads into playoffs on high note

### Warriors defeat York in WSC crossover game

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team brought some hard-earned momentum into this week's Class 4A playoffs.

The Warriors wrapped up the regular season with a victory over York in the second-place game in the West Suburban Conference annual crossover series.

The win pushed Willowbrook to 23-5 overall and gave it its fourth win in a row heading into the regional. Willowbrook finished second in the WSC Gold Division with a 9-3 record, behind league-champion Hinsdale South.

"We started off sluggish against York and were down at the half," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins.

Strong shooting helped the Warriors earn the win. "We shot the ball well," said Perkins. "We hit 10

three-pointers or something similar to that. Our defense also helped us. Our full-court pressure and half-court trap got us some easy looks."

Sophomore Everett Stubblefield led the Warriors with 24 points. Marshwan Phillips had 16 points, while Matas Masys added 10 points. Ethan Schuemer added eight points. Stubblefield has been with the varsity squad since being called up seven or eight games ago, Perkins said.

Perkins noted the root cause of the recent winning streak has varied. "Every game is something different," he said. "We are doing a good job of moving the ball and playing together on the offensive end of the floor. We're scrappy and we play hard on the defensive end. I like where we are at and hopefully we can sustain that and keep going in the playoffs."

Sitting at 23-5 and the No. 5 seed in the sectional, Perkins said his squad has plenty of motivation. "The kids are very motivated," he said. "Mostly the whole lineup experienced what it was like last year to have an early exit from the playoffs. Hopefully they have a chip on their shoulder."

Perkins added he's confident his team is battle-tested based on its usual tough schedule inside and outside the WSC Gold.

"Our schedule and our conference play is pretty solid," the coach said. "It should have us ready for what we are going to see in the playoffs. It comes down to us keeping our composure and executing on both ends of the floor."

And Perkins likes the fact his team continues to receive help from many sources. "It's a different person every game," he said. "It depends on who has the hot hand, but we like that it's different guys each game."

Willowbrook opened play in the Class 4A Hinsdale South regional against either No. 21 seed Lake Park or No. 11 Metea Valley earlier this week. If Willowbrook won its regional semifinal game it either will play host and No. 4 seed Hinsdale South, No. 13 DeKalb or No. 20 West Chicago Friday for the regional title in Darien. The winner heads to the Class 4A Glenbard East sectional next week.

Willowbrook split with Hinsdale South this season, winning in Villa Park and losing in Darien.

## Quite a year for Timothy Christian girls basketball team

### Trojans break 20-win mark and advance to sectional championship game

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Timothy Christian girls' basketball team turned up the jets and then some once the calendar turned to 2018.

From January forward coming back from the school's Renew term break, the Trojans lost only two games and finished the season with a 20-10 record.

"I love the sound of that," said Timothy Christian coach Michele Strube.

The Trojans won a Class 2A regional title and advanced all the way to a Class 2A sectional title game where they lost to Chicago Harlan.

Timothy also finished 8-4 in Metro Suburban Conference Red Division play. Timothy's 20 wins are the most since Strube's second season at the helm where the team went 15-13 after going 5-22 the previous year. Last year, the Trojans finished 13-15 for a second year in a row.

"I'm beyond thrilled," said Strube, who coaches the team with her husband, Jon Strube. "It was a great end to our season. We played fantastic against bigger teams. The girls proved to themselves that they

have potential and talent. All they had to do was believe in themselves. They just had to go out there and lay it all on the court. They brought it on the court every night. And if they did that I told them they would be hard to stop."

Timothy loses only seniors Olivia Schuringa and Emily DeBoer from this year's team.

"It's going to be hard losing Olivia and Emily," said Strube. "Olivia has been consistent and strong for us all year and Emily DeBoer really came on the last three weeks. That was fun to see from her. We will have a different dynamic next year. It's going to be hard losing those two, but we are going to be able to fill in what we are losing with some sophomores."

Freshmen Hannah Schuringa and Sureya Alex both played key roles for the Trojans this season. "Hannah will be a beautiful player," said Strube. "She will break records. Sureya also had a great season. Both of them stepped right in this season and helped us."

Two other freshmen, Sarah Carstensen and Greta Hookstra, also were brought up to the varsity at the tail end of the season and will provide further reinforcements next season, Strube noted.

The stellar results this season did not surprise Strube. "Jon and I always hoped

with this group," she said. "We have really great potential. It took a lot of work and constant coaching and instruction. But the girls work so hard and listen so well. They trust us and believe in us and they kept working and working. I love the hard work and all the time they put in over the last four months. There were times when we were going six days a week. I couldn't be prouder of this group. All their hard work showed on the court. It stinks when you lose by one or two points. There are some games from the beginning of the season that we would like to play again because we played so well the last month of the season."

"We always knew there was potential here. It's fun to see it finally show on the court. These are amazing young women who come from fabulous families. It's nice that it all came out on the court. They showed their talent."

Strube was impressed with how the team played in the regional title game against Lisle.

"I always love defense and it's fun to see the different defenses we played and see them pay off," she said. "We held Lisle's big scorer to seven points. She had 30 points against Westmont. She didn't make one basket against us, it was all free throws. We lost to Lisle in overtime last

year and to do what we did on the court against them was a great moment for the girls."

Strube noted Heidi Westra and Abby Carstensen provided the defensive help in the Lisle game. "That girl was 5-4 and Heidi is 6-2 and Abby is 5-4 so we put height and speed on her and it worked," she explained.

Strube tipped her hat to Chicago Harlan, which won the sectional title and went on to place second in the state in Class 2A.

"Harlan was fabulous," she said. "I'm not ashamed of how we played against them. We played the best we probably could. We were nervous and turned the ball over 26 times. You cannot do that in the sectional championship game. They had four players in double figures. They were a good team. Their coach knew what to do to us. They saw us play in the previous game and Olivia had 21 points and Emily had 16 points. Against Harlan it was three and five points. He shut them down."

Strube is already looking forward to what is ahead. "We can come back and do good things," she said. "We saw that against Harlan. What happened this season is a great sign for our future."

Olivia Schuringa and Jordyn Strube were named to the all-Metro Suburban Conference Red Division team.



# Addison Trail boys basketball team wraps up regular season

**AT-Willowbrook boys swimming 200 relay team third at sectional; Burns seventh in 50**

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys basketball team concluded its regular season with a recent 58-57 loss to Lyons Township as part of the West Suburban Conference crossover series.

It was Addison Trail's third one-point loss of the season to a WSC

team. Addison Trail also lost 44-43 to Downers Grove South in WSC Gold Division play and 50-49 to Leyden in another Gold game. Addison Trail's lone conference win this season came against eventual conference champion Hinsdale South (52-50).

The Blazers opened up Class 4A postseason play earlier this year at their own Class 4A Addison Trail regional against Downers Grove South. Downers South was the No. 15 seed in the sectional, while Addison Trail was the No. 17 seed. If the Blazers won that game they faced No. 2 sectional seed Benet Academy this past

Tuesday.

## Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming

The Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team recently competed in the Downers Grove North sectional.

AT-Willowbrook was ninth in the field of 11 teams with 73 points.

AT-Willowbrook took seventh in the 200 medley relay in 1:44.35 with Zachary Thompson, Aidan Nichols, Evan Zimmerman and John Burns.

Freshman Kyle Haake was 12th in the 200 with a time of 1:54.92.

Zimmerman placed 12th in the 200 IM with a time of 2:08.44. Thomas Holmes was 18th at 2:19.33.

Burns placed seventh in the 50 free-style with a time of 22.50, while Jacob Grygo was 11th in the 50 with a time of 23.63.

Phillip Campbell was 16th in the diving competition with 173.15 points.

Thompson finished 14th in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:00.85. Salvatore Caccio was 18th in 1:04.05.

Burns tied for ninth in the 100 at 50.09, while Mikey Strycharz was 12th at 51.05. Haake took 10th in the

500 with a time of 5:14.20. Sean Pienkos was 18th at 5:44.70.

AT-Willowbrook was third in the 200 relay with a time of 1:30.56. State-qualifying time was 1:27.71. That team included Zimmerman, Grygo, Strycharz and Burns.

Zimmerman was 11th in the backstroke with a time of 59.07, while Thompson was 12th in 59.79.

Nichols finished 18th in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:08.35.

AT-Willowbrook was seventh in the 400 relay with a time of 3:29.56 with Jack Wentworth, Lucas Walsh, Strycharz and Grygo.

# IC Catholic Prep boys basketball team wins regional title

**Knights defeat Timothy Christian thanks to fourth-quarter free-throw shooting**

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The free throw was the IC Catholic Prep boys basketball team's best friend.

The Knights made 31 of 41 free throws, including a 22-for-30 effort in the fourth quarter alone, on their

way to a 54-45 win over crosstown neighbor Timothy Christian in the championship game of the Class 2A Guerin Prep regional.

The win was IC Catholic Prep's third regional crown under coach TJ Tyrrell. This was the Knights seventh regional-championship game appearance in a row, the past six coming under Tyrrell's direction.

"It was a huge win," said Tyrrell. "It felt good to avenge the loss to them earlier in the season and to walk away with the hardware."

IC Catholic Prep lost at Timothy Christian earlier in the season. "The last time we played them it was at their home gym and we had a very

slow start," said Tyrrell. "In that game, Timothy started very quick and shot the ball very well. We were down 20-6 after the first quarter. We battled back and won the next three quarters combined, but lost 50-42. Losing that game actually was a good thing to help us to really look at areas we needed to improve on and prepare for against Timothy."

Tyrrell said an adjusted game plan worked well in the regional title game. "I thought we came in with a very good game plan," he said. "We wanted to slow the pace down and really throw them off with our zone defense. We scored a quick basket early and then they scored the next

six points. We called a timeout and didn't want a repeat of last time. That settled our guys down and they scored only four more points in the half. It was a very low-scoring game in the first half."

IC Catholic Prep led 10-8 after the first quarter and 16-10 at halftime. "We held them to two points in the second quarter," the coach pointed out. "We felt we were in a very good spot at halftime being up and having that lead. That was a good place mentally for us."

Timothy cut IC Catholic Prep's lead to 25-23 after three quarters. "In the second half, we knew Timothy would come out more aggressive and

try to pick up the speed a little bit," said Tyrrell. "We had a few runs back and forth and both teams battled."

Tyrrell felt a key turning point in the game in the fourth quarter was a possession where the Knights ended up scoring five points via a combination of a shooting foul and a technical foul. Kevin Cheng made 3 of 4 free throws during the sequence and IC Catholic Prep scored a basket on the ensuing possession after the throws.

"That extended the lead to 10 points at that point," said Tyrrell. "We had the momentum in our favor and felt pretty good and then all of

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## Boys basketball statistics

Coaches: Please e-mail your stats in each week to [prosports@dailyherald.com](mailto:prosports@dailyherald.com).

SCORING			
Player (school)	G	Pts.	Avg.
O'Brien (NC)	26	549	21.1
Gimre (WC)	26	462	18.9
Whitehead (GS)	25	462	18.5
Henderson (DGN)	24	439	17.9
Williams (WA)	25	435	17.4
Taylor (GW)	24	416	17.3
Spencer (BS)	29	401	15.5
Heilig (MW)	24	390	16.3
Schuermer (Wak)	29	447	15.4
Cannon (NW)	26	396	15.2
Orange (TC)	28	401	14.3
Reed (Fen)	21	284	14.0
Cheng (IC)	24	332	13.8
Welch (NA)	24	331	13.8
Sorenson (NN)	27	362	13.4
Healy (WWS)	28	371	13.3
Johnson (NK)	21	278	13.3
Peterkin (SE)	22	290	13.2
Anderson (West)	27	346	12.8
Hill (NN)	27	334	12.4
Kutsch (Y)	27	336	12.4
Rizzo (WC)	26	323	12.4
Hooder (DGS)	29	354	12.2
Motey (NA)	29	355	12.2
Maurer (IC)	29	344	12.2
Rady (GN)	25	305	12.2
O'Brien (NC)	28	334	11.9
Nelson (SE)	23	272	11.8
Harvey (SF)	27	312	11.6
Petersen (AT)	28	336	11.6
Ring (NW)	27	308	11.4
Skeate (WA)	21	235	11.2
Wolf (NC)	25	280	11.2
Norman (HS)	25	275	11.0
Cohn (Y)	27	281	10.8
Boston (DGN)	22	233	10.6
McGrath (LS)	26	275	10.6
Thomas (TC)	28	298	10.6
Chramer (NC)	25	263	10.5
Hamblin (IC)	25	258	10.3
Marucci (Y)	27	274	10.1
Adams (GS)	23	229	10.0
Gunn (NA)	23	237	10.0
Henderson (NN)	29	290	10.0
Speicher (LP)	23	231	10.0
Methuen (AT)	27	267	9.9
Still (LS)	26	257	9.9
Bull (WA)	24	239	9.9
Harje (MW)	25	245	9.8
Daniels (AT)	26	252	9.7
Brodhead (WWS)	29	277	9.6
Owens (TC)	27	258	9.6
Benjamin (LS)	28	248	9.5
King (Fen)	22	207	9.4
Barnes (HS)	22	205	9.3
Phillips (WA)	25	231	9.2
Cascella (SF)	25	228	9.1
Dell (GW)	21	189	9.0
Wilkins (WC)	26	235	9.0

FREE THROWS			
Player (school)	FTM-FTA	Pct.	
Sorenson (NN)	114-131	86.7	
Gimre (WC)	122-143	85.3	
Cascella (SF)	46-58	82.8	
Lee (GN)	44-54	81.5	
Anderson (SE)	66-82	80.5	
Adams (GS)	74-92	80.4	
Phillips (WA)	30-38	78.9	
Healy (WWS)	48-61	78.8	
O'Brien (NC)	61-103	78.6	
Dell (GW)	47-60	78.3	
Detloff (SF)	102-131	77.9	
Paxton (Wak)	52-67	77.6	
Wilkins (WC)	61-79	77.2	
Henderson (DGN)	151-198	75.9	
Expans (DGS)	84-111	75.7	
Hill (GS)	37-49	75.5	
Hartle (NW)	47-63	74.6	
Methuen (AT)	71-96	74.0	
Reed (Fen)	87-131	74.0	
Thompson (West)	48-65	73.9	
Nelson (NC)	67-91	73.8	
Myers (WA)	66-90	73.3	
Gaudin (IC)	64-88	72.7	
Tico (LS)	56-77	72.7	
Cannon (NW)	37-51	72.6	
Chramer (GN)	103-142	72.5	
Cramer (GN)	83-87	72.4	
West (Chicago)	100-138	72.4	
Wolf (NC)	68-118	72.0	
Line (HC)	76-106	71.7	
Shaughnessy (DGS)	48-67	71.6	
Maurer (IC)	67-94	71.3	
Williams (WA)	54-76	71.1	
Reed (Fen)	69-97	71.1	
Rule (Fen)	40-58	69.0	
Skeate (WA)	37-53	69.8	
Heilig (MW)	63-119	69.7	
Hill (NN)	68-98	69.4	
Schlicher (West)	39-56	69.4	
Reed (Fen)	71-104	68.3	
Marucci (Y)	75-110	68.2	
Welch (NA)	65-124	68.9	
Shockey (Y)	40-60	66.7	
Whitehead (GS)	120-180	66.7	
Benjamin (LS)	41-62	66.1	
Hamilton (NC)	74-113	65.4	
Schuermer (Wak)	67-134	64.9	
Phillips (WA)	53-82	64.6	
Still (LS)	67-105	63.8	
Cooney (SF)	69-109	63.3	
Nelson (SE)	57-94	60.6	
McGrath (LS)	35-58	60.3	

3-POINTERS			
Player (school)	Total	Pct.	Avg.
Gimre (WC)	88	3.8	
Expans (DGS)	83	2.9	
Cannon (NW)	73	2.9	
Williams (WA)	66	2.6	
Kosch (Y)	68	2.5	
Heilig (MW)	57	2.4	
Hill (NN)	62	2.3	

## Scouting Friday's boys basketball games

## No. 1 Naperville North (25-2)

## vs. No. 8 Geneva (19-12)

## Class 4A Naperville North regional final

**Outlook:** The Huskies won their 10th straight game in a 69-50 semifinal victory over Hinsdale Central. They improved to 10-0 at home, so playing at the Madhouse on Mill is an obvious advantage. The Huskies' frontcourt tandem of 6-foot-7 Chris Johnson and 6-6 Tom Welch combined for 44 points and 14 rebounds on Tuesday. If Jack Hill gets hot on the perimeter, watch out. The focus for the defense will be on Geneva's perimeter game that knocked down 10 3-pointers in Wednesday's 62-44 win over Downers North. Mitch Mascari had six of them while scoring 20 points.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Tuesday's Glenbard East sectional semifinals against the winner of the Hinsdale South regional final between Hinsdale South and Willowbrook.

## No. 4 Hinsdale South (21-6)

## vs. No. 5 Willowbrook (24-5)

## Class 4A Hinsdale South regional final

**Outlook:** The third meeting between these West Suburban Gold rivals — they split in the regular season — will be must-see basketball. Willowbrook showed tremendous focus in a 71-44 semifinal win over Metea Valley. The Warriors attack teams in so many ways, from 6-foot-6 Ethan Schuermer in the post to 3-point artist Matas Masys. Hinsdale South's clear counter is 6-5 Iowa State-bound forward Zion Griffin, who had 39 points and 17 rebounds in the last meeting. The Hornets, 11-0 at home, edged DeKalb in the semifinals.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Tuesday's Glenbard East sectional semifinals against the winner of the Naperville North regional final between Naperville North and Geneva.

## No. 2 Benet (24-4) vs.

## No. 7 Naperville Central (20-9)

## Class 4A Addison Trail regional final

**Outlook:** Benet has held 16 opponents under 45 points so far this season. Can Naperville Central's balanced offense break through? As tough as it'll be, the Redhawks have the ideal inside-outside approach with point guard Tyler O'Brien and 6-foot-8 Ben Wolf, committed to Northern Michigan. But the Redwings have answers to both with 6-8 sophomore Colin Crothers and two of the area's top perimeter defenders in leading scorer David Buh and Ben Cooney. Benet beat Downers South and Naperville Central held off Glenbard West in the semifinals.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Wednesday's Glenbard East sectional semifinals against the winner of the Bartlett regional final between Wheaton Warrenville South and Bartlett.

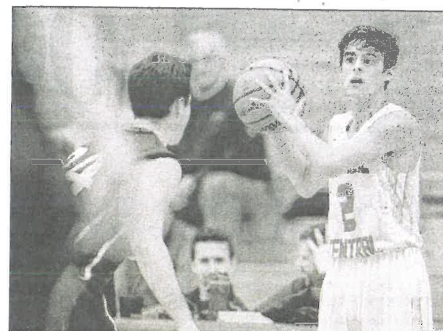
## No. 3 Wheaton Warrenville South (23-6)

## vs. No. 12 Bartlett (16-12)

## Class 4A Bartlett regional final

**Outlook:** WW South was sharp in beating Wheaton North 53-37 in the semifinals. Play like that again with experienced seniors Jake Healy, Parker Robinson and Chase Stebbins leading the way, and the Tigers will win another regional title. Three-pointers from Matt Brodhead and Jeff Kratz make them even tougher to beat. Standing in the way, though, is an intriguing Bartlett team that upset No. 6 Batavia 42-37 on Wednesday. The Hawks played 12 games without leading scorer Ben Tompson, who was out with an ankle injury. This will be their 11th game with him.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Wednesday's Glenbard East sectional semifinals against the winner of the Addison Trail regional final between Benet and Naperville Central.



MARK BLACK/mbblack@dailyherald.com

Naperville Central will be looking for a victory against Benet in Friday's Class 4A regional final at Addison Trail.

## No. 1 Burlington Central (26-3)

## vs. No. 4 Montini (17-10)

## Class 3A Aurora Central Catholic regional final

**Outlook:** The top-seeded Rockets, unbeaten in the Kishwaukee River Conference, have won 23 of their last 24, including games of 101, 92 and 91 points. Long and fluid, they're led by pure-shooting 6-4 Patrick Mayfield and the program's top scorer, Zach Schutta, surely motivated by last year's regional final loss leaving them 26-4. Montini got bounced by Central 63-47 one game prior, no doubt fuel for power forward Matt Morrissey and pesky guard Scott West. Guard Anthony Thompson can get hot from the arc for the Broncos, who average 65 points themselves.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Tuesday's Woodstock North sectional semifinals against the winner of the Marengo regional final between Johnsbury and Richmond-Burton.

## No. 2 Wheaton Academy (20-6)

## vs. No. 3 St. Francis (14-15)

## Class 3A St. Francis regional final

**Outlook:** If it's not a standing-room crowd there's something wrong in Wheaton. The host Spartans, hardened by the Chicago Catholic League, beat Wheaton Academy 58-43 on Dec. 16 but there's been a lot of ball since. Headed by big scorer Jayston Williams, do-it-all guard J.D. Gunn, 6-4 Marcus Butt and 3 ace Jack Dykema, Wheaton Academy can score a bunch. The Spartans counter with gritty Alex Rueth, Danny Blank, Mike Cascella and post defender John Detloff, who held Glenbard South to 7-of-33 shooting. Matt Cooney and Andrew Harvey bring the offense.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Wednesday's Woodstock North sectional semifinals against the winner of the Belvidere regional final between Rockford Boylan and Rockford Lutheran.

## No. 4 IC Catholic Prep (20-9)

## vs. No. 1 Orr (26-4)

## Class 2A Timothy Christian sectional final

**Outlook:** Seeking its first sectional title, IC Catholic faces the defending 2A champion featuring Sun-Times' All-City first team forward Danny Smith and second-learners Raekwon Drake and guard Chase Adams. Long odds only drive savvy ICCP seniors like Kevin Cheng, Alex Meurer and Kris Askew and strong forward brothers Nico and Dominic Gaudio. Junior Khali Saunders hoped to return, but the finger he dislocated Feb. 16 still looked a mess after ICCP's 61-51 semifinal win over Clark. On the Knights' side: 66-of-81 foul shooting the last two games.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Tuesday's Joliet Central supersectional against the winner of the Collins sectional final between Marshall and Hope.

All games at 7 p.m. Friday.

## Girls basketball statistics

Coaches: Please e-mail your stats in each week to [prosports@dailyherald.com](mailto:prosports@dailyherald.com).

SCORING			
Player (school)	G	Pts.	Avg.
Walker (SF)	23	461	20.0
Purdy (West)	25	490	19.6
Brown (LP)	23	459	19.9

REBOUNDS			
Player (school)	Total	Pct.	Avg.
Walker (SF)	23	461	20.0
Purdy (West)	25	490	19.6
Brown (LP)	23	459	19.9

3-POINTERS			
Player (school)	Total	Pct.	Avg.
Walker (SF)	23	461	20.0
Purdy (West)	25	490	19.6
Brown (LP)	23	459	19.9



Lakeland (NC)	34	634	18.7
Lucken (DGS)	25	439	17.4
Kampachneider (NN)	28	467	16.7
Bair (GS)	32	528	16.5
Swider (WH)	27	433	16.0
Dennis (Y)	n/a	n/a	15.3
Takamashi (Lis)	26	378	14.5
Patty (Mon)	28	399	14.3
Musella (DGS)	25	350	14.0
Johnson (WWS)	31	428	13.8
Koenig (WC)	26	330	12.7
Schmid (NC)	34	419	12.3
Schramke (W)	26	320	12.3
Thompson (MM)	19	229	12.1
Vance (LP)	23	359	12.1
Berbow (Fer)	23	275	12.0
Schramke (Ben)	33	390	11.8
Fassano (SF)	25	277	11.1
Miller (GN)	21	253	11.1
Huff (GW)	n/a	n/a	11.0
Jaroszinski (Mon)	28	291	10.4
Kramer (DGN)	28	291	10.4
McKivight (W)	26	269	10.3
Bauer (NN)	20	221	10.1
Thompson (West)	25	253	10.1
Wichel (Mon)	17	167	9.8
Lee (GN)	17	167	9.8
Pitts (Mon)	25	244	9.8
O. Schuringa (TC)	30	294	9.8
Tweedy (LP)	23	224	9.7
L. Swoboda (WA)	23	224	9.6
Radice (WC)	26	248	9.5
Sehulic (West)	20	186	9.3
Strube (TC)	26	246	9.2
Daca (GS)	31	281	9.1

<b>FREE THROWS</b>		
Player (school)	FTM-FTA	Pct.
Bair (GS)	62-89	91.1
Dennis (Y)	113-140	80.7
Rogers (LP)	67-85	78.8
Swider (WH)	76-102	74.4
Swider (WH)	94-129	75.2
Kramer (DGN)	83-111	74.8
Lee (GN)	41-55	74.5
Stark (Y)	44-59	74.5
Johnson (WWS)	123-167	73.7
Stebbins (WWS)	73-99	73.7
Patty (Mon)	62-85	72.9
Thompson (MM)	40-55	72.7
Lucken (DGS)	92-127	72.4
Tweedy (LP)	95-131	71.8
Rogues (WWS)	57-80	71.3
Strube (TC)	97-132	71.2
Walker (SF)	107-152	70.4
Radice (WC)	53-76	69.7
Radice (WC)	83-119	69.7
M. Zander (WH)	52-75	69.3
Weaver (Lis)	54-78	69.2
Kampachneider (NN)	52-75	68.5
Miller (GN)	30-44	68.2
Topin (WH)	43-63	68.2
Daca (GS)	49-72	68.1
Takamashi (Lis)	134-196	67.7
Fassano (SF)	53-79	67.1
Lakstigala (NC)	107-160	66.8
Schramke (Ben)	96-145	66.2
Vance (LP)	54-82	65.9
McKivight (W)	44-68	64.7
Schramke (Ben)	35-51	64.7
Schmid (NC)	58-90	64.4
Palatz (WV)	43-67	64.2
Stack (Ben)	66-104	63.5
L. Swoboda (WA)	59-94	62.8
Musella (DGS)	62-105	60.7
DuBoer (TC)	44-73	60.3
Berbow (Fer)	62-103	60.2
Korshenow (WH)	45-75	60.0

<b>3-POINTERS</b>		
Player (school)	Total	P/B
Rogers (LP)	56	2.5
Kampachneider (NN)	67	2.4
Miller (GN)	49	2.3
Swider (WH)	63	2.3
Pitts (Mon)	55	2.2
Lakstigala (NC)	73	2.1
McKivight (W)	53	2.0
Mitchell (Mon)	46	2.0

<b>REBOUNDS</b>		
Player (school)	Total	R/G
Patty (Mon)	383	15.3
Thompson (West)	309	12.4
Musella (DGS)	277	11.1
Bair (GS)	338	10.6
L. Swoboda (WA)	229	10.0
Walker (SF)	227	9.9
Patty (Mon)	265	9.5
Rider (LP)	199	8.7
Berbow (Fer)	198	8.6
Schmid (NC)	277	8.1
Huff (GW)	n/a	7.8
O. Schuringa (TC)	233	7.8
Harris (DGN)	208	7.7

Huff (GW)	153	6.1
Wiegale (WC)	154	6.1
Westra (TC)	178	6.1
Johnson (WWS)	185	6.0
Koenig (WC)	153	6.0
Wiegale (WC)	173	6.0
Wiegale (WC)	136	5.9
Kirkham (LP)	136	5.9
Rogues (WWS)	143	5.9
Kraft (West)	140	5.8
Seller (WV)	139	5.8
Takamashi (Lis)	132	5.8
Buchelt (Lis)	163	5.4
Richerson (WA)	120	5.2
Jaroszinski (Mon)	143	5.1
Swider (WH)	138	5.1
Thompson (Mon)	91	3.7
Levin (Y)	n/a	5.0
Shelton (WWS)	154	5.0

<b>ASSISTS</b>		
Player (school)	Total	A/G
Pratt (Ben)	145	5.6
Berbow (Fer)	106	4.6
Musella (DGS)	89	4.0
Harris (GN)	97	3.9
Thompson (Mon)	81	3.3
Anthony (WH)	111	3.8
Kraft (West)	88	3.7
Vance (LP)	89	3.3
Gross (DGN)	90	3.2
Park (Y)	108	3.2
Radice (WC)	81	3.1
Cohen (GS)	95	3.0
Lakstigala (NC)	106	3.0
Westra (TC)	88	3.0
Kirkham (Mon)	78	2.9
Pitts (Mon)	72	2.9
Heller (GN)	n/a	2.7
Rogers (LP)	61	2.7
Buchelt (Lis)	64	2.6
Patty (Mon)	64	2.6
Johnson (WWS)	82	2.6
Gross (DGS)	62	2.5

<b>STEALS</b>		
Player (school)	Total	S/G
Rogues (WWS)	95	3.1
Kramer (DGN)	83	3.0
Pitts (Mon)	76	3.0
Berbow (Fer)	66	2.9
Kampachneider (NN)	82	2.9
Johnson (WWS)	90	2.9
Lira (Fer)	66	2.8
Vance (LP)	61	2.8
Michael (Mon)	62	2.7
Rogers (LP)	61	2.7
L. Swoboda (WA)	62	2.7
Takamashi (Lis)	70	2.7
Coyne (WV)	38	2.4
Musella (DGS)	60	2.4
Weaver (Lis)	62	2.4
Vance (LP)	52	2.3
Bair (GS)	69	2.2
Bermudez (WA)	49	2.2
Dennis (Y)	n/a	2.2
Lakstigala (NC)	74	2.2
Emma (WWS)	66	2.1
Gross (DGN)	58	2.1
Harris (GN)	52	2.1
Fraser (Ben)	54	2.1
Rufus (Y)	n/a	2.1
Walker (SF)	49	2.1
Buchelt (Lis)	59	2.0
Gross (DGS)	50	2.0
Oguschi (WV)	51	2.0

<b>TEAM OFFENSE</b>		
School	G	Pts. Avg.
Bair (GS)	33	2004 60.7
Montreal	28	1617 57.8
Lake Park	23	1242 54.0
Fenton	24	1291 53.8
Naperville North	28	1483 53.0
Wheaton North	29	1433 49.4
St. Francis	28	1380 49.3
Timothy Christian	30	1480 49.3
York	29	1384 47.7
Glenbard South	32	1505 47.0
Waubesaie Valley	27	1274 47.2
Westmont	31	1392 44.5
Glenbard West	25	1027 43.9
Westmont	28	1094 39.1
West Chicago	28	1011 38.9
Downers North	28	1087 38.8
Wheaton Academy	26	958 36.8
Lake Park	30	1093 36.2
Metra Valley	20	718 35.9

<b>TEAM DEFENSE</b>		
School	G	Pts. Avg.
York	29	1145 39.5
Wheaton North	29	1210 41.7
West Chicago	26	1207 45.4
Lake Park	23	1116 48.5
Fenton	24	1506 62.8

Huff (GW)	153	6.1
Wiegale (WC)	154	6.1
Westra (TC)	178	6.1
Johnson (WWS)	185	6.0
Koenig (WC)	153	6.0
Wiegale (WC)	173	6.0
Wiegale (WC)	136	5.9
Kirkham (LP)	136	5.9
Rogues (WWS)	143	5.9
Kraft (West)	140	5.8
Seller (WV)	139	5.8
Takamashi (Lis)	132	5.8
Buchelt (Lis)	163	5.4
Richerson (WA)	120	5.2
Jaroszinski (Mon)	143	5.1
Swider (WH)	138	5.1
Thompson (Mon)	91	3.7
Levin (Y)	n/a	5.0
Shelton (WWS)	154	5.0

<b>ASSISTS</b>		
Player (school)	Total	A/G
Pratt (Ben)	145	5.6
Berbow (Fer)	106	4.6
Musella (DGS)	89	4.0
Harris (GN)	97	3.9
Thompson (Mon)	81	3.3
Anthony (WH)	111	3.8
Kraft (West)	88	3.7
Vance (LP)	89	3.3
Gross (DGN)	90	3.2
Park (Y)	108	3.2
Radice (WC)	81	3.1
Cohen (GS)	95	3.0
Lakstigala (NC)	106	3.0
Westra (TC)	88	3.0
Kirkham (Mon)	78	2.9
Pitts (Mon)	72	2.9
Heller (GN)	n/a	2.7
Rogers (LP)	61	2.7
Buchelt (Lis)	64	2.6
Patty (Mon)	64	2.6
Johnson (WWS)	82	2.6
Gross (DGS)	62	2.5

<b>STEALS</b>		
Player (school)	Total	S/G
Rogues (WWS)	95	3.1
Kramer (DGN)	83	3.0
Pitts (Mon)	76	3.0
Berbow (Fer)	66	2.9
Kampachneider (NN)	82	2.9
Johnson (WWS)	90	2.9
Lira (Fer)	66	2.8
Vance (LP)	61	2.8
Michael (Mon)	62	2.7
Rogers (LP)	61	2.7
L. Swoboda (WA)	62	2.7
Takamashi (Lis)	70	2.7
Coyne (WV)	38	2.4
Musella (DGS)	60	2.4
Weaver (Lis)	62	2.4
Vance (LP)	52	2.3
Bair (GS)	69	2.2
Bermudez (WA)	49	2.2
Dennis (Y)	n/a	2.2
Lakstigala (NC)	74	2.2
Emma (WWS)	66	2.1
Gross (DGN)	58	2.1
Harris (GN)	52	2.1
Fraser (Ben)	54	2.1
Rufus (Y)	n/a	2.1
Walker (SF)	49	2.1
Buchelt (Lis)	59	2.0
Gross (DGS)	50	2.0
Oguschi (WV)	51	2.0

## Sidelines: Another local basketball championship

Continued from Page 10

Sunday.

Former Chicagoan Al Janka, now in Solon, Ohio, has been assembling coaching clinics for more than 45 years, including Michael Jordan kids' camps at Elmhurst College, camps for Scottie Pippen and B.J. Armstrong, and for Vince Carter in Toronto.

This man knows from basketball coaches. From 1959-63 he played at that former cradle of coaches, Weber High School, and returned there as an assistant from 1970-72. Janka was a graduate assistant to Al McGuire at Marquette, assisted Dick Versace at Gordon Tech, went to the University of Detroit the year after Dick Vitale left. He assisted at Oberlin and Fairfield, served as head coach at John Carroll College and professionally in

Italy before heading to Nike to start this career.

The clinic at College of DuPage is a little pricey — \$155 per coach with preregistration, \$185 on-site — but this lineup sounds worth it. Register at BasketballCoach.com and for a brochure call (503) 671-3041.

### Best, two out of three

Our high school sports coverage generally doesn't include institutions such as Marquette Manor Baptist Academy in Downers Grove because they're not affiliated with the Illinois High School Association.

Regardless, the Minutemen do a bang-up job within their own realm, the Illinois Association of Christian Schools.

The school has won 13 IACS titles in boys soccer, six in girls volleyball and one in boys basketball.

In fact on Feb. 24 Marquette Manor's girls basketball team won its second IACS Championship in three seasons. The Minutemen (20-1) beat Rockford's North Love Christian School 37-18 behind senior forward Stephanie Woods' 19 points and 8 rebounds, and 5 assists from Joanna Schlagel of Downers Grove. The title game was held at Berean Baptist School in Rockford.

"The defensive side was probably the strength, team defense," said athletic director Matt Scalzitti, a 1998 graduate of Marquette Manor, which for years hosted the annual "Centurion Classic," a boys basketball all-star game between teams of suburban and Chicago players.

Woods, Schlagel, senior guard Ashley Henkle of Downers Grove and senior forward Hannah Schuster of Willowbrook also played on the 2015-16 Marquette Manor team that went 19-3 and won the IACS title over Romeoville Christian.

The girls program wasn't always a dynasty, or even a program. It was renewed seven years ago, Scalzitti said, and in the first two seasons the varsity team won two games. In the five years since Schlagel's older brother, Paul, has coached the team Marquette Manor has gone 72-26.

The reasons are the same as in the IHSA.

"It's personnel, it's good coaching," Scalzitti said.

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## Boys basketball conference standings

### Chicago Catholic League White

School	All	W-L	Conf.	GB
Lea*	20-9	8-0	—	
St. Laurence	19-10	6-2	—	
Providence-St. Mel	17-9	6-2	2	
St. Francis	14-15	5-3	3	
Montfort	17-10	4-4	4	
Providence	11-17	4-4	4	
Marion	9-19	2-6	6	
Bishop McNamara	8-21	1-7	7	
St. Francis deSales	5-20	0-8	8	

### DuPage Valley

School	All	W-L	Conf.	GB
Naperville North*	25-2	15-1	—	
WV South	23-6	13-3	2	
Naperville Central	20-9	10-6	5	
Wheaton North	16-13	10-6	5	
Metra Valley	16-12	9-7	6	
Waubesaie Valley	13-18	8-19	9	
Norquay Valley	9-30	5-11	10	
Lake Park	6-21	4-12	11	
Glenbard North	0-27	0-16	15	

### East Suburban Catholic

School	All	W-L	Conf.	GB
St. Victor*	24-5	9-0	—	
Benet	24-4	8-1	1	
Marist	25-4	7-2	2	
Marion Catholic	21-5	5-4	4	
St. Patrick	15-13	5-4	4	
Carroll	18-11	4-5	5	
Notre Dame	14-16	4-5	5	
Nazareth	9-19	2-7	7	
Joliet Catholic	7-21	1-8	8	
Marian Central	10-20	0-9	9	

### Iroquois Eight

School	All W-L	Conf. W-L	GB
Herschler*	18-8	10-1	—
Lisle	20-10	9-2	1
Stratford	19-9	8-3	2
Manitowish	13-15	7-4	3
Westmont	17-11	6-5	4
Florio	15-14	6-5	4
Sandwich	14-15	5-6	5
Seeds #1	10-13	4-7	6
Coal City	14-16	4-7	6
Reed-Custer	11-17	3-8	7
Pecalone	9-18	3-8	7
Wilmington	4-24	1-10	9

The 6-foot-3 senior averaged 19.9 points and 3.3 rebounds while helping the Broncos to a 33-2 record and a berth in the Class 4A semifinals this weekend. Always reliable, she was a force in the post, offensively and defensively, where she altered as many shots as she blocked. An all-Catholic League Red selection, she will play at Wake Forest next year.



### Jayla Johnson, WW South

The senior post player was the Tigers' go-to player on offense during their 27-4 run to the sectional finals despite being shorter than most of her foes in the post. Deceptively strong, Johnson also could handle the ball. She averaged 13.8 points and 6.0 rebounds a game. "Just to see her grow up over the last four years and improve with her game, that's why she was something special," coach Rob Kroehnke said. She was a unanimous all-DuPage Valley Conference pick.



### Gretia Kampschroeder, Naperville North

The freshman truly was a phenom for the Huskies, doing a little bit of everything, including leading by deed and word. She averaged 16.7 points, 7.0 rebounds, 2.9 steals, 2.3 assists and 1.2 blocks a game, showing why she already has major Division I colleges asking about her. She was a unanimous all-DuPage Valley Conference pick. "She improved our team in a myriad of ways," coach Jason Dycus said.



### Mia Lakstigala, Naperville Central

The unanimous DuPage Valley Conference player of the year, the senior guard led the Redhawks to a 28-6 record and a sectional final appearance. She is the Redhawks' second all-time leading scorer behind Candace Parker and will play in the Ivy League at Penn next season. Lakstigala averaged 18.6 points and 6.3 rebounds and made 35 percent of her 3-pointers. "Really a once-in-a-decade kind of player," coach Andy Nussbaum said.



### Jen Masello, Downers Grove South

The senior post player was a force for the Mustangs. She averaged 13.8 points, 11.0 rebounds, 3.9 assists, 2.3 steals and 1.0 block a game. An all-West Suburban Gold player, she will play soccer and basketball next year at Augsburg College. "She's a 6-foot center on paper but you can put her anywhere," coach Lyndsie Long said, citing Masello's ability to defend and play a full 32 minutes.



instant success — she had to go through a little bit of a learning process."

Undeterred, Patty not only waited for her mind and body to grow, she also put in time in the off-season to hone her craft. Freshman and sophomore years, she worked on post moves, as you would expect from a kid her size.

After her junior year it was time to add some versatility to her game, so she worked on her outside shot.

Now the kid who attempted just one 3-pointer her first three seasons has made 39 3-pointers in 106 attempts this season with two games still to play this weekend, starting with Friday's Class 4A semifinal.

When Montini breaks up practices into guards and posts, Patty often starts with

"If she keeps doing that, I think she can be unbelievable," he said.

"I definitely want to go professional," Patty added. "Overseas, WNBA, whatever. I want to keep doing it as I get older."

That's four years away, though. Her more immediate basketball future lies in Columbus, Ohio.

"I think she can be a great player here," McGuff said. "We have a really fast style of play, and with her speed, quickness, athleticism and ability to play under the basket or on the perimeter, I think she can be really impactful for us."

Which explains Patty's answer to the obvious question.

No, she said with a smile, she's not going back to softball.

The sophomore forward was named East Suburban Catholic Conference MVP. She also led the Redwings in scoring with 11.8 points a game, free-throw attempts and blocks. She added 3.5 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.0 steals a game as the Redwings reached the sectional final and finished with a 28-5 record. "Brooke is only a sophomore but has already learned to play hard all the time, which is a critical skill," coach Joe Kilbride said.



### Hannah Swider, Wheaton North

The senior guard became the Falcons' all-time leading scorer this season. She will play at Wheaton College next season. "The intensity and the amount of work that she puts in is just something that can even build a program two, three, four years down the road as kids see how much she works, how hard she works, even outside games and practice," coach Dave Eaton said. The unanimous all-DuPage Valley Conference pick averaged 16.0 points while making 34.8 percent of her 3-point shots.



### Natalie Takahashi, Lisle

The senior guard became the Lions' all-time leading scorer this season when she led the team in scoring with 14.8 points a game, assists with 2.2 a game, steals with 2.8 and was second in rebounding with 5.8 a game. The all-Interstate Eight Conference player will play at Monmouth College. A leader who always brought a positive attitude. "She doesn't take a play off. And she's out on the floor for us just about every single second of the game," coach Nick Balaban said.



### Carson Vance, Lake Park

An all-DuPage Valley Conference player, the senior guard averaged 12.1 points, 3.3 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.2 steals a game. She will play at Division II Illinois-Springfield next year. When the Lancers needed a basket in a pressure situation, she often was the player to step up. Vance was a strong 3-point shooter and made it hard to press the Lancers with her ballhandling. "You take her off our team, we're in trouble," coach Brian Rupp said.



### Artwainette Walker, St. Francis

The senior did a little of everything. A second-team all-stater, she averaged a DuPage County-best 20.1 points a game. She also averaged 10.2 rebounds, 2.8 steals and dished 1.4 assists a game. Walker will play at Arkansas-Little Rock next season. She was player of the year in the Catholic League White Division. "Her shooting capabilities where she can put up a lot of points is a big plus for us," coach Sandy DeCraene said.



## Daily Herald DuPage County Girls Basketball Captains

1988-89 — Tammy Kocher, Montini  
1989-90 — Ann Hoving, Montini  
1990-91 — Jennie Driscoll, St. Francis  
1991-92 — Andrea Miller, Willowbrook  
1992-93 — Kelly Miller, Lake Park  
1993-94 — Terri Zematis, Downers Grove South  
1994-95 — Autumn Braddock and Amy Wardle, Hinsdale Central  
1995-96 — Casey Leonhardt, Downers Grove North; T.J. Williams, Naperville North  
1996-97 — Ashley Luke, Waubonsie Valley  
1997-98 — Ashley Luke, Waubonsie Valley  
1998-99 — Ashley Luke, Waubonsie Valley  
1999-2000 — Charless Ridley, WW South  
2000-01 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central  
2001-02 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central

2002-03 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central  
2003-04 — Candace Parker, Naperville Central  
2004-05 — Kelly Krumwiede, Glenbard West  
2005-06 — Erica Cartar, Naperville Central  
2006-07 — Keilani Moeaki, WW South  
2007-08 — Samantha Arnold, Lake Park  
2008-09 — Toni Kokenis, Hinsdale Central  
2009-10 — Toni Kokenis, Hinsdale Central  
2010-11 — Whitney Holloway, Montini  
2011-12 — Meghan Waldron, WW South  
2012-13 — Meghan Waldron, WW South  
2013-14 — Meghan Waldron, WW South  
2014-15 — Kathleen Doyle, Benet  
2015-16 — Kathleen Doyle, Benet  
2016-17 — Kaylee Bambule, Montini  
2017-18 — Aaliyah Patty, Montini

## Honorable mention

Nikki Baird (Wheaton North, jr., G); Amari Benbow (Fenton, sr., G); Sarah Cohen (Glenbard South, sr., G); Sammy Harris (Glenbard West, sr., G); Katelyn Heller (Glenbard West, jr., G); Sierra Koenig (West Chicago, sr., G); Julia Krampfer (Downers Grove North, jr., G); Holly Lueken (Downers Grove South, jr., F); Tsimba Malonga (Benet, sr., G); Lauren McKnight (Waubonsie Valley, fr., G); Gabi Melby (Naperville Central, fr., G); Sydney Pardy (Westmont, sr., C/F); Ilyse Pitts (Montini, sr., G); Lauren Platou (Naperville North, sr., G); Caylin Rufus (York, sr., G); Olivia Schuringa (Timothy Christian, sr., F); Nicci Scorza (Addison Trail, sr., G); McKenzie Stebbins (WW South, jr., G); Lizzy Swoboda (Wheaton Academy, sr., F); Tess Thompson (Metea Valley, jr., F).

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



**David Suh, Benet**

Buh's versatility guided Benet to a ninth straight 20-win season. The 6-foot-4 senior wing led the team with 13.2 points and 3 assists a game while also grabbing 2.2 rebounds. Buh made nearly 40 percent of his 3s and thrived while guarding opponents' best perimeter player. "He was extremely valuable in every facet of the game," coach Gene Heidkamp said.

**Eric Cannon, Wauaubonsie Valley**

Work ethic, discipline, improvement and being coachable typify the two-time all-DuPage Valley Conference junior guard and team captain. The 6-foot Cannon averaged 15 points, 3 assists and made 41 percent of his 3-point shots. He scored 27 points against Maine West and made six 3s with 9 assists at Neuqua Valley. "He's not just a typical jock," coach Jason Mead said. "He cares about school, he cares about being a good teammate."

**Colin Crothers, Benet**

Watching his skill in the post, it's easy to forget Crothers is only a sophomore in his second varsity season. The 6-foot-8 center rarely could be contained 1-on-1. Playing his best during a 14-game win streak, he averaged 10.4 points and 6 rebounds. "He had a strong season overall but especially in the second half of the season," coach Gene Heidkamp said.

**Justin Eagins, Downers Grove South**

It's bad enough Eagins could knock down 3-pointers — more than 80 — with the best of them. His ability to drive to the basket made him a devastating offensive player. The 6-foot-1 junior guard averaged 17 points, 3.3 rebounds and 2.5 assists while making 74 of his 101 free-throw attempts. "He can really score in a variety of ways," coach Kris Olson said.

**Jason Gimre, West Chicago**

This 5-foot-10 senior guard ranks among the purest outside shooters in DuPage County. Gimre set Wildcats season and all-time records for 3-pointers with 98 and 181, respectively. Averaging 18.9 points, he converted 45 percent of his 3s but also went to the foul line 143 times, hitting 85 percent. DeKalb all-tourney and all-Upstate Eight Valley, Gimre torched Ridgewood with 39 points. "He leaves his heart on the floor every single game," coach Bill Recchia said.

**Zion Griffin, Hinsdale South**

The Daily Herald DuPage County All-Area Team Captain is committed to Iowa State University. The 6-foot-5 senior forward transformed from a post player into a force who can play anywhere. Griffin scored 1,000 points in two seasons, averaging 21.1 points and 9 rebounds this year. "I hope I'm lucky enough to coach another player like Zion," coach Brett Moore said.

**Jake Healy, WW South**

A bulldog competitor who led the Tigers to back-to-back 20-win seasons, Healy had to improve his game quite a bit to keep the team successful. The 6-foot senior guard was the Tigers' best defender as well as their leading scorer and rebounder with 13.3 points a game and 3.3 rebounds. "He had a target on his back and still had a really good year," coach Mike Healy said.

**Ethan Helwig, Metea Valley**

An early 30-point game foreshadowed this 6-foot-3 junior guard's all-DuPage Valley Conference season. A gym rat with court awareness and versatility, Helwig could play — and defend — point guard to power forward. He averaged 16.3 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals with a team-high 61 3s entering regional semifinals. "We ask him to do



# Hornets' Griffin elevated his game

## Captain

By KEVIN SCHMIT  
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Zion Griffin rose. Above opponents and teammates — and absolutely above the rim — the Hinsdale South senior forward exploded down the court on a breakaway. Everyone knew what was next.

The home crowd in Darien came to its feet as Griffin rose for a thunderous two-handed dunk.

Griffin didn't know it at the time but that exclamation point on a win over Downers Grove South also turned out to be his 1,000th varsity point, a milestone requiring only 53 games.

The moment perfectly summed up the previous year for Griffin, who transformed himself from a good high school player into an elite college prospect committed to Iowa State University. From a low-to-mid-major flyer into a talent coveted by Power Five conferences.

Elite, in fact, is a word that began surrounding Griffin during the last year.

And rising? Well, that's just what Griffin does.

"From between last season and this season, I felt I had to get that motor going," Griffin said. "I want to be remembered here when I leave and I feel like my impact last year wouldn't get me there. I still had more stuff on the table."

Rising to the occasion for himself and his team this season, Griffin is the 2017-18 Daily Herald DuPage County All-Area Basketball Team Captain.

## Responding

It's not like Griffin struggled his junior year, his first on varsity. An All-Area honoree, he averaged 17.3 points and 8.2 rebounds — numbers he boosted this season to 21.1 points and 9 rebounds.

Colleges, however, remained lukewarm on him.

"I made a highlight video of him last year and sent it to a ton of schools," said Hinsdale South coach Brett Moore. "I did not get one response."

It became Griffin's mission to improve his game. Not just for himself but for the team he yearned to take deeper in the playoffs.

Between adding the ability to consistently knock down 3-pointers — he hit 40 this season compared to attempting only five his entire junior year — and the improved ability to rely on both hands, everything came together during an off-season playing for the Illinois Hoopers AAU team.

No longer did Griffin need to be a 6-foot-5 post player. Now he could play anywhere and thrive.

"He's always had the athleticism," Moore said. "He was kind of seen as a tweener until he showed he could shoot the 3. He developed a 3-point shot and he jumped up a level with colleges."

Mere months after hearing nothing on Griffin's junior video, Moore started getting calls from all corners of the country. The offers flooded in as Griffin and his mother, Santina Guyton, took the recruiting journey together.

Griffin boarded an airplane for the

first time during his official visit to Ames and Iowa State University. It was his dream to play college basketball, and the reality often seemed unreal.

"It was a good experience for me and my family," Griffin said. "It was fun, but it was also a little stressful. We did all our research and learned as we went. It worked out."

Among an array of college scholarship offers rarely seen among past DuPage County prep standouts, Griffin ultimately committed in September to Iowa State to be part of an intriguing Chicago-land-heavy recruiting class that includes Simeon's Talen-Horton Tucker and Corliss' George Condit.

The Cyclones emerged victorious from the other members of Griffin's list of final four schools — Illinois State, Pittsburgh and Kansas. Yes, that Kansas. Griffin, though, felt at home in Ames.

"Colleges weren't going to recruit a 6-5 center," Griffin said. "I had to open up my arsenal a little bit and put the pieces of my game together. And it blossomed from there."

## The next level

In the matter of a few months Griffin's college stock matched his level of play.

Zion Griffin rose.

"His improvement between his junior and senior year was a huge leap," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "If you can get 1,000 points in two years, that's pretty remarkable."

Griffin scored at will during Hinsdale South's February victory over Willowbrook.

He reached 39 points midway through the fourth quarter and, like the dunk on his 1,000th point, he didn't know he was so close to 40. Griffin never reached that milestone, choosing instead to do everything else necessary to secure a 69-63 victory.

Hinsdale South went on to win a second straight West Suburban Gold title and takes a 21-6 record into Friday's Class 4A Hinsdale South regional title game. A victory there gives the program an unprecedented third straight regional championship.

Griffin not only transformed himself the last two years. He also helped transform the Hornets.

"He went from not being able to dribble at all with his right hand to being one of the best players in the state," said senior teammate Robert Barnes. "I saw his work ethic every day so I could see it coming."

Griffin knows the work can't stop at the next level. He eventually aims to develop into an NBA-caliber player, but that's a long way off. He's been told by Iowa State coaches that he'll play where he's capable of defending and, for someone who's only been playing basketball since the seventh grade, it'll be a steep learning curve.

But he's prepared to meet the challenge, rising every step of the way.

"I want to make all my weaknesses stronger," Griffin said. "I want a scouting report on me to not know what to do."

## Daily Herald DuPage County Boys Basketball Captains

1968-69 -- Tyrone Parks, West Chicago

1969-90 -- Wade Hardtke, Glenbard East

1990-91 -- Roger Suchy, Glenbard North

1991-92 -- Lance Broderson, Wauaubonsie Valley

1992-93 -- Anthony Parker, Naperville Central

1993-94 -- Adam Shafer, Downers Grove South

1994-95 -- Eric Norberg, Downers Grove South

1995-96 -- Cory Little, Addison Trail

1996-97 -- Brian Wardle, Hinsdale Central

1997-98 -- Aaron Domercq, Naperville

2002-03 -- Bobby Catchings, Neuqua Valley

2003-04 -- Andy Mack, Lake Park

2004-05 -- Bryan Mullins, Downers Grove South

2005-06 -- Mike Capocci, Glenbard East

2006-07 -- Mike Capocci, Glenbard East

2007-08 -- John Shurna, Glenbard West

2008-09 -- Drew Crawford, Naperville Central

2009-10 -- Dwayne Evans, Neuqua Valley

2010-11 -- Frank Kaminsky and Dave Sobolewski, Benet

2011-12 -- Kenny Oberdorf, Metea

**Nick Kosich, York**

A varsity member since his freshman year, Kosich's maturity has allowed him to become a valuable leader for a young Dukes team. The 6-foot-1 junior guard is known for his clutch 3-point shooting, but Kosich isn't afraid to mix it up inside. He averaged 12.4 points while making more than 70 3-pointers. "He loves taking the big shots," coach Vince Doran said.

**Matas Masys, Willowbrook**

Masys could fill it up in a hurry. A 6-foot-1 junior guard who's been contributing on varsity since his freshman year, Masys is a pinpoint perimeter shooter who adds something to his game each season. He averaged 12.3 points while making more than 60 3-pointers. "He's continuously evolving," coach Chris Perkins said. "It's been exciting to see him develop."

**Tyler O'Brien, Naperville Central**

O'Brien would have been a key member of last year's team if not for injuries, but the 5-foot-11 guard made up for lost time this senior season. O'Brien was by far the Redhaws' best ballhandler and made the offense run. He averaged 11.9 points, making more than 60 3-pointers, and 3 assists. "When he's hot, he can hit from anywhere," coach Pete Kramer said.

**Brandon Orange, Timothy Christian**

The 6-foot-7 center was voted Metro Suburban Red MVP, his second all-conference honor. The Wheaton College recruit's footwork and multiple moves — up-and-under, spin, power dribble, hook — required double-teaming. He averaged 14.3 points and 9.8 rebounds and shot 53 percent from the field. Orange registered 15 points, 13 rebounds and 6 assists at Illiana Christian, among 12 double-doubles. "His leadership for us this year was tremendous," coach Scott Plaisier said.

**Ethan Schuemer, Willowbrook**

Not only did Schuemer become the first player in program history to score 1,000 points, he's also the Warriors' all-time leader in rebounds and blocked shots. The 6-foot-6 senior post player, a three-year starter, averaged 15.2 points and 8.7 rebounds. "He's been our rock for three years," coach Chris Perkins said. "He's a walking double-double."

**Josh Sorenson, Wheaton North**

After moving up to varsity midway through his sophomore year, Sorenson came off the bench as a junior. This season the Falcons were at their best with their 6-foot-7 senior forward on the court as much as possible. Sorenson averaged 13.4 points and 8.1 rebounds. "He's gotten better with the more opportunities he's gotten," coach Dave Brackmann said.

**Evan Taylor, Glenbard West**

With six Division I offers already in hand and a great junior season in the book, expect to see many more colleges buy into Taylor's game this off-season. The 6-foot-6 wing led his team with 17.3 points, 7.3 rebounds and 3.6 assists while working everywhere from the post to the point. "We ask him to do so much for us," coach Tim Hoder said.

**Tom Welch, Naperville North**

An All-Area goalkeeper from the Huskies' state title-winning soccer team, Welch is developing into a top-notch basketball player who's drawn offers from Eastern Illinois and Kent State. The 6-foot-6 junior forward led Naperville North with 13.4 points a game and averaged 6.7 rebounds and 3.3 assists. "Tommy's athleticism is off the charts," coach Jeff Powers said.

**Brandon Whiteside, Glenbard South**



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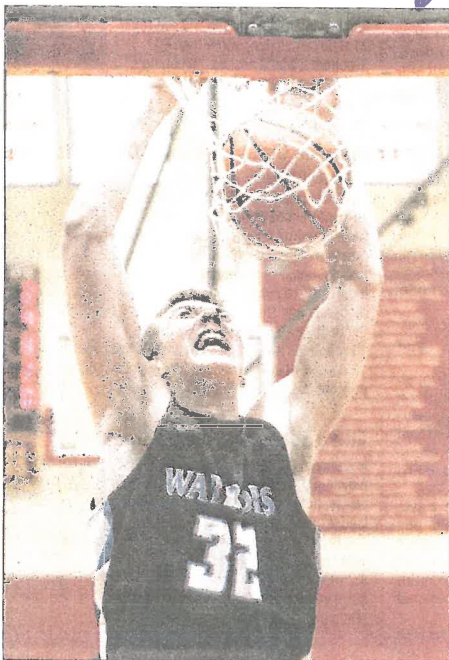
# Through their eyes

Daily Herald staff photographers Mark Black and Dan White offer their favorite photos from the 2017-18 boys and girls basketball season



Wheaton North's Sophie Ahlberg (5) drives around Neuqua Valley's Megan Callahan (12) on Jan. 22.

MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com



Willowbrook's Ethan Schuemer jams the basketball against West Aurora during the 25th annual Jim & Sylvia Roberts Night of Hoops boys basketball game at Batavia High School.

DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com



Sandwich's Claire Roberts (23) reacts to Lisle's Gabrielle Wagoner (5) tumbling to the ground as she goes after a loose ball during girls varsity basketball on Dec. 11.

MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com



Naperville Central coach Andy Nussbaum celebrates a 65-63 triple-overtime win over Naperville North to win the Class 4A Naperville Central girls basketball regional championship game on Feb. 16.

DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com



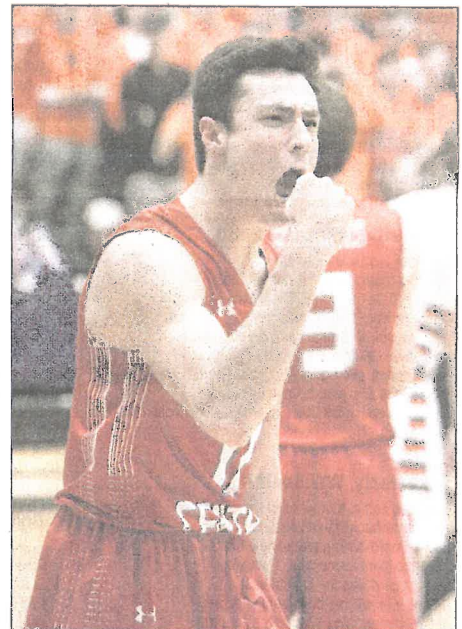
West Aurora's Moshe Rogers, left, defends the lane against Willowbrook's Matthew Myers (20) during the 25th annual Jim & Sylvia Roberts Night of Hoops boys basketball game at Batavia High School.

DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com



Montini's Ilyse Pitts, left, and Lindsey Jarosinski, right, apply defensive pressure to Benet's Lauren Stack, center, during the Class 4A Proviso West girls basketball sectional championship.

DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com



Naperville Central's Daniel Raab (11) reacts after a foul against Wheaton Warrenville South during varsity boys basketball in Wheaton on Feb. 6.

MARK BLACK/mblack@dailyherald.com







DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com

Benet's Jacob Petrovic (4) reacts to sinking a 3-point shot against Naperville Central during the Addison Trail boys basketball regional final on Friday.

## Scouting sectional semifinal boys basketball games

**No. 1 Naperville North (26-2)**

**vs. No. 5 Willowbrook (25-5)**

*Class 4A Glenbard East sectional semifinal*



MARK BLACK/mbblack@dailyherald.com

Jack Hill and Naperville North will meet Willowbrook at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Glenbard East.

**Game time:** 6 p.m. Tuesday.

**Outlook:** So much talent in one game. It starts in the post with 6-foot-7 Chris Johnson, averaging 13 points and 8 rebounds for the Huskies and 6-6 Ethan Schuemer, averaging 16 points and 9 rebounds for Willowbrook. If they cancel each other out, it'll be interesting to see who emerges. It might be 6-6 Tom Welch for the Huskies, who likely will be guarded by Willowbrook defensive stopper Sikander Zifar. It might be Willowbrook perimeter standout Matas Masys, who's knocked down 68 3-pointers. Or Naperville North's Jack Hill, who has 63 3s. Both teams have shown the ability to bury opponents, and both have shown the ability to rally in clutch situations. This game won't lack excitement.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to play the winner of Tuesday's Glenbard East sectional semifinal between Bartlett and Benet in the sectional final on Friday.

**No. 2 Benet (25-4) vs.**

**No. 12 Bartlett (17-12)**

*Class 4A Glenbard East sectional semifinal*

**Game time:** 8 p.m. Tuesday.

**Outlook:** Can the Hawks beat another high seed? First they beat No. 6 Batavia, then No. 3 WW South. You could say their postseason surge is due to the return from injury of Ben Thompson, who played only 14 regular-season games. But Tomas Vikonis is averaging 13.7 points and knocked down the game-winning 3-pointer in the regional final. And Austin Gates and Ben Fisher average double digits. Benet proved to be the sectional's best defensive team, having allowed 40 or fewer points 13 times. Benet winn David Ruh averages about 14 points while 6-foot-8



## Scouting DuPage County boys gymnastics

**Top local teams:** Downers Grove North, Glenbard West, Hinsdale Central, Wheaton Warrenville co-op, Willowbrook, York.

**Top returning gymnastics:** Armani Carter (Naperville Central, sr., all-around), Dominic Cassano (Hinsdale South, sr., all-around), Alexander Demeris (Glenbard West, so., all-around), Joey DiRienzo (Wheaton Warrenville co-op, sr., all-around), Lukas Elisha (Downers Grove North, sr., all-around), John Gill (York, sr., all-around), Aaron Heppner (Downers Grove North, so., all-around), Nolan Holmes (Hinsdale Central, sr., all-around), Michael Hunter (Naperville North, jr., floor, vault), Jacob Klammer (Downers Grove South, so., all-around), Marc Le (Glenbard East, sr., all-around), Aiden Moran (Wheaton Warrenville co-op, sr., all-around), Sean O'Hara (Glenbard East, jr., all-around), Louie Ranieri (Lake Park, jr., all-around), Alex Roca (Hinsdale Central, sr., floor, high bar, parallel bars, vault), Aiden Rudolph (Glenbard West, sr., all-around), Shea Rudolph (Glenbard West, sr., all-around), Adam Sousa (Willowbrook, sr., all-around), Kelvin Stephens (York, sr., high bar, parallel bars, still rings).

**Outlook:** Addison Trail will field a young squad as it builds on a pretty solid base of sophomores from a year ago. Freshman Matt Wojdka, a floor and vault specialist, is expected to be a nice addition, but overall coach Mike Galfi isn't sure how well the team will score and ultimately will try to gain experience while getting better and qualifying some individuals to the state meet.

Watch out for Downers Grove North now that senior Lukas Elisha has returned for his final season for the Trojans. He took eighth in the all-around in the state as a sophomore, and standout sophomore Aaron Heppner also is back. The Trojans have huge numbers, boasting a roster of over 40 gymnasts but who will piece together the scores around Heppner and Elisha? Braeden Gagliano, Konrad Kuzkowski and Billy Vodak are the frontrunners, but there are opportunities here, and they're needed, to help the team get to state.

Downers Grove South no longer has the dynamic 1-2 punch of Brock Herion and Beau Herion that it had a season ago. Brock is actually helping out on the coaching end while he also attends the College of DuPage. Beau has gone back to club, but he still may return for his senior year in 2020 if things go as planned for him. Sophomore Jacob Klammer is back to lead the team, while senior Donte Reed, who was hurt last year, also returns to action. Freshman floor specialist Nick Schmidt-Bailey will all contribute a solid score for the Mustangs.

Fenton will take the same approach it has during past seasons. "Train hard, stay healthy, work skills, clean up technique, have fun and enjoy participating in a high school sport with your peers," Bison coach Paula Parat said. Of course, the goal is for the

regular season to culminate with some kids making it to the big stage at state in May. Tony Palacios, Angel Morales, Danny Alcaraz, Omar Lopez, Jose Lopez and Angel Barriga, the Daily Herald DuPage County All-Area boys soccer team captain, return.

Glenbard East welcomes back senior Marc Le, a state qualifier and one of the most talented kids in the state. Fourth-year gymnasts Jonathan Rayo and David Lima also return, along with Josh Vu, Peter DeLaCruz, Sean O'Hara, Elliot Rico and Aleix Castro while Jacob Heabel and Jamylene Miles join a deep Rams roster with a strong coaching staff with coach Wayne Hill, former longtime coach Bruce Beiersdorf, Darren Nuezca and JV coach Alexis Eckersall. Huge things are expected out of O'Hara after a dedicated work ethic in the off-season while Miles is a newcomer to especially keep your eye on.

Glenbard North will continue to try to rebuild its program with young gymnasts. The Panthers will only have two seniors and some juniors as the team will be mostly comprised of sophomores, including all-arounder Brandon Dao. "We'd like to qualify some kids to state as individuals and hope to return to state as a team in two years," Panthers coach Michael Crissie said.

Glenbard South is hoping that its experienced senior group — including all-arounder Sean McLaughlin, a co-captain coming back from a horrendous ankle injury, and co-captain pommel horse specialist Tony Longo — can lead the way to a strong, successful season. "We just need some time for the varsity group to be firing on all cylinders," Raiders coach Lee Wood said. "The outlook is good but also sad that I will be graduating a giant class of seniors, which will lead to a few rebuilding years." Senior all-arounder Ryan McConville and senior floor and vault specialist Charlie Barrett are part of that talented senior class.

Glenbard West, the defending state champion, finds itself without Matthew Ideler and Timmy Le, a pair of all-arounders who led the team to the title. The Hilltoppers will have a difficult time replacing their all-around scores, but with sophomore Alexander Demeris and seniors Aiden Rudolph and Shea Rudolph capable in all events, and senior pommel horse specialist Danny Eichen back in the action, the Hilltoppers should be in the running for what is arguably the most competitive conference in the state this year, the West Suburban Silver. Don't count them out in being at the state meet either, especially if juniors Coley McArdle and Conor McBridge and seniors Andrew Lopez and Orest Kostetsky can add scores in specialist roles. Hinsdale Central is coming off a fifth-place finish at state. The Red Devils lost some key seniors but return senior Alex Roca and junior Nolan Holmes to lead the squad. "Looking for an injury-free season," Hinsdale Central coach Mark Wanner said. "I expect success at the end of the season." Junior



DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com

Glenbard West's Shea Rudolph and his teammates hope to defend their team state championship.

all-arounders Nicky Armonda, Eric Miscimarra and Thomas Monson and pommel horse specialist Bilal Yousef join the team while seniors specialists Dylan Gnat and Tomas Baliutavicius also return.

Hinsdale South welcomes new coach Anthony Colant, who inherits a small team with only 18 gymnasts as of March 1. Colant isn't sure if he'll have any late commits so the team will rely heavily on returning all-arounder Dominic Cassano and Malcolm Moore, who will compete in five events. Sophomore Michael Colant and freshmen Henry Mihindou are new additions for the Hornets and will be all-arounders. "We're hoping to have four or five guys make state as individuals on their respective events, but I'm not anticipating any huge scores, team-wise," Anthony Colant said. "Our team goals will be more progress based than achievement based."

Lake Park's goals at the start of the season are to outdo itself from a year ago. The Lancers peaked at a 133.95, so they hope to crack a 134 and to ultimately improve on last year's sectional seeding rank of No. 24. "We are looking to try and win four of our six dual meets this season," Lake Park coach Tim Whelan said. All-arounders Louie Ranieri and Matt Scimeca and three-event senior Jake Slavin are expected to lead the way, while freshman Owen Bigler joins the team with a previous background in the sport.

Naperville Central is senior heavy with specialists Damien Dedivitis, Griffin Irie, Matt Kunzer, Bobby Parker, Ethan Farrell, Alex Killips, Sam Piazza and all-arounder Armani Carter. Junior Joe Villa also returns on still rings and high bar. The Redhawks did lose Tahj Jacobs so they will need to replace some of his scores, but the team is confident that they'll be better than they were a year ago.

Naperville North will rely heavily on seniors Parker Ayars and Sean Swallow and juniors Michael Hunter and Eric Loid. "We graduated a great deal of seniors, but our current seniors and juniors are really strong in their events," Naperville North coach Chris Stanicek said. "I believe we will be competitive this year but still looking to develop as a team and a program." Hunter advanced to state on vault last year.

Wheaton Warrenville co-op

will attempt to advance to the state finals for the 10th straight season. With such longtime success, there's no reason to bet against a team that is also shooting for its fifth state title in 15 years. Who will take over the senior high-scoring and leadership reigns, though, which is something that has been so key to the team's phenomenal success? Is there another Darren Fill, David MacDonald, Lucas Cooperman or Austin Tate? Is it Joey DiRienzo or Aiden Moran? Is it a super-talented newcomer? "This could be a productive season for Wheaton co-op. It really depends on the development of our third, fourth and fifth scores on all the events," Wheaton co-op coach Greg Gebhardt said. "If we can fill those holes then it could be an exciting year for our gymnastics team." Senior Jeffrey Huecias, junior Rodrigo Ruiz and sophomore Marty Franz return. The upcoming talent includes a pair of senior specialists in Alex Tran and Carlos Zactazi and a pair of freshmen all-arounders in Cade Houlihan and prized newcomer Nicky Franz.

Willowbrook should be one of the better teams in the state this year, but how far it goes all depends on what the team can do around senior Adam Sousa, who returns after not competing last year. Sousa is one of the best gymnasts in the state, taking fourth place in the all-around in 2015 and 2016. "I believe that our team has the potential to be within a few points of being a state team, but there would have to be a lot of improvement on each event to get us to that point," Willowbrook coach Caleb Strejcek said. "I think realistically we can crack the Top 15 teams barrier." Juniors Isaiah Lewis and Brendan Bailey and seniors Matthew Smith and Daniel Lopez Egan will have big roles.

York will field one of the state's best high bar teams as Jacob Anderson, Charlie Cripe, John Gill and Kelvin Stevens all advanced to state last year. Stevens, who is coming back from an injury, qualified for state in four events, and Cripe and Gill did on a pair. The team also welcomes back sophomore all-arounder Dominic Milazzo so the Dukes have the talent to go far. "This season we are coming out strong," Dukes coach Nick Criel said. "The boys are motivated and our seniors are prepared to go out with a bang. We will be a 150-plus team this year and have individuals make it to state finals."

— Chris Walker