

Daily Herald

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## Local Sports

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## Class 4A Glenbard East sectional final

No. 2 Benet (26-4) vs. No. 5 Willowbrook (26-5)

When: 7 p.m. Friday.

Road to the sectional final: Benet beat No. 15 Downers Grove South 59-47, No. 7 Naperville Central 62-49 and No. 12 Bartlett 47-41. Willowbrook beat No. 11 Metea Valley 71-46, No. 4 Hinsdale South 61-56 and No. 1 Naperville North 47-43.

## Probable starters

Benet			Willowbrook			
Name	Ht.	Yr.	Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
Ben Cooney	5-10	Sr.	G	Neil Paxton Jr.	5-10	Sr.
Jacob Petrovic	6-2	Sr.	G	Matas Masys	6-1	Jr.
David Buh	6-4	Sr.	F	Sikander Zafar	6-4	Sr.
Will Engels	6-4	Jr.	F	Matthew Myers	6-4	Sr.
Colin Crothers	6-8	So.	C	Ethan Schuemer	6-6	Sr.

**Outlook:** The sectional championship will come down to dictating the pace. Willowbrook needs to speed up the game, similar to how the Warriors rallied to beat Naperville North in the semifinals. Benet won't slow the play, but the Redwings will try to make Willowbrook work for everything in the halfcourt instead of chasing in the fullcourt. Schuemer, averaging 15.8 points and 8.8 rebounds, has been Willowbrook's leader for three seasons, and it'll be a tough post matchup for Crothers, averaging 10 points and 6 rebounds. Two of DuPage County's top defenders — Cooney and Zafar — are featured. Cooney could draw Masys, who's hit 67 3-pointers, while Zafar likely will guard Buh, Benet's leading scorer at 13 points a game. The benches could play a huge role. Guard Jake Ronneberg and 6-7 junior Noah Ferrell are key for Benet. Willowbrook goes a little deeper. Sophomore Everett Stubblefield III scored all 16 of his points in the second half while helping the Warriors rally against Naperville North. Big-game experience is on Benet's side. The Redwings have won three sectional titles since 2010. Willowbrook, which won its first regional title since 2004, seeks the first sectional title in program history.

**Advancement:** The winner advances to Tuesday's Class 4A Northern Illinois University supersectional in DeKalb to face Friday's winner of the Jacobs sectional title game between Larkin and Jefferson.

— Kevin Schmitt



MARK BLACK/mbblack@dailyherald.com

Willowbrook's Marshawn Phillips (11) drives in for a shot against Naperville North's Chris Johnson (32) during the Class 4A Glenbard East sectional semifinal boys basketball game on Tuesday.

## Notice

To report scores: Coaches, please report all scores to the Daily Herald DuPage County office by e-mailing [prepsports@dailyherald.com](mailto:prepsports@dailyherald.com), calling (630) 427-4430, or leaving results to (630) 955-7708.

## Boys gymnastics

## Thursday's results

WHEATON CO-OP 140 1, GLENBARD EAST 132 7

Floor exercises: Nicky Franz (W) 8.8, Marc Le (E) 8.7, Sean O'Hara (G) 8.6, Pommel horse: Franz (W) 9.6, Joey Difilano (W) 9.0, Adam Moran (W) 8.4, Still rings: Le (G) 9.0, Franz (W) 8.6, Moore (W) 8.5, Difilano (W) 8.2, Vault: Franz (W) 8.5, Le (G) 8.5, O'Hara (G) 8.4, Parallel bars: Difilano (W)

## Girls water polo

## Wednesday's late results

HINSDALE CENTRAL 10, STAGGS 6

Stagg: Hinsdale Cent. 0 1 2 2 — 5

HC — Smith 2, Fowler 2, Page 1, Keating 1, Giesbach 3.

Goalkeepers — HC: Kontou (11 saves)

## College softball

## Wednesday's late results

AT UPRIME 8, WHEATON 4

## Scouting DuPage County boys water polo

**Top teams:** Metea Valley, Naperville Central, Naperville North, York.

**Top games:** Metea Valley at Lockport, March 12; Metea Valley at Neuqua Valley, March 13; Naperville Central at Waubonsie Valley, March 13; Fenwick Dan Lynch Classic, March 15-16; Naperville Central at Naperville North, March 20; Metea Valley at Waubonsie Valley, March 20; Hinsdale Central at Neuqua Valley, March 20; Metea Valley at Sandburg, March 21; Oak Park-River Forest at York, March 21; York Invite, March 23-24; Neuqua Valley at Naperville Central, April 3; Hinsdale South at Oak Park-River Forest, April 3; Waubonsie Valley at Naperville North, April 3; Lyons Township Invite, April 6-7; Hinsdale Central at Hinsdale South, April 9; Naperville North at Metea Valley, April 10; Waubonsie Valley at Neuqua Valley, April 10; Hinsdale South at MICDS Tournament in Missouri, April 13-14; Best of the West Tournament at Naperville North, April 13-14; Waubonsie Valley Warrior Invite, April 14; Naperville North at Neuqua Valley, April 17; York at Neuqua Valley, April 23; Hinsdale Central at Oak Park-River Forest, April 24; Metea Valley at Hinsdale Central, April 26; Stevenson Tournament, April 27-28.

**Top players:** Kyle Brennan (Hinsdale South, Sr.); Jordan Brosius (Metea Valley, Sr.); Calvin Chow (Naperville North, Sr.); Simon DeGrace (York, Sr.); Gary Derwin (York, Sr.); Andrew Eber (Metea Valley, Sr.); Kent Emden (Naperville Central, Jr.); Brady Erdman (Metea Valley, Jr.); Duncan Ferguson (Hinsdale Central, Sr.); Tyler Flanders (Metea Valley, Jr.); Cade Griffith (Hinsdale Central, Jr.); Zach Griffith (Hinsdale Central, Jr.); Jack Hiss (Neuqua Valley, Jr.); Ashton Howser (Metea Valley, Sr.); Kevin Jay (Hinsdale Central, Jr.); Luke Klein-Collins (Naperville Central, Jr.); Raphael Kosta (Metea Valley, Jr.); Isaac Marlott (York, Jr.); Tommy Matulis (Hinsdale South, So.); Dominic May (Naperville Central, Sr.); Chase McClure (Naperville North, Jr.); Brian McManus (Hinsdale Central, Jr.); Lucas Nervig (Naperville Central, Sr.); Mason Rebie (Waubonsie Valley, Sr.); Ryan Ruhde (Waubonsie Valley, Jr.); Alan Rosenberg (Neuqua Valley, So.); Bender Russo (Naperville Central, Jr.); Brad Sanford (Naperville Central, Jr.); Patrick Savage (Hinsdale South, Jr.); Scottie Spinazola (Hinsdale Central, Sr.); Colin Szezensy (Metea Valley, Jr.); Rhys Tallentire (Hinsdale Central, Jr.); Jack Tarantino (Naperville North, So.); Quentin Tiscareno (Waubonsie Valley, Sr.); Riley Thompson (Naperville North, So.); Matt Townsend (Neuqua Valley, Jr.); Kyle Wright (Naperville North, Jr.).

**Outlook:** Plenty of experience that boosted Naperville Central to another state finals appearance in 2017 returns this spring. The team aims for its fourth straight state trip. The Redhawks finished



DANIEL WHITE/dwhite@dailyherald.com

York's Isaac Marlott (4) gathers the water polo ball against Morton on Thursday in Elmhurst.

offense," coach Bill Salentine said. Junior Kent Emden returns in goal. He is one of four juniors who provides experience to the Redhawks' lineup. "Luke Klein-Collins, Bender Russo and Brad Sanford all come into the season with a lot of polo experience, with all of them playing starting roles for most of last year. Our offense starts with Kent in goal. As soon as we see the other team shooting, we counterattack the other way, knowing Kent will likely stop the shot," Salentine said. Emden was named state player of the year and earned National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association All-America honors as a sophomore. The Naperville Central coach said that while he considers Naperville Central a counterattack/fastbreak team, if an opponent can keep up with the Redhawks' speed, he considers his team good enough to play a frontcourt offense.

Metea Valley enjoyed its best season in school history in 2017, advancing to a sectional semifinal and finishing 21-10-1. Fortunately for the Mustangs, most who made last season possible return. Junior Colin Szezensy finished as top goal scorer in 2017 with 83 goals and 25 steals. "Colin's biggest asset would be his ability to gain position in hole set and keep it. He's extremely motivated," coach Adam Zankowski said. Plenty of depth is back on offense, including junior Tyler Flanders, senior Andrew Eber, senior Ashton Howser, junior Brady Erdman and junior Raphael Kosta. Senior Jordan Brosius was tough defensively with 17 steals. Flanders was named all-sectional. "Returning players are expected to play a smart, tough defense and make fast offensive decisions to control the game their way," Zankowski said. "With a tougher game schedule than years past, for this year to be a success the team will need to continue playing tough and together, keeping strong communication evident. They will need to take quick actions both offensively and defensively, staying aware of their surroundings and taking risks."

Many of the players responsible

game. Our group communicates well and works together as a unit. Additionally, there are a lot of younger players looking to step up into new roles," coach Martin Bell said. Top returners are senior Calvin Chow, juniors Chase McClure and Kyle Wright and sophomores Riley Thompson and Jack Tarantino. The Huskies will also be looking to senior Manta Treciokas and juniors Ben Lovick and Liam Mendrys. "We need to make our conditioning and team focus the important aspects. Additionally, if we can focus on our power play opportunities, we should do well."

Anytime a new coach comes to a team, there is a period of adjustment. Neuqua Valley coach Chad Gaden, entering his second season leading the Wildcats, said the Wildcats made excellent strides regarding that. He is optimistic Neuqua can improve upon last spring's 13-16-1 record and sectional quarterfinal appearance. "I think we're more cohesive. I am a lot more used to the boys. They know me better and I know them a lot better," he said. "They're working together as a team and that's very important." Neuqua's second-leading scorer returns in junior Matt Townsend and Gaden said Townsend is an experienced player, who like many, gets as much playing time as he can in the off-season. Townsend was an all-sectional pick. Junior Jack Hiss brings speed to the team and like others, a strong dedication to the squad. Sophomore goalie Allen Rosenberg was on the JV last year but saw varsity play.

It was another big season for the York Dukes in 2017. The team finished 24-7-2, reaching a sectional final. Many of the players responsible for that success are gone, but coach Brian Drumm is optimistic that those lineup holes can be filled and the team continues its success. Junior attacker Isaac Marlott, who scored 46 goals last season, is back as are senior center defender Simon DeGrace and senior goalie Gary Derwin. "We need players to step into new roles. We lost four out of our top five scorers from last year, so

we were last year, so we are going to organize our defenses in ways to use our speed," the York coach said.

As the Waubonsie Valley Warriors get the 2018 season under way, coach Mike McWhirter likes the capabilities of the Warriors. The team aims to surpass last year's 8-16-1 record and first-round sectional appearance. "We have a large group of seniors. We have leadership and we have a big group of juniors that were on JV last year to replace the seniors we lost. The people returning know the routine and practice has been moving smoothly," he said. Many high school swimmers play on their school's water polo team and Waubonsie is no exception. "We have a very large group that are swimmers. We will be very fast in the water. But we still need to play our game fundamentally sound and strong," McWhirter said. The Waubonsie coach thinks are senior team captain Quentin Tiscareno, senior team captain Mason Rebie and junior Ryan Ruhde are crucial to the team's success. "I think we'll come out strong and hopefully finish stronger," McWhirter said.

Coach Christy Brodell speaks highly of Hinsdale Central's defense and teamwork. The Red Devils want to improve upon last season's 12-19-2 final record and sectional quarterfinal berth. Pacing Hinsdale Central will be seniors Scottie Spinazola, Duncan Ferguson and juniors Cade Griffith, Zach Griffith, Rhys Tallentire, Kevin Jay and Brian McManus. "We have senior leadership, committed and motivated players and strong goalies," Brodell said. "We'll need to work together as a team with a strong, unstoppable defense."

Hinsdale South had an advantage that teams would always like to have. The Hornets have young, experienced players returning to build upon last season's sectional quarterfinal appearance and 12-17 overall record. The Hornets will especially be looking to senior Kyle Brennan, junior Patrick Savage and sophomore Tommy Matulis to lead the way. "We have a relatively young squad this year with a lot of experience. Their speed and strength should



# Everett Stubblefield III sparks Willowbrook rally in sectional semifinal

By JOSHUA WELGE  
jwelge@shawmedia.com

LOMBARD – Everett Stubblefield III wasn't even listed on Willowbrook's roster for the sectional program, but the sophomore guard's talent is no secret to his teammates.

Just ask Ethan Schuemer.

The Warriors' star senior post said the older guys talked up Stubblefield to their coach before his midseason promotion.

His last game on the sophomore team, Stubblefield went for 42 points against Downers Grove South. Stubblefield finally made his varsity debut against Larkin Jan. 23.

"When he finally came up, we were like all right, it's about time," Schuemer said. "He's obviously been a key to our team. He came up huge again."

If Stubblefield was a secret before, he indeed won't be now.

Stubblefield scored all 16 of his points in the second half – 12 coming during an electric performance in the last four minutes of the third quarter.

Together with Schuemer's 16 points, fifth-seeded Willowbrook rallied to knock off top seed Naperville North 47-43 in a Class 4A Glenbard East Sectional semifinal on March 6.

Willowbrook (26-5), which just won its first regional championship since 2004 last week, will go for the program's first sectional title March 9 against Benet.

It can thank its precocious sophomore guard, who lit a fuse on what had been a sleepy two-plus quarters offensively.

"They told me when I came up to varsity they wanted me to come in and score, to bring energy to the team," Stubblefield said. "Once I got in the mood of the game I started to calm down and I think my confidence increased."

His confidence was on full display during the third quarter against Naperville North.

With Willowbrook trailing 26-18, Stubblefield swished back-to-back 3-pointers, then showcased his lightning speed in scoring a transition basket to cut the margin to 27-26.

As the final seconds ticked down in the third quarter, Stubblefield kept his dribble, then buried a deep 3-pointer from near 30 feet with 6-foot-7 Chris Johnson of Naperville North in his crosshairs.

It capped a 12-1 Willowbrook run to end the quarter, all Stubblefield points, that sent the Warriors into the fourth quarter ahead 30-27.



Willowbrook's Everett Stubblefield (24) gets a shot up March 6 during a sectional semifinal game against Naperville North at Glenbard East High School.

Sandy Bressner  
sbressner@shawmedia.com

"I saw the clock going down, felt the crowd's energy, I'd already hit two 3s," said Stubblefield, who attempted just two shots in the first half, "so I just pulled up."

It's the kind of spark Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins has grown used to seeing.

"He's been up about 12 games, and he's averaged double digits. He's been great for us," Perkins said. "We knew he had the talent to be up; it was just a matter of when. He came in tonight, got hot, gave us a boost and the rest of the guys fed off of that."

Schuemer and the rest took it from there.

The St. Cloud St. recruit battled all night in the post with Johnson and 6-foot-6 North junior Tom Welch, but got the best of the matchup down the stretch.

Schuemer scored eight of his 16 points in the fourth quarter. In the game's final seconds, after Welch hit two free throws for North, Schuemer broke the Huskies' pressure and passed ahead to Stubblefield for the clinching layup.

"He's been our rock ever since he's been with us," Perkins said. "I'm never shocked when he does what he does. Add another name to the list."

Add another big win to Willowbrook's list.

The Warriors won a dramatic overtime game at Hinsdale South in the regional final, and the momentum appears to have carried over.

"If we can beat a team like Naperville North, we really believe we can come out and beat any of these teams," Schuemer said.

Matt Myers and Sikander Zafar both

added four points for Willowbrook. In a stunning reversal, the Warriors shot 25 percent in the first half – but 62.5 percent in the second in rallying from down 20-12 at halftime.

"The first half I felt like the guys were adjusting to their length," Perkins said. "Once the guys settled down, once we got some easy baskets and sped the game up, the momentum turned to our side, and then it was like an avalanche. We can go on rolls like that."

Welch scored 17 points and Johnson added 12 for North (26-3), which was hurt greatly at the free-throw line. The Huskies were just 6-for-14 for the game, 1-for-7 in the fourth quarter.

"They had the size advantage, but we definitely had the speed advantage," Schuemer said. "When we play like we did in the second half, we're tough to beat."



# VILLA PARK REVIEW

NEWS AND VIEWS OF OUR TOWN

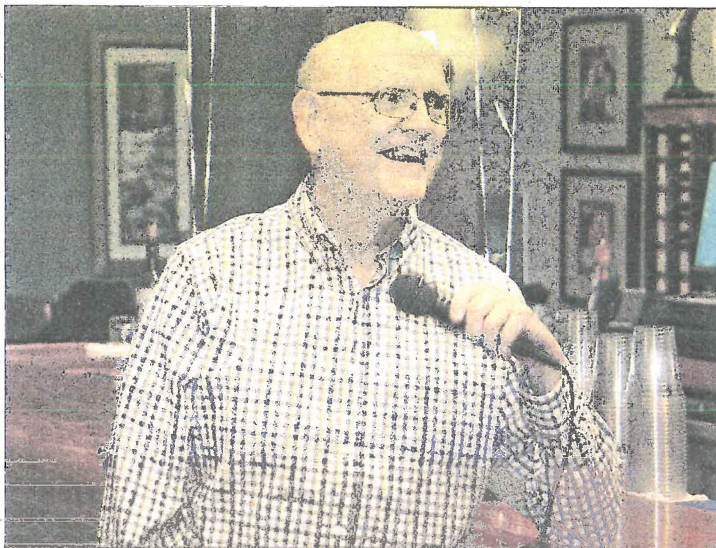
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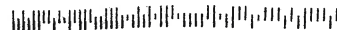


CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

## Commissioner appreciation

The Villa Park Village Board held a public meeting on Friday to host a commissioner appreciation reception at Sugar Creek Golf Course. One photo shows Villa Park Village President Albert Bultuis thanking the commissioners for their volunteer service. Another photo shows (left to right) Ricardo Ruiz of the Summerfest Commission and

COMMISSIONERS:



like any for-  
rivate village



## Senior cheer

The Willowbrook boys basketball team played its final home game of the 2017-18 season last week. The contest didn't just mark the final home game for the Warriors' senior players. The Feb. 20 battle against York was also the last home game for the four seniors on Willowbrook's cheerleading team. Pictured (left to right) during the game are seniors (and Villa Park residents) Lindsey Joyce, Ashley Wright, Maddie Campbell and Rachel Joyce. Lindsey and Rachel Joyce are twin sisters.

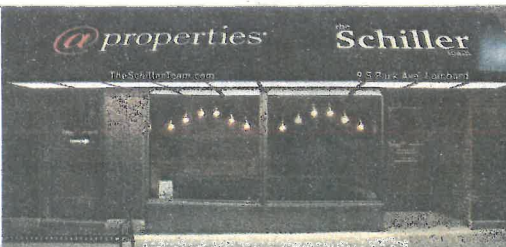
CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

LOMBARD 2017

#3 AGENT | TEAM

#1 BUYER AGENT | TEAM

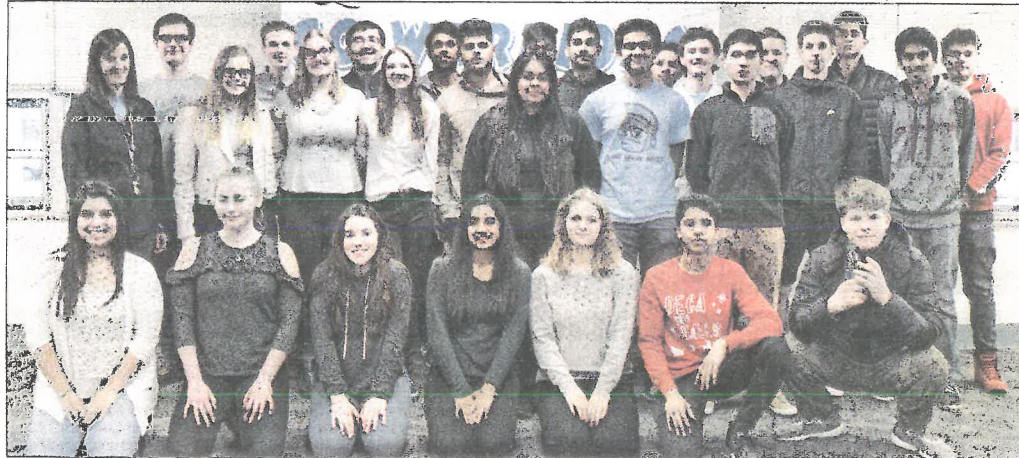
The Schiller Team stats are pulled from Broker Metrics, all property types from 1/1/2017-12/31/2017 for all team members



the  
**Schiller**  
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Villa Park students invited to take part in art contest

The Village of Villa Park has been ranked No. 8 on "Money" magazine's 2017 list of "The 10 Best Places in America to Raise a Family Now" and No. 28 on the magazine's 2017 list of "Best Places to Live in America."

Villa Park students are invited to participate in an art contest to show the in their eyes what makes the village worthy of the honors.

The artwork will be displayed during the Showcase Villa Park "Celebrate 8 and 28" event on April 28. The contest, which is hosted by the village, is open to Villa Park students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Admission will be free for art contest participants. Parents and guardians will be able to buy tickets through Celebrate8and28.Eventbrite.com. The deadline to register is April 16.

## Students go to state competition

Willowbrook High School's DECA team competed in last week's DECA state competition, known as the Illinois DECA Career Development Conference. The event took place Feb. 22-24 at Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont. DECA is a competitive club that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. The students are pictured at a state send-off celebration at Willowbrook on Feb. 22.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Students earn high finishes at tech challenge

Willowbrook seniors Christian Dublin (far left) and Matthew Seymore (second from left) earned first place at Universal Technical Institute's (UTI) High School Top Tech Challenge. The event, which took place on Feb. 15, involved hands-on and written automotive testing on vehicle parts, brakes, diagnostics and electrical systems. As the champions, Dublin and Seymore each earned a \$10,000 scholarship to UTI and a tool set. Additionally, Willowbrook received a tool set valued at over \$2,300. Senior Sean Olson (far right) and Junior Zachary Groleau (second from right) both finished in third place in the challenge. Olson and Groleau each earned a \$5,000 scholarship to UTI, and a tool set for Willowbrook valued at \$1,300.

## Conroy-sponsored legislation targets hate crimes against religion

State Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, sponsored legislation that gives courts the power to crack down on hate crimes against places of worship and increase penalties for those convicted of hate crimes. This bill went into effect Jan. 1.

"Our current political climate has seen an increase in divisive rhetoric used by politicians to push forward agendas that infringe on religious freedom. Unfortunately, this climate has fostered an increase in hate crimes targeting religious institutions," said Conroy. "As legislators, we must ensure that that perpetrators of these heinous crimes receive serious sentences and victims of these crime get the justice they deserve."

House Bill 2309 was created in response to incidents of vandalism and racist graffiti targeting houses of worship throughout Illinois. This bill allows police and prosecutors to charge criminals who target religious institutions with a hate crime.

Individuals convicted of committing hate crimes must attend in-person educational classes focused on discouraging hate crimes against the targeted group. Additionally, if community service time is court ordered, the offender must perform the service in the county in which they were convicted of the crime.

The new law also gives judges the ability to determine if an offender must compensate the victim for damages, based on the severity of the crime suffered by the victim. Parents and legal guardians would also be financially responsible for crimes committed by minors.

"The passing of this bipartisan legislation shows the people of Illinois that we are serious about protecting the religious liberties of our diverse population," said Conroy. "We will not let hate crimes become the norm in Illinois. I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that our state remains a place where people of all faiths can feel welcome and safe."



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Villa Park Review

## District 88 holds Relay For Life on March 10

One of District 88's main fundraising events is the Relay For Life of District 88 All Youth. The event is the culmination of a Willowbrook's Brook Olympics—a weeklong series of events and challenges created to enhance tradition, class spirit and pride at the school. The Relay For Life and events associated with the Brook Olympics raise funds for the American Cancer Society. This year's Relay For Life will take place on Saturday, March 10, at Willowbrook High School. This will be the district's eighth annual relay. The photo from last year's event shows cancer survivors and their caregivers

walking some of the first laps of the relay. The event is open to District 88 students and staff. It will feature yoga, dancing, basketball, volleyball, ping pong, karaoke, games, a moon jump, an iced coffee bar and more. There also will be a luminaria to remember those who have died from cancer. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/D-88RelayForLife2018> to register. Donations can be made online at that link as well, and proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. For more information, contact Relay For Life co-sponsor Kiko Achurra at [fachurra@dupage88.net](mailto:fachurra@dupage88.net) or 630-782-3102.



# Warriors finish the regular season with a win

*Team improves to 23-5; will play at this week's Class 4A Hinsdale South Regional*

The Willowbrook boys basketball team wrapped up the regular season with last week's 68-62 victory over York in Villa Park. The contest was a crossover game featuring the second-place teams in the West Suburban Gold and Silver Conferences.

Willowbrook, which finished second to Hinsdale South in the West Suburban Gold Conference standings, completed the 2017-18 regular season with an overall record of 23-5. The Warriors are one victory away from matching the program record for wins in a season. Last year's team set the new record by posting 24 victories.

The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season with this week's game against either Metea Valley or Lake Park. A victory in the playoff opener would propel Willowbrook into this Friday's regional final. The Warriors would likely play Hinsdale South. The two teams split their two meetings during the regular season, with each team winning on its home court.

In addition to finishing the regular season on a winning note, the Warriors completed an unblemished home-court effort with their Feb. 20 win over York. Willowbrook closed out the season with a 10-0 home record.

Beating York wasn't easy for the Warriors, who trailed the visiting Dukes 18-10 after the opening quarter. York increased its lead to 22-10 before Willowbrook sliced the lead to 24-23. Senior Marshawn Phillips made a pair of 3-point shots during the Warriors' 13-2 run, while junior Matas Masys made one 3-pointer. York rebuilt its lead to 38-27 with about two minutes left in the first half. Willowbrook sophomore Everett Stubblefield, who joined the varsity team in January, scored the Warriors' last five points of the first half with a 3-point shot and a 2-point shot. York led the Warriors 39-31 at halftime.

The Dukes held a 46-37 advantage midway through the third quarter, but the Warriors unleashed a 14-0 run to take a 51-46 lead. Stubblefield contributed a steal and basket early in the run. He added a 3-point shot to cut York's lead to 46-44. A steal and basket by Phillips tied the game at 46-46 with about 2:20 left in the third quarter. Stubblefield gave the Warriors a 49-46 lead when he drained a corner 3-point shot. Willowbrook led York 51-49 at the end of the third quarter.

The Dukes regained the lead after making a 3-point shot during the first minute of the fourth quarter. The Warriors then scored six straight points—two baskets by Masys and one by senior Neil Paxton—to take a 57-52 lead. York then scored five straight points to even



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review  
The Willowbrook boys basketball team completed its regular season with last week's 68-62 victory over York in Villa Park. The win gave the Warriors a record of 23-5. Sophomore Everett Stubblefield (No. 24) made six 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 24 points for the Warriors, who rallied from a 39-31 halftime deficit. Senior Marshawn Phillips (No. 11) contributed 16 points, while senior Ethan Schuemer (No. 32) tallied eight points and 12 rebounds. Willowbrook opens the post-season this week at the IHSA Class 4A Hinsdale South Regional.

the score at 57-57 with about four minutes to play.

Stubblefield gave the Warriors the lead for good when he sank a 3-point shot to break the 57-57 tie with 3:40 remaining. Phillips made a pair of free throws at the 3:15 mark to push the lead to 62-57. York cut the lead to 62-61 with about one minute to play, but a driving basket by Stubblefield pushed the Willowbrook lead back to 64-61. Phillips made four free throws during the final 30 seconds to help seal the Warriors' victory.

Stubblefield, who made six of 10 shots from 3-point range, scored a team-leading 24 points.

"He was bombing them from all

over the place," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins of Stubblefield. "He's been great since he's been up [on the varsity]. 'He's been performing on a high level.'"

Phillips, who made a pair of 3-pointers and connected on all eight of his free-throw attempts, added 16 points. Masys, who hit two 3-point shots, provided 10 points. Senior Ethan Schuemer scored eight points and grabbed a team-leading 12 rebounds.

"It was our energy and our defense that definitely turned the game around," added Perkins. "We got some steals and some deflections on defense. That gave us energy on offense."



## Rams rally to win their regular-season finale

*Team finishes with a 5-5 conference record*

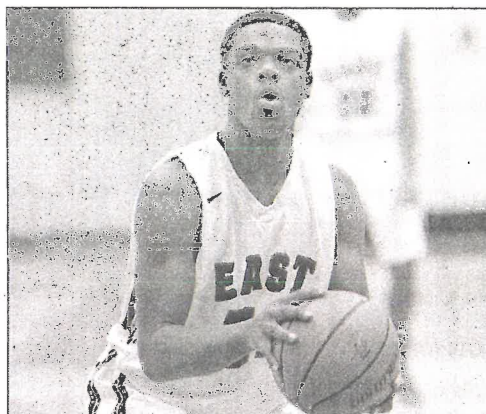
Glenbard East's boys basketball team finished the regular season with a 48-42 victory over East Aurora in last week's Upstate Eight Valley Conference game in Lombard. The Rams, who rallied from a 19-14 halftime deficit in the Feb. 21 contest, improved to 11-15 overall and 5-5 in conference play.

Glenbard East opens the IHSA Class 4A post-season with this week's game against Wheaton North at the Bartlett Regional.

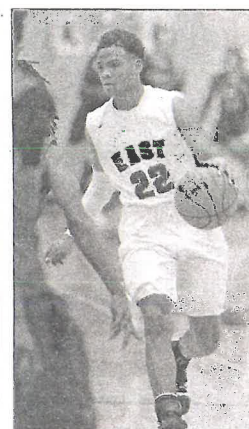
Senior James Peterkin scored a team-high 16 points for the Rams in the win over East Aurora. Peterkin scored 11 points during the third quarter, when Glenbard East outscored the Tomcats 19-13 to take a 33-32 lead with eight minutes to play. Peterkin made four baskets and sank three of four shots from the free-throw line during the third period. He made three of six foul shots during the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Alijah Nelson, who converted a pair of shots from 3-point range during the third quarter, finished the game with 10 points. Nelson made a pair of free throws in the fourth period.

Senior Korvante Davis scored six of his eight points in the final period. Davis scored one field goal and sank four of six foul shots in the fourth quarter. The Rams, who scored only one field goal in the period, made 13 of 18 free throws in the last eight minutes.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review  
The Glenbard East boys basketball team completed its regular season with last week's 48-42 Upstate Eight Valley Conference win over East Aurora. The Feb. 21 victory in Lombard gave the Rams an overall record of 11-15 and a conference mark of 5-5. Senior James Peterkin (pictured above, file photo) scored a team-leading 16 points for Glenbard East.



Sophomore Alijah Nelson (No. 22) added 10 points. The Rams open the IHSA Class 4A post-season with this week's game against Wheaton North at the Bartlett Regional.

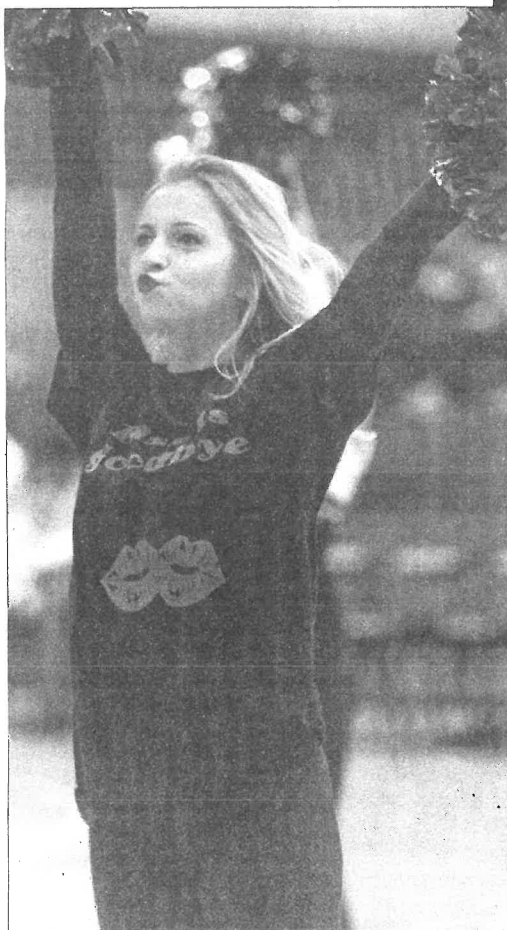
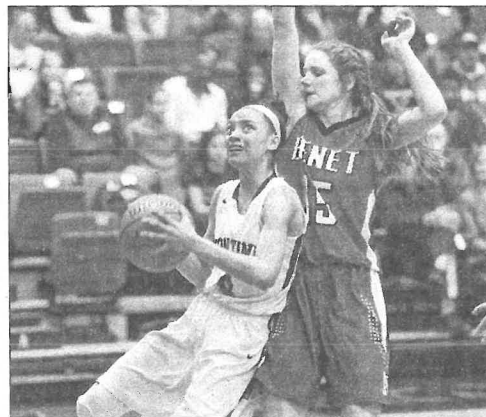




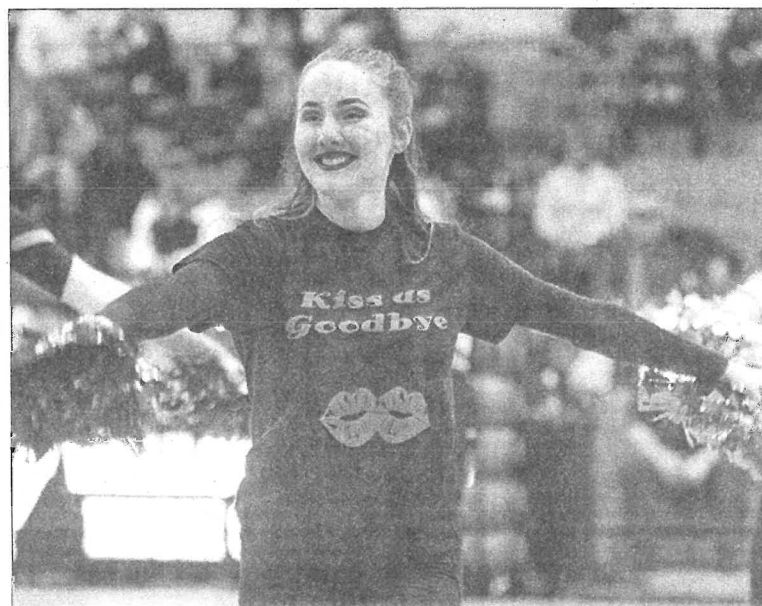
SUBMITTED PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

## Broncos win sectional title

The Montini girls basketball team won the IHSAA Class 4A Proviso West Sectional championship last week. The Broncos defeated Benet 54-31 in the sectional final, which took place Feb. 22 in Hillside. Senior Ilyse Pitts (pictured top right, No. 4) scored a team-high 17 points for the Broncos, who improved their overall record to 32-2 and advanced to this week's super-sectional game against Bolingbrook at Lewis University. Junior Samantha Mitchell (pictured at right, No. 2) added 15 points for Montini. The Broncos advanced to the sectional final with a 45-39 win over Kenwood on Feb. 20. Senior Aaliyah Patty led Montini in scoring with 12 points. Mitchell provided 11 points, while senior Lindsey Jarosinski scored nine points. A win over Bolingbrook in this week's super-sectional game would propel Montini to the IHSAA Class 4A state semifinals in Normal. The Broncos won the third-place trophy in last season's Class 4A state tournament.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review



## Final pom performance

The four seniors on Willowbrook High School's pom team performed with the team for the final time during halftime of last week's boys basketball game. The four seniors are: Lexi Wedoff (above), Lauren Lehmann (above middle), Shannon Frank (above right), and Sarah Ryan (right).

## Conroy cites inequity in insurance coverage for addiction treatment

Continuing her efforts to raise awareness about the opioid crisis and hold insurance companies accountable, state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, recently convened the House Mental Health Committee to discuss inequity in insurance coverage for addiction treatment.

"Our hearing in December reaffirmed the committee's understanding that the lack of insurance parity in Illinois is a large barrier to treatment for those who struggle with addiction," said Conroy, who chairs the committee. "It has been 10 years since the federal parity law was signed and in that time we have seen the opioid addiction reach epidemic proportions. The Illinois Department of Public Health released a report that shows that overdoses continue to rise, Narcan use is way up, and deaths continue to rise but hospital admittance is down. The lack of parity enforcement directly contributes to the rising numbers."

Both the federal government and the state of Illinois have laws in place to require insurance companies to provide the same coverage for mental health and addiction treatment as they would for any other health treatment. Even with these laws in place, expert panelists shared their struggles with insurance parity in the Illinois insurance market.

Dr. Tom Britton of the Gateway Foundation, an organization dedicated to alcohol and drug treatment, spoke about his struggles with insurance providers when trying to provide the most effective treatment plans for his patients. Critical treatments are withheld until insurance companies approve them, which can take up to 48 hours. Insurance companies can "claw-back" on services that have already been approved for coverage and require patients to pay back the cost of the services received. Luke Thomsha of the Perfectly Flawed Foundation stated that his insurance company would only cover seven days of the minimum 30 days he would need at a recovery facility to avoid relapsing.

Legislators questioned the practice of the Department of Insurance in light of a report by the Kennedy Forum, which highlights the lack of insurance compliance for mental health and addiction treatment. Of the 8,000 consumer complaints received by the department last year, only 37 were for mental health or addiction related treatments, raising concerns as to how the Department of Insurance can proactively enforce parity laws and ensure that customers who are being denied coverage are aware of their ability to file a complaint.

"It is not the patients' job to enforce the laws. That responsibility belongs to the Department of Insurance. I want to thank the Kennedy Forum for their commitment to this issue," said Conroy. "The House Mental Health Committee will continue to fight this issue and hold the Department of Insurance accountable for enforcing mental health and addiction parity. This is about the treatment and care of our brain health. Parity dictates that insurance companies treat it that same as any other health issue."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

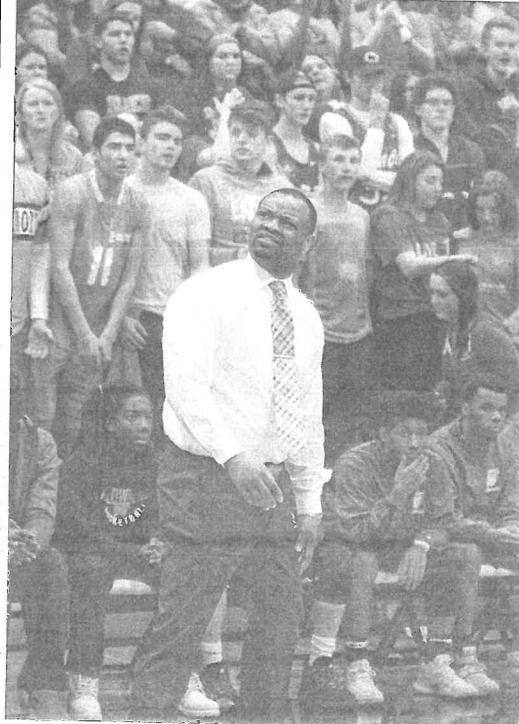
## District 88's Best for February

Willowbrook senior Brianna White (right) of Villa Park, was named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for February. White, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left), was honored at the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Feb. 26. 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. White has consistently pursued the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook. When she graduates later this year, she will have completed seven Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses, as well as several Honors courses. White has been recognized as a member of Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll during each semester of her time in high school. She is also an inductee of the National English Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, Thespians and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. White is a member of the Principal Student Leadership Team. She is also a member of the school's theater program. White has taken part in 11 productions at Willowbrook as both an actress and a stage manager. White will attend Illinois State University, where she plans to pursue a degree in biological sciences. She is considering a career as a teacher.



## Warriors win a regional title

The Willowbrook boys basketball team won an IHSA regional championship on Friday night. The Warriors defeated Hinsdale South 61-56 in overtime of Friday's IHSA Class 4A Hinsdale South Regional. Willowbrook's boys basketball program had not won a regional title since 2004. Current head coach Chris Perkins (pictured during Friday's game) was a senior on that team. "It takes a team effort for us to have this kind of success," said Perkins after Friday's victory at Hinsdale South. Perkins noted that the current members of the Willowbrook varsity team had beaten Hinsdale South (a West Suburban Gold Conference rival) in recent years, but never on the Hornets' home floor in Darien. Friday's victory sent Willowbrook to this week's Glenbard East Sectional. See the sports section for more about the Warriors' regional victory.



## Upcoming SALT meeting takes place March 14

The Villa Park Police Department will hold the next scheduled quarterly meeting for Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) on Wednesday, March 14, at the Wildwood Community Center, 320 E.

Wildwood Avenue. Residents and guests are invited to arrive at 10:30 a.m. for coffee, pastries and fellowship. The meeting, which will begin at 11 a.m., will feature a presentation from Pam Del Principe, a Young Liv-

ing Distributor.

The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will sponsor a lunch for all of the meeting's attendees. The lunch will begin immediately after the meeting.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

## Concert choir performs

Willowbrook High School's music department presented a winter choir concert in the school auditorium on Feb. 28. The concert included performances from the beginning mixed chorus, the treble choir and the concert choir. The photo shows the concert choir during its rendition of "Dubula," a folk song of the Xhosa people of Africa.



Jane Charmelo

# out & about

## School districts say student safety is highest priority

"Out and About" reached out to four area public school districts to get comments regarding the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Following are some of the responses, all of which included condolences and sympathy for those affected.

Anthony Palmisano, District 45 superintendent, stated: "Please be assured that the safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority. District 45 is grateful to have a strong partnership with the local law enforcement agencies that serve our community."

"I want to assure you that safety of our students is our top priority at Glenbard East," stated Principal Shahe Bagdasarian.

"The safety of our students and staff is our No. 1 priority in light of the recent tragic incidents at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida and Marshall County High School in Kentucky," echoed District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton.

School Board President Courtney Long related that Ted Stec, school district superintendent, in a memo to the Lombard Elementary School District 44 School Board, was slated to discuss school security at an upcoming board meeting, and indicated to the board that "security has become front and center in the education world."

"Certainly we have a commitment to safety," Long emphasized. "From a board perspective, we talk safety on a regular basis."

All four districts have plans in place that, while not outlined in specific detail for obvious reasons, are focused on preventing and/or dealing with a crisis situation.

Stated Palmisano: "We review our comprehensive crisis plans with our first responders on a regular basis and they work with us to conduct our active threat drills."

"Regular training also prepares our employees for critical responses to unthinkable situations. By Board of Education directive, the District 45 Safety Committee constantly updates our crisis plans and procedures."

"We have a comprehensive crisis plan in place to help avoid tragedies such as this," Bagdasarian said, adding, "The plan is reviewed and updated annually."

Helton mentioned that the school uses video cameras "in key places" both inside and outside of the buildings, to which local first responders



DISTRICT 88 PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton stated that Willowbrook and Addison Trail high school principals spoke to their respective staff the day after the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. He said they emphasized to staff and students that if they "see something, say something."

have access. He said the school has resource officers who are "on-duty, active officers there to work with us in our mission to maintain the security of our schools."

Additionally, he continued, the district has crisis plans that are reviewed annually with local police and fire departments, as well as ongoing drills, mock lockdowns and simulated situations they jointly conduct, including with the county's Homeland Security office.

Helton said the buildings' halls are monitored, and visitors to the district must present a driver's license, which is scanned to check for criminal background activity.

Long said that the schools in District 44 also have restrictions on visitors getting into the buildings, and that all visitors must show a valid ID and undergo the scan.

She also said that staff go through active shooter civilian response training called ALICE, or Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

And, the board president added, "We refer quite heavily with the Lombard Police Department. We defer to them as the experts."

All district officials say that in addition to building security measures, there is the interaction component that plays an important part in preventing crises.

Palmisano said District 45 works

to make sure the children "are in a safe, welcoming, loving environment when they come to school."

"At Glenbard East, we have many adults who are available for our students should they have questions or concerns," Bagdasarian stated, including the school resource officer, deans, the assistant principal for student services, and related staff, teachers and counselors.

Helton pointed out that the district promotes Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, or PBIS, which encourages students "to exemplify positive behavior and help others do the same."

"Our school psychologists, guidance counselors and deans are always available to speak with students who need guidance and support," the superintendent emphasized. "Those pupil services provide an opportunity for students to seek assistance in dealing with various difficult situations."

The high school districts also say that being observant is an important component of school safety.

"The most important component of our plan is that we strive to promote a culture where everyone has

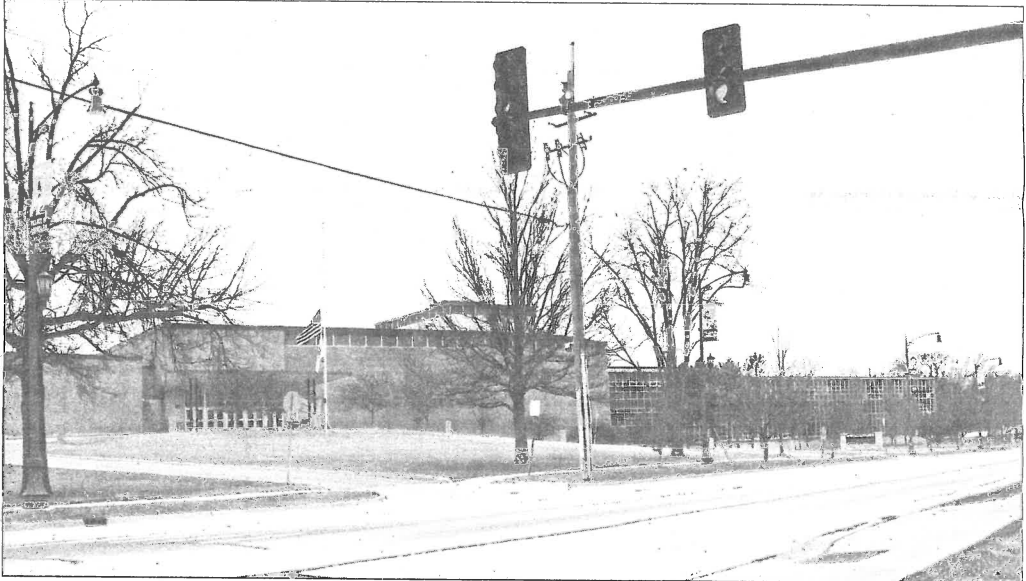
a responsibility to be vigilant and focused on safety," said Bagdasarian. "We ask that you talk with your children about the importance of sharing information, that could be considered threatening to our community, with a responsible adult."

"This includes posts that are made on social media that may be alarming or disturbing," he added, noting that the school has a confidential student tip line, 630-424-6670, which may be accessed by students and parents.

Helton said the Addison Trail and Willowbrook high school principals spoke to staff the day after the Florida high school mass shooting. They reminded staff and students to remember, "If You See Something, Say Something," which is based on a national campaign.

He emphasized the importance of "being proactive to avoid potentially dangerous situations."

Long said the District 44 superintendent "pulls principals together" on a regular basis to discuss the issue of safety within their respective buildings, and mentioned how he stated in his memo that "we will continue to be proactive instead of reactive."



One way in which Glenbard East High School (above) works with students is to make sure they have an adult with whom to talk, says Principal Shahe Bagdasarian—from teachers, counselors and administrators to the school's resource officer and school psychologist.

## Montini Catholic musicians give electrifying performance at winter concert

Montini Catholic families, friends and fans recently gathered at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church for an evening of musical entertainment, and were not disappointed.

Under the direction of Musical

Directors, Belford Hernandez and Matthew Loeb, Montini students gave a performance that was later deemed as "electrifying."

Montini's Freshman Choir, Concert Choir, Varsity Singers, Cham-

ber Choir, Treble Makers, Acafellas and Concert Band gave outstanding performances while the Symphonic Band brought down the house with their unique performance of "Pass the Peas" and "Spain."

The evening also rounded-out with performances by Montini's special invited guests, members of the St. Pius X Parish School choir. Under the direction of Music Director, Kirsten Currie Tait, the group of tal-

ented, young grade schoolers didn't miss a beat as they held their own on stage with performances including "Dona Nobis Pacem" and "10,000 Reasons to Bless the Lord."

"We were so happy to have our friends at St. Pius join us as our special guest," said Hernandez. "They did an awesome job and should be very proud of themselves."

Hernandez and Loeb also presented a special thank you gift to

Jack Lanenga, executive director of operations at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church. The Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra (ESO) was also acknowledged and thanked for graciously allowing the use of their chairs and stands. (The ESO is the resident orchestra at the church.)

Montini's music students showcase their talents four times per year at their annual fall, Christmas, winter and spring concerts.

5	4	1	6	8	7	2	3	9
2	9	6	1	3	4	7	5	8
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4	1	5	8	9	2	3	7	6
8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	2
6	3	2	7	1	5	8	9	4
9	5	8	2	7	1	4	6	3
1	2	4	3	5	6	9	8	7
7	6	3	9	4	8	1	2	5

## Chicago woman charged with stealing from Victoria's Secret

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin announced last week that burglary charges have been filed against a Chicago woman alleging she stole merchandise from the Victoria's Secret store in Stratford Square Mall located in Bloomingdale.

Latasha Garrett, 25, appeared at a bond hearing where Judge Liam Brennan released her on a \$30,000 recognizance bond. She has been charged with one count of burglary, a Class 2 felony.

It is alleged that on Feb. 28, at approximately 5:14 p.m., Garrett, along with several accomplices, entered the Victoria's Secret with the intent to commit a theft. It is further alleged that once inside the store, Garrett and her accomplices took numerous items totaling \$2,313.45 and exited the store without paying for the items.

An investigation conducted by the Bloomingdale Police Department led to Garrett who was pulled over on a traffic stop approximately 30 minutes later.

"According to the National Retail Federation, in 2016, shoplifting cost businesses in the United States \$17.8 billion in losses," Berlin said. "When you do the math that comes to nearly \$49 million every day. These losses, which obviously present a tremendous hardship to retail establishments, are ultimately passed on to consumers."

The investigation into the matter continues. Anyone with information is asked to call the Bloomingdale Police Department at (630) 529-9868. Garrett's next court appearance is scheduled for April 16 for arraignment in front of Judge Liam Brennan.



# Sports

LOMBARDIAN  
VILLA PARK REVIEW

## Breakthrough! Willowbrook claims a regional title

Overtime victory over Hinsdale South gives Warriors their first regional victory since 2004



Senior Ethan Schuemer (No. 32) scored 26 points and made 16 rebounds in Friday's contest.

By Chris Fox  
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW  
STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook boys basketball program earned a breakthrough victory on Friday night. Playing in hostile territory, the Warriors outlasted one of their fiercest rivals to win a regional championship.

Willowbrook won its first boys basketball regional title since 2004 when it pulled out a 61-56 overtime victory over Hinsdale South on Friday on the Hornets' home court. The win at the IHSA Class 4A regional in Darien propelled the Warriors to this week's Glenbard East Sectional in Lombard. Willowbrook is facing Naperville North in this week's sectional semifinal battle.

In addition to winning their first regional title in 14 years, the Warriors set a program record for victories in a season when they beat the Hornets on Friday. Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 25-5 with the victory. Last season's team, which posted a 24-5 record, set a new record for victories in a season.

"We pulled it out when it mattered most," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after Friday's win. Perkins was a senior stand-out on the Warriors team that won the regional title in 2004. He was thrilled to end the program's 14-year drought.

"This senior group, they've accomplished everything from winning Thanksgiving tournaments, Christmas tournaments, Martin Luther King tournaments, to a conference title [in the 2016-17 season]. The last thing we needed, the icing on the cake, was a regional title. We got it today. I'm real proud of the guys and all the hard work they put in."

The Warriors and Hornets figured to wage a spirited battle in Friday's post-season contest, which was played in front of boisterous supporters of both teams. The two rivals split their meetings during the West Suburban Gold Conference season. The Warriors won the first meeting, prevailing 61-53 on Dec. 15 in Villa Park. Hinsdale South won the rematch on Feb. 2 in Darien by a score of 69-63.

Hinsdale South won this season's West Suburban Gold Conference title with a 10-2 conference mark. The Warriors placed second with a 9-3 record. That runner-up finish in the conference standings didn't matter much when Willowbrook accepted the regional championship plaque on Friday.

The Warriors held a lead through most of Friday's regional final. Willowbrook built a 32-24 halftime lead and held a 36-27 advantage with just over four minutes left in the third quarter. Hinsdale South cut the Warriors' lead to 40-36 by the end of the third quarter.

Junior Matas Masys drained a 3-point shot to give Willowbrook a 45-40 lead with about six min-



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook's boys basketball team won the IHSA Class 4A Hinsdale South Regional title on Friday night. The Warriors beat Hinsdale South 61-56 in overtime in the regional final. Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 25-5 and advanced to this week's Class 4A Glenbard East Sectional. Pictured above is junior Matas Masys (No. 21), who scored 13 points.

utes left in the fourth quarter. The Warriors didn't score during the next three minutes, and the Hornets evened the game at 45-45 by hitting one free throw with 2:43 to play in regulation.

Willowbrook senior Matt Myers, who had not scored in the game, buried a 3-point shot to give his team a 48-45 lead with 1:50 left in the fourth quarter. Myers would deliver another huge score later in the evening.

Senior Ethan Schuemer, who would finish the night with team-leading totals of 26 points and 16 rebounds, scored an inside layup to give Willowbrook a 50-46 lead with less than 40 seconds remaining in the fourth period. Hinsdale South sank a 3-pointer about 10 seconds later to cut the Warriors' lead to 50-49. Masys then made a pair of free throws to raise Willowbrook's lead to 52-49 with 18.8 seconds left in the period.

Moments later, after Hinsdale South failed to convert a 3-point shot, Schuemer went to the foul line with 6.4 seconds left in regulation. He missed the bonus free throw. The Hornets grabbed the rebound, moved the ball down the court and made a 3-point shot from the corner to tie the game. Several Hinsdale South fans poured onto the court to celebrate the clutch

shot, which sent the game into a four-minute overtime period.

"I was just thinking we've got four minutes to play," said Masys in describing his reaction to the Hinsdale South shot that sent the game to overtime. "I think it was our defense that came through. We stuck together, we fought as a team, and it feels so good. This group of guys, we wanted to do this so badly."

The Hornets rode the momentum of their buzzer beater at the end of regulation by scoring the first four points of the overtime period to take a 56-52 lead. The Warriors appeared to be in big trouble, but they responded with a 9-0 run to close out the game.

"You hope it doesn't change the momentum, and it did for a second," said Perkins of Hinsdale South's game-tying shot. "They came out and scored right away in the overtime. But our guys, they've played in a ton of big games. The greatest attribute for them, I think, is keeping their composure. We kept fighting and fighting, and we found a way."

Schuemer's inside basket cut the Hinsdale South lead to 56-54 with 2:24 to play. Myers then delivered his second huge offensive play of the game—a 3-point play that pushed Willowbrook to a 57-56 lead with 35.2 seconds to play.

"I like pressure moments," said Myers after Friday's regional final, which came four weeks after the Warriors lost their regular-season game at Hinsdale South. "After that game [on Feb. 2] our coach said we were probably going to meet these guys in the playoffs. We expected this."

The Hornets missed their next shot, and Schuemer grabbed the rebound. Senior Neil Paxton of the Warriors made a pair of free throws with 14.3 seconds left to extend Willowbrook's lead to 59-56. Paxton sealed the victory when he added two more free throws with 2.4 seconds to play.

Schuemer scored his team-high



Senior Matt Myers (No. 20) is shown launching 3-point shot that broke a tie during the fourth quarter.

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# Broncos make things interesting before falling in regional final

By Mike Sandrolini  
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW  
STAFF REPORTER

Top-seeded Burlington Central appeared to have its Aurora Central Catholic Class 3A contest against Montini sewed up on two occasions Friday night.

The Rockets opened up a 60-38 advantage late in the third quarter. Then, following a steal and slam dunk by 6-1 senior guard Zach Schutta (25 points), the Rockets led 68-52 at the 6:24 mark of the final period.

Yet despite falling behind—add to that leading scorers Matthew Morrissey playing with four fouls and Anthony Thompson going scoreless the entire game—the Broncos made things interesting down the stretch before succumbing to the Rockets, 89-78.

Guards Jemari Harris and Scott West combined for 22 fourth-quarter

points. A sequence during which West converted a three-point play, followed by Morrissey sinking two free throws courtesy of a technical foul, and then Harris scoring off a drive, suddenly put the Broncos with nine points, 70-61.

Morrissey fouled out shortly thereafter, but the Broncos weren't finished.

A West steal led to a Harris layup with 1:16 to go, and the Broncos trailed 81-74. Montini Catholic again cut the margin to seven points (83-76) 21 seconds later. But Schutta, Burlington Central's all-time leading scorer, nailed four straight free throws in the final minute to finally put the game out of reach and give the Rockets (27-4) a regional championship after losing in the title game each of the past two seasons.

"They're the champions, they're the No. 1 seed," said Montini head

coach Daryl Thomas afterward. "They showed it tonight. We've got a lot of work to do in order to get to that position. Our guys learned something tonight from this."

"Every day I always tell these kids, 'You never know who needs to step up to help us.' Jamari came in and did a great job; Kai Evans, the freshman, played outstanding. Scott West played out of his mind. It was really, really great to see that, but at the same time, we've got a lot of work to do to get to that point."

The Rockets faced Johnsburg at the Woodstock North sectional on Tuesday.

"You score 78 points in a high school game, you should be able to win it, but they came out and showed why they're the No. 1 seed," said Thomas, whose squad finished 17-11. "Kudos to them; they did everything they were supposed to do."

We gave it our best shot and they sustained."

Morrissey, a 6-5 senior, finished with a team-high 18 points and had six rebounds prior to fouling out.

"Matt was a blessing," Thomas said. "He came to us through football and he just carried us over the last couple of years. This last season, he was outstanding. He was our heart and soul and we'll truly miss him. I really wish we could have continued his career here a little bit longer, but I wish him all the best and I'm going to do whatever I can to help him go forward."

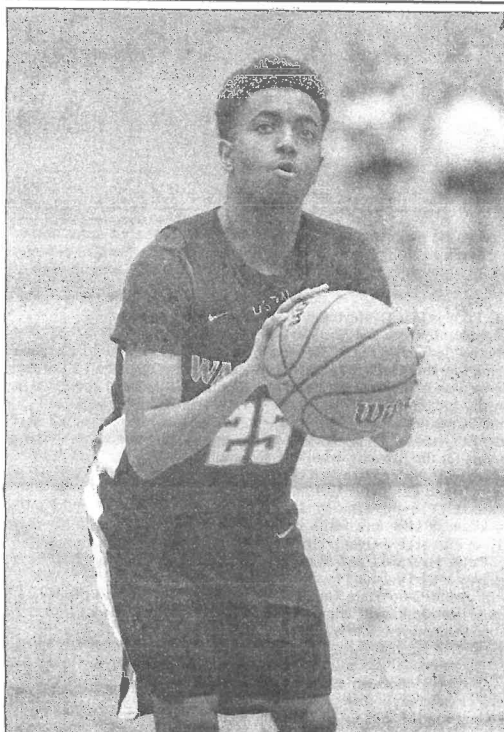
Harris tallied 13 of his 15 points while West netted 9 of his 11 points in the fourth quarter. Although Morrissey and Yousuf Mitchell will be huge graduation losses, Harris and West, along with Thompson, 6-5 forward Fred Stokes (15 points, 9 rebounds), Evans (10 points) and

6-5 sophomore Jeremiah Banks-Wall return for the 2018-19 campaign. Harris, West, Thompson and Stokes are juniors.

"The future does look bright, but I kind of live in the moment. I want it now," Thomas said with a smile. "Maybe I'm a little greedy or a little selfish, but I really wish we could have got this one. Our lower levels are doing really well. Our freshman team only lost two games; our sophomores only lost four. We had four freshmen on the sophomore team and I had a freshman up on the varsity."

The Rockets marched out to a 14-3 first-quarter lead, led 22-14 at quarter's end and 42-30 at the break.

"We can't give up spurts like that," Thomas said. "Good teams are going to come out and make runs and you've got to sustain those runs, and we didn't tonight."



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Senior Neil Paxton (No. 25) made four free throws in the last 14.3 seconds of the overtime period. The Warriors last won a regional boys basketball title in 2004, when current head coach Chris Perkins was a senior.

## • Title (Continued from page 12)

26 points—the Warriors' highest individual scoring game of the season—by making 11 of 19 field-goal attempts and four of nine free throws. He grabbed eight offensive rebounds and eight defensive rebounds.

"It's unreal," said Schuemer during the post-game celebration, which featured a large contingent of Willowbrook students, who watched as the Warriors cut down the net to mark their post-season success. "Hinsdale South has been our biggest rival. To win at their gym, it's unbelievable."

Masys, who made three shots from 3-point range, finished the night with 13 points. Paxton contributed eight points, while Myers scored six points. Senior Sikander Zafar provided eight rebounds.

Willowbrook opened the post-season with a 71-46 win over Metea Valley on Feb. 28 in Darien. Schuemer scored 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Warriors, who held a 35-14 halftime lead. Myers added 15 points, while Masys scored 14 points. The Warriors were no doubt pleased to open the playoffs with a lopsided victory. One year ago, they lost their post-season opener, falling to conference rival Addison Trail in a regional semifinal game in Batavia.

"Last year's loss early in the playoffs killed us," said Masys. "We just didn't want that to happen again."

## Rams end season by losing their post-season opener

### Team finishes at 11-16

The Glenbard East boys basketball team's season ended with last week's 45-42 loss to Wheaton North at the IHSA Class 4A Bartlett Regional. The Rams finished their season with an overall record of 11-16. Sophomore Aijah Nelson scored a team-leading

16 points for the Rams, who trailed Wheaton North 37-31 at the end of the third quarter. Sophomore DaRon Hall, who made a pair of 3-point shots, added 10 points. Senior James Peterkin added nine points. Wheaton North's season ended one day later with a 53-37 loss to Wheaton Warrenville South in a regional semifinal game.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

## A championship season

The Future Rams eighth-grade boys basketball team won both regular-season and tournament championships during its recently concluded season. The team posted a perfect regular-season record of 18-0 in the DuPage Youth Travel Basketball League's Silver East Division. The Future Rams then won three straight games to win last month's league tournament in Naperville. The team beat the Wheatland Wizards 75-45 in the tournament's championship game. The Future Rams completed their season with an overall record of 26-4. Members of the team (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Adrian Bellezza, Trevor Burnett and Jordan Rech; (back row) Daniel Weimers, Mark Koumoundouros, Colin Murphy, assistant coach Tom Borosak, Matthew Schager, head coach Tyler Spears, Sam Akouri, Dylan Crowe, Ryan Junior and Ian Clarke.

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## 'We Are Change': Hundreds of Chicago-Area Students Hold Court With Officials Over Gun Control, School Safety

By Chris Hush

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In light of the Florida school shooting, local students are taking action in the event of a tragedy. Hundreds gathered on Monday to go over ways to protect themselves. NBC 5's Chris Hush reports.

(Published Monday, March 12, 2018)

Many school administrators can't recall too many times when entire student bodies came together on one issue. On Monday, hundreds of students had open ears and an audience ready to listen.

High school students from around the Chicago area told their school administrators, police chiefs, lawmakers and peers what change they want to see. Around 400 students from 30 Chicago-area schools spoke out under one roof at Willowbrook High School. The students are a part of a growing movement since the mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida last month.

"We are students," one teen said. "We will be voters. We are change."

Another student said schools need more drills to help students stay safe.

"We don't have active shooter drills, we don't know what it's like if we're stuck in a hallway or during a passing period," another said.

"We are at the point where we want to be heard," Willowbrook High School student Sebastian Berlin said. "We don't want to wait anymore. We're tired. We're fed up."

Adriana gutierrez/addison trail high school student

"I feel bad that it had to have another tragedy for me to speak up," said Adriana Gutierrez, an Addison Trail High School student. "I just don't want it that, it has to hit home in order for our voices to be heard."

Their audience--all adults and in positions of power--were listening. That included Sen. Tom Cullerton.

"I hesitate to use the words kids," Cullerton said. "If you saw their forum today, these weren't kids talking, these were actual involved citizens."



Daniel krause/principal, willowbrook high school

"Whenever you give 14- to 17-year-olds an opportunity to have a piece of the conversation they will always surpass our expectations.

From gun control and mental health, to arming teachers--their audience responded--even to the toughest questions.

"I just don't know that we're at a place where arming teachers is a great answer to this situation right now," Villa Park police Chief Mike Lay said to student applause.

What's next?

Anything is possible now that their voices are being heard, the students say.

"A month ago we weren't expecting ourselves to be in this situation," Berlin said. "In the one span of the one month we've had from parkland to now, look at what we've done."

The forum came just days before a planned nationwide school walkout on the anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Flordia.

Many schools, but not all, are supporting--though not promoting--the walkout, as long as it's done peacefully.

**Find this article at:**

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/willowbrook-high-school-chicago-students-gun-forum-476592113.html>

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