



SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Independent
 [top left photo]: Addison Trail parent Mike Green (left) presents Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden with challenge coins during Addison Trail's Veterans Day Luncheon on Nov. 9 to display at the school. Last year, Green presented Addison Trail and Willowbrook with relics from the USS Arizona (12-by-12-inch pieces of the deckhouse), a battleship that was sunk during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Green also gave the schools a copy of the book "All the Gallant Men" signed by co-author and USS Arizona survivor Donald Stratton, who is his stepfather. [top right photo]: Veterans and Addison Trail students who plan to serve in the military pose by the school's USS Arizona display during the luncheon. [left photo]: Veterans and Addison Trail students who plan to serve in the military view displays with photos and items of veterans with a connection to Addison Trail or the Village of Addison.

District 88 Schools salute Veterans Day

On Nov. 9, Addison Trail and Willowbrook welcomed veterans and first responders in honor of Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

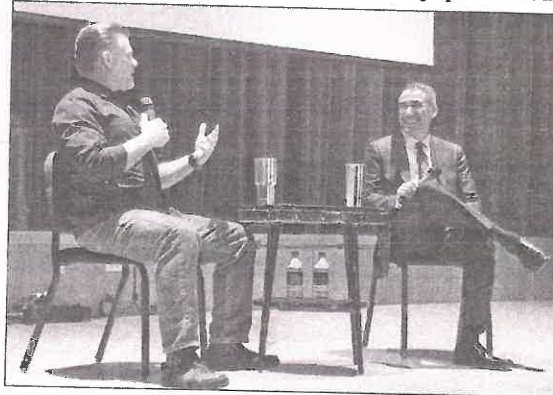
At Willowbrook, an assembly took place to recognize Veterans Day, and military veterans and U.S. Army staff sergeants attended the event. During the assembly, Willowbrook alumnus (class of 1989) and military veteran Nick Kozak was the keynote speaker.

Kozak was active duty in the U.S. Army and now serves in the Army National Guard Special Forces. He shared his journey of going from a student to an Eagle Scout to an Army paratrooper to an Army Guardsman to a police officer. A video highlighting Kozak's training

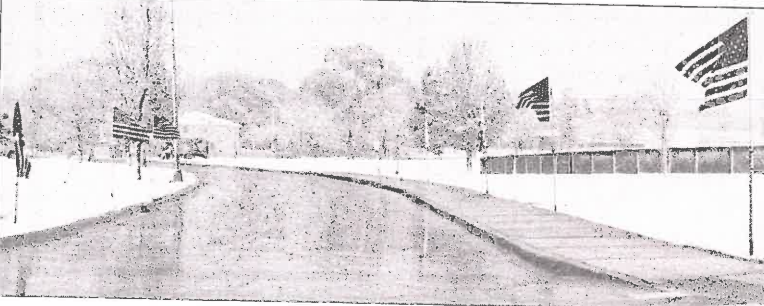
and travels – including his experiences jumping/parachuting – was shown, and he answered questions from students. American flags also lined the entryway to the school.

Addison Trail invited members of the Addison Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7446 and other veterans, as well as the Addison Police Department and the Addison Fire Protection District, to a luncheon. Participants watched a video and saw a display in the media center that featured photos and items of veterans with a connection to Addison Trail or the Village of Addison.

Both schools also recognized current students who plan to serve in the military.



[top row photos, left and right]: Willowbrook Social Worker Erik Engel (right) speaks with WB alumnus (class of 1989) and military veteran Nick Kozak during the school's Veterans Day Assembly on Nov. 9. [bottom left photo]: American flags line the entryway to Willowbrook in honor of Veterans Day. [bottom right photo]: WB Principal Dr. Daniel Krause greets the audience during the school's Veterans Day Assembly.





SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Independent

Dr. Daniel Krause, Willowbrook Principal, is pictured on the left. Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden is on the right.

District 88 recognizes National Principals Month

During its Oct. 29 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education adopted a resolution recognizing October as National Principals Month and thanked Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden and Willowbrook Principal Dr. Daniel Krause, along with their teams, for their leadership and vision. As administrators, they put in countless hours to continue to improve District 88 and build futures for students.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the American Federation of School Administra-

tors designate October as National Principals Month to honor the hard work and dedication of America's school leaders. This year's celebration culminated with Principal Appreciation Week from Oct. 21 to 27 and Principal Appreciation Day on Oct. 26 in Illinois.

The State of Illinois and the villages of Addison, Lombard and Villa Park provided proclamations to recognize the event. A video was played during the meeting that featured messages of support that were displayed on marquees and signs throughout the communities, as well as words of appreciation from students.

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Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden is Addison Trail senior Gianna Caruso, who has been named as the school's October recipient of 88's Best recognition

Addison Trail names October recipient of 88's Best recognition

Gianna Caruso has been named as Addison Trail's October recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Caruso, a senior, was recognized during the Oct. 29 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

Since her freshman year, Caruso has challenged herself by taking the most rigorous courses available at Addison Trail.

When she graduates, Caruso will have 10 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses and 16 Honors courses on her transcript, currently with all As.

"Caruso's ability to be top-notch in both school and her activities is quite remarkable," said Guidance Counselor Dana Marine. "In addition to being intelligent and involved, Caruso's maturity, drive and personality also are impressive. She takes initiative to get things done, is a self-starter and has clear goals. I can't wait to hear about all of her college options and her future accomplishments."

Not only does Caruso excel academically, she also has taken full advantage of the extracurricular options offered to her in the form of coursework and afterschool activities. Her two commitments that stand out are her participation in music and theatre. Caruso is a member of the Wind Ensemble, the highest level of band at Addison Trail, as well as the Jazz Band. She plays tenor saxophone, but also can play other saxophones, clarinet and piano. She recently was named as an Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-District Musician for the ILMEA All-District Band and is one of the drum majors at Addison Trail for the 2018-19 school year.

"I have known Caruso since she was in junior high, and I have always been impressed by her work ethic," said Mark Corey, Band Director and Music Department Head. "She is a very hard worker, who has earned

every accolade she has received through determination, focus and drive. She also has great perspective, and when faced with adversity or outcomes that are not what she desired, the experience only further cements her drive to succeed and work harder. Caruso is one of those rare students who embraces fully what we are presenting in music and is a great example of who you can become when you have the courage to explore your potential."

Caruso also has shown her leadership in her other favorite activity, theatre. She has loved meeting all of the different people and learning from their experiences and has cherished the team aspect of theatre.

"Caruso is amazing," said Theatre Director and English teacher Anna McSweeney. "She has grown so much during the past three years and is very deserving of this award. I love that she has developed a sense of independence, and she often takes initiative. This summer, she and some other seniors ran our summer camp. She is extremely dependable; I know I can look to her as a model for underclassmen."

Outside of those activities, Caruso also is involved with Pay It Forward (an event for incoming students, which includes a Freshman Orientation component), Key Club, Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society, National Honor Society and Student Council. She has had various leadership positions in those groups, including serving as President of Theatre Board, Co-President of National Honor Society, Historian of Tri-M Board and a CORE leader for Pay It Forward.

Caruso plans to apply to Purdue University, University of Wisconsin-Madison and The University of Iowa. Caruso isn't quite sure what her major will be yet, as she has a variety of interests, from engineering to psychology.

Republicans take a beating on Election night

Hinds, Nybo out; Cronin wins in a squeaker

By Dee Longfellow
FOR THE INDEPENDENT

It was a sad night at the Elmhurst Elks Club, where DuPage County Republicans gathered to watch the results of the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

At the federal level, Democrat Mike Quigley who represents the 5th Congressional District, which includes Elmhurst, handily won re-election with 14,518* votes over Republican Tom Hanson who received 12,687.* In the 8th Congressional District, which includes Villa Park, Addison and other communities in the Independent readership area, the popular Raja Krishnamoorthi (D) garnered 47,097 votes over Jitendra Diganvker (R) who received 28,207.

Local Republicans were also watching the race in the 6th Districts, as Peter Roskam (R), who represented the Elmhurst area prior to the redistricting, lost to Sean Casten (D), who got 87,336 to Roskam's 73,770.

Dems sweep the State

At the State level, Democrats swept the top seats of Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Comptroller and State Treasurer. Democrat Jesse White, who has served five terms as Secretary of State received 65.5% of the vote in DuPage County to claim a 6th term over challengers Jason Helland (R) and Steve Dutner (L).

In the 23rd State Senatorial District, Democrat Tom Cullerton of Villa Park garnered almost 55% percent of the vote over Republican challenger Seth Lewis, beating him 36,605 to 30,508.

In the 24th Senate District, Elm-

hurst Republican Chris Nybo was neck-and-neck with Democrat Suzanne Glowiak right up to the finish in a race that was so close, it ended with a call for a recount. On Election night, Glowiak was ahead of Nybo by just 227 votes, prompting the recount. In the end, Nybo conceded after the vote count left him behind Glowiak 47,405 to 47,087, or 318 votes. Nybo issued a release announcing his concession to his constituency.

In the race for State Representative in the 46th District, Democrat Deb Conroy was re-elected to another term with slightly more than 58% of the vote over Gordon Kinzler (R). The vote was 17,885 to 12,848.

In the 47th District, the numbers of Deanne Mazzochi (R) and James Caffrey (D) were very close all evening, until later when Mazzochi pulled ahead, beating Caffrey 24,002 to 22,000.

In the 48th District, Republican Peter Breen lost to Democrat Terra Costa Howard who drew 25,609 votes over Breen's 22,776.

In the 77th District, which includes Addison and Bensenville, State Rep. Kathleen Willis (D) easily won re-election by a 2-1 margin over Anthony Airdo (R).

Eye on DuPage County

At the County level, Republican spectators on Election night watched a nail-biter as County Board Chairman Dan Cronin was slightly behind Lynn LaPlante (D) most of the evening until the end when Cronin pulled ahead, eventually winning 178,470 to 167,923.

County Sheriff James Mendrick (R) held on to his seat over challenger Gregory Whalen by a vote of 176,350 to 167,836.

In a stunner, DuPage County Clerk and leader in the DuPage Republican Party Paul Hinds fell to Democrat Jean Kaczmarek 179,518 to 164,658.

In County Board District #1, Sam

Tornatore (R) and Ashley Selmon (D) were the top vote-getters over Dino Gavanis (R) and Zahra Suratwala (D).

In County Board District #2, Elizabeth Chaplin (D) was re-elected, garnering more than 40% of the vote. The second spot in District #2 went to Pete DiCianni over Steve Nero, who are both Republicans. DiCianni received about 32% of the vote and Nero took just over 26%.

The other County Board Districts were dominated by Democrats in Districts #3, #4, and #5. While Republican Jim Zay was the top vote-getter in District #6, the second spot went to Democrat Sheila Rutledge.

Joe Cantore (R) was re-elected President of the DuPage County Forest Preserve, but it was another close race to watch as he beat Daniel Hebreard (D) 173,400 to 170,269.

County, Township propositions

The three propositions placed on the ballot by DuPage County received resounding 'Yes' votes, although they were advisory only (which means voters provided their opinion on the issues, but did not vote them into law). Area residents voted that the County Board should: 1) oppose a property tax increase to help retire the state debt; 2) oppose a mileage tax; and, 3) continue to reduce and consolidate redundant units of government.

In Addison Township, the Proposition Representation Aviation and the Homestead Exemption Proposition both were both approved by 92% and 86% of the vote, respectively.

York Township had a question on the ballot about supporting initiatives to address climate change, which resulted in 75% of voters saying 'Yes.'

(*These numbers were current according to the DuPage County Election Commission as of 11/9/18 at 5:49 PM. At press time, all results remained unofficial.)

Addison community calendar

Saturday, Nov. 17

• Park District gears up for Turkey Trot 5K, Drumstick Dash

The Addison Park District is busy preparing for the annual Turkey Trot 5K and Drumstick Dash on Nov. 17 at Centennial Park. The 5K steps off at 8 a.m. The Drumstick Dash for ages 3-12 years old will begin at 8:45 a.m.

The fee to enter the 5K is \$25 for an individual or \$20 per person for a family. (Proof of residency required.) Drumstick Dash entry fee is \$15 per child.

Participants in the Turkey Trot 5K must predict their estimated time for completing the 5K race. The overall male and female participant that is closest to their predicted time wins a Thanksgiving meal kit (\$25 gift card, turkey, stuffing and a pumpkin pie).

Please note: The Turkey Trot will

not be chip-timed and timing gadgets such as fitness watches, etc., will not be allowed. All prediction times must be an hour or less, otherwise run times will not be eligible toward prize winnings.

Pre-registration is encouraged, however day-of registration will be available starting at 6:45 a.m. All pre-registered participants will receive a sweatshirt and a participation medal.

Sponsors of this year's Turkey Trot and Drumstick Dash include Oxford Bank and Shoeless Joe's Ale House & Grille. A portion of the proceeds from the race will go to the Henry Hyde Resource Center.

• VFW Post #7446 plans Ham and Turkey Spin

From 4-8 p.m., the Addison VFW Post 7446 at 446 W. Lake St. will hold its annual Ham & Turkey Spin. The

menu will include turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy and dressing, corn, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, dessert and coffee. Tickets are \$9 per person, \$8 for seniors. For more information, call 630-628-9804.

Ongoing events

• Get your high school diploma

The Addison Public Library is now offering adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online through a new program, Career Online High School (COHS). The library is providing a limited number of free scholarships to qualified adult learners who are looking to advance their careers, prepare for workforce entry, or continue their education.

You must live in Addison and be 21 or older.

Call 630-458-3334 or visit addisonlibrary.org.

SPORTS

Movers and shakers Emmanuel Chavez and Matthew Knudtson make the Willowbrook football lines go

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Coach after football coach will say games are won in the trenches.

The Willowbrook football team, which advanced to the state quarterfinals for a third year in a row, has two leaders this season advancing the charge on both sides of the line in senior three-year varsity players Emmanuel Chavez and Matthew Knudtson.

Chavez and Knudtson helped Willowbrook win its first 11 games of the season (becoming the school's first undefeated 11-0 team since the mid-1970s), win another West Suburban Conference Gold Division title and get to the final eight teams in the state for a third season in a row.

"You never hear their names, but they make us go," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth.

Chavez and Knudtson are part of a Willowbrook offensive unit that was averaging almost 400 yards a game through the team's first 11 contests (2,274 on the ground and 2,125 through the air).

"Our offensive line is solid," said Chavez, who plays right tackle on offense and defensive tackle.

"We all know our stuff. We're a little smaller this year, but we are quicker. We run our tempo well against other teams. We are well-conditioned."

Knudtson added: "The past couple years we have really bonded as a group. We have a lot of fun. We're a bunch of buddies and our main goal is to protect Sam. We're really close with him as well."

Sam would be standout Willowbrook quarterback Sam Tumilty, who had throws for 2,125 yards and 26 touchdowns (3 interceptions) through 11 games, while running for 1,241 more yards and 16 touchdowns.

"Our pass protection is good," Chavez said. "We can hold the pocket real well and not let much penetration through. Sam pulls us through a lot of the time. When we get into tough situations he brings us together in the huddle and makes sure we are in the right positions. When that pocket does collapse, he finds a way through to always gain yards."

"We take a lot of pride in our pass blocking," said Knudtson, who plays left guard on offense and nose tackle and defensive tackle on the other side of the ball. "We don't want Sam getting hurt. We will do whatever we can to make sure that never happens. It's why we've been so successful. We have a lot of pride on the offensive line. We know we can trust the guy next to (us). If you slide over, you know someone has your gap and you know they are picking up blitzes. If you do mess up, you know there is a guy there to pick you up and help you out. If I go left, I know the guy next to me is doing his job just as hard."

Chavez said proper conditioning has helped the Warriors, with numerous two-way players, separate itself from the pack.

"The whole team is conditioned well," he said. "We like to run our tempo against teams and get that upper hand and see who comes out on top. The conditioning helps a ton. Sometimes you do get tired, but when you condition a lot it helps. In practice, we value our running."

Knudtson added: "We do have a lot of guys who play both ways and we knew we have to challenge ourselves to be the toughest. We know we have to be more conditioned than other teams and we know we

"We've definitely put a lot into this season. We don't give up. If we make a mistake, we just expect to do better on the next play. We don't take any plays off and we trust each other. We go full-out every down and every snap."

—Matthew Knudtson

have to push harder and push the tempo even faster. We are able to keep pace because of how hard we work and how much we put into conditioning."

On defense, Willowbrook allowed just 116 points through 11 games.

"We've definitely put a lot into this season," said Knudtson. "We don't give up. If we make a mistake, we just expect to do better on the next play. We don't take any plays off and we trust each other. We go full-out every down and every snap."

Knudtson remembers back to his sophomore season on the varsity. "It feels like a long time ago," he said. "I was always trying to prove myself. I looked up to those guys and worked hard to be one of those guys. I did my best to help keep the season going for as long as I could for them. I was part of that group and part of those guys. I was accepted into a bigger family like a little brother, but I felt just as important. They depended on me just as much as I depended on them."

Knudtson noted he's played football with Chavez dating back to the seventh grade. "It's been five years with him," he said. "He's one of my best friends. He's a really good guy. No matter what the situation is, win or lose, he always has your back, no matter what. We were freshmen on the sophomore team four years ago. It's nice to have him with me. We like to tackle new challenges together."

Chavez tipped his cap to Hildreth and the Willowbrook coaching staff. "Ever since Hildreth took over we've seen so much success," he said.

Chavez noted the team also has been driven in part by doubt. "When nobody expects us to do what we have done, that's what drives us—the doubt," he said. "That's why we work hard and why we are out here winning games."

Knudtson added: "Three years ago we were 6-3 and nobody expected us to make the quarterfinals. We did that and then last year we won our first conference title in 35 years and now we are the first team to go undefeated in the school since 1975. Each year we keep building on our accomplishments."

But the overreaching factor in the team's success, Chavez noted, is the bond the players have formed.

"We've had so many great experiences together," he said. "Every player has been able to experience this with their teammates because of the bonding we have. It's a nice thing."

Addison Trail boys cross-country team makes strides

AT-Willowbrook places two girls in state swim meet

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

A youthful Addison Trail boys cross-country team made significant strides this fall.

The Blazers took fifth in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division. Senior Randy Almarales and sophomore Dylan Moran qualified for the sectional as individuals.

"Randy and Dylan ran amazing races at the Lake Park regional in really bad weather with rain and sleet and 40-mile-an-hour winds," said Addison Trail coach Brad Donaldson.

Almarales earned all-conference honors after placing 15th at the WSC Gold meet in 16:17. Moran, freshman Alex Martinez and freshman Max Ojeda also were all-conference at the lower levels in their age groups.

"The kids stuck with the program all season even though we didn't always have our top runners racing varsity in every meet," said Donaldson. "They all worked hard to improve individually over the season. Everyone stepped up to help out where they could, which allowed us to work to develop a team atmosphere at the lower levels."

Donaldson noted the team improved the most in its overall understanding of what it takes to race and compete in cross country. "They really started to take to the concept of pack running and how to run as a team," he said.

Donaldson was impressed with the group's attitude and desire to make each other better. "They encouraged each other and pushed each other through tough workouts," he said. "They held each other accountable and overall were a great group to be around."

Donaldson also lauded the efforts of sophomore Cole Greaves and juniors Jonathan Ramos and Julian Lara. "Each one of them developed a renewed focus during the season and worked extremely hard to set a new personal best and held their own in the conference and regional meets."

Donaldson said this season will help springboard the program in the future. "We were so young and relying on underclassmen this year that I wasn't sure what to expect for the season after having lost a major group of seniors last year," he said. "The kids all stepped up and took on the task of competing at the varsity

level and we were able to still develop our younger runners. Moving into next year I think the experience the younger kids got this year will be a great asset going into next season."

Willowbrook boys cross country

The Willowbrook boys cross-country team took fourth at the West Suburban Conference Gold Division meet where Matt Caron took ninth place individually and earned all-conference honors.

Coach T.J. Artman cited pack running as a key strength for his group this fall. "We had a pretty close gap between our 1-7 runners," he said. "We just need to keep chipping away at our overall times. We had a solid team. We are losing some really good leadership with our seniors, but we have juniors and sophomores who will make a big impact next season."

Artman said the team and family concepts were front and center this season. "They are growing in the sport together and having fun," he said.

Artman gave special plaudits to senior Mike Danielson. "Mike exploded in the last few races of his senior cross-county career," he said. "I was really happy that he pushed himself to new levels in his last few races. He can run off the course knowing he left everything on it. I'm really proud of how hard he raced."

Artman said next up is winter training for the track and field season. "We had another strong and competitive season with a lot of personal records, achievements and goals attained," he said. "It's on to winter training for track and field."

Addison Trail-Willowbrook girls swimming

AT-Willowbrook's Elissa Haake and Mary Hassler are headed to the girls swimming state finals meet.

Haake took second in the 200 freestyle at the Downers Grove North sectional to qualify for state. Haake swam 1:51.75.

Haake also qualified in the 500 free with a time of 5:04.29. Haake took second, just behind Glenbard West senior Molly Rosenthal, who swam 5:04.03.

Freshman Mary Hassler won the 50 freestyle for athletes with disabilities with a time of 48.95. She also won the 100 freestyle for athletes with disabilities with a time of 1:50.24.

Haake and Hassler will swim in the state finals meet Nov. 16-17 at Evanston Township High School.

PERSONALS

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Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother

Oh Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to answer me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who has recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all needs so that I can attain my goal, you who gave me all the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory.

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Future is bright for Fenton girls cross-country team

Youthful Bison make big strides in 2018

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton girls cross-country coach Frank Kekstadt has reason for optimism.

His young Bison squad took sixth in the Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division, but the team's top three runners had lifetime personal records at the conference meet. Kekstadt noted five of the team's top seven runners were underclassmen this season.

Fenton took fifth at the junior-varsity level in the MSC Blue. Fenton moves to the Upstate Eight Conference next season.

"The strength of the team at the end of the season was that they were running for each other," said Kekstadt. "There was a selfless attitude

and a feeling of togetherness, which allowed the team to compete at the regional and sectional meets."

Fenton took fourth at the Class 2A St. Viator regional and seventh at its own Class 2A Fenton sectional.

"Improvement was made in mental toughness at the end of the season," Kekstadt said. "I feel in the past the girls were uncomfortable with the sectional meets and anxiety hurt performances. The girls this year were focused and strong at the sectional meet even with a few of them not at 100 percent physically."

Senior captain Ruth Kirkwood qualified for the state meet in Peoria.

"I was impressed with our top seven or eight girls who worked consistently throughout the summer and season," said Kekstadt. "It was key for our success this season and for the future of the program."

Kekstadt said Kirkwood and Lis-

sette Hernandez stepped things up as the season hit its most critical juncture. "Ruth bounced back from a difficult regional race and performed strongly at the sectional race," he said. "Lissette was our seventh runner and battled turf-toe for most of the season and saved the team from falling out of the top 10 at sectionals when she placed as our fifth scorer."

Kekstadt said the program has momentum that he feels will continue forward. "The future is bright with a roster filled with hard-working underclassmen," he said. "We were a surprise team this year because of the improvement we made with the girls who returned from last year. Every girl who was on the team last year had their best season in 2018. With the track and field program and now the cross-country team having the same philosophy and standards, future improvement is guaranteed."

D'Ambrose, Muell named all-conference for Addison Trail girls volleyball

Blazers won 17 games and took third in conference

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls volleyball team can count many superlatives when looking back on its 2018 season.

The Blazers won 17 contests and took third place in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 4-2 record.

Coach Dan Styler noted the team scored victories over two teams who advanced to the sectional final round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Senior outside hitter Nina Muell and junior outside hitter Jessica D'Ambrose earned all-WSC Gold honors. D'Ambrose was named the

team's MVP.

"Jessica's ball control, rhythm and court presence was stellar at the end of the season," said Styler. "She was recognized as our team MVP and we are fortunate to have her back for another year. Nina always has been a good all-around player. However, her serving and passing skills were really clutch for us at the end of the season."

Styler also was impressed with Katrina Bielanski's improvement as the season wore on. "Katrina improved her attacking efficiency and her blocking at the end of the season," he said.

Styler said key strengths for the team this season included its capacity to side out more efficiently and its ability to change-up the offense. "Our ability to diversify our offense im-

proved at the end of the season," he said.

The coach also was impressed with his team's progress at critical moments in matches. "We improved the most on our ability to remain poised in high-pressure situations," he said. "That improved at the end of October. Our kids played hard. We were under-sized in nearly every match and found a way to battle with elite teams."

Styler said the future for the program is bright. "We are optimistic that we will bring back more impact players than we will lose to graduation," he said. "We will have six players returning who had significant playing time this season. We look forward to building upon the bright spots from this past season."

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Celebrate Illinois' Bicentennial by exploring famous memoirs

Explore Illinois' world-famous memoirs and literary heritage with historian John Hallwas, an Illinois Humanities "Road Scholar," at "Illinois Memoirs: Our Story and Your Opportunity" on Friday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at Mayslake Peabody Estate at 1717 W. 31st St. in Oak Brook.

Hallwas will discuss Illinois' rich literary heritage, including Chief Black Hawk's autobiography — the first by a Native American to be published in the United States; Ulysses S. Grant's memoirs from the Civil War; and Jane Addams' "Twenty Years at Hull House," one of the most celebrated autobiographies by a female American author.

The free program is for ages 18 and up; register online or at 630-206-9566.



Gary E. Duncan Sr. - For Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Scott Tumilty avoids a tackle attempt by Batavia's Jackson Williams after catching a short pass across the middle and heads for the end zone during the Class 7A state quarterfinal game Nov. 10.

Sam Tumilty, Willowbrook rally, but come up short in quarterfinal

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

BATAVIA - Michael Jansey momentarily did a high step, flexed his arms in joy, and ran to join his Batavia brethren on the sideline.

The Bulldogs are moving on.

And, oh, how they will never forget this one.

Batavia blew a 17-point fourth-quarter lead against Willowbrook on Nov. 10, only to force overtime on Jackson Williams' field goal in the final seconds.

Jansey's 10-yard touchdown run on the first play of extra time proved the difference. The Bulldogs held on to win a wild 34-27 Class 7A quarterfinal.

Batavia (12-0), back in the semifinals for the fourth time since 2011, moves on to play at Nazareth - a 34-27 winner over Simeon - at 1 p.m. Nov. 17.

Batavia led 14-0 at the half and 17-0 in the third quarter. Willowbrook (11-1), seeking its first semifinal berth since 1975, trailed 24-7 after Quinn Urwiler's 4-yard TD run with 7:54 left.

Then things got crazy.

Willowbrook junior quarterback Sam Tumilty, who was 25-for-42 for 396 yards and four touchdowns, threw three TD passes in the final seven minutes, all of them to his brother Scott. The last, with 59.6 seconds left, was a 34-yarder that put Willowbrook ahead for the first time, 27-24, stunning the Batavia crowd.

But not breaking the Batavia side.

Jack Meyers (15-for-25, 212 yards, two TDs) calmly guided Batavia from its 20 down the field 72 yards in eight

plays. He completed two passes to Ethan Neibch, one to Trey Urwiler and a big one for 28 yards to Zach Weber. It set up Williams, who split the uprights from 24 yards with 10.1 seconds left.

In overtime, Batavia turned to its jumbo package with Jansey in the backfield. Meyers faked to Quinn Urwiler and Jansey took the handoff and ran left, planting a would-be tackler and lunging for the goal line.

On Willowbrook's possession, Ethan Towers sacked Sam Tumilty, and Jansey's pressure on third down forced an intentional grounding. Tumilty's last pass was completed, but short of the goal line.

The Warriors did not get the breakthrough win they sought in their third straight quarterfinal, but left their mark. Willowbrook, 11-0 coming in for the first time since 1975, trailed 17-0 until Tumilty connected with CJ Harris on a 73-yard TD with 6:49 left in the third quarter. It seemed to energize the Warriors and knocked Batavia on its heels.

"We never gave up," Tumilty said. "We just kept chipping away and chipping away and we were able to make some plays and get in the end zone. We didn't get the outcome that we wanted, but it is what it is."

Willowbrook advanced past midfield three times in the first half, but each time was turned away.

"I know personally I didn't start off the game that well. I missed some guys," Tumilty said, "but my line kept blocking for me and my receivers kept getting open. And then we started to get going."

Suburban Life

MVA - ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



MICHAEL LOVE
NAZARETH
Senior | Football

Why Love was selected:

Michael Love scored three touchdowns, two of them receiving from 17 and 25 yards and one on a 75-yard punt return, in the Roadrunners' 34-27 win over Simeon in a Class 7A quarterfinal. Love finished with five catches for 65 yards.

Love talked to Suburban Life sports editor Joshua Welge about his big game and his team's next game with Batavia. Here is an edited version of the transcript.

Welge: How much of you guys anticipated this game with Batavia?

Love: For sure, we try not to look ahead, but it's kind of natural to look ahead. Batavia is a good team with history.

Welge: You were down 14-0. Were you worried?

Love: I knew we had plenty of time. I knew we would flip the switch sooner or later. Once we did, we knew we would get momentum on our side.

Welge: What happened on the punt return?

Love: They kicked it right to me, which was surprising. I saw a seam, hit the hole and did my job. It was definitely a big momentum-turner for us. Everybody did their job to make me successful.

Welge: How well do you know them?

Love: I know of [linebacker] Michael Jansey. I played with [wide receiver] Nick Rempert in 7-on-7. I know they have some pretty good guys watching them on film.

Welge: Anything new on recruiting [Love reopened his recruitment earlier this fall]?

Love: I got a few recent offers, South Dakota State and North Dakota State. I'm still open. I'm not waiting on anything specific. I'm just focused on our season.



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Girls basketball: Teams take to the courts

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

The girls basketball season tips off this week with many teams playing in tournaments to start the year. Here's the outlook for area teams:

Glenbard East Rams

COACH: Nicole Miller
2017-18 RECORD: 6-22

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Sophia Moore	sr.	G/F
Joselyn Molinar	sr.	F/C
Hayden Dudek	sr.	F
Lauren Huber	so.	G
Emily Ryan	so.	F
Brooke Hernandez	so.	G
Lisa Stranski	jr.	F
Denise Navar	so.	C

Outlook: Miller is back on the sidelines for her second stint as Rams coach.

Moore is Glenbard East's lone returning starter. Molinar and Dudek are two other seniors who are back. Players to watch include Moore, Huber, Ryan, Hernandez, Stranski and Navar.

"We have an inexperienced team at the varsity level, but they have heart and talent," Moore said.

IC Catholic Prep Knights

COACH: Kelsey James
2017-18 RECORD: 11-18

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Jaida Smith	sr.	G
Jackie Lara	sr.	F
Gabi Zanoni	jr.	G/F
Hannah Johnson	jr.	G
Alia Johnson	so.	G
Abi Wagner	jr.	G
Juanita Herrera	sr.	G
Claire Wagner	fr.	G

Outlook: The Knights graduated nine seniors off a regional champion, but have filled those spots with more speed and knowledge of the game. Smith, a 5-foot-5 point guard and ICCP's leading scorer, has been playing varsity basketball since she was a freshman and sets the tone. Lara, a 5-foot-9 post, is another leader. The Knights have installed a more complex offense to spread the wealth. A ton of speed should allow ICCP to generate offense out of its defense.

"We are a younger team, but we are looking to have a better outcome than last year," James said.



Sean King - For Shaw Media

Montini's Samantha Mitcheil attempts a 3-pointer against Bolingbrook during a Class 4A supersectional game last season at Lewis University in Romeoville.

Montini Lady Broncos

COACH: Jason Nichols
2017-18 RECORD: 34-3

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Sam Mitchell	sr.	G
Frankie Kokkines	sr.	G
Sydney Prochaska	jr.	G
Taris Thornson	so.	G
Zoe MacKay Zacker	sr.	G
Taylor Charles	fr.	G/F
Tatiana Thomas	fr.	F
Sophie Sullivan	fr.	G
Angelina Giordano	fr.	G

Outlook: The Lady Broncos, who came minutes away from winning a Class 4A title, will have a different look. Graduated are three starters, including Suburban Life Player of the Year Aaliyah Patty. There is a solid core back, joined by a dynamite freshman class, four of whom will be among Montini's top nine players. Mitchell, a UAB recruit, is Montini's emotional leader who can knock down shots. Zacker has talent, but is a question mark after three torn ACLs. Kokkines can fill up a stat sheet, and Nichols is hoping for more consistent shooting from SIU recruit Prochaska. Charles, 6-foot-2, is a top 30 recruit nationally in the Class of 2022 with offers from Illinois and Cal. Thomas is a great rebounder and defender with offers from Illinois and DePaul. Sullivan is a crafty lefty guard.

"Our seniors have to get us through some tough opponents," Nichols said. "While these younger kids are good and the potential is kind of scary, it's a process to get better."

Timothy Christian Trojans

COACH: Michele Strube
2017-18 RECORD: 20-10

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Jordyn Strube	sr.	G
Sureya Alex	so.	G
Hannah Schuringa	so.	F
Lauren Gehrke	sr.	G

Outlook: The Trojans advanced to a sectional final last year, losing to eventual Class 2A state runner-up Harlan. They return just five players - two of them starters. Two potential starters were not able to come out. That leaves a young group, with five sophomores. Strube, a three-year varsity player, will be key. Always a good shooter, she's worked to get stronger to rebound and get to the rim. Schuringa, a 5-foot-11 sophomore, is one to watch. She scored 252 points as a freshman and had a great summer. Another sophomore, Alex, is ready to go after a summer with the Rockets travel team. The Trojans are hoping that Gehrke, who advanced in the state's 3-point competition, can be a perimeter threat.

"We will be young, but we are quick, we have height and we have girls who

play hard," coach Strube said.

Willowbrook Warriors

COACH: Terry Harrell
2017-18 RECORD: 6-21

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Katelyn McCann	sr.	G
Gracie Tumilty	so.	G
Stephanie Dasbach	so.	F
K'aliya Herron	jr.	G
Maureen Schmid	sr.	F

Outlook: The Warriors return last season's two leading scorers, McCann and Herron, along with Schmid, the leading rebounder on last year's team. Three sophomores, including Tumilty and Dasbach, are expected to play heavy minutes. Additionally, Annmarie Knudtson is expected to play a big role this year.

"Although we will rely on young players in the starting lineup, we expect to have a deep bench, which will enable us to compete for the top spot in conference," Harrell said. "The West Suburban Gold looks to be tough this year with perennial favorite Proviso East. Additionally, Downers Grove South should be tough this season."

York Dukes

COACH: Brandon Collings
2017-18 RECORD: 19-10

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Katileen Levins	sr.	F
Kiah Rufus	sr.	G
Emily Rohman	sr.	F
Sara Krissingner	jr.	G
Carley Schwartz	jr.	G
Kaitlyn Kjome	so.	G/F
Sydney Molis	so.	G/F
Bridget Los	jr.	G
Sydney Fuglsang	jr.	G

Outlook: The Dukes will be inexperienced. York graduated four of five starters off last year's team that took second in the West Suburban Silver. Its only returning starter, all-conference shooting guard Matty Stark, tore her ACL in the offseason and is out for the year. On top of that, York's new starting point guard, Rufus, will miss up to six weeks with a recently discovered stress fracture.

With five new starters, it's a young team, but talented, athletic and very deep, and Collings thinks it can still compete for the Silver title.

"We'll look to pressure teams defensively and push the ball offensively," Collings said.

ing this weekend's ff football games

Class 5A semifinals

1. 4 Montini (11-1) at No. 2 Sterling (11-1) n. Saturday.

e semifinals: Montini beat No. 13 Woodstock North 42-7, No. 11-21 and No. 16 Evergreen Park 54-7; Sterling beat No. 15 1-0, No. 10 Brooks 55-12 and No. 3 Rockford Boylan 10-7.

Montini and Sterling are both in their 31st playoff appearance, last 26 consecutively. Six-time state champion Montini seeks a le-game appearance, Sterling its first.

Sterling both rotate two quarterbacks in a spread set and all row the football. Both are big on the offensive line, averaging ounds. Each team tests the perimeter offensively and gets space but takes pride in ground games that have far outpaced air foos. Montini took a Week 9 loss to Brother Rice. Sterling also k 9, 35-7 to common foe Sycamore.

game was Sterling's sole playoff squeaker. Montini led Park 48-0 at halftime, one of the Broncos' two postseason Illinois-bound running back Nick Fedanzo ran for 100 yards to eason total to 1,146 yards with 14 touchdown runs. Quarterback all has run for 673 yards, 8 touchdowns and completed 42 of for 656 yards, 9 touchdowns. Quarterback Robert Brazziel, a 3, has thrown for 717 yards, 12 touchdowns. Montini has thrown reption, while Broncos cornerbacks Scott West and Jermari e 6 and 7 interceptions, respectively. West, Matt Ross and return ack Olson have caught between 3-5 touchdown passes apiece r Nate Muersch owns team highs of 26 catches, 402 yards, 8 is.

ensive ends Frank Conforti and 6-foot-4 Fred Stokes have made tacks for loss and 9 and 10 sacks, respectively. Defensive ick Peters has made 70 tackles, 15 for loss, 7 sacks. Linebacker ruscianelli, a three-year starter, leads Montini with 122 tackles . Swier has 100. Rover DiAndre Harris has come on to make 75 ontini averages 35 points and allows 9.

se has been a Montini focus and it'll be required Saturday. erages 268 yards rushing, 102 passing behind the quarterback am Bailey and Cooper Willman, also the Golden Warriors' iding rusher. Both quarterbacks have completed at least 4 of their passes with Willman the better striking power with 687 ing, 9 touchdowns to 3 interceptions. Behind 6-5, 245-pound left e Beyers and 6-6, 275-pound right tackle Jacob Capes, scabback e has burst for 874 yards and 13 touchdowns, including Stere touchdown last week. Bruce leads four players with at least rushing, including Willman with 646, D.J. Johnson with 567 and Villiams with 448 yards rushing, 13 touchdowns. When Sterling ass Weston Sisson, Alek Duran and Dylan Bryant have been the s, Sisson with 25 receptions for 422 yards, 5 touchdowns.

the Northern Illinois Big 12 West, Sterling averages 38 points e 12. Coach Jonathan Schlemmer said the key is to win the line age. If that happens, senior linebacker Isaiah Ryan will rack up d the offense will become more diverse.

plus-19 in turnover ratio, Sterling plus-17. Montini kicker West n Warriors counterpart Eric Davila have made at least 90 percent ra-point attempts and each have 1 field goal. Davila hit the ner last week as time expired.

ent: The winner advances to the Class 5A championship game, y, 24 at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, against the winner lo. 1 Hillcrest (12-0) at No. 14 Joliet Catholic (8-4).

Class 4A semifinals

No. 3 Richmond-Burton (11-1) at No. 1 IC Catholic Prep (12-0)

m. Saturday.

he semifinals: Richmond-Burton beat No. 14 Plano 42-0, No. 6 ington 19-0 and No. 2 Coal City 17-14; IC Catholic beat No. 16 l, No. 9 Stillman Valley 31-0 and No. 5 Marengo 49-27.

First-year Richmond-Burton coach Mike Noll, who coached at and Glenbrook South, leads the Rockets into their first semifinal e since placing second in Class 4A in 2011. IC Catholic Prep Krefft's two-time defending Class 3A champion squad has won t playoff games and 24 straight overall. There have been two oes this season: Aurora Central Catholic, which ICCP beat 59-0 eat 17-8; and Marengo, which dealt the Rockets their sole defeat waukee River Conference, 14-13 in Week 5.

7 points on average, up front defensively Richmond-Burton goes e-man line of 6-3, 270-pound Logan Grant, 5-11, 210 Dylan d and their sole two-way lineman, 6-4, 260 Kyle Curran. Line-iton Wood has made 91 tackles while linebacker Mike Kaufman Rockets with 95 tackles. Linebacker Nick Legaioili and defensive n Bailey each have made 4 interceptions, defensive back Payton th 3. A physical, collectively sound unit gets multiple tacklers to ichmond-Burton's defense has helped the Rockets go plus-7 in atio in the playoffs. Their defensive key here is not to allow the big

primarily a ground-based, double-wing offense behind a verages around 6-1, 230 pounds. Kaufman has run the ball for 1,406 yards, 21 touchdowns. Fullback Wood has run for

Adamski, Glenbard West beat Waubonsie

Daily Herald Reports

The improvement of Glenbard West's Niki Adamski on the basketball court is clear to see — now even to her.

The 6-foot-1 senior is playing with eye goggles for the first time.

"That's my magic power. I feel like a new player," Adamski said.

"I was pretty nervous to wear them. I can't put contacts in. They just pop out so, I was like, 'You know what? I've got to make the sacrifice and get some goggles. They've helped me a lot. I've finished more. I can see the court now, so it's great."

On Thursday the Hilltoppers also saw strides from Tuesday's season-opening loss. They used 21 unanswered points in the first quarter to set the tone for a 58-45 victory at Waubonsie Valley.

Glenbard West (1-1) trailed 5-1 and missed its first four shots before the scoring barrage that contributed to a 22-8 lead at the end of the period.

"We like to think that our defense creates our offense," Glenbard West coach Kristi Faulkner said.

"We needed that run. It was a good energy booster. We always talk about coming out with a strong start. Waubonsie Valley came out and made the first couple shots. We got our legs and energy back and we'll take those runs anytime."

Glenbard West junior Taylor Huff had 15 points and 10 rebounds. Sophomore Maggie Stutelberg had 14 points, Adamski had 11 points and 8 rebounds and senior Katelyn Heller contributed 8 points. Stutelberg and Heller each had two 3-pointers.

In the Warriors' season opener sophomore Mykah Berkompas had 20 points with five 3-pointers. Sophomore Lauren McKnight had 8 points and 5 rebounds.

During their scoring run the Hilltoppers made 7 of 9 shots with 3s from Stutelberg, Heller and senior Katie O'Shea and 4 of 5 free throws over nine possessions.

The Warriors missed seven shots and had three turnovers.

"It's tough. You can't let teams do that," Waubonsie Valley coach Brett Love said. "You've got to come back and score, but at the same time you can't let them score. We didn't follow our scouting report."

The victory had extra meaning to Adamski. She and senior Jamiyah Taylor also are AAU teammates for the Illinois Evolution with Love as their coach. Each began playing for Love in eighth grade.

"I've gotten a lot of help at West, but (Love) introduced me to basketball and showed me everything. It's really cool that he got to see my improvement," Adamski said.

The Hilltoppers felt they used their inside attack better than the 65-58 loss to Rolling Meadows in a rematch of last year's regional final defeat.

Adamski and the 6-2 Huff hope to complement each other this season to create a formidable inside attack. Both also are team captains with Heller.

"I've improved sky rockets," Adamski said. "I put the time in. The confidence is there. I feel like this season is a season for me to step up as a leader."

"She's really worked in the off-season with her game," Faulkner added. "She's really taken a leadership role as a senior. There's a lot more confidence. She's one of those players that works so hard every day, every drill that we do."

Berkompas, McKnight and Ahniya Melton had all of the Warriors' first-half points. Glenbard West led 42-17 at halftime and 50-20 early in the third quarter before the Warriors chipped away.

— Bill Stone

Maine West 61, WW South 49:

Maine West senior Jocelyn Jacob says that she has to be ready to contribute no matter what the circumstances are.

"What goes through my head is what

Girls basketball roundup



PAUL VALADE/pvalade@dailyherald.com
Glenbard West's Niki Adamski (33) heads to the hoop past Waubonsie Valley's Iwiyisi Osaghah during Thursday night's girls basketball game in Aurora.

quarters to deliver some key buckets to squelch a Tigers comeback.

The Warriors started quick and opened up an early 14-0 advantage, succumbed to a WW South rally and gave up the lead, then came back to score a 61-49 win.

Six-foot-4 junior Angela Dugalic led Maine West with 25 points, 8 rebounds and 3 steals.

"You can't take anything away from Wheaton," de Marigny said. "They're well-coached and disciplined. Just because they got down, they weren't wringing their hands and saying it was over. They did their job."

Maine West took advantage of 11 WW South first-quarter turnovers to lead 18-5 after eight minutes.

Then the Tigers rallied and when Ellery Fahey hit two second-quarter free throws, the score was 20-18 Maine West.

"We got rattled," de Marigny said. "We didn't do what we needed to do with the ball. We panicked."

"We finally started to shoot the ball," said Tigers coach Rob Kroehnke. "We knew we could get back in it, but (the Warriors) are a really, really good team."

Clinging to a 2-point lead, Jacob stepped in and hit two key buckets, one a 3-pointer, to help Maine West extend the advantage.

WW South took the momentum back in the third quarter thanks to three 3-pointers from senior Mira Emma, and it took its first lead at 42-40.

Then Jacob connected from 3-point range twice early in the fourth to give the energy and the lead back to Maine West.

The Warriors opened an 11-point advantage on a 15-foot jumper from Rachel Kent, and the Tigers couldn't catch up.

"You can't give them that big of a lead," Kroehnke said of the Warriors' 14-0 beginning. "But at the start of the fourth quarter, we were tied, we were back in the game. It still comes down to taking care of your possessions, and we had three possessions late where we didn't get the shots we wanted, then they come down and hit some shots and it's an 8-point lead just like that."

Emma led WW South with 16 points while teammate Maria Dohse contributed with 8 points

— Bill Esbrook

Addison Trail 56, Fenton 46:

Brenda Berumen promised she wasn't all that tired after Thursday's girls basketball game.

"We did a lot of conditioning, so we were ready for this type of game," the Addison Trail senior said

said. "When you're playing that pace, it's hard to slow it down after you beat it, because we want to push the pace ourselves. But that's a little bit different kind of pace than we want to play. We're trying to be a little bit more organized, where this is less organized. We work on that in practice, but it's still hard to simulate that in a practice situation."

"It was way faster than we're used to. But we got accustomed to it," Berumen added.

Berumen's 3-pointer was the only field goal the Blazers converted in the first quarter, and they totaled just 4 field goals in the first half. Yet they went to halftime with a 27-24 lead.

"Luckily we hit our free throws," said Schader, whose team made 21 of 33 Thursday. "We were 6 of 14 Tuesday night. But we came back and I think we were 18 for 25 in the first half alone from the free-throw line. It kept us in the game, and we played well down the stretch."

The Blazers took a 51-41 lead with 3:20 to play on a layup by freshman Quiana Birmingham.

Berumen led all scorers with a personal-best 16 points. She also had 6 steals.

"She played great," Schader said. "She had a quiet 8 the other night, and she played her butt off tonight, I'll tell you that. She plays hard on the defensive end. They all play hard on the defensive end. But she really got after it tonight and she hit some big shots for us down the stretch tonight."

Meanwhile, Fenton coach Dave Mello loved his team's effort.

"I thought they played excellent. We're really coming along," he said. "... We're way ahead of last year."

Isa Lozada scored 13 points to lead the Bison (1-1), who made 8 of 49 3-point attempts.

"Our 3-point shooting is not going yet. We're not hitting for some reason," Mello said. "... I told them in there, we knock down 14, 15 in a game and we're going to blow somebody out."

— Orrin Schwarz

Willowbrook 76, West Chicago 12:

Terry Harrell says he wants his Willowbrook girls basketball team to hang its hat on defense this season.

It's still very early but so far, so good.

Two days after holding Glenbard North to 25 points, the Warriors tallied 14 steals in the first quarter alone on their way to a 76-12 win over West Chicago in a matchup at the Willowbrook Thanksgiving Invite.

Willowbrook (2-0) forced 30 turnovers for the contest and finished with 25 steals, a game-high seven from Grace Tumilty.

"We have girls that can shoot and girls who can score," Harrell said, "but there are days where you won't be making that shot. Defense doesn't go away. If we play defense like we did tonight, we will be in games no matter who we play."

After the Wildcats made a basket to begin the scoring, the home team went on a 33-1 run to end the opening quarter. Katelyn McCann scored 17 of her game-high 19 points in the period, knocking down a pair of 3-pointers. She also contributed 4 steals.

"We've been saying that defense will win us games," McCann said. "Because we are not the biggest team or the strongest team, we have to play tough defense. Getting those fast breaks off our defense has really helped us. It has gotten us the lead in these games."

Cece Lizasuain and Stephanie Dashedbach added 13 points apiece for the Warriors, who led 54-5 at the half. K'aliya Herron also had 8 points and 4 steals. In all, 10 Willowbrook players scored.

"It is really fun when we are all contributing," said Lizasuain, in her third year on the varsity. "We are all hyping each other up, even if we miss a shot. It's been so positive this year."

West Chicago (0-2), which scored 50 points in a season-opening loss to

CONTINUED

chmond-Burton's defense has helped the Rockets go plus-7 in tie in the playoffs. Their defensive key here is not to allow the big

primarily a ground-based, double-wing offense behind a verages around 6-1, 230 pounds. Kaufman has run the ball for 1,406 yards, 21 touchdowns. Fullback Wood has run for 8 touchdowns with Legnaioli at 363 yards, 4 touchdowns. e Jacob Huber earned the starting quarterback job Week 4, and rds passing. Logan Hutson and Jake Bassett each have 11 . The Rockets get lots of mileage from punter Jimmy Horner Legnaioli — 7 of 8 on field goals, including last week's to beat Coal City late — but Noll knows some balance will be win this game.

atholic's defensive goal is to stop the run and force the pass. That ont with 6-3, 310-pound Ricky Mysliwiec, 6-1 245 Kevin Akins, Koby Reed and 6-2, 235 A.J. Howard; against more-balanced e Knights went with the sleeker Corties Draper at one defensive re 6-0, 245 Michael Johnson may get some gap-plugging reps. s Kevin Cooke and Dom Krepulec and safety Ryan Malek were th 27, 15 and 11 tackles, respectively, but Krefft wasn't pleased tg against Marengo, which was within 22-20 of the Knights late half. That has been addressed.

lay concern centers around Knights running back Kyle Franklin. ore scored 6 touchdowns as ICCP stats had him for 338 yards e most for any back in Krefft's seven years. Quarterback Khalil dded 79 yards rushing and though the passing game warmed st Marengo, Saunders threw a 34-yard touchdown pass to n. Purdue-bound receiver and safety Khali Saunders is always n waiting to happen and Malek has 20 catches, while Lytton with 26 catches and 461 yards, with 4 touchdowns. Finding n and maintaining offensive balance are the keys for Krefft, out 45 minutes of sleep Saturday before starting to prepare for Burton.

ent: The winner advances to the Class 4A championship game, 23 at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, against the winner . 4 Rochester (11-1) at No. 3 Bishop McNamara (11-1).

— Dave Oberhelman

...THEY WERE CLIPPED AWAY.

— Bill Stone

Maine West 61, WW South 49:

Maine West senior Jocelyn Jacob says that she has to be ready to contribute no matter what the circumstances are. "What goes through my head is what should I be, what will my role be," Jacob said. "I can't be nervous, whether (coach Kim de Marigny) puts me in or not, I have to be ready."

Thursday night against Wheaton Warrenville South at the Schaumburg Thanksgiving Invite, Jacob came off the bench in both the second and fourth

Addison Trail 56, Fenton 46:

Brenda Berumen promised she wasn't all that tired after Thursday's girls basketball game.

"We did a lot of conditioning, so we were ready for this type of game," the Addison Trail senior said.

That helps explain why Addison Trail defeated Fenton 56-46 in a Fenton/Addison Trail Thanksgiving Tournament matchup in Bensenville. Patience and free-throw shooting also played major roles for Addison Trail (1-1) against Fenton's helter-skelter style.

"It's hard," Blazers coach Rob Schader

scored.

"It is really fun when we are all contributing," said Lizasuain, in her third year on the varsity. "We are all hyping each other up, even if we miss a shot. It's been so positive this year."

West Chicago (0-2), which scored 50 points in a season-opening loss to Rockford Guilford, was led by the 4 points of Shailee Patel.

"We have a lot of juniors and we are just inexperienced," said West Chicago coach T.J. Nall. "We have to figure out who we are as a team and play together as a team. And we played a very athletic team."

— Scott Schmid

Notice

To report scores: Coaches, please report all scores to the Daily Herald Dispatch County office by e-mailing report@dailyherald.com, calling (847) 427-4430, or faxing results to (847) 675-7708.

Football

IHSAA Semifinal pairings

Saturday's games

Game 29 — Brother Rice (12-0) at Marist (11-1), 1 p.m.
Game 30 — Lincoln-Way East (12-0) at Loyola Academy 1 p.m.

CLASS 7A

Game 29 — Batavia (12-0) at Nazareth Academy, 1 p.m.
Game 30 — Mt. Carmel (11-1) at St. Charles North (9-3), 1 p.m.

CLASS 8A

Game 29 — Cary-Grove (12-0) at Niles Notre Dame (10-2), 3 p.m.
Game 30 — Richards (12-0) at Crete-Monee (9-3), 2 p.m.

CLASS 9A

Game 29 — Montini (11-1) at Sterling (11-1), 2 p.m.
Game 30 — Hillcrest (12-0) at Joliet Catholic Academy (8-4), 2 p.m.

CLASS 4A

Game 29 — Richmond-Burton (11-1) at IC Catholic (12-0), 4 p.m.
Game 30 — Rochester (11-1) at Kankakee McNamara (11-1), 2 p.m.

CLASS 3A

Game 29 — Byron (12-0) at Herscher (8-4), 2 p.m.
Game 30 — Geneseo (12-0) at Monticello (12-0), 2 p.m.

CLASS 2A

Game 29 — Gibson City-Melvin-Stiby (12-0) at Lanark Eastford (12-0), 2 p.m.
Game 30 — Morris-Forsyth (12-0) at Decatur St. Teresa (12-0), 1 p.m.

CLASS 1A

Game 29 — Forreston (10-2) at Lena-Windlow (11-1), 2 p.m.
Game 30 — Camp Point Central (11-1) at Argenta-Crema (12-0), 1 p.m.

Girls basketball

Thursday's results

GLENBARD WEST 61, WAUBONSE VALLEY 40
11-41; Stuebberg 2-3-14; Adamski 3-6-11; O'Shea 1-0-3; Hoeger 0-0-2; Huff 5-4-5-15; Totals 19 14-22 58.
Waubense Valley — Melton 2-1-2-5; Lefevre 0-2-2; Harrison 1-0-0-2; Despain 2-0-0-4; Berkompas 6-3-6-20; Westbrook 0-2-2; McKnight 4-0-1-8; Adamski 1-0-0-2; Totals 16 8-13 45.
Glenbard West — 22 20 10 6—58
Waubense Valley — 8 9 17 11—45
3-point baskets: GW: Heiler 2, Stuebberg 2, O'Shea, Huff, WJ, Berkompas 5. Fouled out: None.

Willowbrook Thanksgiving Invite

Willowbrook 76, West Chicago 12
Schaumburg
St. Lawrence 55, Westmont 21

IHSAA Invite

OTTAWA 38, TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN 27
Timothy Christian — Schuringa (16 pts, 19 rebounds).

Hoffman Estates Tournament

LAKE PARK 39, HOFFMAN ESTATES 38
Hoffman Estates — Cernak 1-2-2-5; Heine 3-2-2-10; Hasling 1-0-1-3; Dumoulin 2-0-0-6; Bowen 0-1-2-1; Baiserman 3-0-1-6; Cork 2-0-0-5; Johnson 0-2-2-2; Totals 12-7-10 38.
Lake Park — Thomas 1-0-0-3; Rogers 10-1-6-23; Barre 1-2-5; Walker 1-0-0-2; Moy 2-0-0-6; Totals 15-3-9 59.
Lake Park — 5 15 12 6—39
3-point baskets: H: Cernak, Heine 2, Hasling, Dumoulin 2, Cork, LP: Thomas, Rogers 2, Barre, Moy 2. Fouled out: None.

Fenton Thanksgiving Tournament

Leydon 60, Elgin 16

FENTON 56, ADDISON TRAIL 46

Addison Trail — Gilliam 0-5-5-5; Garay 1-5-7-7; Martinez 2-1-3-5; Cameron 2-4-7-8; Birmingham 2-0-0-4; Johnson 3-3-4-9; Koutogeorgas 1-0-0-2; Benjamin 5-3-4-16; Kulkovics-0-0-0-0; Kamick 0-0-0-0. Totals: 17 21-33 56.
Fenton — Spencer 1-0-0-2; H. Miller 0-0-0-0; Miliano 1-0-0-3; Rodriguez 0-0-0-0; M. Miller 2-1-2-6; Mitchell 1-0-0-3; Millard 0-0-0-0; Lucas 0-0-0-0; Arnold 2-0-0-4; Lozada 3-4-4-13; Kasper 0-0-0-0; Lisa 3-2-3-8; Harting 2-0-0-6; Hausen 2-0-0-6; Haska 0-0-0-0; Cox 0-0-0-0. Totals: 16 8-0-46.

Addison Trail 7 20 14 15—56

Fenton — 14 10 11 11—46
3-point baskets: AT: Berumen, F. Hoffing, G. Lozada 2, Mitchell, Miliano, M. Miller, Lisa. Fouled out: None.

Schaumburg Thanksgiving Classic

Evaston 63, St. Charles East 27
Downers Grove South 45, Schaumburg 31

MAINE WEST 61, WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH 49

WW South — Ruggles 2-0-0-5; Emma 4-4-4-16; Fahy 0-2-2-2; Stobbins 2-1-2-6; Dohse 4-0-0-8; A. Shuebing 1-2-2

5; Koelke 3-0-0-7. Totals 16 9-10 49
Maine West — Kent 4-2-2-10; VanFleet 1-0-0-2; Reyes 3-2-4-9; Jans 5-0-0-13; Abo 1-0-0-3; Dugalic 12-0-0-25. Totals 28 4-6-51.

WW South 5 23 14 7—49

Maine West — 8 19 8 19—61
3-point baskets: WWS: Ruggles, Emma 4, Stobbins, A. Shuebing, Koelke. MW: Jacob 3, Abo, Dugalic. Fouled out: WWS: Dohse.

York Thanksgiving Tournament

Timothy 55, Prospect 52
West West 48, Downers 45

CONANT 40, ST. FRANCIS 24

Conant — Kolsturo 4-0-0-11; Chemick 0-1-2-1; Rohman 0-0-0-1; Mazurek 3-1-2-7; Disbaker 1-0-0-2; Anderson 0-0-1-3; Ticalci 11-6-8-40.
St. Francis — Quatana 0-1-2-1; Rogdianski 0-2-6-2; Seilman 1-0-0-0; Ostropes 2-4-6-8; Fasting 1-0-0-2; Donnelly 0-1-2-1; Wisted 2-0-0-5; DiRusso 0-1-2-1; Mita 0-1-4-1. Totals 8 10-22-24.

Conant 10 8 9 3—40

St. Francis — 9 6 4 5—24
3-point baskets: C: Kolsturo 3, DiSacco, Shulman. SF: Seilman, Wisted. Fouled out: None.

DOWNS GROVE SOUTH 51, YORK 48 (OT)

Downers South — Stapleton 2-4-4-10; Glajo 3-3-4-9; Garshaw 1-0-2-2; Grant 1-0-0-2; Andresen 1-0-0-3; Lueken 7-9-14-25. Totals 15 16-24 51.
York — Flugling 5-3-8-13; Lee 2-4-5-9; Schwarz 1-0-0-2; Krieger 2-1-3-6; Neme 2-4-6-8; Juneman 1-0-0-2; Levins 2-2-6-6. Totals 14 16-25 48.

Downers South 10 14 10 10 7—51

York — 15 8 11 10 4—48
3-point baskets: DSS: Stapleton 2, Andrease, Lueken 2, Y. Schwarz, Krieger. Fouled out: None.

D123456

Addison Trail**Coach:** Brendan Lyons.

Last year: 11-20, 1-11, seventh in the West Suburban Gold; lost 51-44 to Downers Grove South in the Class 4A Addison Trail regional quarterfinals.

Top players: Adem Mehmeti, sr., G; J.T. Daniels, sr., F; A.J. Carlson, jr., G; Robert Roszkiewicz, so., F; John Baumgartner, sr., F; Sheldon Allgood, sr., G; K'Whon Pounds, sr., G; Terry Thompson, sr., G.

Scouting report: First on the to-do list is erasing the bitter taste of a nine-game losing streak that ended last season. Eleven seniors with long memories aim to make that happen. "We felt like we gave away some games last year," Lyons said. "Our seniors don't want that to happen again." Mehmeti returns for a third varsity season after last year averaging 11 points. Daniels, an all-Gold selection, also averaged 11 points. Carlson got a bunch of experience starting six games at the point as a sophomore. Three significant newcomers are Allgood, an Oak Park transfer, Pounds, a Noble Street transfer, and Roszkiewicz, a sophomore. That gives the Blazers experience and depth in the frontcourt and backcourt. "This is a group that's worked hard and stuck with it for four years," Lyons said. "We're going to rely a lot on our seniors."

Benet**Coach:** Gene Heidkamp.

Last year: 27-5, 8-1, second in the East Suburban Catholic; lost 53-46 to Larkin in the Class 4A Northern Illinois University supersectional.

Top players: Will Engels, sr., F; Colin Crothers, jr., C; Kendrick Tchoua, sr., F; Charlie Dollard, sr., G; Liam Tomshack, sr., sr., F; Trevor Casmere, sr., F; Shane O'Mara, sr., F; Ben Hickey, sr., G; Drew Eschenbach, sr., F.

Scouting report: Get ready for a 10th straight 20-win season, another run at the ESCC title and another deep postseason run. With the return of Engels, who averaged 17 points in last year's sectional, 6-foot-7 Crothers for a third varsity season and Tchoua, a transfer from Maryland, it's looking like another up year for the Redwings. "It's going to come down to how we come together," Heidkamp said. "We have a lot of ability, but that's not all that matters." Engels, already strong as a junior, will be one of the area's most improved players who can play the point or the wing. Crothers is a dominant post and 6-7 Tchoua, who's attracting Division I attention, immediately vaulted onto the list of the state's top senior players. Dollard is solid at the point while Tomshack and Casmere can knock down 3s. Benet's as deep as it is talented.

Downers Grove North**Coach:** Jim Thomas.

Last year: 13-13, 4-8, tied for fifth in the West Suburban Silver; lost 62-44 to Geneva in the Class 4A Naperville North regional semifinals.

Top players: Sema'j Henderson, sr., G; Trey Boston, sr., G; Connor Ilyavi, sr., G; Collin Reed, sr., G; Scott Jakobsze, sr., F; Drew Cassens, jr., F; Mike Panico, sr., F; Noah May, sr., F.

Scouting report: Few teams can match the Trojans' talented

Downers Grove South**Coach:** Kris Olson.

Last year: 14-16, 4-8, tied for fifth in the West Suburban Gold; lost 59-47 to Benet in the Class 4A Addison Trail regional semifinals.

Top players: Justin Eagins, sr., G; Wes Hooker, sr., G; Charlie Furman, sr., G; Kamonte Brown-Poe, sr., G; J.T. Jablonski, sr., C; Karolis Vaitkevicius, sr., G; Timmeon Gamble, sr., G; Jake Dimovski, so., G; Chris Gory, jr., F.

Scouting report: Loaded with backcourt talent and experience, the Mustangs eye the Gold title. Eagins, who last season averaged 16.9 points and hit 83 3-pointers, Hooker, a three-year varsity member who added 12.2 points, and Furman are just the start. "I think we're much deeper than last year, especially in the backcourt," Olson said. Eagins is stronger and more athletic, and Hooker's shooting has improved. Brown-Poe didn't play last year due to injury, Gamble is a transfer from Proviso West and Dimovski comes from Timothy Christian. The Mustangs are thinner on experience in the post, although 6-foot-8 Jablonski and Gory are a good start. "We have our top few scorers, but we'll also have a bunch of guys who are going to score 6 to 8 points," Olson said. "This could be a special group."

Fenton**Coach:** Chaz Taft.

Last year: 6-20, 1-11, tied for sixth in the Metro Suburban Blue; lost 51-41 to Proviso West in a Class 4A Fenton regional quarterfinal.

Top players: Diamon King, jr., F; Andre Reed, jr., G; Marcus Rule, so., G; Ivan Sosa, jr., G; Gerrell Wilson, so., C.

Scouting report: After a two-year hiatus the Bison will host the 31st Chuck Mitchell Thanksgiving Tournament, an eight-team event including Montini, West Chicago and Wheaton Warrenville South. Fenton, which benefits by shifting to the Metro Suburban Red, offers the odd duality of youth and experience. Rule returns as point guard and the 6-2 King returns averages of 9.7 points and 7.6 rebounds. "Those two guys are ready to take this thing over," Taft said. Reed and Sosa also started some games, Sosa averaging a team-high 1.9 steals. The 6-5 Wilson adds some height. Fenton always plays hard but must reduce last season's 23-turnover average and identify who takes the big, crunchtime shot after the graduation of top scorer Amari Reed, Andre's brother. "I think that's where we need to get better," Taft said, "is those pressure situations."

Glenbard East**Coach:** Scott Miller.

Last year: 11-16, 5-5, tied for third in the Upstate Eight Valley; lost 45-42 to Wheaton North in a Class 4A Bartlett regional quarterfinal.

Top players: Deon Cook, jr., G; Antonio Davis, sr., F; Ladaylin Dew, jr., F; Mitch Glennon, sr., F; DaRon Hall, jr., G; Jake Huisman, sr., G; Jeremy Johnson, sr., G; Mashar Lewis, sr., G; Alijah Nelson, jr., G; Anthony Chapeau,

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

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.
Eric Cannon	Waubonsie Valley	Sr.	G
Chris Conway	Naperville Central	Jr.	F
Colin Crothers	Benet	Jr.	C
Justin Eagins	Downers Grove South	Sr.	G
Will Engels	Benet	Sr.	F
Ethan Helwig	Metea Valley	Sr.	G-F
Sema'j Henderson	Downers Grove North	Sr.	G
Matas Masys	Willowbrook	Sr.	G
Alijah Nelson	Glenbard East	Jr.	G
Evan Taylor	Glenbard West	Sr.	G-F
Kendrick Tchoua	Benet	Sr.	F
Tom Welch	Naperville North	Sr.	F

Glenbard North**Coach:** Joe Larson.

Last year: 0-27, 0-16, ninth in the DuPage Valley; lost 71-42 to Bartlett in the Class 4A Bartlett regional quarterfinals.

Top players: Kimeli Chepyator, sr., F; Jimmy Zay, sr., G; Brandon Cole, jr., F; Angelo Cusumano, jr., F; Jaheim Edmond, jr., F; Rory Hills, jr., G; Jordan McQuarter, jr., G; Sean Laherty, jr., F; Kobe Jamison, jr., G.

Scouting report: With such little experience returning, it's tough to say how much improvement the Panthers will see. Bolstered by a talented junior class, though, things are looking up. "The junior class has some potential, but it needs to be developed a little bit," Larson said. "They need to grow up fast." What experience does return is from a pair of seniors — Chepyator and Zay, who started some games late last season. After that the group is new to varsity competition. A rotation of about eight to 10 players will allow the Panthers to be up-tempo and press on defense with hopes of creating points in transition. Glenbard North also has post potential in the halfcourt with 6-foot-4 Cole and 6-2 Edmond. "We want to push the ball up the court and take advantage of our depth and athleticism," Larson said. "That's how we'll be able to compete."

Glenbard South**Coach:** Wade Hardtke.

Last year: 11-16, 7-5, tied for third in the Metro Suburban Blue; lost 38-21 to St. Francis in a Class 3A St. Francis regional semifinal.

Top players: Kevin Enright, sr., G; Cade Hardtke, so., G; Cole Hardtke, sr., F; Ryan Harrington, sr., C; Tavion Keith, sr., G; Tommy Powers, sr., F; Nick Plaso, jr., G; Spencer Pyle, sr., C.

Scouting report: Between the District 87 tournament, Glenbard West's Holiday Classic and now playing in the Upstate Eight Conference the Raiders play only two Class 3A opponents. That's good playoff prep but until then Glenbard South will be in a battle most every game. They'll field a lineup coach Hardtke called "potentially one of the better ones we've had here." He's got basically two returning point

guards in Enright and Keith, who averaged a combined 5.1 assists. Keith, Enright and the 6-3 Powers all averaged 6 points; Powers, Pyle, Cade Hardtke and 6-8 Harrington all shot around 46 percent. Scoring balance is expected particularly after graduate Brandon Whiteside led in scoring 24 of 27 games. "They have the mentality to share the basketball as well," Wade Hardtke said.

Glenbard West**Coach:** Tim Hoder.

Last year: 15-12, 6-6, fourth in the West Suburban Silver; lost 54-51 to Naperville Central in the Class 4A Addison Trail regional semifinals.

Top players: Evan Taylor, sr., G-F; Caden Phillips, sr., F; Carter Lindstrom, sr., G; Ethan Graff, sr., F; Corey Williams, sr., F; Griffin Foster, sr., G; Matthew Gertzen, sr., F.

Scouting report: With Southern Illinois-bound Taylor leading the way, the Hilltoppers will be a threat to beat every team on their schedule. A third-year starter, Taylor averaged 18 points and 7 rebounds as a junior. "We know what he's capable of doing, and we're going to lean on him a lot," Hoder said. "But if we're going to be successful we need others to step up." Six-foot-six Phillips is the perfect post complement to Taylor on the wing. He averaged 9 points and 6 rebounds. Lindstrom, a good 3-point shooter, is going to be counted on to handle the ball more with returning starter Kyle Dell out for the season with a leg injury. Graff and Williams bring size and versatility to the lineup. Foster and Gertzen add needed depth to the backcourt. "Evan's not going to be sneaking up on anyone this season," Hoder said. "We need everyone pitching in."

Hinsdale Central**Coach:** Nick Latorre.

Last year: 10-18, 4-8, tied for fifth in the West Suburban Silver; lost 69-50 to Naperville North in the Class 4A Naperville North regional semifinals.

Top players: Matt Rush, sr., G; Danell Nicholson, sr., G; Justin Bradshaw, sr., G; Ryan Isaacson, jr., F; Charlie Lyne, sr., G; Mac Quast, jr., F; Charlie Parse, sr., G; Scott Bitautas, sr., G.

Scouting report: Red Devils

fans might not be seeing double. It might look like triple or quadruple because this is a roster loaded with similar players. "We have so many players who are similar," Latorre said. "It's going to be a challenge to see which ones rise to the occasion." One difference-maker is Rush, who last year averaged 15.9 points and 5 rebounds before being lost for the season due to a holiday knee injury. His return adds a huge boost to the backcourt, which will be crowded with Nicholson, Bradshaw and Lyne, the point guard, also returning. Six-foot-six Isaacson and 6-5 Quast, a third-year varsity member, both gained extensive post experience as sophomores and combined for 9 points and 7 rebounds. "This is one of those teams where we're going to have to see how the different pieces come together," Latorre said.

Hinsdale South**Coach:** Brett Moore.

Last year: 21-7, 10-2, first in the West Suburban Gold; lost 61-56 to Willowbrook in the Class 4A Hinsdale South regional final.

Top players: Aaron Tims, jr., F; Billy Durkin, jr., G; Lukas Rainys, sr., G; Daeshawn Amy, jr., G; Jason Williams, jr., G; Kendall Martin, so., G; Patrick Savage, sr., F; Nate Dahms, sr., G.

Scouting report: For years the Hornets have leaned on a dominant post presence to power their offense. Things have changed. They still have size with 6-foot-7 Tims, but it's different. This Hinsdale South team will be much more up-tempo. "We're going to spread teams out and take advantage of our shooters," Moore said. "We're going to get (Tims) the ball all over the court, not just in the post." Tims averaged 6 points and 4 rebounds as a sophomore and has rounded out his game quite a bit. Same with Durkin, who hit 30 3-pointers. Beyond that duo the Hornets need to get up to varsity speed. Rainys was in the rotation, but most other players are new. That includes Martin, a transfer from Fenwick. It'll take time to learn a new offense, but by the playoffs the Hornets could be dangerous. "We have the talent to be good," Moore said. "We'll be tough once we figure it out."

IG Catholic**Coach:** T.J. Tyrrell.

Last year: 20-10, 7-5, tied for third in the Metro Suburban Blue; lost 53-29 to Orr in the Class 2A Timothy Christian sectional final.

Top players: Dom Gaudio, jr., G-F; Zach Jordan, jr., G; Chauncey Lee, jr., G; Khalil Saunders, sr., F; Rashad Sbeih, jr., G.

Scouting report: The Knights have three seniors after graduating nine and players will trickle in after the usual long football playoff run. "That's a challenge we're used to," said Tyrrell, whose 114-60 record after six years shows it hasn't been problematic. Strong, athletic 6-4 Purdue football recruit Saunders may not play "if Purdue says no," Tyrrell said. If it says yes the transition game benefits via rebounds and breakouts. Either way there are reasons for long-haul success. Wojtalowicz, a 6-4 back-to-the-basket post, has progressed after a sophomore year in which he played in all 30 games. Jordan's outside shooting

Scouting report: Pitcher the helm after spending eight years at Lake Zurich the Bears won two regic and last year's sectional "We started in the summ getting them going with new style of play and the super excited," Pitcher's Lancers are thin in s — Ellenbecker and Zaki be critical, though — so lean heavily on a junior (won 20 games at the so level. Sgarbossa, who pl well in last year's region team's best shooter. Mo Perry also saw varsity tr was another major part i year's sophomore team Sgarbossa and Perry will the break in a faster-pac offense. "There will be a close games," Pitcher, "to make sure we're com with the system and eac

Lisle**Coach:** Mark LaScala.

Last year: 20-10, 9-2, s the Interstate Eight Conf lost 40-31 to Seneca in 2A Lisle regional final.

Top players: Elisha Bas sr., G-F; Damian Guerra F; Demetrius King, jr., G; Kowal, sr., C; Jay McGr G-F; Connor Nigro, jr., G; Raineri, jr., F; Connor We G.

Scouting report: Four o season's top-seven retu McGrath, Webb, Basnigt Kowal. After that depth t trouble are concerns. A scorer last season along Basnigt, McGrath will b wherever he's asked to t Webb added strength an shooting plus college loc a 6-4 point guard. McGr 64 3s last season, which open things up for the sl Basnigt or 6-5 Kowal in quick King will aid LaSce goal to turn defense into Lisle plays 10 games the two weeks and has man coming off a long footba but last season the Lions 16 straight wins starting holidays. "Depth is going an issue, but I'll put our t against any 2A team in t or the conference," LaSc

Metea Valley**Coach:** Matt Walpole.

Last year: 16-12, 9-7, fi the DuPage Valley Confe lost 71-46 to Willowbroo Class 4A Hinsdale South semifinal.

Top players: Veonte Bal F; Maurice Barnes, sr., F; Helwig, sr., G-F; Manny I Tahj Morgan, so., F; Erne sr., G; Jens Petersen, sr. Jackson Tan, sr., G.

Scouting report: Three-starters Hess and Helwig as a junior after hitting 6 averaging 15.8 points, le Mustangs into the new C only eight league games has improved his midran and added hops to better his accurate jumper. Hee high was 12 points, but t Metea in rebounds, bloc assists with a program-r 11 assists against WW S An athletic 6-1, Morgan l be a similar do-it-all type Tan draws the point gua



from Page 2

lest, sr., G.

report: Lozano Daryl Thomas, who is 28 of a heart attack. Much rather still be more coach with him here," Lozano said. At a loaded schedule, all run and point guard Thompson's transferbrook, Montini has a diverse roster. Tough Banks-Wall counterans and Gatewood, a ho scored 35 in a game in for the 19-4 sophomokerebounds, fellow starter Morrill hits the ing Thompson's handles into a game is key but uld maintain tempo se Thomas would l. "I'm looking forward ining coach Thomas' y and keep building tarted," Lozano said,

Ile Central

ste Kramer.

: 20-10, 10-6, tied i the DuPage Valley e; lost 61-49 to Benet s 4A Addison Trail nal.

rs: Chris Conway, erson Dougherty, jr., Thorne, sr., G; Sam so., G; Patrick Zeng, sr., ys, sr., F; Matt Murphy, y Suda, jr., F.

report: The Redhawks the most intriguing uPage County. In returning two of the Juniors — Conway and — standout football orme and Jackson o play basketball this We're going to be a m, but we have talent," id. "It'll be interesting w we grow up." A ineup may be three sophomore and Thorne, eam capable of winning oot-nine Conway holds en Division I scholarship r a tremendous 1, while Dougherty is last season averaging hrome is a talented shooter and Jackson re going to the basket. Stys deepen the . Murphy and Suda do in the frontcourt. "I like e have," Kramer said. d group."

Ile North

ene Nolan.

: 26-3, 15-1, first in e Valley Conference; i to Willowbrook in the lenbard East sectional s.

rs: Tom Welch, sr., F; ana, sr., G; Braxton G; Myles Barry, jr., G; hmeier, jr., G; Riley 1, jr., G; Mike Imhoff, t Johnson, so., F; Liam 3.

report: After a l run at Marist, where RedHawks to six ties, Nolan takes over s' program following rs' retirement. "There's be finding out about as the season goes lan said. "There are e a lot of opportunities The most opportunities,

Scouting report: With three sophomores and 10 new faces Sutton feels "like we're starting over." It's not bad to start with Poulakidas, who made 34 3s on 40-percent arc shooting and averaged 7.2 points. He's now 6-foot-4, 180 pounds, has broadened his skills and has offers from Illinois-Chicago and Southern Illinois. "Last year he was a 3-point specialist, but now he's a scorer," said Sutton, 407-190 at Nequa. He believes point guard Navarro may be the most improved Wildcat and likes the 6-4 Davis' overall game from perimeter to post. Nequa is solid dribbling, passing and shooting but fields little experienced height other than the 6-4 Blazek, so rebounding is a concern as is varsity-ready defense. It may take time to jell but Nequa should improve over time. "It's a pretty skilled team," Sutton said.

St. Francis

Coach: Erin Dwyer.

Last year: 15-16, 5-3, fourth in the Chicago Catholic League White; lost 51-47 to Rockford Boylan in the Class 3A Woodstock North sectional semifinals.

Top players: Danny Blank, jr., G; Mike Cascella, sr., G; Sean Connelly, sr., G; Patch England, sr., F; Ryan French, jr., G; Marcus Ingold, sr., F; Nick Kosmetatos, sr., F; Robert Nosek, jr., F; Jake Tangorra, jr., G; Bryce Walker, jr., F; Eric Welch, jr.

Scouting report: As indicated above the Spartans should go at least 10 deep, and they have the versatility to go small or big. Cascella, who last season hit 55 3-pointers, leads returners at 9 points a game; lettermen such as Blank, Kosmetatos and England look to add more. St. Francis can play 6-8 Walker, 6-6 Nosek and 6-5 England and also scrap with Cascella, Connelly and the physical Ingold. Moving from the Chicago Catholic League to the Metro Suburban Blue, St. Francis retains a grueling schedule that includes games at the United Center and Sears Centre. This group of multisport juniors and seniors should mesh well. "To me," Dwyer said, "it always comes back to taking care of the ball and playing good defense."

Timothy Christian

Coach: Scott Plaisier.

Last year: 22-6, 11-1, first in the Metro Suburban Red; lost 54-45 to IC Catholic in the Class 2A Guerin regional final.

Top players: Jack Baldrige, jr., G; Justin Baez, sr., G; Chris Brooks, sr., G; Josh Harris, so., G-F; Danardo Jones, sr., F-C; Matt Owens, jr., G; A.J. Vos, jr., G-F.

Preseason Top 20

Team

1. Benet (27-5)
2. West Aurora (25-5)
3. St. Viator (24-6)
4. York (17-12)
5. South Elgin (16-13)
6. Willowbrook (26-6)
7. Schaumburg (11-17)
8. Carmel (19-12)
9. Fremd (17-13)
10. Downers Grove N. (13-13)
11. Naperville Central (20-10)
12. Dundee-Crown (10-20)
13. Hersey (9-18)
14. Waubonsie Valley (13-18)
15. Lake Zurich (26-8)
16. Prospect (22-6)
17. Downers Grove S. (14-16)
18. Geneva (19-13)
19. Wheaton North (16-13)
20. Batavia (21-9)

Comment

Bolstered by Tchoua transfer
Walker, Brown form talented backcourt
Pair of D-I guards make Lions a 3A favorite
Just about everyone back for Dukes
Miszkievicz, Montgomery return
Warriors' winning ways will continue
Trotter and the Hodges lead the Saxons
4 starters back from regional title team
Hopkins leads Vikings
Great backcourt with Henderson, Boston
Thorne, Jackson big additions
Six players back from regional title team
Huskies return 7 players for new coach
Cannon, Skeete lead 4 players back
New coach has plenty back
Knights can score from anywhere
Eagins can score from anywhere
McDonald, Mascari make a dangerous duo
Reng leads experienced crew
Seven players still on the gridiron

Scouting report: Last season the Trojans won their most games since 2009-10 and a conference title but didn't attain their third goal, a regional title, "the one we really wanted," Plaisier said. They'll get back after it behind returning starters Baez and the all-conference Owens among a well-rounded lineup surrounding the 6-7 Jones, a dunk contest natural. Owens, who hit six 3s with 27 points against Peoria Christian, leads returners with 9.6 points a game. The Trojans will probably work by committee to replace the combined 25 points of graduated post Brandon Orange and wing Mike Thomas, plus Ty Merrick's playmaking. After Owens, Baez and defensive bulldog Brooks it's a pretty new look, though players like 6-4 swingman Harris are ready for a shot. "They like to play up-tempo, and they like to play with intensity," Plaisier said.

Waubonsie Valley

Coach: Jason Mead.

Last year: 13-18, 6-10, sixth in the DuPage Valley Conference; lost 60-35 to West Aurora in the Class 4A Plainfield South regional semifinals.

Top players: Eric Cannon, sr., G; Kenan Collier, sr., G; Cole Gregorio, sr., F; Patrick Hogan, sr., F; Nikhil Khanna, sr., F; Mason Marinelli, jr., G; Derrien Porter, sr., G; Marcus Skeete, jr., G-F; Ben Schwiager, so., G-F; Caymen Woods, sr., G-F.

Scouting report: The Warriors return four starters including 6-5 all-conference forward Skeete and Cannon, a two-time all-DVC point guard. In 2017-18 Cannon hit 80 3s, averaged 14.3 points and 1.6 assists and looks to expand his game to the rim. Porter and the 6-5 Woods each were solid playmakers, and Skeete put

up 10.6 points, 5.6 rebounds a game. The experienced Khanna, Collier and Gregorio lend a variety of skills. Hogan, at 6-6, and 6-4 Schwiager add height and length. For Mead, this team's potential is based on selflessness, trust, consistency and focus that translates to things like shot selection and team defense. "We're going to have to win battles by being good teammates," he said.

West Chicago

Coach: Bill Recchia.

Last year: 9-17, 1-9, sixth in the Upstate Eight Valley; lost 68-55 to DeKalb in the Class 4A Hinsdale South regional quarterfinals.

Top players: Jonny Bey, jr., G; Matt Brotnow, jr., F; Raed Haroon, jr., G-F; Christian Krahenbuhl, jr., F; Isaac Nelson, sr., G; Sam Ricci, sr., G-F; Jordan Wilkins, sr., G.

Scouting report: The Wildcats have depth surrounding point guard Nelson, the 6-4 Ricci and Jordan, who they will lean on heavily. All three bring two seasons of varsity minutes if not starts, and offer senior leadership that, Recchia said, "can't be measured." West Chicago will miss graduated guard Jason Gimre, the program's all-time 3-point leader, but Ricci, Jordan and returning assists and rebounds leader Nelson averaged between 12.4 to 9 points. Haroon can spot up and shoot; Bey should add spark after missing more than half last season to a knee injury. West Chicago had a good summer, but the Upstate Eight is a tough league. The Wildcats will counter overall lack of height with fundamentals. "If we're playing within ourselves and doing things right it could lead

to a successful season for us," Recchia said.

Westmont

Coach: Craig Etheridge.

Last year: 17-11, 6-5, fifth in the Interstate Eight Conference; lost 50-47 to El Paso-Gridley in the Class 2A El Paso-Gridley regional semifinals.

Top players: Caden Anderson, sr., F; Ishmay Kone, sr., F; Matt O'Leary, sr., F; Alex Pietrzak, jr., G; Troy Schlicher, sr., G; Michael Thompson, sr., F; Jaden West, sr., G-F.

Scouting report: Etheridge is five wins from 300. Four three-year starters off the Sentinels' best season since 2011-12, including 1,000-point scorer Anderson, might get that done quick. "One of the best in school history," Etheridge said, four-year starter Anderson averaged 12.9 points, 6 assists and heads what should be a balanced scoring effort including 3-point shooter Schlicher, banger Thompson and assists leader O'Leary, all around 8 points a game last season. The coach believes Pietrzak is due for a breakout, and the athletic West and Kone give Westmont as strong a core group as any in the Interstate Eight. Lack of height places an emphasis on rebounding, but this is a group groomed for this season. "We've been building this for the last couple of years," Etheridge said.

Wheaton Academy

Coach: Steve Thonn.

Last year: 20-7, 10-2, tied for first in the Metro Suburban Blue; lost 66-51 to St. Francis in the Class 3A St. Francis regional final.

Top players: Gerald Blackmon, sr., G; Marcus Bult, jr., G; Jack Dykema, sr., G; Justin Hocker, sr., G; Bryson Mitchell, jr., G; Sebastian Pares, sr., F; Steven Ryan, sr., F; Max Schamowski, jr., F.

Scouting report: Switching to the Metro Suburban Red, the Warriors will vie for the title. Some experienced players — sadly not senior guard Jimmy Paganis, out with a knee injury a second straight season — bring shooting, height and length that could turn defense to offense. Bult, 6-4, is the sole returning starter, but 6-4 Pares and 6-2 Dykema were regulars. Pares averaged 5 points, 4 rebounds; Bult averaged 9.5 points and he and Dykema hit at least 40 percent from 3-point range. Keys will be handling the ball and replacing all that graduates Jayston Williams and J.D. Gunn did, which was a lot. "Though we have to replace quite a bit of scoring from last year," Thonn said, "I think these guys are in position to do that."

WW South

Coach: Mike Healy.

Last year: 23-7, 13-3, second in the DuPage Valley Conference; lost 45-42 to Bartlett in the Class 4A Bartlett regional final.

Top players: Jeff Kratz, sr., G; Joe Ives, sr., G; Chase Keating sr., G; Matt Scherrman, sr., G; Owen Struebing, sr., G; Jackson Fischer, sr., F; Colin Rachford, sr., G; Jason Haw, jr., F; Ben Bastian, jr., G; Dorian Howard, sr., F; Declan Ermer, sr., F.

Scouting report: The Tigers will try to keep their momentum going despite two straight years of big graduation losses. "We don't have a lot of experience back, but we had a pretty good summer," Healy said. "We might have to be a little more creative in how we do things." Kratz, last year's sixth man, is the only player returning significant varsity time. Last year he averaged 4.7 points while making 25 3-pointers at a 50-percent rate. Ives, Rachford and Scherrman, another 3-point shooter, help balance the scoring, but the Tigers will win with another stout defensive effort. Six-foot-seven Howard, Fischer and Ermer provide that effort in the post. The competitiveness of a half dozen football players will help. "They're inexperienced right now but they're hungry," Healy said. "Once we get some experience, I like this group."

Willowbrook

Coach: Chris Perkins.

Last year: 26-6, 9-3, second in the West Suburban Gold; lost 67-40 to Benet in the Class 4A Glenbard East sectional final.

Top players: Matas Masys, sr., G; Everett Stubblefield, jr., G; Scott Tumilty, sr., G; Jack Hines, sr., G; Charlie Flak, sr., F; Levi Bentsen, sr., G; Sam Tumilty, jr., G; Deandre Holliday, jr., G; Isaac Gaines, jr., G; Brenton Jones, jr., G.

Scouting report: After notching 50 wins the last two years, the Warriors expect to add a lot more. Despite the graduation of four starters, there's plenty of reason for optimism. "I still feel like we return a good amount of talent," Perkins said. "I have confidence with this group, even with a tougher schedule." The backcourt should be phenomenal with Masys, in his fourth varsity season, Stubblefield and Scott Tumilty. Last season Masys averaged 11.8 points and hit 67 3-pointers. Stubblefield helped vault the Warriors to the sectional final while averaging 10.5 points and hitting 26 3s in 13 games. Scott Tumilty and Bentsen combined for another 31 3s, and there's more perimeter shooting on the way with Sam Tumilty and others. This team will fly down the court in transition and pressure every inch of it.

York

Coach: Vince Doran.

Last year: 17-12, 7-5, tied for second in the West Suburban Silver; lost 52-49 to Riverside-Brookfield in the Class 4A Curie regional semifinals.

Top players: Nick Kosich, sr., G; John Milling, sr., G; Erik Cohn, sr., G; Sam Walsh, sr., F; Nate Shockey, jr., G; Mike Pedote, sr., G; Jeff Grace, so., G; Hassan

Wheaton North

Coach: Dave Brackmann.

Last year: 16-13, 10-6, tied for third in the DuPage Valley Conference; lost 53-37 to WW South in the Class 4A Bartlett regional semifinals.

Top players: Deng Reng, sr., F; Matthew Brend, sr., G; Jacob Schauer, sr., G; Garrett Homer,



Addison Trail

Coach: Rob Schader
Last year: 12-16 overall, 2-10 sixth place in West Suburban Gold, lost to Glenbard West in the regional semifinals.
Top players: Serena Gilliam, sr., C; Brenda Berumen, sr., G; Angelina Carreras, sr., G; Joanna Garay, sr., G; Klaudia Kulowski, sr., C; Natalie Obrzut, sr. G; Karime Martinez, sr., G; Mia Johnson, so., C; Quiana Birmingham, fr., G.

Scouting report: After a subpar season due mainly to inexperience, the Blazers should be coming of age this year. Schader has a lot of weapons and the group developed cohesiveness with a strong summer league performance. "Confidence is high. We're quick, we can handle the ball and our up-tempo offense will keep us in games." Gilliam is an all-conference caliber player, and the crafty Carreras is a heady floor leader and a great ballhandler at point guard. Others must step up as scorers. The Blazers can go nine or 10 deep with kids who saw a lot of floor time last year. "We can be .500 or better," Schader said.

Benet

Coach: Joe Kilbride.
Last year: 28-5, 7-0, first in the East Suburban Catholic Conference; lost to Montini in a Class 4A sectional final.
Top players: Kendall Holmes, jr., G; Ashley Konkle, sr., F; Clara Prasse, sr., G; Lindsey Rogers, jr., F; Brooke Schramek, jr., F.
Scouting report: It's not hard to imagine Benet as a state championship contender again this season. The Redwings count three Division I commits and six more players being recruited by Division I colleges. That doesn't even count Prasse, the point guard who drew Division I and Division II interest but has opted not to play in college. And the Redwings have plenty of experience back, having lost only one starter, Denver University guard Tsimba Malonga. If that doesn't speak to Benet's depth, the 11 players returning with varsity experience at Benet should. You want size on your team? Five Redwings are 6 feet or taller. How about 3-pointers? Really, do you have to ask? Defense? C'mon, this is Benet we're talking about. The big problem last year was injuries. "We have a lot of work to do, but if we can get healthy and stay that way, I like our chances," Kilbride said.

Downers Grove North

Coach: Stephan Bolt
Last year: 14-14, 7-5 in West Suburban Silver, lost in regional final.
Top players: Julia Kramper, sr., G; Ellie Gross, jr., G; Alexis Parker, jr. F; Lauren Sebek, sr., G; Jalyn Harris, sr., C.
Scouting report: The Trojans are a team on the rise. Kramper and Gross were all-conference last season, and the front line appears solid with the 6-3 Harris — who has been offered by Emporia State — Parker and senior Quinn Stephens, who is returning from knee surgery. The 5-11 Parker is a powerfully built soccer star who should make an impact. "I think we've grown up, become tougher and are maturing as a team," Bolt said. "This group expects to compete at a high level, they hold each other accountable, and they

should not be a problem for the Mustangs, though rebounding could be because of an overall lack of height. "We have a group of players that work well on and off the court together," Long said. "Regardless of our height, we have the drive and leadership to be successful."

Fenton

Coach: Dave Mello.
Last year: 9-16, 4-8, fifth in Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division; lost in first round of regionals.
Top players: Julia Kaspari, sr., G; Ashley Lira, sr. F; Isa Lozada, sr., G; Joni Lucas, jr., G; Mackenzie Miller, sr., G;

Scouting report: Some teams play fast. Fenton makes them look slow. The Bison enter their second year playing the "Grinnell System," a high-scoring, extreme-pressure defense, frequent-substitution style. Their goal is 80 shots a game, 50 of them from 3-point range. "Now we've just changed it to the Bison system," Mello said, calling it more of a knock-off of the Grinnell System because of some changes the Bison have made. The Bison will hang a banner in their gym commemorating the national record they set last year for 3-pointers attempted. "We're working on it makes this year," the coach said. Mello estimates the Bison are about a month ahead of last year's schedule. The Bison will play all 19 girls on the roster, usually entering the game five at a time. "We practice with 19 (girls) to play 19. Other teams practice with 12 or 15 to play eight," Mello said. "If we can get their nine, 10, 11, 12 playing, that's a win for us."

Glenbard East

Coach: Nicole Miller
Last year: 7-19, lost to Elk Grove in a Class 4A regional quarterfinal.
Top players: Sophia Moore, sr., G/F; Brooke Hernandez, so., G; Emily Ryan, so., F; Lisa Stranski, jr., F; Hayden Dudek, sr., F; Jillian O'Brien, jr., G; Kate Lugardo, jr., G; Paige Andrews, jr., G; Joselyn

The DuPage Bozan

Scouting the top girls basketball players in DuPage County

Name	School	Yr.	Pos.
Maggie Bair	Glenbard South	Sr.	F
Nikki Baird	Wheaton North	Sr.	G
Mira Emma	WW South	Sr.	G
Katelyn Heller	Glenbard West	Sr.	G
Greta Kampschroeder	Naperville North	So.	G
Frankie Kokkines	Montini	Sr.	G
Holly Lueken	Downers Grove South	Sr.	F
Sam Mitchell	Montini	Sr.	G
Darrione Rogers	Lake Park	Jr.	F
Lucy Schmid	Naperville Central	Sr.	G
Brooke Schramek	Benet	Jr.	F
Lauren Stack	Benet	Sr.	F

Molinar, sr., F.

Scouting report: Moore is the lone returning starter for the Rams. Miller is back to her old stomping grounds after coaching the program from 2000-10. Moore is the key for a team looking for leadership and guidance, Miller said. The Rams have good size, with five players 5-foot-11 or taller. "We're young and looking to be a competitive team," Miller said. "Last year we weren't. I could start five sophomores easily. There's a lot of talent coming up. We're looking to get back to the basics and work hard. It's going to take awhile to get used to the varsity level, but I think we can be a force to be reckoned with as a team."

Glenbard North

Coach: Steve Wit
Last year: 6-22, 2-14 in the DuPage Valley Conference; lost to Schaumburg in a Class 4A regional quarterfinal.
Top players: Ashley Cooney, sr., C; Brea King, jr., G; Neveah King, jr. G; Stefanie Jaszka, sr., G; Anna Pedraza, so., G; Olivia Corona, so., G.
Scouting report: Despite losing three top players from last season, Wit is optimistic the Panthers can turn the corner this season in the DuKane Conference. "We are a young, guard-oriented team that has some growing to do. It's an excit-

ing year from the standpoint that we really don't have a player who has proved themselves. Anybody can step up and surprise people. I just don't know who it will be. I'm excited about this group of kids." The Panthers, Wit said, will feature many non-seniors in their rotation, though Brea and Neveah King have potential to be difference-makers. Cooney and Brea and Neveah King have the most experience among the returnees. Eight sophomores, led by Olivia Corona, highlight the roster. "I need somebody to step up and carry that load we lost in graduation," Wit said. "I think the test is going to be how we grow with some of that youth and work together and play as a team. We're a different team than the rest of the conference."

Glenbard South

Coach: Morgan Kasperek.
Last year: 30-4, 12-0, first in Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division; placed third in Class 3A.
Top players: Maggie Bair, sr., C; Lauren Cohen, so., G; Raquel LaPonte, jr., G; Alex Wilharm, so., F;
Scouting report: What a legacy last year's Raiders left: A third-place finish in Class 3A, by far the best season in Glenbard South history. That was then, this is now. Three starters from that team graduated, but there are 12 girls on the roster for a team that usually carries eight or nine. "It's

definitely a new team this year," Kasperek said. Fortunately for the Raiders, they return one of the best players in DuPage County, Drake recruit Bair. At 6-foot-2 she's a force in the post, scoring and rebounding. But anyone who's scouted the Raiders know they can't let her drift out to the 3-point line. She's a proven shooter. "The thing with Maggie is she can play any position, so we can find any team's weakness and put Maggie there," Kasperek said. Cohen is the other returning starter. "Lauren Cohen is a great basketball player and she can get to the rim well," Kasperek said. Another difference from last year is the Upstate Eight Conference schedule. The Raiders should fare well in the UEC, but there will be a learning curve there.

Glenbard West

Coach: Kristi Faulkner.
Last year: 24-6, 10-2, first in West Suburban Silver; lost in regional final.
Top players: Nikki Adamski, sr., F; Katelyn Heller, sr., G; Taylor Huff, jr., F; Maggie Stutelberg, so., G; Jamiyah Thomas, sr., F.

Scouting report: How do you top the program's best season in years? You do it by bringing back talented players like Heller, Huff, Thomas and Stutelberg. "We have some good players coming back, good leadership," Faulkner said. Heller can shoot from long range or drive to the basket, using her quickness and athleticism to push the pace. But the Hilltoppers also have good size in the 6-footers Huff, Thomas and Adamski, plus the 5-11 Stutelberg. "She's a great shooter, just a natural stroke," Faulkner said of Stutelberg. An improved Hilltoppers team will face an upgraded schedule. They opened Monday with Rolling Meadows. Two-time defending state champion Geneva, Naperville Central, Wheaton Warrenville South, Lake Park and Fremd also will challenge the Hilltoppers in addition to a good conference schedule. "We've added a lot of tougher games and we think that challenge will help us hopefully be more prepared for the postseason this season," Faulkner said.

Hinsdale Central

Coach: Karen Persinger
Last year: 10-19, 2-10 in West Suburban Silver; lost in regional semifinal.
Top players: Tina Rivera, sr., G; Mady Bokich, sr., G; Sarah Cernugai, jr., G; Maiwen Amegadjie, jr., C; Kendall Butler, jr., F; Anna Howell, jr. G.

Scouting report: The Red Devils have a blank canvas to work with following heavy graduation losses. Bokich and Rivera are back and will provide the leadership for the rebuild. "We graduated eight amazing seniors from last year's team," Persinger said. "This has created a completely new look and the girls are excited about the opportunity to step up and establish their own mark on the program. Early in the season we will be focused on developing our identity on both sides of the ball. Mady Bokich and Tina Rivera have done a great job leading and setting the example of what hard work looks like in our program."

Hinsdale South

Coach: Scott Tanaka
Last year: 11-17, lost in regional semifinal

Last year: 11-18, 4-8 in Suburban Conference Division; lost in sectional semifinal.
Top players: Jaida Smith Jackie Lara, sr., C; Gab Jr., G/F; Hannah Johnso G; Alia Johnson, so., G; Wagner, fr., F.

Scouting report: The K graduated nine players to rebuild on the fly with four-year varsity player, an up-tempo offense. G should be a strength, as hopes the fast pace will up for the lack of height are a younger team but to have a better outcome last year," James said. great senior leadership and Jackie. Jaida is doing great job of being the le setting the tone for the girls." The younger player include junior guard Abi a defensive stalwart, an 5-11 sister Claire. "We I added a more complex to get all the girls involv get all the girls the oppo score," James said. "De we have a ton of speed i look to get some easy b; turnovers. This team will the little things to be suc

Lake Park

Coach: Brian Rupp.
Last year: 18-10, 9-7, f DuPage Valley Conferen regional final.
Top players: Casey Dan Kate Kirkham, sr., G; Ria so., G; Darrione Rogers, Payton Skalski, sr., G; S; Vandergriff, sr., G; Braye Walker, jr., G.

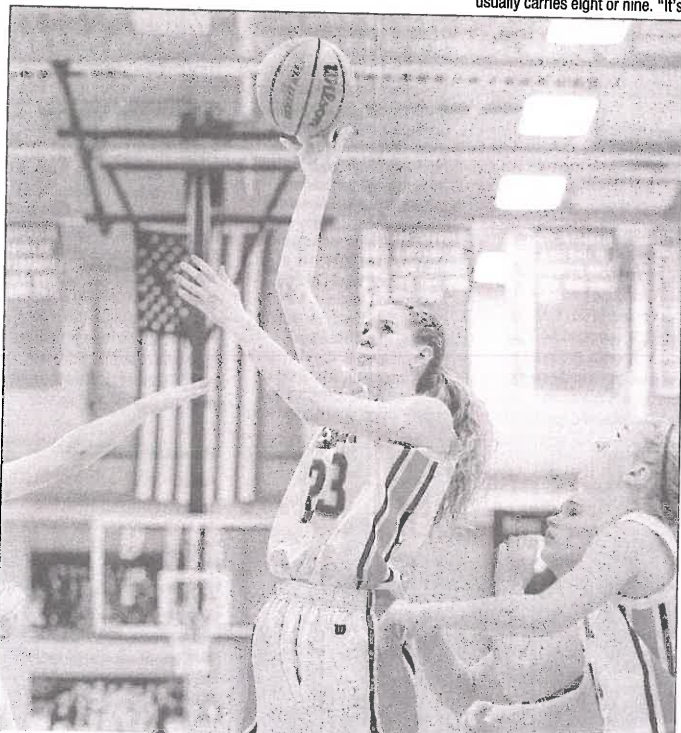
Scouting report: Any te Rogers is going to be go 5-foot-11 do-everything recruit is fun to watch. "o usly, we've got to get D the ball. She's bigger, fa stronger, older," Rupp s rest of the Lancers will e to take the lead offensive they're OK with that. "Th very low on this team rig They enjoy each other's es," Rupp said. But if opf focus their defense on R she will find a 3-point sh in the corner. The Lancer loaded with them. "Darr smart enough to make t; plays, she's smart enou make that pass. Her ego low too," the coach said. and Darre are two of tho shooters who will join Ro the starting lineup, but t two spots are up for grab team that should go eigh deep. Rupp will use the e part of the season to lear his roster and let the new players get comfortable.

Lisle

Coach: Nick Balaban.
Last year: 13-17, 6-5, f Interstate Eight Conferen regional final.

Top players: Jordan Buc sr., F; Emma Rossin, so., Gaby Wagoner, jr., G; Mc Weaver, sr., G; Caitlyn W sr., F.

Scouting report: Balaba lost to graduation one of best players has ever ha: Natalie Takahashi, and h had numerous school ev pulling players out of pr already this season. "It's a tough go in terms of ha some continuity," he sair why is he so optimistic a the Lions this season? "I



from Page 4

Valley
edric Williams
r: 8-17 overall; 2-12 seventh in DuPage Valley
ce, lost to Lockport in
ound of playoffs.

ers: Tess Thompson,
Nazira Whigham, Jr.,
Kern, sr., G; Kelsey
., F; Chloe Kurkjian Jr., F.

report: The youthful
s are athletic and deep
ll young teams have to
n how they take care of
Thompson is a top-flight
it was injured in a
me in the spring and
at back at full strength
way through the season.

is to wreak havoc
ong pressing defense,"
said. "And we can
sople in and out to utilize
1." Outside shooting
ping, but early on the
s will emphasize the
3 game and getting it into
Whigham and Kern give
rong pair of returning
n the backcourt.

ason Nichols.

r: 32-3, 6-0, first place
athletic Athletic Confer-
l Division; placed second
1A.

ers: Taylor Charles,
nkie Kokkines, sr., G;
hell, sr., G; Sydney
a, sr., G; Zoe Zacker,
tiana Thomas, fr., F;
rnton, so., G.

report: This version
it will be younger,
letic and more perim-
ed, sometimes using a
ffense. "We have not
many freshmen that
de an impact in a while,"
aid. Four of the top
icos will be freshmen,
of them — Thomas
les — already have
ip offers from major
colleges. Still, they are
1, and there will be good
bad days for them.

o have to mesh with the
l veterans. Mitchell, an
-Birmingham recruit, will
imary scoring option,
rive to the basket or
pointer. SIU recruits Pro-
nd Kokkines also will be
on to provide leadership
ing.

ille Central
ndy Nussbaum.
r: 28-6, 15-1, first in the
Valley Conference; lost in
onal final.

ers: Katlyn Allen, so., G;
llan, Jr., F; Gabi Melby,
ara Opalka, Jr., F; Lucy
sr., F; Lauren Umbricht,

report: Nussbaum is
roll with a new group
on again. "I'm pretty
c," he said. "I feel good
r group. We don't have
eal of size, but we seem
in era of basketball
at doesn't seem to be
tant as it used to be."
ans his team can shoot
all from outside. Even
awks' lone 6-footer,
y of Chicago recruit
can shoot from deep.
Melby will be counted
d the team in scoring
ucy's a hard worker and
on her game. She's

five-position standout who's one of the best in the state. Though they don't have great depth there is an impressive group of supporting players who can make the Huskies strong on both offense and defense. The guards are returning starters. Kwisloz can shoot from long range, and Rivard is a good defender and floor leader. Drummond, Lockridge and Castillo will be tough on the boards. "Our other kids will have to step up when opponents concentrate on Kampschroeder," Dycus said. The coach would like to have another player or two develop to help the Huskies through a brutal schedule and postseason.

Neuqua Valley

Coach: Mike Williams

Last year: 10-20, 4-8 fifth in DuPage Valley Conference, lost to Naperville Central in the regional semifinal.

Top players: Kelly Vonnahme, sr., F; Ashley Ishman, sr., F; Claudia Gallegos, so., F/G; Ellie Wisner, so., G; Kara Vonnahme, jr., G., Emma Guthrie, so., G.

Scouting report: The Wildcats, long one of the top teams in the area, have found the past few years challenging. But Williams believes that the size and talent he has this year could start the team on the way back. The Wildcats are led by returning starters Kelly Vonnahme, Ishman and Gallegos. There is good outside shooting, and the Wildcats' length and quickness will create problems for opponents. Williams expects a solid defense to translate into fastbreak points. "We're not talking about records or conference standings," Williams said. "We're just enjoying practicing and team building. We have some good young players coming up. We're working hard and we'll see where that leads us in the postseason."

St. Francis

Coach: Sandy De Craene

Last year: 14-14, 8-1, second in the GCAC; lost to Glenbard South in a Class 3A regional final.

Top players: Kate Chaparro, so., G; Madison Wisted, sr., G/F; Megan Lombardo, sr., G; Emily Dziengel, jr., G/F; Ashley Sullivan, jr., G.

Scouting report: After taking over the program midway through last season, De Craene is back on the sidelines. The Spartans return only one starter, Chaparro, but hope to compete in the Metro Suburban. "Kate did really well for us last year, but we're hoping she can come back stronger after finally finding her shooting rhythm at the end of last year," De Craene said. Wisted is slated to play numerous positions for the Spartans after missing almost all of the last two seasons due to injuries. Lombardo played quality minutes last season and is slated for an expanded role. De Craene said the 10 juniors hold the key to the team's success

Preseason Top 20

Team

1. Benet (28-5)
2. Maine West (32-2)
3. Fremd (18-13)
4. Montini (32-3)
5. Geneva (31-3)
6. Rolling Meadows (21-9)
7. Batavia (18-12)
8. Lake Zurich (20-11)
9. Naperville Central (28-6)
10. WW South (27-4)
11. Dundee-Crown (19-10)
12. Glenbard West (24-6)
13. Glenbard South (30-4)
14. Grayslake Central (23-8)
15. Burlington Central (27-4)
16. Kaneland (25-5)
17. Bartlett (19-11)
18. Barrington (10-17)
19. Hersey (21-9)
20. Wheaton North (20-9)

Comment

The Redwings are loaded
Kent, Dugalic are big-time players
Vikes are talented, tall and deep
Broncos are quick, athletic and very good
5 starters gone from 2-time state champ
Greifenstein, Davis form a strong backcourt
Bulldogs return nine of top 10
Sectional champ returns G Elz Gilbertson
Melby expected to miss first 7-10 games
The Tigers are always tough
Sophs Boado, Crenshaw a nice 1-2 punch
Hilltoppers have good size, experience
Bear is back from Class 3A 3rd-place team
Bullman emerges as a Division I prospect
Junior Schmidt already at 1,000 points
Must replace talented backcourt
Lost Here, but solid core returns
All-Area Thompson, Meyer return
Defending MSL champion reloads
A new flock of Falcons join Baird

this season. "We have a variety of juniors fighting for positions and minutes," she said. "We're expecting them to come out and give us good minutes. I'm a defensive coach, so I expect good defense from all of them. Our bench is going to give us a lot of needed help that we didn't have last year."

Timothy Christian

Coach: Michelle Strube

Last year: 20-10, 8-4, second in the Metro Suburban Red; lost to Harlan in a Class 2A Chicago Christian sectional title game.

Top players: Sureya Alex, so., G; Hannah Schuringa, so., F; Jordyn Strube, sr., G; Greta Hoogstra, so., C; Sarah Carstensen, so., G; Lauren Gehrke, sr., G.

Scouting report: After finishing with the most wins in Michelle Strube's first five years, the Trojans have a wealth of talent back to contend for the Metro Suburban Red title. Replacing the graduated Olivia Schuringa, who averaged a team-high 9.8 points a game, is a tall order. But Alex made big strides last season, and Hannah Schuringa averaged 8.5 points and a team-best 7.8 rebounds. Jordyn Strube, in her third year on the varsity, could be an X-factor after averaging 9.2 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.2 assists. Once she recovers from an injury suffered in the volleyball season, the 6-foot-2 Hoogstra is a player to watch. Last season the Trojans captured their first regional title since 2011 and only lost two games in the 2018 calendar year. "The key for us is to play defense because we will push the ball in transition," Michelle Strube said. "We want to be aggressive on defense. I have some really good athletes, maybe better than last year. We have some talented kids who can step in and play right away. Last year was a nice surprise. We really started playing well as

a team starting in January. Our goal is to win the conference, repeat as regional champions and get that sectional. We have big goals ahead of us."

Waubonsie Valley

Coach: Brett Love

Last year: 10-18 overall, 5-11 sixth in DuPage Valley Conference, lost to Bolingbrook in the regional semifinal.

Top players: Lauren McKnight, so., G; Ahniya Melton, Jr., F; Grace Setter, Jr., F; Mykah Berkompas, so., G; Iwiyisi Osaghae, sr., G; Halle Williams, Jr., F.

Scouting report: The Warriors are young and athletic. Going into the season the offense is ahead of the defense. There's great balance and athleticism that could make them a DVC contender when that defense develops as expected. "We can put the ball on the floor, drive and work it inside. And we have some firepower from the outside," Love said. McKnight was all-conference as a freshman and she's a complete player. Melton, who is coming off a preseason injury, is a force on the boards. She's also added a consistent jump shot. Williams and Berkompas give Waubonsie a pair of sharpshooters. The Warriors will play a pressing defense and they plan to push the ball in transition.

West Chicago

Coach: Thomas Nall

Last year: 6-20, 3-9 in Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division, lost to Addison Trail in a Class 4A Addison Trail regional quarterfinal.

Top players: Shailee Patel, so., G; Shadie Obenauer, so., G/F; Shelby Steward, Jr., F; Monse Vargas, Jr., F; Paige Mikson, Jr., G.

Scouting report: The Wildcats will be a gritty bunch due to only 10 players on the roster. The

first-year coach is preaching playing hard and competing on every play to overcome a small roster, especially with the graduation of Sofia Radice and Sierra Koenig. "They are going to play hard, and we will see what happens from there," Nall said. "It's about playing hard and competing. All 10 girls, at some point of the year, will have to contribute and get on the floor. It's a matter of them buying into what we're trying to preach. If they do, we will be all right and not worry about wins and losses and just competing." Nall said his team will play primarily a zone defense due to the team's lack of depth. Offensively, the Wildcats don't have the personnel, Nall said, to play at an up-tempo pace and will try and slow down the game and look for quality shots on each possession.

Westmont

Coach: John Natanek

Last year: 8-18, 1-9 in Interstate Eight Small, lost in regional semifinal.

Top players: Megan Thompson, so., F; Aleksa Sekularic, so., G.

Scouting report: To say first-year coach Natanek has a rebuilding project on his hands is an understatement. The Sentinels have only 11 players in the program, all of whom will play at the varsity level. No underclass levels means help won't be coming this winter. "We are very young and attempting to rebuild the program," Natanek said. "Our top two players are sophomores, and many freshmen will get varsity minutes. Our success will be measured in development." The win-loss record may not be impressive, but the young players will get a chance to get in on the ground floor of the rebuild. "We want to bring excitement back to Westmont girls basketball," Natanek said.

Wheaton Academy

Coach: Erin Carwell

Last year: 11-15, 4-8 Metro Suburban Blue, lost to Aurora Central Catholic in a Class 3A regional quarterfinal.

Top players: Analise Richcreek, sr., F; Imani Hillmer, Jr., F; Molly Vanhuizen, so., G; Jerilyn Blackmon, so., G; Britta Swoboda, Jr., F.

Scouting report: The Warriors have a unique roster makeup, with a group of forwards among the main returnees. Richcreek, a four-year starter, headlines the group. Along with Richcreek, Hillmer, a three-year starter, and Swoboda form a solid trio that will create matchup problems due to their experience and size. Carwell is counting on point guard Blackmon to mesh well with Richcreek and Hillmer. "We're forward heavy," Carwell said. "I have a team of forwards. Our guards are young, but it's going to be exciting because we are a quick team and have really good leaders. Analise and Imani are great leaders and have a love for basketball and Jerilyn has speed and can play the whole game. All three of them will look to shoot, have great range and play really well together and can fill any position I ask of them." Vanhuizen benefitted from being pulled up to the varsity last season. Capable of playing the wing spot, Vanhuizen is athletic an scrappy, Carwell said. Swoboda, a captain, showed promise last season and salted to

to be young," Eaton said. "... To have kids who are that driven at 17, 18 years old, it sure makes it easy for me." Offensively, the focus will be on Baird, the 6-foot-2 Belmont University recruit, but Eaton sees more balance in this year's squad. And it's a likable group that Eaton is counting on to carry on a key team tradition; the Falcons have gone eight seasons without an athletic code violation. "That's probably the thing I'm proudest of the most," he said.

WW South

Coach: Rob Kroehnke

Last year: 27-4, 14-2, second in DuPage Valley Conference; lost to Geneva in a Class 4A sectional.

Top players: Maria Dohse, sr., G; Mira Emma, sr., G; Paige Miller, sr., G; Kylie Ruggles, sr., G; MacKenzie Stebbins, sr., G.

Scouting report: Never blessed with great size, the Tigers are even smaller than usual this season. They often will play five guards together. "It's going to be interesting, that's for sure. We're going to have to try some different stuff," Kroehnke said. One thing that won't change is the WW South defense, always tougher than a 20-page book report. The Tigers might not be big, but they are quick and athletic — including Division I soccer recruits Emma and Miller — so they will push the pace. Oh, and their schedule is as strong as any team's, with a number of top nonconference teams plus the new Dukane Conference, which is loaded top to bottom for girls basketball. The Tigers open league play with defending state champion Geneva. "Come February hopefully we're prepared," Kroehnke said. "It'll be interesting to see how everything shakes out."

Willowbrook

Coach: Terry Harrell

Last year: 6-21, 4-8 West Suburban Gold; lost to Hinsdale South in a Class 4A Hinsdale South regional quarterfinal.

Top players: Katelyn McCann, sr., G; Gracie Tumilty, so., G; Stephanie Dasbach, so., F; K'aliya Herron, Jr., G; Maureen Schmid, sr., F.

Scouting report: Harrell welcomes back three of his top players from last season. McCann averaged a team-high 11.2 points a game. McCann, a 5-foot-7 senior, is one of eight guards on the roster. Herron averaged 10 points, and 5-foot-6 Schmid led the team in rebounds at 8.9 a game. Three sophomores will play heavy minutes this season, led by Tumilty and Dasbach. Harrell said Annmarie Knutson is also slated to be a key contributor. "Although (Willowbrook) will rely on young players in the starting lineup, we expect to have a deep bench, which will enable us to compete for the top spot in the West Suburban Gold," Harrell said.

York

Coach: Brandon Collings

Last year: 19-10, 8-4, second in West Suburban Silver; lost in regional final.

Top players: Sara Krissinger, Jr., G; Kathleen Levins, sr., F; Sydney Moils, so., G/F; Kiah Rufus, sr., G; Emily Rohman, sr., F.

Scouting report: Levins, a four-year varsity player, leads a young but talented group





CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Fall musical at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School's theater department will present its fall musical—"The Music Man"—this week. The performances will take place tonight, Friday and Saturday in the school auditorium. Each performance will begin at 7 p.m. Set in 1912, the musical follows traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments for a boys' band he vows to organize. Harold's plans to take the residents' money and skip town are foiled when he falls for Marian Paroo, the city's librarian and music teacher. Marian transforms Harold into a respectable citizen. Pictured are senior Joe LaPointe, who portrays Harold Hill, and junior Emily O'Brochta, who plays Marian Paroo. The musical, which appeals to all ages, will feature a cast of 36 Willowbrook students and 13 local children. There will also be a special appearance by Willowbrook's marching band. Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and \$3 with an activity pass. Admission is free to District 88 Senior Gold Card holders, and to children under 12 who are accompanied by an adult. To purchase tickets, visit dupage88.net/WBMusicalTickets2018-19. The Kiwanis Club of Villa Park will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser before Friday's show. The dinner will take place from 5 to 6:45 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For more information about the dinner, visit dupage88.net/WBSpaghetDinner2018-19.

DuPage area Real Men Wear Pink campaign raises \$47,000 for ACS

Villa Park resident among top producers, raising \$4,000

In its second year, the Real Men Wear Pink campaign of DuPage County raised \$47,000 to support the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Throughout the month of October, 27 prominent area men participated in the campaign, raising funds and encouraging the women in their lives and in the community to take action in the fight to end breast cancer.

Bruce Hill, a resident of Villa Park and an employee at the Community Bank of Elmhurst was among the campaign's fundraisers, raising nearly \$4,000 to support the Society's breast cancer initiatives.

"We are grateful to all the Real Men Wear Pink candidates for lending their voices to our cause," said Wayne White, executive vice president at the American Cancer Society. "These community leaders made a huge commitment to raise funds to help save more lives from breast cancer. Donations like these allow the Society to help save lives through early detection and prevention, innovative breast cancer research, and patient support."

"I believe everyone has a family member or friend that has been affected by breast cancer," said Hill. "I was so happy to work with the American Cancer Society to help support their lifesaving work by becoming a candidate in the Real Men Wear Pink campaign. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraising drive and thanks to the American Cancer Society for their efforts."

In addition to Hill, the 2018 Real Men Wear Pink candidates were from companies such as Elmhurst College, Style Exteriors, FP Mailing Solutions, Zurich North America, FedEx Office, Rush Hospital, Edward Medical Group, Earth Friendly Products, ACE Relocation, TopGolf Naperville, and more.

According to the American Cancer Society Cancer Facts & Figures 2018, an estimated 252,710 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and an estimated 40,610 will die from the disease this year. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, and it is the most common cancer diagnosed in women other

than skin cancer.

It's not too late to make a donation to help fight breast cancer. Visit MakingStridesWalk.org to help the Society continue saving lives. For free breast cancer information and resources or to donate, visit the American Cancer Society's website at cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345 anytime, day or night.

Former civilian Villa Park Police Department employee charged with official misconduct/theft

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Villa Park Chief of Police Michael Lay announced last week that a former civilian employee at the Villa Park Police Department has been charged with two counts of official misconduct (Class 3 felony), one count of theft of government property (Class 4 felony), one count of possession of a controlled substance (Class 4 felony) and one count of misdemeanor theft.

On Nov. 5, a \$10,000 with 10 percent to apply arrest warrant was issued for John Simons, 48, of Lombard. Simons turned himself in to authorities at the DuPage County Sheriff's Office, posted the necessary \$1,000 and was released from custody.

It is alleged that on Oct. 10, Simons stole hydrocodone pills from the evidence vault of the Villa Park Police Department. Upon learning of the alleged theft, the Villa Park Police Department immedi-

ately contacted the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office. Simons has since resigned from his position with the police department.

"I would like to commend Chief Lay and his administration, particularly Deputy Chief William Lyons, for uncovering this alleged theft and for immediately bringing this matter to our attention," Berlin said. "There is no room for the type of behavior alleged in this case at any work place let alone a police department whose primary mission is to protect and serve the public."

"I am very disappointed that an employee of our department was allegedly involved in activity that lead to these charges," Lay said. "I am thankful that members of our department discovered potential wrongdoing on the part of the employee, swiftly initiated an investigation and brought the information to the attention of the DuPage County State's Attorneys' office for further investigation."

Blood shortages worry blood banks

An area-wide shortage of blood has officials with Vitalant concerned about local hospitals having an adequate supply of whole blood, platelets, and plasma as we move into a time of year which typically sees a decline in blood donations national-

We also see an increase in illness, accidents and potential bad weather. All of these factors make your donation more important than ever."

In preparation for their donation, donors are asked to eat well, stay hydrated and arrive with proper identification. The donation appointment takes about an hour (with the donation itself only around ten minutes) and is both safe and comfortable. Donors must be at least 18 years old (16 and 17 years of age with parental consent).

In the Villa Park area, eligible donors are encouraged to visit their local Vitalant Donation Center at 100 East Roosevelt Road which is open seven days a week. For exact hours of operation, call 877-25VITAL (877-258-4825).

"As we enter the holiday season, we look forward to spending time with loved ones, but we also look for ways to give back," said Vitalant Regional Director Eva Quinley. "Our current blood supply is dwindling, making it difficult to provide blood to the patients who need it. The next few months are historically difficult for blood banks since people are busy with the holidays and their families.

LifeSource is now Vitalant. Earlier this year, Blood Systems announced that its 10 blood center brands including LifeSource had united as one cohesive brand under the new name Vitalant. In the Chicagoland area, Vitalant has 17 donation centers, four fixed sites and hosts an average of six blood drives every day. View all donation center locations and blood drive dates by visiting vitalant.org or call 877-25VITAL (877-258-4825).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Lions Club makes fall donations

The Villa Park Lions Club made its fall donations last week by presenting checks to the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry and the York Township Food Pantry. Pictured left to right during the Nov. 8 presentation are: York Township Food Pantry Director Angela Tanner, Steve Anderson, the director of the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry, Lion Rich Hamlin and Lion Sid Bergh. In addition to the two food pantries, the Lions Club made fall donations to the Salvation Army and to Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801. The Villa Park Lions Club meets at noon on the second Thursday of each month at HI-View Restaurant, 425 W. St. Charles Road, and at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the Villa Park Public Library, 305 S. Ardmore Ave. For more information about the Villa Park Lions Club, contact Lion Sean Birmingham at 630-834-1164, or at sbirmingham@vppl.info.

Sports

LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Warriors grab the lead with a furious rally before losing in overtime

Loss to Batavia marks Willowbrook's third straight in the quarterfinal round

By Chris Fox
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook football team staged an electrifying comeback in the fourth quarter of Saturday's IHSA Class 7A quarterfinal playoff game at Batavia. Trailing the reigning state-champion Bulldogs 24-7 with less than eight minutes to play in regulation, the Warriors scored three touchdowns to take a 27-24 lead. Batavia then rallied in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter, converting a field-goal kick to tie the score at 27-27 and send the game into overtime.

The Bulldogs defeated Willowbrook 34-27 in overtime in a thrilling contest featuring previously unbeaten teams.

Batavia, which won the Class 7A state title last season, improved its 2018 record to 12-0 and advanced to this weekend's semifinal matchup against Nazareth Academy.

The Warriors, who finished the 2018 campaign with an 11-1 record, have now lost in the quarterfinal round in three straight seasons. Willowbrook lost to the eventual state champion in each of the last two years. East St. Louis beat the Warriors in the quarterfinal round before claiming the Class 7A title in 2016. Prairie Ridge of Crystal Lake beat the Warriors in the quarterfinals of last year's Class 6A playoffs. Prairie Ridge went on to win the Class 6A title.

Willowbrook senior Scott Tumilty scored all three of the Warriors' fourth-quarter touchdowns by hauling in receptions from his brother—junior quarterback Sam Tumilty. A 34-yard touchdown connection by the two brothers gave Willowbrook a 26-24 lead with 59.8 seconds left in the fourth quarter. That play produced an eruption from the large contingent of Warrior fans at the contest, which took place in clear and cold afternoon conditions.

"I don't think any of our guys or coaches or fans had any doubt in our minds," said Scott Tumilty of the Warriors' confidence in staging a rally against Batavia. "We kept going and we kept playing with a chip on our shoulder. I think it helped us get back in the game."

The Bulldogs marched down the field and drove inside the Warriors' 10-yard line before kicking the tying field goal with 10.1 seconds left in regulation.

Batavia began the overtime period with an offensive possession—a first-and-goal series from the 10-yard line. The Bulldogs delivered a 10-yard touchdown run on the first play of overtime. They converted the extra-point kick for a 34-27 lead.

The Warriors went backwards on their subsequent offensive series. The Bulldogs sacked Sam Tumilty for a 5-yard loss on first down. After an incomplete pass on second down, Batavia applied more pressure on the Warrior quarterback, who was flagged for an intentional grounding penalty. Willowbrook then faced a fourth-and-goal play from the 33-yard line. Sam Tumilty heaved a long throw on the game's last play. The Bulldogs broke up the pass a few yards short of the goal line.

"I feel like the way our guys play is truly a product of their character; I think it's a great reflection of our school and our community," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after the game. "I'm proud of that effort. Unfortunately, we weren't able to finish."

Hildreth also noted during his post-game comments that the Warriors rarely trailed their opponents throughout the season. Willowbrook trailed Hinsdale Central during its 21-17 Week 2 victory on Aug. 31. The Warriors also trailed Maine West briefly during last week's sec-

brook prevailed 36-26 in the Nov. 3 post-season battle in Villa Park.

Batavia led 14-0 at halftime after a pair of touchdown passes in each of the first two quarters. The Bulldogs scored their first touchdown on a 20-yard pass in the final minute of the first quarter. They produced their next touchdown on a 19-yard pass with about four minutes to play in the second quarter.

The Bulldogs took a 17-0 lead with a 22-yard field goal with about seven minutes left in the third quarter. Willowbrook's offense came to life on the following series. The Warriors scored on their first play of the drive, with Sam Tumilty firing a long pass to senior C.J. Harris. After catching the ball near the sideline, Harris raced downfield into the end zone for a 73-yard touchdown reception. Senior Zoe Ericson-Staton added the extra-point kick to cut Batavia's lead to 17-7 with 6:49 left in the third quarter.

The Bulldogs regained their 17-point advantage with a scoring drive that began in the third quarter and ended in the fourth quarter. The drive, which featured four third-down conversions, ended with a 4-yard touchdown run with 7:54 left in the fourth period.

The Warriors barely needed a minute to respond; Scott Tumilty caught a 26-yard touchdown pass from his brother on a fourth-and-one play to cap a 71-yard scoring drive. Ericson-Staton kicked the extra point to cut Batavia's lead to 24-14 with 6:45 left in the quarter.

The Warriors tried an inside kick on the ensuing kickoff; the kick did not advance 10 yards, and the Bulldogs began their drive in Willowbrook territory. On fourth and four from the Warriors' 32-yard line, the Bulldogs attempted a pass. Junior Deandre Holliday of Willowbrook intercepted the pass and returned it to near midfield at the 4:07 mark.

Less than one minute later, Scott Tumilty made a one-handed catch around the Bulldogs' 20-yard line and raced into the end zone to slice Batavia's lead to 24-20. The Warriors couldn't execute the snap on the extra-point kick and trailed the Bulldogs 24-20 with 3:11 to play.

Willowbrook did not try an on-side kick on the following kickoff. The defense forced the Bulldogs to punt, and the Warriors took over at their own 36-yard line with 1:36 remaining in the quarter. Sam Tumilty completed passes to Harris, Holliday and Scott Tumilty on the first three plays of the drive. He then lofted a high pass to his brother, who caught the ball near the goal line for the go-ahead touchdown that gave the Warriors their first lead of the game. Ericson-Staton then connected on the extra-point kick to push the Warriors' lead to 27-24.

"The place was rocking," said Scott Tumilty of the atmosphere in Batavia's stadium after his go-ahead touchdown reception. "It was a cool sight to see. We were tenacious on offense and defense. That helped us come back and almost pull it out."

A Willowbrook penalty for roughing the passer helped the Bulldogs on their last-minute drive. Shortly after that penalty, Batavia completed a pass for a 26-yard gain down to the Warriors' 13-yard line. The Bulldogs threw an incomplete pass that landed near the goal line before they executed the field-goal kick that sent the game to overtime.

"I was confident in our defense; I thought we would get that last stop," said Hildreth in referring to the Bulldogs' game-tying drive. "It didn't work out."

While Batavia players ran on the field to celebrate their overtime victory, some Willowbrook players fell to the ground in despair. The team's players' consoled each other in a



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

gathering. The seniors, who had just finished their Warrior football careers, traded thanks and encouragement with the underclass players.

"It's another experience for a group of guys to see what it takes to get past this point," said Hildreth of the memorable season, which brought the Warriors their second straight West Suburban Gold Conference title. "It doesn't just happen."

As hard as the team worked to win 11 straight games and make another appearance in the state quarterfinal round, Hildreth said the Warriors' future teams will have to dig even deeper to advance further in the playoffs.

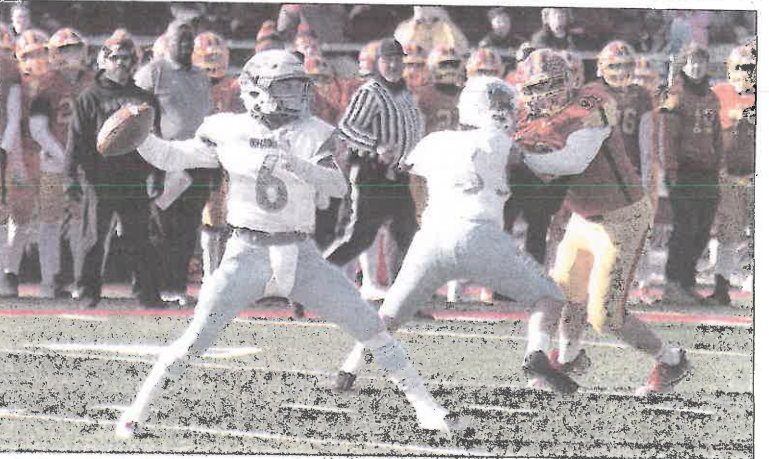
"It takes that much more to get over that hump," said Hildreth, who paid tribute to the effort of Willowbrook's players.

"These guys have worked really hard to create that culture and expectation of not just getting to playoff games, and not just competing for conference championships," he said. "That's the expectation now. We've got to continue that."

Scott Tumilty, who joined the varsity during his sophomore year—the season the team began its run of quarterfinal appearances—added his own praise of his teammates and the coaching staff.

"I can't thank the guys and the coaches enough," he said. "Day in and day out, the coaches prepared the best game plans. They put us in a position to win. The guys followed up. Everyone produced. That helped us to get this far."

The Willowbrook football team tangled with Batavia in Saturday afternoon's IHSA Class 7A quarterfinal playoff game. Both teams entered the contest with season records of 11-0. Playing on their home field, the Bulldogs held a 24-7 lead with less than eight minutes to play in the fourth quarter. Willowbrook then scored three straight touchdowns to take a 27-24 lead. Batavia kicked a game-tying field goal with about 10 seconds remaining to send the game into overtime. The Bulldogs prevailed 34-27 in overtime to advance to the Class 7A semifinals. Senior Scott Tumilty (No. 20, pictured above and below), who caught three touchdown passes in the final period, is shown during his third score—a 34-yard reception that gave the Warriors the lead with about one minute left in the fourth period. "Scotty Tumilty is the toughest football player in the state of Illinois, and he's the best playmaker I've ever been around," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after the game. "It's unfortunate I don't get to coach him again next week."



Junior quarterback Sam Tumilty (No. 6) throw four touchdown passes in Saturday's game

Montini Catholic Broncos pound Evergreen Park

Victory sets up 5A semifinal contest at Sterling this weekend

By Mike Sandrolini
 LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
 STAFF REPORTER

Evergreen Park, Montini Catholic's 5A quarterfinals opponent last Saturday, handily knocked off its first- and second-round playoff foes. Those results, however, are somewhat misleading when one takes a closer look at the Mustangs' 2018 schedule.

Elmwood Park, whom Evergreen Park beat in the second round (52-14), defeated only one team with a winning record during the regular season. The Mustangs' first-round victory was a 63-34 drubbing of Payton, whose schedule consisted of playing only CPS schools.

Additionally, two of Evergreen Park's five regular-season victories were by forfeit.

Montini's schedule this season, on the other hand, was far more challenging. That, combined with the Broncos' overall talent, proved to be more than enough for Montini as it overwhelmed Evergreen Park, 54-6.

It's on to the semifinals Saturday where the 11-1 Broncos travel to No. 2 seeded Sterling, a 10-7 winner over Rockford Boylan last weekend.

The Broncos led 27-0 by the end of the first quarter and 48-0 at intermission, which benefited them during the second half with a running clock. Coach Mike Bukovsky was then able to rest a lot of his starters and leave Evergreen Park healthy going into the semifinals.

"I felt that we had some matchup advantages in several areas," Bukovsky said. "You get a team in the quarterfinals and they've got guys that can run and throw and catch and do a great job on film so you've got to be ready and do what we have to do, but I think we overwhelmed them a little bit."

Quarterback Deontay Bell got the rout started with a 59-yard touchdown run at 9:08 of the first quarter.

Raymond Wojkovich's fumble recovery at the Evergreen Park 22-yard line set up the Broncos' next score: a 3-yard Nick Fedanzo run—one of two touchdowns Fedanzo had on the day. He broke loose for a 63-yard TD with 2:38 to go in the second quarter to give Montini its 48-0 halftime lead.

"I think the strength of our schedule, some of that showed a little bit early and that's what we were kind of counting on coming in," Bu-



Junior running back Enzo May scores Montini Catholic's final touchdown during the fourth quarter of its 54-6 Class 5A quarterfinals win at Evergreen Park last Saturday.

DON ALFANO PHOTOS LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW

kovsky said. "You just take them one game at a time and we're playing next week."

Another Evergreen Park turnover—Jemari Harris' pass interception with 5:27 to go in the first quarter—opened the doors for another Montini touchdown. The Broncos resorted to some razzle-dazzle when quarterback Robert Brazziel tossed what looked to be a screen pass out on the flat to Nick Wind, who instead stopped and threw downfield to a wide open Matt Ross. Ross took it the rest of the way on a play that covered 41 yards.

Ross made it 27-0 with his second TD of the quarter, a 53-yarder off a screen pass from Bell.

"Watching them on film, they do a lot of good things," Bukovsky said. "You just have to respect every opponent and we respected them. They've got some very young, talented kids that will be pretty good football players and they can't worry about why they're here and how they got here. They just played those game and did very well and they earned their spot. Going in, we just couldn't worry about any of

that kind of stuff. We knew we had a quarterfinal opponent and to be ready to play a game."

In the second quarter, Zach Olson (44 yards) and CJ Bufkin (7 yards) added to Montini's lead with rushing touchdown runs.

Enzo May, a junior running back, tallied the Broncos' final TD of the game on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

Cam Richardson and Trevor Swier also had fumble recoveries during the first half for the Broncos. Montini defenders recorded a number of tackles-for-loss in the first half, as well, with Swier, Bufkin, Jackson Brusciannelli, Patrick Peters, Fred Stokes, Cam Richardson getting one each.

"We were very, very physical," Bukovsky said. "That was evident from the start. I think that was a big difference. That just comes from playing in our league and playing our schedule. You have to play like that every week or you don't survive. That was a big deal coming into the game, thinking we could have an advantage in that area and we did."



Junior wideout Nate Muersch goes up to try and catch a pass last Saturday. The Broncos travel to Sterling this Saturday for a Class 5A semifinal playoff game against the Golden Warriors.

A look at this weekend's Class 5A semifinal round playoff game

Montini at Sterling

When: 2 p.m. Saturday
Records: Montini 11-1, Sterling 11-1
Seeds: Montini 4th, Sterling 2nd (Upper Bracket in Class 5A)

Last week: Montini 54; Evergreen Park 6; Sterling 10, Rockford Boylan 7 (quarterfinal round)
Conferences: Montini: Chicago Catholic League Blue Division; Sterling: Northern Illinois Big 12 (West).

Head coaches: Montini: Mike Bukovsky; Sterling: Jonathan Schlemmer
About the game: Sterling prevailed over No. 3 Boylan despite being stopped on its first several drives of the game, committing two turnovers and coming up empty on two passing attempts into the end zone on fourth-down situations. Boylan took a 7-0 lead on a defensive strip and fumble recovery for a touchdown. The Golden Warriors tied it, however, with just under six minutes remaining in the contest on a 4-yard TD run by Negil Bruce. Sterling won it thanks to a 22-yard field goal in the final seconds.

Bruce and quarterback Cooper Willman, who rushed for over 100 yards vs. Boylan, give the Golden Warriors a solid one-two punch out of the backfield, while linebacker Isaiah Ryan is Sterling's defensive standout.

Interestingly, the Golden Warriors' only loss this season (35-7) was pinned on them in the regular season finale by Northern Illinois Big 12 opponent Sycamore, whom Montini edged 21-17 in the second round. This is the final year in the Northern Illinois Big 12 Conference for the Golden Warriors, who'll

join the Western Big Six next fall.

The Broncos and Golden Warriors are no strangers to each other in postseason play. Montini knocked off Sterling 35-10 in second round of the 2011 Class 5A playoffs en route to winning the title game 70-45 over Joliet Catholic.

"They're proud, they have tradition; they're good hard-nosed kids so it's going to be a great battle," said Montini coach Mike Bukovsky. "That whole conference with them and Sycamore and Kaneiland and Yorkville, those guys have been doing a great job all year long so we knew whoever would come out of there was going to present quite a challenge. "We've got one more to go to where we need to be."

That destination to which Bukovsky is referring is the Class 5A championship game on Thanksgiving weekend. A victory over Sterling would put the Broncos in Champaign for the first time since 2015 when Montini won the 6A crown going undefeated (14-0) under then head coach Chris Andriano. Montini would face the winner of the Hillcrest-Joliet Catholic semifinal game. Hillcrest (12-0) is the top-seeded team in the lower bracket, while Joliet Catholic (8-4) is the 14th-seed.

"We played them in the playoffs in 2011," Bukovsky said. "We played a nice game out there at a beautiful facility. Now they've got turf so that's a good thing for us; we like to play on turf. It's going to be a ballgame; we know that. The way the bracket looked, that was going to be a possibility (playing Sterling). We'll strap it up this week and bring it again."

Warriors' Haake makes her fourth straight trip to the state swimming meet

Willowbrook senior Elissa Haake will make her fourth straight appearance in the IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet this week. Haake, who swims for the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls team, earned this year's state-meet berth during Saturday's sectional at Downers Grove North High School. She qualified for the state meet in two events—the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle. Haake finished in second place in each event at the sectional. She qualified for the state meet by swimming under the state-standard time in both events. The state meet begins this Friday at Evanston High School.

Haake completed the 200-yard freestyle race at the sectional in 1 minute, 51.75 seconds—under the qualifying standard of 1:55.10. She finished the 500-yard freestyle event in 5 minutes, 42.99 seconds.

onds, which met the qualifying standard time of 5:09.26.

As a freshman, Haake earned individual state-meet berths in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events. As a sophomore, Haake competed at the 2016 state meet and advanced to the consolation finals of two events—the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle. She placed ninth in the 200-yard race and 10th in the 100-yard contest.

Haake returned to the state meet last year, competing in the 200- and 100-yard freestyle events.

Willowbrook freshman Ellie Hassler qualified for this year's state meet during Saturday's Downers Grove North Sectional. Hassler won two events—the 50- and 100-yard freestyle athletes with disabilities races. She finished the 50-yard race in 48.95 seconds. She completed the 100-yard event in 1:50.24.

Obama's political career in Illinois helped shape his presidency

Editor's note: The weekly Illinois Bicentennial series is brought to you by the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors and Illinois Press Association. More than 20 newspapers are creating stories about the state's history, places and key moments in advance of the Bicentennial on Dec. 3, 2018. Stories published on this date can be found at 200illinois.com.

By Chris Kaergard
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

A decade ago, he claimed victory in the presidential campaign from Grant Park in Chicago.



He announced his run — and later his running mate — on ground trod by Abraham Lincoln at the Old State Capitol.

And, yes, he also quoted Ronald Reagan on occasion.

Like the first two, Barack Obama wasn't born here, but chose to live in Illinois and make his reputation within these borders.

While his post-presidency may not — at least for now — feature a Chicago address, his time in Chicago and its politics helped clarify his presidential character to the world, and prepare him for the task.

So, too, did the world under the

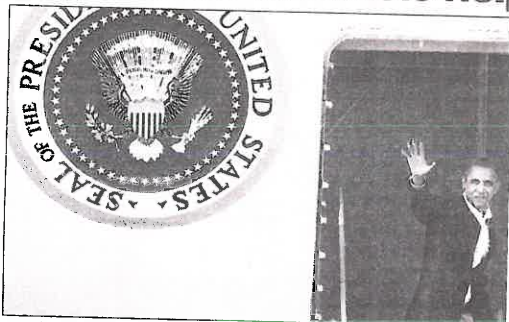


PHOTO COURTESY OF RON JOHNSON, PEORIA JOURNAL STAR *Lombardian/Villa Park Review*
President Barack Obama boards Air Force One at the Air National Guard Base in Peoria on Aug. 8, 2011, after visiting Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

Capitol dome in Springfield, and his time representing a state that boasts Fortune 500 corporations, industrial laborers, suburban families, downstate farmers and many others.

"I think coming from an industrial, agricultural state with a lot of cultural diversity was such a great learning experience for him," says Ray LaHood, Obama's former secretary of transportation.

That experience started in Chicago, and it began at a fortuitous moment.

The diagnosis from an end-of-presidency analysis by Chicago magazine points to Obama's arrival on the Windy City scene at

the right time, during the mayoralty of Harold Washington, and his growth in the political world during the election and term of Sen. Carol Moseley Braun — two trailblazing African-American politicians.

Obama himself noted much the same about the connection to Washington's era, writing in "Dreams of My Father" that his election as the city's first African-American mayor "had given (the) people a new idea of themselves. Or maybe it was an old idea, born of a simpler time. Harold was something they still held in common: like my idea of organizing, he held out an offer of collective redemption."

His nature as something of an outsider — at least not someone raised from birth in Chicago's political culture — also may have helped Obama.

"A traditional Chicago pol, tainted by the alliances and the deal-making of the city's shady political culture, could never succeed on a national stage," the piece notes.

Most people know Obama's thumbnail-sketch biography: community organizer, president of the Harvard Law Review, state legislator, U.S. senator, president. But one initiative that gets less attention now is one that helped propel him to local fame.

After law school and before the Legislature, during those few years of private legal practice that fly under the radar, Obama led a major voter registration drive — the biggest in Chicago history to that point.

Project Vote put more than 125,000 more voters on the rolls in 1992, many of them minorities, and it got people talking about a possible political future for him.

Weeks later, the man whose 2008 presidential candidacy would later be credited with spikes in minority and youth voting said in a Chicago magazine story on the registration effort, "I think it's fair to say we reinvigorated a slumbering constituency. We got people to take notice."

That's one of many themes he later took to a national campaign and the presidency that were first sounded in the Windy City.

When he first ran for the Legislature, he said this about his organizing efforts in a 1995 interview with the Chicago Reader:

"In America, we have this strong bias toward individual action. You know, we idolize the John Wayne hero who comes in to correct things with both guns blazing. But individual actions, individual dreams, are not sufficient. We must unite in collective action, build collective institutions and organizations."

And this, too, in the Chicago Reader, from a man whose presidential campaigns grew leaders from the grass roots.

"Three major doubts have been raised," he said. The first is whether in today's political environment — with its emphasis on media and money — a grass-roots movement can even be created. Will people still answer the call of participatory politics?

"Second," Obama said, "many believe that the country is too racially polarized to build the kind of multiracial coalitions necessary to bring

about massive economic change. "Third, is it possible for those of us working through the Democratic Party to figure out ways to use the political process to create jobs for our communities?"

Other experiences along the way also helped him develop beyond those early days — not only living in a city "with its politics 24-7," but the personalities that it contains helped prepare him for that world, LaHood says.

So, too, did his single loss, taking on U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush for a seat in Congress in 2000.

"I think the fact that ... he lost his election in the congressional race was probably as good a lesson as you can learn in politics on what to do and what not to do," LaHood said. "That was, while probably painful, a good lesson for him to learn."

So was learning about the state that exists beyond the borders of Cook County.

Once in the Senate, Obama got to know lawmakers from all corners of the state, including Sen. Denny Jacobs in the Quad Cities and Sen. George Shadid from Peoria.

"He learned a lot from George Shadid and central Illinois — and I'm sure that was true of all senators," LaHood says, pointing to the reunion Obama staged with former colleagues after a valedictory visit to the Illinois Legislature late in his term to visit with longtime pals under the dome.

Some of those friendships made it easier to run for U.S. Senate, already having an understanding of downstate interests and priorities. And geographic proximity helped when he turned his eyes to the presidency.

"When he started running for president, you didn't have to show him where Davenport was, having represented the Quad Cities, or Muscatine, having been to Quincy," LaHood says.

One more legacy, too, that Obama took from his adopted state and his early political career.

He and LaHood played golf earlier this year, and the latter says that Obama's love of the links developed in the statehouse.

On slow session days, LaHood relates that the young senator noticed colleagues clearing out of the Capitol in the late afternoon, and learned that many were adjourning to golf courses in town. So he took up the sport himself.

"He really learned how to play golf on courses in Springfield," LaHood says.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM GERIK, PEORIA JOURNAL STAR *Lombardian/Villa Park Review*
U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., greets a large crowd gathered at the Old State Capitol in Springfield on Feb. 10, 2007, moments before announcing his candidacy for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Movers and shakers: Chavez, Knudtson make the Willowbrook football lines go

By Mike Miazga
FOR THE LOMBARDIAN-
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Coach after football coach will say games are won in the trenches.

The Willowbrook football team, which advanced to the state quarterfinals for a third year in a row, has two leaders this season advancing the charge on both sides of the line in senior three-year varsity players Emmanuel Chavez and Matthew Knudtson.

Chavez and Knudtson helped Willowbrook win its first 11 games of the season (becoming the school's first undefeated 11-0 team since the mid-1970s), win another West Suburban Conference Gold Division title and get to the final eight teams in the state for a third season in a row.

"You never hear their names, but they make us go," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth.

Chavez and Knudtson are part of a Willowbrook offensive unit that was averaging almost 400 yards a game through the team's first 11 contests (2,274 on the ground and 2,125 through the air).

"Our offensive line is solid," said Chavez, who plays right tackle on offense and defensive tackle. "We

all know our stuff. We're a little smaller this year, but we are quicker. We run our tempo well against other teams. We are well-conditioned."

Knudtson added: "The past couple years we have really bonded as a group. We have a lot of fun. We're a bunch of buddies and our main goal is to protect Sam. We're really close with him as well."

Sam would be standout Willowbrook quarterback Sam Tumilty, who had thrown for 2,125 yards and 26 touchdowns (3 interceptions) through 11 games, while running for 1,241 more yards and 16 touchdowns.

"Our pass protection is good," Chavez said. "We can hold the pocket real well and not let much penetration through. Sam pulls us through a lot of the time. When we get into tough situations he brings us together in the huddle and makes sure we are in the right positions. When that pocket does collapse, he finds a way through to always gain yards."

"We take a lot of pride in our pass blocking," said Knudtson, who plays left guard on offense and nose tackle and defensive tackle on the other side of the ball. "We don't want Sam getting hurt. We will do whatever we

can to make sure that never happens. It's why we've been so successful. We have a lot of pride on the offensive line. We know we can trust the guy next to (us). If you slide over, you know someone has your gap and you know they are picking up blitzes. If you do mess up, you know there is a guy there to pick you up and help you out. If I go left, I know the guy next to me is doing his job just as hard."

Chavez said proper conditioning has helped the Warriors, with numerous two-way players, separate itself from the pack.

"The whole team is conditioned well," he said. "We like to run our tempo against teams and get that upper hand and see who comes out on top. The conditioning helps a ton. Sometimes you do get tired, but when you condition a lot it helps. In practice, we value our running."

Knudtson added: "We do have a lot of guys who play both ways and we know we have to challenge ourselves to be the toughest. We know we have to be more conditioned than other teams and we know we have to push harder and push the tempo even faster. We are able to keep pace because of how hard we work and

how much we put into conditioning."

On defense, Willowbrook allowed just 116 points through 11 games.

"We've definitely put a lot into this season," said Knudtson. "We don't give up. If we make a mistake, we just expect to do better on the next play. We don't take any plays off and we trust each other. We go full-out every down and every snap."

Knudtson remembers back to his sophomore season on the varsity. "It feels like a long time ago," he said. "I was always trying to prove myself. I looked up to those guys and worked hard to be one of those guys. I did my best to help keep the season going for as long as I could for them. I was part of that group and part of those guys. I was accepted into a bigger family like a little brother, but I felt just as important. They depended on me just as much as I depended on them."

Knudtson noted he's played football with Chavez dating back to the seventh grade. "It's been five years with him," he said. "He's one of my best friends. He's a really good guy. No matter what the situation is, win or lose, he always has your back, no matter what. We were freshmen on

the sophomore team four years ago. It's nice to have him with me. We like to tackle new challenges together."

Chavez tipped his cap to Hildreth and the Willowbrook coaching staff. "Ever since Hildreth took over we've seen so much success," he said.

Chavez noted the team also has been driven in part by doubt. "When nobody expects us to do what we have done, that's what drives us — the doubt," he said. "That's why we work hard and why we are out here winning games."

Knudtson added: "Three years ago we were 6-3 and nobody expected us to make the quarterfinals. We did that and then last year we won our first conference title in 35 years and now we are the first team to go undefeated in the school since 1975. Each year we keep building on our accomplishments."

But the overarching factor in the team's success, Chavez noted, is the bond the players have formed.

"We've had so many great experiences together," he said. "Every player has been able to experience this with their teammates because of the bonding we have. It's a nice thing."

Sports

Broncos Champaign-bound

Montini pounds Sterling; to face Joliet Catholic for 5A crown

By Mike Sandrolini
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

Nick Fedanzo and Zach Olson were part of a Montini Catholic freshman class in 2015 that had only 18 on the roster.

Though small in numbers, that class has worked hard and persevered. Now, these seniors—and the entire Broncos team—find themselves on the cusp of achieving the ultimate goal: a state championship.

Fedanzo rushed for 107 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns (15 and 6 yards), and Olson took a punt return 77 yards to the house in the second quarter en route to a 42-20 triumph in a Class 5A state semifinal game at Sterling last Saturday.

The Broncos face off against a familiar championship game foe, Joliet Catholic, at 10 a.m. Saturday at the University of Illinois' Memorial Stadium (see: A look at this weekend's Class 5A state championship game, in the sports section).

"Freshman year, even though we had a small number of guys, we

knew we had a special group," said Olson. "We've bonded so much over these past four years. I wouldn't trade these guys for anything. Just having that camaraderie, having that chemistry between each other, it all comes out on the field. This is the product of it."

"Freshman year we came in with 18 players," said Fedanzo, who's verbally committed to Illinois and will get an opportunity on Saturday to play on what will be his home field for the next four years. "We never thought we'd have a shot like this. We made it."

Fedanzo's two TDs added to a game that, for all intents and purposes, was over by halftime as the Broncos stormed out to a 28-7 lead.

Montini took the boisterous fans who packed Sterling Chevrolet Field at Roscoe Eades Stadium out of the game early, scoring on its opening drive—a 15-yard Deontay Bell run—and then stopping a potentially game-tying drive by the Golden Warriors when Fred Stokes recovered a fumble at the Montini 7-yard line.

"We played here a few years ago and they have a great program here; a lot of pride," said Montini coach Mike Bukovsky. "This (Sterling) is a proud, proud program; this school is over 100 years old so we knew that this was going to be a challenge to be able to play here so we had to be ready."

"We knew we had to start fast and we were debating all week what we wanted to do. Did we want to take the ball or not? They won the (coin) flip and they deferred so we took the ball and we were ready. That was a great way to go down the field and score like that."

That turnover eventually led to Robert Brazziel's 14-yard fade to Nate Muersch and a 14-0 Bronco lead seven seconds into the second quarter.

"We knew we had to come out fast and try to beat them down and crush their spirits," Fedanzo said. "I think we did a pretty good job of it."

Montini stopped the ensuing Sterling offensive series in its tracks as Frank Conforti hit Golden Warriors'

quarterback Cooper Willman, causing Willman to fumble (Willman didn't play the entire second half due to an injury unrelated to the fumble). Jackson Brusciannelli pounced on the loose ball, and the Broncos were in business at the Sterling 30-yard line.

On the next play, it was Brazziel to Muersch once again for a touchdown to make it 21-0. Muersch caught three passes for 70 yards in the second quarter alone.

"Turnovers are always a huge part of these games and we work on creating turnovers a lot," said Bukovsky. "I think we're close to plus-20 on the year. We really work at that, and those turnovers really helped early. That's something that can really help you in these big games."

"Winning on the road in the playoffs is what it's all about. If you want to go deep, you have to learn to win on the road, and quite frankly, we did not do that last year. We were able to do that this year, and that was the biggest area of improvement that we've made from one season to the next."

A four-and-out by Sterling then opened the door for Olson's punt return—his second return for a touchdown this postseason (Olson returned a kickoff 92 yards vs. Sycamore in the second round).

"I knew if I got to the outside, my guys would set up blocks and they set up the sideline for me and so I got there," said Olson. "They were just making blocks left and right, and I just have to give credit to them. I couldn't have done it without them."

Montini's dual quarterbacks, Bell and Brazziel, gave the Golden Warriors fits all afternoon, with Bell gaining 107 yards on 19 carries and Brazziel completing 5 of 11 for 144 yards. Jemari Harris also had a fourth-quarter pass interception.

"We're just happy to get back there (to the championship game) and the kids did a great job," Bukovsky said. "We've talked about it all season, and we feel that the conference we play in and our schedule prepares us. That's what we talk about all year and it came to fruition."

See photos on page 18.

Warriors compete at the state swim meet

Haake finishes 10th in the 200-yard freestyle

Willowbrook students Elissa Haake and Ellie Hassler represented the Willowbrook/Addison Trail girls swim team at the IHSA state swim and dive meet, which took place last Friday and Saturday at Evanston High School.

Haake, a senior from Lombard, completed her decorated high school career with a 10th-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle. Haake, who competed in four consecutive state meets, advanced to Saturday's consolation final of that event with an eighth-place effort during Friday's preliminaries. She also competed in the 500-yard freestyle at the state meet. She swam in the preliminaries and narrowly missed a berth in the consolation final.

The top six swimmers in each swimming event of Friday's preliminaries advanced to Saturday's finals, while those who finished in seventh through 12th place qualified for the consolation final.

Haake completed the 200-yard freestyle in 1 minute, 51.28 seconds during Friday's preliminaries. A total of 42 swimmers competed in that event in Evanston on Friday. Haake posted the eighth-best time of those 42 competitors to earn her berth in the consolation final.

Haake finished the 200-yard freestyle in 1:52.43 in Saturday's consolation final to earn a 10th-place overall finish in the event.

Haake, who had never competed in the 500-yard event at the state meet until this year, turned in a finishing time of 5:03.73 in that race during Friday's preliminaries. That time was good for 16th place out of 39 competitors, and just short of a top-12 finish that would have earned a spot in Saturday's consolation final.

Haake qualified for the state meet in nine events—eight individual and one relay—during her four years in high school. As a freshman, she qualified in two individual events—the 50- and 100-yard freestyle. She was also a member of a state-qualifying relay team.

As a sophomore, Haake qualified for the 2016 state meet and advanced to the consolation finals of the 100- and 200-yard freestyle events. She placed ninth in the 200-yard race and 10th in the 100-yard event.

One year ago, Haake qualified for

the state meet in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle races.

This season, Haake focused on the 500-yard freestyle for the first time in her high school career.

"We thought it was the best thing," said Willowbrook/Addison Trail coach Tara Murphy. "She had great times in the 100. But she's really a distance swimmer. We knew she would do well in the 500."

"Ever since I started swimming, literally every single coach I've had said I had a natural 200/500 stroke," said Haake, who will continue her swimming career at Purdue University. "I thought I was more of a sprinter, but I slowly started working my way up to those longer events. I started to realize I'm not as much of a sprinter as I thought."

While swimming with her club team in January, Haake tried the 500-yard freestyle at a meet in Indiana. She dropped about six seconds off her personal-best time.

"I really like the 500," said Haake, who plans to major in actuarial science at Purdue. "It feels so much different, but not necessarily more difficult."

On Oct. 27, Haake broke the West Suburban Gold Conference Meet record in the 200-yard freestyle with her first-place time of 1:54.75. She also won the 500-yard freestyle title at the conference meet. One year ago, Haake set the conference meet record during her victory in the 100-yard freestyle. That record still stood after this year's conference meet.

Hassler, a freshman from Villa Park, competed in the AWD 50- and 100-yard freestyle events during Saturday's action at the state meet in Evanston. She completed the 50-yard race in a seventh-place time of 44.24 seconds. Hassler earned another seventh-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle race, which she completed in 1:43.06.

Hassler's state-meet times in both events improved on her performances from last week's sectional competition. Her 50-yard freestyle time in Evanston was more than four seconds faster than her sectional time in that event. Her 100-yard freestyle effort at the state meet was over seven seconds faster than her sectional time.

Hassler and Haake both qualified for the state meet with their performances at the Downers Grove North Sectional on Nov. 10.

See photo on page 18.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Rams sign to play collegiate volleyball

Four Glenbard East senior volleyball players signed national letters of intent last week to continue their volleyball careers at the collegiate level. Pictured (left to right) during the National Letter of Intent signing ceremony on Nov. 14 are: Allison Hamaker, Glenbard East girls and boys volleyball coach Marci Maier, Emily Sarles, Sarah Elliott and Carson Brandt. Hamaker will attend Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. Sarles will attend Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. Elliott will attend Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. Brandt will attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz. Hamaker, Sarles and Elliott led Glenbard East's girls team to a 30-win season and a regional title this fall. The Rams won a Class 4A regional championship on Oct. 25, when they edged Wheaton Warrenville South in a three-game regional final in Lombard. The Rams finished the 2018 season with a 30-8 record. Brandt will complete his Glenbard East boys volleyball career during the 2019 spring season.

A great start for the Warriors

One-point win over East Aurora lifts Willowbrook to 3-0

The Willowbrook girls basketball team, which won just four games last season, improved its 2018-19 record to 3-0 with last Friday's exciting 42-41 win over East Aurora in Villa Park.

The Warriors trailed East Aurora 41-38 with less than a minute to play, but seniors Cecilia Lizasuain and Maura Heneghan each hit a pair of free throws in the closing seconds to lift Willowbrook to the win.

"Our girls came to play tonight," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell after Friday's win. "They were defensively focused and they played hard. I'm really proud of them."

The narrow victory over the Tomcats gave the Warriors a 2-0 record in their six-team Thanksgiving Invitational. The round-robin event concludes this week. Willowbrook will complete the tournament with games against Plainfield Central, Stevenson and Lockport.

The Warriors began the season with a 60-25 win at Glenbard North on Nov. 13. They kicked off their tournament with a runaway 76-12 win over Glenbard North on Nov. 15.

Willowbrook followed its two lopsided wins by showing it could rally from behind and prevail in a close game. The Warriors and East Aurora were tied at 18-18 at halftime. The Tomcats held a 27-20 lead midway through the third quarter.

Willowbrook then reeled off seven straight points to tie the game at 27-27 by the end of the period. Sophomore Stephanie Dasbach started the 7-0 run with an inside basket. Junior K'aliya Herron then scored the next five points with a three-point play, followed by an inside basket.

East Aurora began the fourth quarter with a 7-0 run to seize a 34-27 lead with over five minutes to play. Once again, the Warriors responded. Sophomore Grace Tumilty began an

8-0 run with a steal. Herron then scored off a steal. Dasbach's field goal cut the Tomcats' lead to 34-33 with about 4:30 to play. Tumilty hit a pair of free throws at the 4:20 mark to complete the 8-0 run and give the Warriors a 35-34 lead.

East Aurora regained the lead with a basket, but Tumilty's free throw with 3:23 to play tied the score at 36-36. The Tomcats then scored three straight points to take a 39-36 lead. Senior Emma Barrington of Willowbrook scored to cut the Tomcats' lead to 39-38 with about two minutes to play. Neither team scored until East Aurora made a pair of free throws with 30.9 seconds left to take a 41-38 lead.

Lizasuain scored her first two points of the game when she drained two free throws with 21.6 seconds left. Seconds later, the Tomcats

See WARRIORS, Page 15



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Willowbrook girls basketball team moved to 3-0 with last Friday's 42-41 win over East Aurora in Villa Park. The victory gave the Warriors a 2-0 record in their own six-team Thanksgiving tournament, which concludes this week. Sophomore Stephanie Dasbach (above-No. 30) scored a team-high 17 points for Willowbrook. Junior K'allyha Herron (also pictured bottom middle) provided seven points. Senior Miaura Heneghan (No. 14-below) stepped to the free-throw line with her team trailing 41-40 with 16.7 seconds to play. Heneghan made both attempts to give the Warriors the lead.

• Warriors

(Continued from page 14)

turned the ball over with a traveling violation. Heneghan went to the line with 16.4 seconds to play. Heneghan sank both free throws to give the Warriors a 42-41 lead.

The Tomcats advanced the ball into the frontcourt before calling a timeout with about eight seconds remaining. East Aurora launched a last-second shot after the timeout, but the shot missed the mark.

Dasbach, who is in her first season on the varsity, scored a team-leading 17 points for the Willowbrook. She left the game after a collision with two other players in the final minute.

Herron and Tumilty each scored seven points for the Warriors. Barrington added four points. Heneghan, who made her first free throw in the second quarter, provided three points.

Senior Katelyn McCann poured in 17 points in the Warriors' season-opening win at Glenbard North. Herron added 11 points for the Warriors, who cruised to a 35-10 halftime lead. Senior Maureen Schmid scored eight points.

McCann provided another 17-point output in the Warriors' game against West Chicago. She scored 15 of those points in the first quarter, when Willowbrook grabbed a 33-3 lead.

Dasbach and Lizasuin both scored 13 points in the victory over West Chicago. Herron added eight points.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Tough start for Rams

The Glenbard East girls basketball team opened the 23rd annual Rachel Bach Tournament with last Saturday's 58-21 loss to Glenbard South in Lombard. Sophomore Lauren Huber (No. 15, pictured above) scored a team-leading 10 points for the Rams, who trailed Glenbard South 39-10 at halftime. Sophomore Emily Ryan (No. 22, pictured at right) added seven points. The loss dropped the Rams' season record to 0-2. Glenbard East opened its season with a 53-38 loss at Plainfield Central on Nov. 13. Huber scored 14 points. The Rams' starting lineup features four sophomores—Huber, Ryan, Brooke Hernandez and Denise Navar. They join senior Sophia Moore in the starting five. "We are so young," said Glenbard East coach Nicole Miller. "We're going to be learning a lot and trying to improve with every game." The Rams are completing the four-team Rachel Bach Tournament with this week's games against Glenbard West and Glenbard North. This year's event features the four District 87 schools. The tournament is named in honor of 1996 Glenbard East graduate Rachel Bach. An accomplished student-athlete, Bach passed away in 1996, shortly before she was to begin her freshman year at Augustana College.



Nazareth's Michael Love follows older brother as award winner

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

It's true. Michael Love did follow a sibling into football.

Not just the one you think. "So, my sister, Devinne, was actually the first one to play football," said Love, Nazareth's senior receiver/defensive back. "She played a few years of flag. She started the family tradition."

Love's father was a basketball man. The next generation clearly took to football.

Love claims he was 3 years old when he started playing, joining his well-known brother Julian's travel team.

"Technically, I wasn't old enough to be in a league," Love said. "I played on my brother's team."

Love indeed looks like he was almost born with a football tucked in his arm.

He followed his brother, Julian, who led Nazareth to back-to-back state championships in 2014 and 2015, to the La Grange Park school. Love could take his place alongside Julian, now a starter for third-ranked Notre Dame, as a state champion this weekend when the Roadrunners play St. Charles North in a Class 7A final.

On a team brimming with talent, Love stands out. He has 24 total touchdowns, 54 catches for 1,018 yards and 18 touchdowns, has run for four more scores and has two return TDs. He also plays cornerback and even punts.

Like Julian in 2015, Love is the Suburban Life Football Player of the Year.

"Whether it's making a kid miss, or running someone over, he's going to get it done," said J.J. McCarthy, Nazareth's sophomore quarterback, who first met Love in the sixth grade. "Having him around, it's a huge luxury."

Love, it seems, is like the turbo button on a video game come to life.

Every play is a touchdown in waiting.

Against Simeon in the state quarterfinal, Love broke several tackles on a 75-yard punt return for a TD. Against Batavia



Sean King - For Shaw Media

Nazareth Academy's Michael Love, the Suburban Life Football Player of the Year, returns a punt for a touchdown against Simeon in a Class 7A state quarterfinal game Nov. 10 in Chicago.

in the semifinals, Love turned an innocent-looking screen pass into a 62-yard TD.

Love's personal favorite was a spectacular one-handed grab he picked out of the air for a score against Andrew.

"It's kind of natural. I practice those [one-handed catches]," said Love, who remains uncommitted after reopening his recruitment in September. "My hands are bigger than most people's, so I have fun with it."

"I was scrambling out of the pocket, ready to get blasted," McCarthy said, "and I see him running opposite field and launch it a little behind him and he just reached back and snags it with one hand."

Love makes an impact even when he doesn't touch the ball.

His two punt returns for

TDs, against Hersey and Simeon, were on Batavia's mind when the Bulldogs had two errant punt snaps last weekend. Both set up Nazareth scores.

"Their punt return team is terrifying," Batavia coach Dennis Piron said, "because you can't punt it to them because Love is a gamebreaker at any moment."

Love and Nazareth have one bit of unfinished business this weekend.

Love had six catches for 121 yards and a TD and was the intended receiver on the pass that was intercepted by Prairie Ridge to end last year's Class 6A state final.

"It's been in my head every day since last year," Love said. "I try not to think about it, but you know it's always been on my mind."

Suburban Life All-Area Football Team

- **JACKSON BRUSCIANELLI, MONTINI, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** A Class 5A All-State selection who anchored the defense for 5A state finalist.
- **BRET BUSHKA, GLENBARD EAST, SENIOR, QUARTERBACK:** Class 7A All-State selection and Upstate Eight Offensive Player of the Year led Rams to first playoff appearance since 1999 and first unbeaten regular season since 1965. He threw for 2,352 yards and 28 touchdowns and ran for 468 yards and 13 TDs.
- **CADE CAMPOS, LEMONT, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** Committed to Illinois State. Class 6A All-State selection had 116 tackles, seven for loss, and three sacks.
- **KEVIN COOKE, IC CATHOLIC PREP, JUNIOR, LINEBACKER:** Repeat selection, Cooke has team-best 178 tackles for Class 4A state finalist.
- **TYQUAN COX, GLENBARD WEST, SENIOR, RUNNING BACK:** MVP of West Suburban Conference and Class 8A All-State pick. Cox ran for 1,354 yards and 23 TDs and had 25 catches for 325 yards and three TDs.
- **AIDAN CRUICKSHANK, HINSDALE CENTRAL, SENIOR, SAFETY:** Team MVP for West Suburban Silver co-champs. Cruickshank, a repeat all-area selection, had 100-plus tackles his junior and senior years.
- **DIAMOND EVANS, NAZARETH, SENIOR, WIDE RECEIVER/DEFENSIVE BACK:** Committed to South Dakota State. Evans has 56 catches for 1,112 yards and 12 TDs for Class 7A state finalist.
- **NICK FEDANZO, MONTINI, SENIOR, RUNNING BACK:** Committed to Illinois. Class 5A All-State pick has run for 1,248 yards and 16 TDs for Class 5A state finalist.
- **KYLE FRANKLIN, IC CATHOLIC PREP, SOPHOMORE, RUNNING BACK:** Franklin has run for 2,151 yards and 35 TDs for Class 4A state finalist. Ran for career-high 311 yards and six TDs in state quarterfinal.
- **MARQUESE GARRETT, HINSDALE SOUTH, JUNIOR, QUARTERBACK:** West Suburban Gold Offensive Player of the Year. Garrett ran for 965 yards and 12 TDs and threw for 961 yards and 12 TDs.
- **JOE IVES, WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH, SENIOR, DEFENSIVE BACK:** Ives had nine interceptions - two returned for touchdowns - four pass breakups and 59 tackles.
- **JEREMY JOHNSON, GLENBARD EAST, SENIOR, WIDE RECEIVER:** Broke every receiving record at East. This year, Johnson had 61 catches for 1,173 yards and 20 TDs.
- **JACK KELLY, WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH, SENIOR, DEFENSIVE LINE:** Class 7A All-State pick and DuKane Conference Defensive Lineman of the Year. Kelly had 101 tackles with four sacks and 15 hurries.
- **DAVID LANCILOTTI, GLENBARD WEST, SENIOR, DEFENSIVE LINE:** West Suburban Conference's Top Defensive Lineman for Silver co-champs had 52 tackles, 14 of them for loss, and 6.5 sacks.
- **MICHAEL LOVE, NAZARETH, SENIOR, WIDE RECEIVER:** Love has 24 total TDs - 10 in the playoffs - for Class 7A state finalist. An All-State pick, Love has 54 catches for 1,087 and 18 receiving TDs.
- **J.J. MCCARTHY, NAZARETH, SOPHOMORE, QUARTERBACK:** Has thrown for 3,088 yards and 35 TDs. Has offers from South Carolina, Indiana, Iowa State and Cincinnati.
- **BRENDON PASSARELLI, HINSDALE CENTRAL, SENIOR, LINEMAN:** Class 8A All-State pick and West Suburban Silver Offensive Lineman of the Year.
- **KHALIL SAUNDERS, IC CATHOLIC PREP, SENIOR, QUARTERBACK/DEFENSIVE BACK:** Four-year starter has thrown for 1,370 yards and 16 TDs, run for 535 yards and six TDs, and defensively has 59 tackles and two interceptions.
- **DANNY SKOLD, ST. FRANCIS, SENIOR, LINEMAN:** Class 5A All-Stater led Spartans from 1-8 record to 8-3 and second round of playoffs. Had 45 pancake blocks and didn't give up a sack in two years.
- **SAM TUMILTY, WILLOWBROOK, JUNIOR, QUARTERBACK/DEFENSIVE BACK:** Led Warriors to second straight conference title and third straight state quarterfinal. Tumilty threw for 2,530 yards and 30 TDs and ran for 1,270 yards and 16 TDs. Defensively had 102 tackles.

Boys basketball: Tipoff time for area teams

By JOSHUA WELGE
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and BILL STONE
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The boys basketball season tips off this week. Here are previews of area teams.

Glenbard East Rams

COACH: Scott Miller
2017-2018 RECORD: 11-16

TOP PLAYERS	NAME	YEAR	POS.
	Alijah Nelson	jr.	G
	DaRon Hall	jr.	G
	Jeremy Johnson	sr.	G
	Anthony Shockey	sr.	G
	Antonio Davis	sr.	F
	Nate Dudek	sr.	F
	Mitch Glennon	sr.	G
	Jake Huisman	sr.	G
	Mashar Lewis	sr.	G
	Jackson Rozinsky	sr.	F
	Clay Kepuraitis	sr.	G
	Deon Cook	jr.	G

Outlook: What the Rams lack in size, they more than make up for with speed and quickness.

It starts with two-time All-Upstate Eight point guard Nelson, who averaged 13 points and two assists. Hall, who averaged nine points and three assists, is also back in the Glenbard East backcourt. Johnson is a third returning starter who averaged seven points, and with Shockey is coming off a big football season. Davis, at 6-foot-6, provides size.

"We feel we have a chance to be very good," Miller said. "We have good experience, shooting, guard play and quickness."

IC Catholic Prep Knights

COACH: T.J. Tyrrell
2017-18 RECORD: 20-10

TOP PLAYERS	NAME	YEAR	POS.
	Khali Saunders	sr.	F
	Mike Carpanzano	sr.	F
	Rashad Sbeih	sr.	F
	Ryan Wojtalewicz	jr.	C
	Dom Gaudio	jr.	F
	Zach Jordan	jr.	G
	Chauncey Lee	so.	G

Outlook: The Knights will have a significantly different lineup after saying goodbye to nine seniors who contributed to back-to-back Class 2A regional titles and a Sweet 16 appearance last



David Toney - For Shaw Media
Willowbrook's Matas Masys tries to drive around Benet's David Buh during a regional title game last season at Glenbard East.

season. This year's team has three seniors. One key expected returning starter is Purdue football recruit Saunders, who like other teammates will get a late start as the Knights' football team plays in the Class 4A state championship game this week.

The 6-4 Wojtalewicz, described by Tyrrell as a "workhorse," started in the regional victories after Saunders injured his finger in the regular-season finale.

Point guard Lee is among five sophomores on the roster and should earn notice in his first varsity season.

Road trips to Benet and York beef up the schedule.

"Preparation and execution will be team strengths," Tyrrell said. "And it will be another late start for some of our football guys."

Montini Broncos

COACH: Bob Lozano
2017-18 RECORD: 18-11

TOP PLAYERS	NAME	YEAR	POS.
	Luke Morrill	sr.	G/F
	Fred Stokes	sr.	F
	Scott West	sr.	G
	Kai Evans	so.	G/F
	Mark Gabriel	sr.	F
	Deontay Bell	jr.	G
	Julian Greenwood	jr.	G

Outlook: A former assistant, Lozano takes over as head coach after the death of Daryl Thomas in March.

The Broncos have six seniors and four returnees and probably will start slow as they await the arrival of more players after the football team's Class 5A state championship game.

Returning for sure are Morrill, West, Stokes and Evans, who was on varsity as a freshman. Morrill and Stokes started last year's Class 3A regional final, and West and Evans were among the first off the bench. Starting guard Anthony Thompson transferred to Bolingbrook.

Lozano feels that the Broncos should be able to continue scoring points. How well they can limit opponents' scoring will determine their win-loss success. The score of last year's regional final loss to Burlington Central was 89-78.

"Our strength is our ability to get the ball up and down the floor in transition," Lozano said. "We need to improve defensively from past years. Our key will be defensive tempo, toughness."

Timothy Christian Trojans

COACH: Scott Plaisier
2017-18 RECORD: 22-6

TOP PLAYERS	NAME	YEAR	POS.
	Matt Owens	jr.	G
	Justin Baez	sr.	G
	Chris Brooks	sr.	G
	Danardo Jones	sr.	C/W
	Jack Baldrige	jr.	G
	Adam Moody	jr.	C
	AJ Vos	jr.	G/W
	Zach Orange	jr.	G
	Josh Harris	so.	G/W

Outlook: The 5-10 Owens and 6-1 Baez are returning starting guards from last year's 22-win season – the Trojans' best mark since their last regional title in 2010. The season also included a Metro Suburban Red title.

Owens was among several scoring options last season and is the only returnee among the four 2018 all-conference selections, which included graduated conference MVP Brandon Orange.

Also back is Brooks, a significant contributor off the bench, and Jones, their tallest player at 6-7. Harris, a 6-4 guard/wing, is the lone sophomore on the roster.

The Trojans hope to continue their balanced philosophy under second-year coach Plaisier.

The schedule includes a trip to Rancho Solano Prep in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Jan. 8.

"Our strengths are sharing the basketball and pace of play," Plaisier said. "Our keys are consistently defending and rebounding."

Willowbrook Warriors

COACH: Chris Perkins
2017-2018 RECORD: 26-6

TOP PLAYERS	NAME	YEAR	POS.
	Matas Masys	sr.	G
	Everett Stubblefield jr.		G
	Scott Tumilty	sr.	G
	Jack Hines	sr.	G
	Levi Bentsen	sr.	G

Outlook: The Warriors graduated four starters – namely, All-Area post Ethan Schuemer – off last year's team that knocked off Naperville North before losing to Benet in the sectional final.

But the cupboard is far from bare. Stubblefield gave a glimpse of his potential with an electric 16-point performance against Naperville North. Masys, one of the area's better shooters, averaged 11.8 points and hit 67 3-pointers, and is a bridge from Willowbrook's success the last few years.

A tough schedule includes a return visit to the Batavia Night of Hoops and a trip to Sterling for an MLK Day Shootout.

York Dukes

COACH: Vince Doran
2017-2018 RECORD: 17-12

TOP PLAYERS	NAME	YEAR	POS.
	Nick Kosich	sr.	G
	Erik Cohn	sr.	G
	Nate Shockey	jr.	G
	Sam Walsh	sr.	F
	John Milling	sr.	G
	Jeff Grace	so.	G
	Mike Pedote	sr.	G
	Hassan Iqbal	sr.	G

Outlook: The Dukes return nearly all of their scoring with quite a few players back with varsity experience from last year's team that took second in the Silver, namely Kosich, Cohn and Walsh.

Kosich was York's leading scorer last year, averaging 12.3 points with 69 3-pointers.

Cohn and Shockey are two other strong shooters.

Grace is a talented guard to watch now and into the future.

Newcomers that may contribute are Tim Glavan and Jake Brandolino.

Walsh, at 6-foot-5, is the post presence on a smallish guard-heavy group.

"This year's team is small but fast," Doran said.

Metea's Kleinhans makes tough call

Like many young coaches, Metea Valley football coach Ben Kleinhans has another generation of athletes to develop — his own.

Dedicated to tending to the needs of three boys between the ages of 4-10, on Nov. 14 Kleinhans met with Metea principal Darrell Echols and athletic director Jason Ward to submit his resignation. The search process for a new football coach will begin next week, Ward said.

"It got to a point where something had to give," Kleinhans said Wednesday. "That's kind of how we arrived here."

Metea's second football coach after Ted Monken, Kleinhans arrived at Metea in the spring of 2012 after serving as an assistant at Nequa Valley from 2003-11. He graduated from Waubonsie Valley in 1999, a quarterback under B.J. Luke.

"It was a great time and a great seven years. There's been a lot of cool stuff here and great things, made a lot of great relationships. It's hard to walk away from," said Kleinhans, who will continue as a physical education and driver's education instructor at Metea Valley.

In his seven seasons the Mustangs went 20-44 with one playoff season in 2014 behind such players as Erin Morgan, Brett Boddy and Bryson Oliver, the tailback who was Metea's first Illinois High School Football Coaches Association First-Team All-State pick.

"Great guy," Ward said of Kleinhans. "A great role model to not only the football players but to all of our student-athletes. He's still here in the building as a teacher so he will be around for sure in the years to come, helping out in other capacities of athletics."

Building rapport with players such as former quarterback Connor Lovely and helping develop others like Boddy, Blaise Bell and Nick Dodson into strong college players, Kleinhans said his favorite aspect of the position was creating relationships. He said his staff of assistant coaches "became my best friends."

As well as continuing to work the hallways recruiting players for his successor, Kleinhans will delve further into youth baseball with his boys and take things as they come.

"I'll kind of let the dust settle here and see what my wife (Heidi) has in store for me," he said.

"I'll coach again at some point, I don't know where or when," he said. "I don't think I'm done coaching, I just think it's time to step back, take a break a little bit. I'll just find different ways to impact our students because, ultimately, that's what it's all about."

Many thanks!

We're late to the draw on this, but we should mention the Nov. 6 passing at age 90 of Harold Gaede, who with his wife, Joan, owned a fine clothier's store in Wheaton for more than half a century.

Mr. Gaede's brother, Howard, helped run the place, too, and for years the Gaedes ran weekly ads in the old Wheaton Daily Journal



David Oberhelman
Sidelines

acknowledging high school athletes, namely football players. Starting in 1974, those football awards culminated annually with the presentation of the Red Grange Award honoring one player from either Wheaton Central/Wheaton Warrenville South, Wheaton North or Wheaton Warrenville.

Beginning with Wheaton North's Keith Burlington, a player earned the Red Grange Award based not only on football ability but also on academics and character. Last season, with Howard Gaede and College of DuPage football coach Matt Foster leading the transition, the award expanded to all of DuPage County with the inauguration of the Daily Herald DuPage County Red Grange Football Captain. Willowbrook's Jack Jensen earned the honor in 2017, and this year's winner will be announced in Friday's newspaper.

It all started with the late Mr. Gaede, whose generosity meant a lot to generations of athletes.

Score

On Tuesday the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association released its 2018 Boys Soccer All-State Team.

On the list were Lake Park senior Franco Presta, Naperville Central senior Cameron Strang, Wheaton Academy senior Seamus Kilgallon and a trio of Naperville North Huskies, senior Colin Iverson, junior Ty Konrad and senior Tommy Welch.

Incidentally, 16 days after making 12 saves to secure Naperville North's third straight Class 3A championship, 1-0 over Libertyville, Welch scored 35 points with 13 rebounds, 4 blocked shots and 3 steals in a double-overtime basketball win over Hinsdale Central. Next the Loyola basketball recruit will change a crying baby's diaper while juggling three chain saws.

Dive in

From the desk of Evanston swim coach Kevin Auger comes his 2018-19 boys preseason swimming rankings.

Auger's top six teams are, in order: St. Charles North, Stevenson, Hinsdale Central, St. Charles East, Nequa Valley and Naperville Central. Waubonsie Valley reaches No. 11 on a top-25 that includes No. 16 Lake Park and No. 23 Downers Grove North.

Defending state diving champion Kevin Sullivan of Downers North, a senior, is among Auger's dive favorites along with Naperville Central senior Wyatt Weaver.

Nequa sophomore Connor Boyle and Hinsdale Central senior Donovan Lahmann join the top freestyle swimmers.

Auger likes Lake Park junior Ben Kimmel in the backstroke, butterfly and individual medley; he lists Waubonsie junior Ayayush Deshpande among his top IM swimmers. Deshpande also is listed among the best in butterfly.

After the Nequa Valley girls won their state title, we'll see how this unfolds.

Hilltoppers roll past Mustangs

Daily Herald Reports

Fresh off a District 87 Tournament championship, the Glenbard West boys basketball team kept the train rolling with a 79-49 victory over Metea Valley Wednesday night in Glen Ellyn.

The Hilltoppers were on fire from the perimeter, knocking down 11 3-pointers and improving to 4-0 on the young season.

"We did shoot the ball well," said Glenbard West coach Tim Hoder, whose team has won all four games by double digits. "That helps. We've been shooting the ball well early."

Evan Taylor nearly posted a triple-double, finishing with 26 points, 14 rebounds and 7 blocked shots. He scored 11 of his points in the first quarter as the home team used a 12-0 run to lead 25-10.

"The most important thing was getting back at this team," said Taylor, who made four 3s. "They beat us bad last year. That really drove us plus our tournament win. We really wanted to beat them."

"Everyone was making shots. We've been shooting like that in practice. We are confident with everyone coming on the floor; I trust everybody."

Caden Phillips added 17 points, including a pair of baskets in the second quarter as the advantage swelled to 43-23 by halftime. Glenbard West led 62-37 heading into the fourth.

"Our team motto this year is 'step up,' and a lot of guys are doing that this year," Phillips said. "We are getting a lot of opportunities for others to score, and it's been working well for us so far."

Griffin Foster chipped in with 11 points, knocking down a trio of 3-pointers, and Carter Lindstrom had 9 points and 7 rebounds.

Ethan Helwig led the Mustangs (3-2) with 19 points and Myles Leavy had 9 points.

— Scott Schmid

Basketball roundup



PATRICK KUNZER/
pkunzer@dailyherald.com

Glenbard West's Caden Phillips takes the ball to the hoop against Metea Valley on Wednesday.

"These guys are unselfish kids, so I feel good about that," Benet coach Gene Heidkamp said. "When we play in these big games coming up, that's really going to show through. It's shown through so far in the four games."

"We've got to shore up our defense and cut down on our turnovers. If we can do those two things, we have enough offensive firepower to have a very good team."

— Gregg Voss

Addison Trail 59, Lane Tech 48:

Addison Trail senior Adem Mehmeti had a message for his teammates before Wednesday night's boys basketball game with Lane Tech.

"At Thanksgiving at the Ridgewood Tournament, we came out really slow and played tight games," Mehmeti said. "But this time I told our team we've got to come out hot and give the home crowd something to see, and that's what we did."

Indeed, the host Blazers came out on fire and Mehmeti lit the match. The burly 6-foot-4 guard bulled his way to the hoop on his team's first possession to open the scoring.

That was just the start of a great night for Mehmeti. He scored Addison's first 6 points and finished with a game-high 21 points and 12 rebounds as the Blazers remained unbeaten with a 59-48 victory.

"Adem is one of our leaders," Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons said. "We've been expecting a lot of him the last couple years."

"He was primarily a slasher for us the last two years. He's improved his outside game. He's improved his defensive game and just through his example, his work ethic and the way he plays, other guys on our team look up to him."

It didn't take long for the Blazers (5-0) to start looking for Mehmeti, who tallied 9 points in the first quarter to help put Lane (3-2) in an 18-6 hole.

Mehmeti, who came in averaging 16.5 points on 70 percent shooting, was aggressive from the get-go but said he was getting his points through the offense.

"We run a motion offense," said Mehmeti, who made 7 of 10 shots. "Sheldon, he was finding everyone open. He finds me and finds everyone."

— Matt Le Cren

Girls basketball

Naperville Central 55, St. Charles East 53:

Naperville Central's Emily Spisak felt pretty confident after releasing her 3-point attempt late in the game against St. Charles East Wednesday night.

"Once it left my hand, I knew it was going in," said Spisak, whose clutch outside shot with two seconds remaining helped lift the Redhawks (3-2) to their 55-53 nonconference victory in St. Charles.

"This is the first time experiencing it — it's really exciting."

Sophomore Katlyn Allen, who paced the Redhawks with 16 points, recorded her fourth steal of the night and drew a foul with her team trailing 53-52 with 7.5 seconds left.

Allen missed the front end of a 1-and-1, but junior teammate Lauren Umbright corralled the offensive rebound and found Spisak with a pass for the game-winner after the Saints misfired on their last-second half-court heave.

"I really thought Katlyn (Allen) was going to make them (free throws) — she was 7 for 8 at the time," said Redhawks coach Andy Nussbaum. "It was a huge rebound by Lauren (Umbright). She has done that a lot for us."

"There was some pretty good high school basketball out there tonight. We maybe did one more thing right so we were fortunate to win."

— Craig Bruskes

Notice

To report scores: Coaches, please report all scores to the Daily Herald DuPage County office by e-mailing psports@dailyherald.com, calling (630) 427-4450, or faxing reports to (630) 675-7700.

Football

METRO SUBURBAN CONFERENCE

ALL CONFERENCE TEAM — BLUE DIVISION

Offensive MVP: Tyson King (Bishop McNamee)
Defensive MVP: Kevin Cooke (St. Catholic Prep)
IC Catholic Prep — Chari Saunders, Khal Saunders, IC Catholic Prep — Michael Johnson, Ryan Mills, Kyle Franklin, Kevin Cooke, Bishop McNamee — Payton Gardner, Logan Spence, Nick Maloney, TJ Nettle Tyler Hiller, Tyshon King, St. Francis — Danny Sheld, Joe Lang, Ben Rhee, Marcus Johnson, Aurora Christian — Caleb Smith, Trey Medina, Daniel Gregg, Ryan Perri, Wheaton Academy — Derek Johnson, Noah Jones, Ben Thornton, Aurora Central Catholic — Jeff Albert, Charlie May, Riverside-Brookfield — Luke Gentile, Dominic Rowe.

ALL CONFERENCE TEAM — RED DIVISION

Offensive MVP: Nick Wright (St. Edward)
Defensive MVP: Jason Kaczynski (Bridgewood)
St. Edward — Anthony Holtz, Sidney Muhammad, Liam Romney, Zakariya, Jay Sacco, Luke Brier, Nick Wright, Elmwood Park — Luciano Merino, Alex DiPietro, Mike Cruz, Devin Schmitt, Mike Simms, Chicago Prep — Justin Griffin, Ty Spurling, Clark Krenshaw, Desmond Rodgers, Fenton — Kyle Caccopio, Ridgeview Andrews, Julian Giles, James DiCicco, Hilltoppers — Joey Krasinski, Roberto Nuzzo, Brian Kenny, Nick Savelle, Jesus Velasco, Glenview Prep — Gerald Crawford, Andrew Thomas.

Boys basketball

Wednesday's results

GLENBARD WEST 79, META VALLEY 49
Metea Valley — Helwig 57-14-19; Leavy 30-0-9; McMillan 10-0-1; Neal 5-0-7; Sweeney 0-0-2; Morgan 1 0-0-2; Kelly 1 0-0-2; Tan 0 0-0; Hess 0 0-0; Patterson 0 0-0-0; Ted 0 0-0-0; Lee 0 0-0-0; Liao 0 0-0-0 Totals 187-16-49

Glenbard West — Taylor 9-4-4-26; Lewis 7-4-17; Foster 4-0-11; Lindstrom 5-1-2-2; Hill 2-0-0; Gardner 1 0-0-0; Williams 1 0-0-0; Baker 1 0-0-2; Fornatto 1 0-0-2; Baker 0 0-0-0; Phillips 0 0-0-0; Dusek 0 0-0-0; McKinley 0 0-0-0 Totals 203-29-81-70

Metea Valley 10 13 14 12-49
Addison Trail — Alford 4 0-0-9; Thompson 0 0-0-0; Werthebach 2 0-0-4; Mehmeti 7 6-9-21; Dusek 2 2-3 8; Gordon 2-4-19; Thomas 3 0-0-0; Baumgartner 1 0-0-0; Decker 0 0-0-0; Connor 0 2-2-2; Trifiroli 0 0-0-0 Totals 21-13-17-59

Adelphi Trail 18 9 10 23-48
Addison Trail — Rasmussen, Varita, Suchak; At: Allgood, Carlson 2; Mehmeti. Fouled out: None.

BENET 63, TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN 25
Benet — Dillard 1 0-0-2; Hickey 3-1-6; Eschenbach 1 0-0-2; Reid 1 0-0-2; Sweeney 2 0-0-0; Connor 1 0-0-3; Gillespie 1 0-0-2; Nash 1 0-0-2; Prock 1 0-0-3; Coffey 0

0-0-0; Havin 0 0-0-0; Ergoli 4 2-3-10; Tomback 2 0-0-6; Tchoua 4 1-4-9; Coburn 3 3-3-1; Totals 25-7-11-63

Timothy Christian — Vest 1 0-0-2; Beaz 1 0-2-3; Orange 0 1-0-1; Jones 0 0-2-0; Peridillo 0 0-0-0; Harris 0 0-0-0; Owens 3 1-1-6; Johnson 0 0-0-0; Roberts 0 0-0-0; Baidoo 3 0-0-0; Brooks 0 2-2-2; Rastoria 0 0-0-0; Moody 0 1-1-1; Totals 8-5-19-25

Benet 15 17 21 10-63
Timothy Christ. 7 9 7 2-28
3-point baskets: R: Tomback 2; Harris, Casmer, O'Connor, Prock. TC: Baidoo 2; Beaz, Owens. Fouled out: None.

Girls basketball

Downers Grove North 48, Lombard 23

Naperville Central 55, St. Charles East 53
Naperville Central — Opsla 2 0-0-5; Umbright 2 0-0-4; Spisak 3 2-3-10; Gilliam 3 2-6-8; Allen 4 7-9-16; Prasad 0 0-0-0; Mills 4 0-0-11; 18-12-18-55
St. Charles East — Kiefer 1 0-0-2; Sheard 11 2-3-6; Griffin 1 0-0-2; Dillard 0 0-0-2; Sweeney 2 4-5-14; Horton 0 0-0-0; D'Amico 0 0-0-0; 19-11-16-53
Naperville East 12 15 14 13-53
St. Charles East 14 17 10 12-53
3-point baskets: NC: Mills 0, Spisak 2; Opaska, Allen, SFC: D'Amico 4. Fouled out: None.

Wrestling

Wednesday's results

Wheaton Academy Triangles

MATCH RESULTS

Girls gymnastics

Wednesday's results

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Lisle 53, Wheaton Academy 24

Wheaton Academy 42, Wheaton Christian 36

Boys
Ethan Helwig
Metea Valley
Diving Metea's 2... second at Wheaton

Daily Herald
High school basketball

Daily Herald
High school basketball

Girls
Nikki Baird
Wheaton North

Girls
Nikki Baird
Wheaton North