

**THE INDEPENDENT**

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202301

**Journey Church opens in Addison on Dec. 2**

Journey Church, a six-year old non-denominational Christian Church, which has been meeting in rented facilities, will be opening its new building on Sunday, Dec. 2. Worship service times are 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (identical services with full kids programming during both). The address of the church is 800 S. Rohlwing Rd., Addison, one-quarter mile north of North Ave., just east of I-355.

Journey Church is a modern church with a worship band, dynamic kids programming and a sermon relevant to every day life. The church works hard at creating a "come as you are" culture, where it is safe for anyone and everyone to explore their faith in God and in Jesus, no matter where they are in their spiritual journey.

For more details, visit [journeychurchpage.org](http://journeychurchpage.org) or call 630-200-4410.



DEE LONGFELLOW PHOTO Addison Independent

**Jessen honored for 'Lifetime Achievement'**

Pictured is Don Jessen, longtime executive director of the Addison Park District among numerous other accomplishments, addressing a crowd of about 75 people who gathered at The Empress in Addison on Tuesday, Nov. 20, for the National Association of Park Foundations awards banquet. At the event, Jessen was presented with the 'Lifetime Achievement' award by the Association for more than 45 years of service to Parks and Recreation.

**Addison Trail High School hosts Thanksgiving for resident seniors**

On Tuesday, Nov. 13, about 100 senior citizens including the Addison Park District's Active Adult Senior Club enjoyed musical entertainment

provided by the Addison Trail Jazz Band and a Thanksgiving lunch at Addison Trail.

Addison Trail partners with the

Kiwanis Club of Addison and the park district to host the annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon. Students who are members of Addi-

son Trail's Key Club volunteered to serve the meals. The placemats were decorated by Addison School District 4 students.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Addison Independent

[top left and right photos]: Community members attend a Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Addison Trail. The school partners with the Kiwanis Club of Addison and the Addison Park District to host this annual event. [bottom left photo]: Freshman Jacob Daniels serves a meal to local resident Leela Thomas. Guidance Dept. Admin. Assistant Karen Grady (left) helps serve as well. [bottom middle photo]: Addison Fire Protection District Fire Chief Joe Leone (right) meets with Addison resident Richard Lambert. [bottom right photo]: (back row, from left): Principal Michael Bolden and Kiwanis Club of Addison President Tom Willis visit with (front row) Clara Palandri and Alice Palmer, both of Addison.



AT Music Department Head and Band Director Mark Corey conducts the Jazz Band during the school's Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 13.

**Calendar**

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](http://addisonlibrary.org)

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

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

• Active Adults Senior Club

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

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



DEE LONGFELLOW PHOTOS Addison Independent

### Sharing a laugh with the 'Don of Sports'

Enjoying the company of some of the guests at his table is Don Figarelli (center), also known as Addison's own "Don of Sports." Figarelli served as emcee for the evening's various presentations by the National Association of Park Foundations held at The Empress in Addison on Tuesday, Nov. 20.



### Greeting guests

Addison resident Don Ortale, founder and executive director of the National Association of Park Foundations (NAPF), shares a conversation with Kathi Reed at the awards banquet held Tuesday, Nov. 20. Reed is an Addison Library Board Trustee.



### NEDSRA is well-represented

Pictured at left enjoying the evening at the NAPF Awards Banquet are Carrie Henry and Jerry Barton from the Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA).



### Addison Parks and Rec Foundation honored

Don Jessen (far right) accepts the award for Inaugural Grant Assist Recipient on behalf of the Addison Parks & Recreation Foundation of the Addison Park District. The award was presented by the National Association of Park Foundations. Also pictured are (from left): NAPF Executive Director Don Ortale, Addison Park Board Commissioner Frank Angiolo and Addison Parks & Rec Foundation Director Dean Stathopoulos.



AMANDA COLON PHOTO Addison Independent

### ATHS holds blood drive

Junior Yuliana Macias participates in a Vitalant blood drive on Thursday, Nov. 8 held at Addison Trail High School. Among a total of 135 Addison Trail students, staff and community members, 104 units of blood were collected. Each unit of blood collected supports three lives, meaning this event could help save 312 lives. For hosting the blood drive, Vitalant will present District 88 with funds for its scholarship program.



### A proud daughter

Pictured is Suzanne Jessen, daughter of Don Jessen who was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Park Foundations. "Everywhere we went when we were little, my dad knew somebody," Suzanne said in her comments. "Even at Disneyland!"

# Addison Trail girls basketball team split first four games

## Blazers defeat Fenton and Elgin

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls basketball team split a set of four games to start the season.

The Blazers lost their opener 35-29 to Chicago DePaul Prep and then defeated Fenton 54-46 in the Fenton-Addison Trail tournament. The Blazers also lost to West Suburban

Conference Gold Division foe Leyden 52-42 before coming back to down Elgin 55-42 in tournament play.

"We didn't hit free throws and we didn't hit some shots," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader. "We played alright defense. Our pressure was pretty good. Right now, we're not clicking on all cylinders just yet."

Schader did see many bright spots on the individual front, including strong play from the likes of Serena

Gilliam (senior post player), Karime Martinez (senior), Brenda Berumen (senior), Angelina Carreros (senior), Klaudia Kulikowski (junior) and Joanna Garay (senior). The Blazers also welcomed back senior Natalie Obrzut, who had been slowed by a knee injury suffered as a sophomore. "She battled last year with her knee. It's great to have Natalie back," said Schader.

Other key contributors include junior Demi Koulogeorgas, sophomore Mia Johnson and freshman Quiana Birmingham.

"Demi is figuring it out and doing a nice job," said Schader. "Mia is getting used to the speed of the varsity game and has done a great job

and Quiana gets better every game. Right now, we're playing around 10 kids, which is very helpful because we try to play fast-paced."

Schader noted Addison Trail was 18 of 34 from the free-throw line in one game and 15 of 26 in another. "We're putting in the extra time with our shooting," he said. "We're also turning the ball over too much. We had 25 against Elgin, 30-something against Leyden and had 45 against Fenton. So if you add that up we're turning the ball over every third time down the court right now. We have to make better decisions. All of this will happen. We started off a little slow. If we can start hitting some shots and take care of the basketball

better, we have a chance to do something special. We have six or seven kids coming back that played a lot. We will figure it out. We have good balance with our scoring so teams can't focus on one kid."

Addison Trail was slated to play Maine East and Morton (WSC Gold game) earlier in the week. The Blazers square off against Hinsdale South Saturday in another conference game.

"We have a lot of three-game weeks this year," said Schader. "We've added teams such as Maine East, DePaul Prep and IC Catholic Prep to the schedule. We'll have 29 regular-season games this year. Playing these games will help us."

## Willowbrook girls basketball team wins three games in own tournament

By Mike Miazga, CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team continued its strong start to the season by winning three games at the 23rd Willowbrook Lady Warrior Thanksgiving Invite.

Willowbrook opened the tournament with a 76-12 win over West Chicago. Willowbrook led 33-3 after the first quarter and 54-5 at halftime. The Warriors held West Chicago to seven second-half points.

The Warriors then downed East Aurora by a 42-41 count. The Warriors led 11-9 after the first quarter but East Aurora came back and tied the game at 18-18 heading into halftime. The game remained tied at 27-27 heading into the fourth quarter.

Sophomore forward Stephanie Dasbach led the Warriors with 17 points. K'ahlia Herron and sophomore Grace Tumilty each added seven points.

The Warriors moved to 3-0 in the tournament with a 55-46 win over Plainfield Central. Willowbrook then lost its final two games in the tournament to Stevenson (50-45) and Lockport (50-48).

In the Lockport loss, Katelyn McCann finished with 25 points. Dasbach was named to the all-tournament first team, while Tumilty earned a spot on the second team.

Stevenson won the tournament and Lockport finished second. Willowbrook opened the season with a 60-25 win against Glenbard North.

The Warriors were 4-2 overall heading into action this week against Proviso East (West Suburban Conference Gold Division game), York and conference foe Leyden (Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at Leyden).

## Addison Trail boys basketball

The Addison Trail boys basketball team went 3-0 in winning the recent Elmwood Park tournament to kick off the 2018-2019 season.

The Blazers defeated Chicago Foreman 65-50 in the opener and downed Northtown Academy 64-29 before defeating host Elmwood Park 59-42. Addison Trail then scored a 49-46 victory over Leyden, which was the first-place team from the nearby Ridgewood tournament.

It is the fifth year in a row the Blazers have won the Elmwood Park tournament.

Addison Trail played Chicago Lane in a non-conference game earlier this week and will host Willowbrook in the first of two District 88 regular-season battles on Friday. It's the West Suburban Conference Gold Division opener for both teams.

## Willowbrook boys basketball

The Willowbrook boys basketball team went 3-1 at the season-opening St. Charles East tournament.

The Warriors were 76-42 winners against East Aurora and also scored an 83-74 win over Plainfield North before defeating St. Joseph 70-60 to advance to the championship game where it lost to St. Charles East 77-60.

In the St. Joe's win, Everett Eubbe field had 27 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Matts Masys scored 14 points, while Scotty Tumilty had 10 points. Jack Hines finished with nine points, six rebounds and four assists.

## Tumilty and Rizzo honored

Willowbrook football players Scotty Tumilty and Sam Tumilty, and boys soccer player David Rizzo all earned postseason honors recently.

Scotty Tumilty was named to the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 7A all-state team, while Tumilty and his brother earned Champaign News-Gazette all-state special-mention accolades. The News-Gazette is one of the last Illinois media outlets to publish true all-state teams that encompass players from throughout Illinois.

Rizzo recently was named to the Illinois Soccer Coaches Association all-sectional honorable-mention team and received his award at the 48th Annual Boys Soccer Honors Banquet in Elmhurst.

# Fenton girls basketball team starts season with pair of wins

## Bison tie school record for most 3-pointers made in a game

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton girls basketball team made a little history during its season-opening quartet of games in the Addison Trail-Fenton tournament.

In the Bison's 71-25 win over Elgin to close out the tournament, Fenton tied a school record for most 3-pointers made in a game with 15.

Earlier in the tournament, the Bison defeated Chicago Curie 62-24 and lost to Addison Trail 56-46 and Chicago Marshall 95-27.

Fenton is coming off a 2017-2018 campaign where it went 9-16 overall and 4-8 in Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division action.

Back for Fenton this season are seniors Ashley Lira, Isa Lozada (point/wing), Mackenzie Miller (point/wing), Julia Kaspari (wing) and juniors Ashley Milano (wing) and Joni Lucas. Lozada is the team's returning leading scorer at 5.0 points per game

last year. Kaspari and Milano each averaged 4.5 points, while Lira and Lucas each averaged 3.5 points and Miller averaged 3.2 points to go with 4.0 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.1 steals. Lira also averaged 4.8 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game. Lozada averaged 2.4 rebounds and 1.6 steals. Kaspari averaged 1.6 rebounds, while Milano averaged 2.2 rebounds and 1.3 steals per game. Lucas averaged 2.3 rebounds.

Lira is a returning all-MS-C selection (Blue Division last year; Fenton now plays in the Red Division).

Key newcomers to the team include sophomores Lisette Rodriguez (post), Madison Spencer (wing) and Daisy Cossio (wing), along with freshmen Hailey Miller (point) and Sophia Hasaka (post).

Fenton coach Dave Mello is pleased with the progress the team has made in the second year of running his system. "The offense is coming along great," he said. "In year two of our system, the girls really are used to the pace that we want to play. We just need to start having some shots fall from the 3-point line during games.

Our defense is fast. We are doing a good job with our traps, but we still need to get better at protecting the weak side."

Mello noted Fenton's greatest weapon on the floor is the system it plays. "Our biggest strength is our system—playing at the pace we do and using all 19 girls in waves of five helps to really neutralize any major advantages our opponents may have," he said.

Mello added his team is not lacking in the effort department, by a long shot. "I like the effort they are putting in," he said. "We are asking a lot of this team. We have had a good amount of morning practices. We are just about finished with a running program we implemented this year, we are lifting weights two or three times a week and we are watching a lot of film."

The Bison have switched to the Red Division of the MSC for its final year in the conference before joining the Upstate Eight next season. "Aurora Christian, Timothy Christian and Chicago Christian seem to be the top teams," said Mello. "There won't be any easy days in the conference."

# Montini football team falls just short in Class 5A state title game

## Broncos stopped on potential game-tying drive as time expires

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Montini football team simply ran out of time.

The Broncos were stopped on a potential game-tying drive as time expired in a 35-27 loss to Joliet Catholic Academy in the Class 5A state title game at Memorial Stadium on the grounds of the University of Illinois.

Montini, the No. 4 seed in the top half of the 5A bracket, finished the season 12-2, while Joliet Catholic, the No. 14 seed in the bottom half of the bracket that got into the playoffs with a 5-4 record, finished 10-4 after winning all five of its playoff games.

Joliet Catholic went ahead for the final time at 35-27 with 1:33 left to play after a 30-yard touchdown run.

Montini took over on its own 20-yard line with 1:33 left and marched down the field 73 yards on 13 plays with highlights that included a Nick Fedanzo 16-yard run, a Zach Olson 20-yard reception from quarterback Robert Brazziel and an 18-yard catch by Nate Muersch.

The Broncos faced third-down and 5 from the JCA 11 when JCA was flagged for holding during an incomplete pass. That gave Montini a first down from the Joliet 6. Two incompletions and a one-yard rushing loss preceded an interception on the game's final play.

Montini struck first in the game when Fedanzo scored on a 34-yard touchdown run with 9:03 to play in the first quarter. JCA tied it at 7-7 with 4:10 to play in the first after a 6-yard touchdown run.

Montini went up 21-7 at one point in the second quarter after Deontay Bell scored on a 73-yard touchdown

run and Fedanzo scored on a 12-yard run. Bell's run established a new Class 5A state title game record for longest rush in a title game.

JCA cut it to 21-14 at halftime after a 3-yard run and tied the game at 21-21 on a 9-yard touchdown run with 8:04 to play in the third.

Montini took its final lead at 27-21 with 4:47 to play in the third when Fedanzo scored on a 20-yard run. Montini missed the extra point.

JCA scored the final 14 points in the fourth quarter on touchdown runs of 18 and 30 yards.

Montini had 480 total yards of offense, including 317 on the ground. JCA ran for 461 yards on 66 carries and attempted only three passes.

JCA also held a massive 30:13-17:47 time of possession advantage and converted 8 of 12 third-down attempts and 2 of 3 fourth-down at-

Of the real in the West Suburban Gold, but he proved to be just as valuable on the Mustangs' offensive line as a left tackle. "The volume of snaps he took and the level of play he maintained was incredible," coach Mark Molinari said. "He was a very dominant player." While consistently grading out as the team's top offensive lineman, the 6-foot-3, 250-pound senior ate up a bunch of double-teams on the interior of the defensive line. Burrow had 27 tackles, including 20 solos and 6.5 for loss.



**Bret Bushka, Glenbard East**

Upstate Eight Conference Offensive Player of the Year and IHSFCA Class 7A All-State, Bushka set Glenbard East season and all-time passing and rushing marks by a quarterback. This year the veteran 5-10, 190-pound senior passed for 2,352 yards and 28 touchdowns and ran for 468 yards and 13 touchdowns. In Glenbard East's first playoff game since 1999, Bushka passed for 415 yards, 5 touchdowns and ran for 81 yards, 1 touchdown in a 40-14 win over Prospect. Bushka is "probably one of the fiercest competitors I've ever coached," said Rams coach John Walters.



**Drew Cassens, Downers Grove North**

The Trojans didn't plan to lean on Cassens as much as they did, but he was simply too good. "When we were being successful, it was because Drew was being successful," coach Joe Horeni said. The 6-foot-3, 198-pound junior was a second-year starter — but it was his first varsity season at quarterback. Cassens, an IHSFCA All-State selection, piled up 1,200 rushing yards and 500 passing yards. He also had 45 tackles and 2 interceptions in the defensive secondary. "He wanted to play more defense," Horeni said, "but we had to keep him fresh on offense."



**Will Chevalier, Neuqua Valley**

A total package athletically, this 5-8, 165-pound senior tailback averaged 188 all-purpose yards. Voted Neuqua's "most influential teammate"



Suburban Silver and an IHSFCA All-State selection, the 5-foot-9, 170-pound senior had 162 carries for 1,354 yards and 23 touchdowns while adding 25 catches for 325 yards. Cox had 3 touchdown catches and returned two kicks and a punt for scores. He also threw a touchdown pass. "He was super explosive," Hettlet said.

**Aidan Cruickshank, Hinsdale Central**

Cruickshank came just shy of the program record for tackles in a season...his own record, set last year. "He started strong when he came up to varsity and just kept it up," coach Dan Hartman said. "He just had a nose for the ball." The 5-foot-11, 185-pound senior linebacker came up as a sophomore, made 128 tackles as a junior and piled on 107 tackles this season. Cruickshank had 6 tackles for loss, 3 sacks, an interception and a huge blocked punt in a season-opening win over Naperville Central. "He's one of the best open-field tacklers we've had," Hartman said.



**Nick Fedanzo, Montini**

Committed to Illinois, the 6-foot, 205-pound running back had the speed to return a kickoff 99 yards at Loyola and the stamina to grind games out. All-Chicago Catholic League Blue and IHSFCA Class 5A All-State, Fedanzo ran for 1,421 yards and 19 touchdowns with a season-best 186 yards rushing and 3 touchdowns in the 5A championship game. He averaged 7.9 yards a carry with a 74-yard run against St. Rita. "When you package the speed and the power it's really a tough combination," said Broncos coach Mike Bukovsky.



**Kyle Franklin, IC Catholic**

Coach Bill Krefft said Franklin is a sophomore "putting up big-boy numbers." The 5-foot-9, 175-pound tailback ran for 2,378 yards, averaged 9.3 yards a carry and scored 37 touchdowns. This churning ball of muscle averaged 20.6 yards a carry against Belleville Althoff and ran for 338 yards, 6 touchdowns against Marengo. Using patience and foot speed, the all-Metro Suburban Blue back scored on runs of 70, 84 and 90



Bukovsky.

**Zane Heemsoth, York**

Heemsoth has garnered numerous scholarship offers, but what position will he play? With length, athleticism and power, the 6-foot-5, 230-pound senior could play any level of the defense. For the Dukes, though, he was a rock at middle linebacker. "His production has been unbelievable," coach Mike Fitzgerald said. Heemsoth was a two-time all-West Suburban Silver selection who made at least 100 tackles in his two seasons as a starter. This year Heemsoth had 110 tackles, including 6 for loss and 2 sacks and also contributed at tight end.



**Deandre Holliday, Willowbrook**

Up on varsity as a sophomore to fill a role, Holliday filled many roles this season. "He was an incredibly versatile player," coach Nick Hildreth said. "He was a tough matchup for people." The 6-foot-2, 173-pound junior not only kept up his strong play in the defensive secondary at cornerback, he also emerged as a go-to receiver. And he averaged 45 yards a punt. Holliday snared 5 interceptions and made 25 tackles while making 40 catches for a team-high 784 yards and 10 touchdowns. "He's got an incredibly high ceiling," Hildreth said.



**Joe Ives, WW South**

Whether he was on defense or special teams — the Tigers' two team strengths — Ives was a playmaker. The 5-foot-10, 162-pound senior safety returned kicks and punts and was a holder in the kicking game. But he was most effective anchoring the secondary. "He always had that feeling that he was going to make a play," coach Ron Muhitch said. "He was always a threat to score with the ball in his hands." Ives returned two of his 9 interceptions, tying a team record, for touchdowns and also returned two punts for scores. He had 59 tackles and two forced fumbles.



**Jeremy Johnson, Glenbard East**

Repeating as Upstate Eight all-conference, the 6-1, 175-pound senior set

Lineman in the DuKane Conference. "He was relentless, a unique player," coach Ron Muhitch said. "He's the biggest playmaker we've had in a long time as a defensive lineman." The 6-foot-2, 226-pound senior nose guard was supposed to take up blockers for others to get the tackle, but he wound up doing both. Kelly had a team-high 101 tackles, including 14 for loss and 4 sacks while being equally effective against the run and the pass. "He was hard to handle," Muhitch said.



**Dave Lanciloti, Glenbard West**

A key contributor last year as a sophomore, Lanciloti became dominant this junior season. Named the Defensive Lineman of the Year in the West Suburban Silver, the 5-foot-11, 250-pounder was a major reason why the Hilltoppers were so strong against the run. Lanciloti had 52 tackles, including 14 for loss and 6.5 sacks despite facing multiple blockers across the line. "He's become one of the most dominant defensive linemen we've had," coach Chad Hettlet said. "He just gobbles up double-team blocks and gets off them."



**Bryce Logan, Waubonsie Valley**

Voted Waubonsie Valley's MVP as a junior, the 5-foot-6, 170-pound two-year starting tailback is an all-DuPage Valley Conference pick. Needing only a sliver to find daylight, Logan ran for 163 yards against Libertyville, 176 yards against Naperville North, 155 yards against Metea Valley and 113 yards with 3 touchdowns in Waubonsie's playoff win over Bolingbrook before leaving with an injury. Logan finished with 1,148 yards rushing, 11 touchdowns. "He is an outstanding young man," said coach Paul Murphy.



**Cade McDonald, Naperville Central**

McDonald enjoyed a true reversal of fortune this season. After catching 19 passes a year ago, he snared an amazing 91 this season. "If you saw



of the defense allowed him to make plays sideline-to-sideline. Mueller led the Falcons with 78 tackles. Ten were for loss and two were sacks. Great against the run, he also thrived against the pass while breaking up three passes and grabbing 3 interceptions. "He was hands down our best defensive player," coach Joe Wardynski said.

**Ricky Mysliwicz, IC Catholic**

The 6-3, 310-pound senior started on ICCP's offensive and defensive lines for three straight championship teams with a cumulative record of 41-1. Mysliwicz brought strength, technique and physicality to offensive tackle and defensively at both tackle and guard spots, wherever he was needed the most. A two-time Metro Suburban Blue all-conference selection, this fall he made 64 tackles, 9.5 for loss, with 4 sacks and 8 quarterback hurries. He made 13 tackles against Richmond-Burton. "He is the foundation of it all," said Knights coach Bill Krefft.



**Carson O'Donnell, Waubonsie Valley**

A team co-captain and two-year starter, the 5-foot-8, 165-pound senior linebacker was named all-DuPage Valley Conference and voted by teammates as the Warriors' defensive MVP. Against Nequa Valley, O'Donnell's quickness, mental toughness and blitzing instinct produced 21 tackles, including 4 for loss with 2 sacks and 4 quarterback hurries. His season tally was 146.5 tackles, 11 for loss, with 6.5 sacks, 9 hurries and 3 fumble recoveries. "He caused a lot of havoc," said Waubonsie coach Paul Murphy. "Teams had to game plan to know where he was."



**Jack Olsen, WW South**

Olsen announced his presence with authority this season by making an IHSFCA record 8 field goals, one shy of the national record, in the opener. The 5-foot-10, 168-pound junior kicker and punter was crucial in getting the Tigers back to the playoffs for the first time since 2014. "What's most impressive is he excels in all parts of the kicking game," coach Ron Muhitch said. Olsen had 41



on kickoffs and a 38.4-yard punt average with 22 inside the 20. He made 40 straight extra points and an IHSA record 22 field goals, including 11 over 40 yards.

### Patrick Panasiuk, Lake Park

The third Panasiuk lineman to make the All-Area Team, Patrick is the first to earn the honor on offense. Two-time all-conference, the 6-foot-3, 290-pound senior spent last season at tackle but played center and guard this year. He controlled the line of scrimmage no matter where he was. "His versatility was a huge asset to us," coach Chris Roll said. Panasiuk, who competed through injuries much of this season, has a Navy offer among his college options. "He's as physical an offensive lineman as we've ever had," Roll said. "His attitude was tremendous."



### Brendon Passarelli, Hinsdale Central

An IHSCFA All-State selection and the Offensive Lineman of the Year in the West Suburban Silver, Passarelli became the latest elite Hinsdale Central lineman. "He has the ability to physically manhandle defensive linemen," coach Dan Hartman said. The 6-foot-3, 310-pound senior played tackle as a junior and moved to guard this season. He also played some defense, but his college position is likely at center. Wherever he was, Passarelli showed a combination of strength and speed that allowed him to dominate in tight or in space.



### Ben Pham, Glenbard East

Starting at left offensive tackle and defensive tackle, the 6-foot, 230-pound senior helped anchor Glenbard East's landmark season. A repeat Upstate Eight all-conference selection and IHSCFA Academic All-State with a 1480 SAT score, Pham used his wrestling background plus great feet, hands and smarts to move people. Defensively, he added 37 tackles, 11 for loss. "Not a pancake guy, not a drive-down-the-field guy, he had the ability to control his guy away from a play better than anyone I've ever coached," said the Rams' John Walters.



### Matt Quinn, Neuqua Valley

A 6-foot-4, 235-pound defensive end, Quinn benches 325 pounds, cleans 285 and squats 495 pounds. A three-year starter, the senior earned coaches' votes as DuPage Valley Conference defensive lineman of the year. Quinn made 45 tackles and led Neuqua with 8 tackles for loss and 5 sacks. "When we

game-planned against other teams we looked at how they ran the ball against us, and eight out of 10 times they ran away from Matt Quinn. I think that speaks volumes on how good he is," said Wildcats coach Bill Ellinghaus.

### Ben Radel, St. Francis

The 5-foot-11, 165-pound junior helped direct St. Francis' turnaround. Metro Suburban Blue all-conference, the two-year starting strong safety was a great open-field tackler who rallied his teammates. Radel made 91 tackles, 9.5 for loss, coming up big with 10 tackles against IC Catholic, 11 apiece against Aurora Christian and Bishop McNamara. At slotback Radel caught 1 touchdown pass, but Spartans coach Bob McMillen said he may be even better offensively than defensively. "He'll get that chance next year," McMillen said.



### Bo Richter, Naperville North

Two years ago Richter never had played football before. Now he's headed to play at the Air Force Academy. "He played very well for us, but his upside is tremendous," coach Sean Drendel said. "His future is very bright." The 6-foot-3, 230-pound senior bounced between inside and outside linebacker, also spending time on offense. Richter had 2 sacks among his 62 tackles and had 23 catches for 370 yards. "He's one of the better athletes we've had in terms of all the things he could do for us," Drendel said. "And he spent so much time working and learning the game."



### Nick Rushing, Willowbrook

The co-Defensive Lineman of the Year in the West Suburban Gold, Rushing was technically brilliant at both end positions and both interior positions. "We haven't been able to play a lineman at all four spots before," coach Nick Hildreth said. "His technique got so good, he could play anywhere we put him." Of the 58 tackles by the 6-foot-3, 191-pound senior, 18.5 were for loss and 6.5 were sacks. Rushing also forced and recovered a fumble and blocked a punt. A strong blocker on offense, he had 94 yards on his 4 catches. "He got much better on that side of the ball," Hildreth said.



### Khali Saunders, IC Catholic Prep

All of 6-4 and 220 pounds, Saunders

committed to Purdue before the season, among nine Division I offers. He's a repeat all-area and three-time all-Metro Suburban Blue linebacker-receiver with a gift for the big play. Saunders gained 300 yards receiving on 23 yards a catch, with 7 touchdowns. He made 81 tackles and 3 interceptions, returning one 40 yards for a touchdown against St. Francis. Saunders had a team-high 8 tackles and an interception in ICCP's Class 4A title win. "He worked his butt off," said Knights coach Bill Krefft.



### Khali Saunders, IC Catholic

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior solidified the three-time state champions. A three-year, two-way starter like his brother, Khali, at quarterback Saunders completed 58 percent of his passes for 1,369 yards, 16 touchdowns; he ran for 652 yards, 7 touchdowns. A strong safety, he added 64 tackles, 2 interceptions, 5 passes defended. IHSCFA Class 4A all-state and all-Metro Suburban Blue with four scholarship offers, Saunders ran for 117 yards and a touchdown and made 5 tackles in the 4A championship. "He does so much for us," coach Bill Krefft said.



### Anthony Shockey, Glenbard East

Upstate Eight Conference Defensive Player of the Year and IHSCFA Class 7A All-State Honorable Mention, this third-year starting linebacker set numerous Rams defensive records. This fall the 6-foot-2, 220-pound senior made 68 tackles, 13 for loss, 2.5 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries. Intercepting 2 passes, he returned them for touchdowns of 88 and 65 yards. Twice all-conference and a great blitz. Shockey excelled whether stopping the run or defending the pass. "He was kind of a do-it-all middle linebacker," said coach John Walters, "and man, was he good."



### Dan Skold, St. Francis

A two-way mauler who had 45 pancake blocks and didn't allow a sack in two seasons, the 6-foot-2, 250-pound, senior lineman earned IHSCFA Class 5A all-state. The three-year starter has four college offers. At left offensive tackle or making 25 tackles at nose tackle, Skold outmuscled opponents. He was all-conference first in the Chicago Catholic League, then in the Metro Suburban Blue. "He was a



prototypical offensive lineman who does whatever it takes to get the job done and doesn't care how he does it," said Spartans coach Bob McMillen.

### Garrett St. Clair, Waubonsie Valley

A 6-foot, 220-pound defensive end who converted from linebacker-tight end since transferring from Aurora Central in 2017, this senior was voted as the Warriors' top defensive lineman. St. Clair made 101 tackles, 4 for loss, plus 7 sacks and 7 quarterback hurries. He made 13 tackles against Naperville Central and Oak Park, 12 against Edwardsville. An all-DuPage Valley Conference pick, St. Clair used his wrestling background to escape lineman. "We knew if he stuck with it he was going to turn out to be a good one," said Warriors coach Paul Murphy.



### Fred Stokes, Montini

Stokes dominated at defensive end, leading Montini in sacks and tackles for loss. At 6-foot-4, 210 pounds he brought burst and athleticism to the edge. Stokes made 95 tackles, 22 for loss with 11 sacks and 2 pass knockdowns. A two-year starter, the senior also was stout against the run, causing 2 fumbles and recovering 1. Against Fenwick, Stokes made 10 tackles, 3 for loss, with 2 sacks. Fast off the ball and good with his hands to shed blocks, Stokes' length was a factor. "In the biggest games he played pretty well," said Broncos coach Mike Bukovsky.



### Payton Thorne, Naperville Central

The 2018 Daily Herald DuPage County Red Grange Football Captain also was named IHSCFA All-State and the DuPage Valley Conference's Offensive Player of the Year. Of all the great Naperville Central quarterbacks through the years, Thorne might be the best. This season the 6-foot-2, 190-pound senior, a three-year varsity starter and a Western Michigan University recruit, completed 64 percent of his passes for 3,079 yards and 40 touchdowns against 9 interceptions. "The game seemed to slow down for him even more this year," coach Mike Stine said.



### Ben Thorson, Wheaton Academy

The 6-foot-3, 190-pound senior quarterback earned IHSCFA Class 4A all-state, Wheaton Academy's first first-team pick since the program returned in 2007. A three-year starter, two-time team cap-

tain, 2018 recipient of the leadership-based Warrior Award and all-Metro Suburban Blue, he passed for 1,940 yards, 18 touchdowns, and scrambled for 3 touchdowns. Thorson threw for 383 yards against Aurora Christian and for 4 touchdowns against St. Edward. "Our guys had the confidence in him that he was going to get the job done," coach Brad Thornton said.



### Sam Tumilty, Willowbrook

After a year away from the position, Tumilty put up eye-popping numbers at quarterback. The 5-foot-9, 175-pound junior was a returning starter at defensive back but became dominant behind center. "His football instincts are as good as I've ever seen," coach Nick Hildreth said. The co-Player of the Year in the West Suburban Gold and IHSCFA all-stater threw for 2,530 yards and 30 touchdowns, and he ran for 1,270 yards and 16 scores. He made 102 tackles. "You could play him at any position and he'd be the best one there," Hildreth said.



### Scott Tumilty, Willowbrook

Tumilty's impact through three varsity seasons was pretty clear. "He's the best playmaker I've ever coached," coach Nick Hildreth said. "His impact was huge." The co-Player of the Year in the West Suburban Gold was a two-way starter who was equally impressive on both sides of the ball. The 5-foot-10, 171-pound senior caught 46 passes for 743 yards and 11 touchdowns as a receiver and, as a defensive back, had 75 tackles and 5 interceptions, including three he returned for touchdowns. "He makes plays where no one should expect," Hildreth said.



### Charlie Waldusky, Lisle

A three-year starter on Lisle's defensive line and a two-year starting offensive tackle, the 6-foot, 210-pound senior helped lead the Lions' first conference title since 1981. Waldusky was strong and quick, and his relentless play at defensive end forced opponents' top linemen to his side to account for him. All-conference in the Interstate Eight, Waldusky recorded 68 tackles with 6 for loss and 4 sacks. "With his work ethic he was one of the leaders who helped get the program to where we are right now," said Lions coach Paul Parpet Sr.



# Captain: Thorne wins award

Continued from Page 1

talked with some of the guys and trained with them a little bit. It was pretty smooth."

Thorne threw for 2,294 yards and 25 touchdowns his junior year with four receivers making at least 15 catches. In the following off-season he committed to Western Michigan University to play for Tim Lester, a former Wheaton Warrenville South quarterback who coached for a season with the Thomes at North Central College.

With only one of his main receivers returning, Thorne was masterful this senior season while competing against one of the state's toughest schedules. He completed 64 percent of his 319 passes for 3,079 yards and 40 touchdowns ... with four receivers grabbing at least 22 catches. Sam Jackson had 50 while McDonald had a whopping 91.

No matter the supporting cast, Thorne thrived.

"He took to the leadership role real well," McDonald said. "He takes the lead with the receivers and works with all of them. I was blown away with everything he knew about football. He's already got everything figured out before he goes into a game."

Wonder where he got that from...

## Bloodlines

When John Thorne was the coach at Wheaton Central in the late 1980s, he'd sit at a table and use pennies to diagram plays for his quarterback as a way to break down defensive schemes.

Jeff Thorne loved his dad's kitchen coaching techniques.

"I remember always being around the game as a kid, and it's amazing how much you absorb," Jeff Thorne said. "Those are great memories for me."

An Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Famer who won four state titles with the Tigers, John Thorne retired from teaching after the 2001-02 school year and transitioned to coaching at the next level by taking over North Central College's program.

Jeff Thorne joined his dad as the Cardinals' offensive coordinator and took over for him as head coach in 2015. It didn't take long for young Payton to become a fixture alongside his father and grandfather.

"I was in their office all the time just hanging out," Payton Thorne said. "My dad would be watching film with his guys, and I'd just be listening. I was there a lot. I loved being a part of it."

"We're a huge football family," said Thorne, emphasizing the support from his mother, Joanna, and his sisters, Noelle and Lauren. "I'm incredibly blessed and thankful to have a great family behind me."

Watching film with his dad became Payton's pennies, his training ground even as an 6-year-old. In one memorable meeting with his quarterbacks, Jeff Thorne stressed the importance of throwing the ball away and not taking sacks.

Sure enough, in a subsequent game a quarterback took a sack instead of throwing the ball away.

"Payton says to me, 'Dad, he didn't do it right,'" Jeff Thorne said. "A few weeks later we're watching a bowl game and a quarterback throws the ball out of bounds. Then he says to me, 'Dad, he did it right.'"

From pennies to film to Hudl streaming, the evolution and increasing ease of technology definitely played in Thorne's favor the last few years. The true student of the game soaked in everything.

The combination of a brilliant football mind and stunning physical abilities, Stine believes, separates Thorne from his Naperville Central predecessors.

"It was a privilege to be a part of his journey," Stine said. "I don't think it's unrealistic to say he could play on Sundays."

## Bookends

The last three years it became time for father and grandfather to move away from the sideline. Time to sit back and watch Payton from the bleachers.



Jeff Thorne was the first Daily Herald DuPage County All-Area Football Captain in 1989.

And enjoy.

"Being around us at North Central was a big part of his growth, but a bigger part of it was the job his parents did in raising him to be such a great young man," John Thorne said. "It's a lot like the Red Grange philosophy we'd teach. Red Grange has been a part of my life for so long. When I heard Payton won the award, I got so choked up I had to sit down."

While Jeff Thorne stands with great Tigers quarterbacks like Lester, Tim Brylka, Jon Beutjer and Reilly O'Toole, Payton Thorne is right up there with former great Naperville Central quarterbacks Tim Lavery, Owen Daniels, Phil Horvath and Jake Kolbe.

Both all-state, both Red Grange Award winners, both Daily Herald Captains.

"I have a hard time turning off the coach in me, but this year I was able to step back and see how much it came together for him," Jeff Thorne said. "The last two years have been so much fun."

Bookends. Whether it's 1989 or 2018, it's nice to have a Thorne on your side.

"He's been a huge role model for me in my life, and as long as I can remember I've wanted to be like him," Payton Thorne said of his father. "For this to be able to happen for me, it's really an honor."

## Past DuPage County Red Grange All-Area Football Captains

1989 — Jeff Thorne, Wheaton Central

1990 — Bill Korosec, Naperville N.

1991 — Tim Miller, Glenbard North

1992 — Broc Kreitz, Waubonsie Valley

1993 — Bobby Nelson, WW South

1994 — Steve Havard, Wheaton N.

1995 — Tim Lavery, Naperville Central

1996 — Tim Stratton, York

1997 — R.J. Luke, Waubonsie Valley

1998 — Jon Beutjer/Jon Schweighardt, WW South

1999 — Ryan Clifford, Naperville Central

2000 — Kyle Kleckner, Downers N.

2001 — Phil Horvath, Naperville Central

2002 — Brad Bower, Hinsdale C.

2003 — Tom Edwards, Downers N.

2004 — Cody Cielenski, Downers N.

2005 — Brett Morse, Hinsdale Central

2006 — Dan Dierking, WW South

2007 — Jordan Tassio, Naperville North

2008 — Chris Watt, Glenbard West

2009 — John Whitelaw, Hinsdale C.

2010 — Reilly O'Toole, WW South

2011 — Jordan Westerkamp, Montini

2012 — Joey Rhattigan, Neuqua Valley

2013 — Justin Jackson, Glenbard N.

2014 — Clint Bobowski, St. Francis

2015 — Sam Brodner, Glenbard West

2016 — Jordan Rowell, IC Catholic

2017 — Jack Jessen, Willowbrook

2018 — Payton Thorne, Naperville Central

## Honorable mention

Jeff Andrews (Fenton, sr., OL-DL), Mohammad Ayesh (Willowbrook, sr., LB), Jack Baka (Glenbard East, sr., LB), Matt Bobak (Hinsdale Central, sr., RB), Jacob Boumanns (Neuqua Valley, sr., LB), Isiah Brown-Dietzman (WW South, sr., DL), Kyle Cacioppo (Fenton, sr., QB), Julian Cain (Waubonsie Valley, sr., WR-DB), Emmanuel Chavez (Willowbrook, sr., OL-DL), J.T. Daniels (Addison Trail, sr., OL-DL), Gavin Fitzpatrick (Glenbard South, sr., DB), Trevor Gabriele (Wheaton North, sr., OL), Jonathan Gonzales (WW South, sr., OL), Owen Goss (Hinsdale Central, jr., DB), Matt Heinz (Naperville North, sr., WR), Cross Holmes (Waubonsie Valley, sr., K-P), Danny Hughes (Naperville Central, sr., RB), Marcus Ingold (St. Francis, sr., LB), Sam Jackson (Naperville Central, sr., WR), Kobie Jamison (Glenbard North, jr., WR-DB), Derek Johank (Wheaton Academy, sr., OL-DL), Nehemiah Jones (Glenbard East, sr., DB), Noah Jones (Wheaton Academy, sr., WR-DB), Max Kaiser (Lake Park, sr., LB), Milan Kaplarevic (Hinsdale South, sr., LB), Sean Kelly (Hinsdale Central, sr., DL), Ryan Kenneally (IC Catholic, sr., OL), Matt King (Benet, sr., OL), Hank Knez (Glenbard West, sr., OL-DL), Matthew Knudtson (Willowbrook, sr., OL-DL), Shawn Lee (Downers Grove South, jr., OL-DL), Nick Martich (Lisle, sr., TE-LB), Mike McNicholas (Montini, sr., OL), Terrill McCray (Hinsdale South, sr., DB-WR), Sean Michel (Glenbard West, jr., DB), Conor Murphy (Metea Valley, sr., OL-DL), Matt Oliver (Naperville Central, sr., LB), Joe Passarelli (Downers Grove North, sr., LB), Nick Piaso (Glenbard South, jr., QB), Nathan Reid (Lake Park, sr., DB), Matt Ross (Montini, sr., WR-DB), Brandt Stare (Neuqua Valley, sr., WR-KF), Bo Thomas (York, sr., DL), Michael Thompson (Westmont, sr., WR-LB), Mike Wagner (West Chicago, sr., WR), Mike Wellman (Glenbard North, sr., TE-LB), Scott West (Montini, sr., WR-DB-K), Billy Winfrey (WW South, sr., OL), Julian Wlodarczyk (Metea Valley, sr., WR-LB), Zach Zikuda (Lisle, sr., OL-DL).

# York stays hot, cools off Willowbrook

Daily Herald Reports

The Willowbrook results this girls basketball season have been impressive, so York knew it was in for a tough game Thursday night in Villa Park.

"I knew they had that big win against Proviso East (on Tuesday) so I wasn't sure what to expect," York coach Brandon Collings said.

What Collings got was a defense that cooled off the Warriors until the fourth quarter, then hung on for a 50-40 nonconference victory to continue York's own strong start to the season.

"Practices are so great with each other, it's just been such a positive experience, I think, for all of us," York junior Carley Schwartz said.

The Dukes (6-1) scored 9 straight points in the first quarter to take a lead they never gave up.

"I feel like our defense is really working," Schwartz said. "We're a very defense-heavy team, so I feel like us having a strong defense really helped us get that lead."

Schwartz had a hand in helping the Dukes to that lead on the offensive end also. She came off the bench to score 11 of her 14 points in the first half. She hit four 3-pointers in the game.

"She bailed us out," Collings said. "Talk about picking up teammates, we missed a bunch of shots in that first half, a bunch of easy looks that we could have and should have hit."

Ahead 19-12 at halftime, York got hot again, extending the lead to 33-14 on a Sara Krissinger free throw late in the third quarter.

Krissinger took the lead on the offensive end in the second half like Schwartz did in the first, scoring 14 of her game-high 16 points. She made 10 of 14 free throws in the final 16 minutes.

Willowbrook (5-3) tried to fight back into the game in the fourth quarter, drawing energy from an Annemarie Knudtson 3-pointer that beat the third-quarter buzzer.

"We got layups in the second half because we were more aggressive in the second half," Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell said. "We weren't aggressive in the first half."

Willowbrook got as close as 48-39 with 1:04 to play on a K'alyha Herron putback.

"We've just got to do a better job of handling pressure," Collings said. "We just didn't take care of the basketball like we could have and should have."

—Orrin Schwarz

## IC Catholic 49, St. Francis 45:

The IC Catholic Prep girls basketball team had already suffered a pair of close defeats to begin this season.

But on Thursday night, the Knights reversed that trend and pulled out a 49-45 win over St. Francis in the Metro Suburban Blue matchup in Elmhurst.

"We lost our first game by 3 points and our last game on Tuesday by 2," said ICCP coach Kelsey James, whose team improved to 3-4 overall and 1-1 in league play. "This shows learning and growing and that's all you can ask for."

## Basketball roundup

through the fourth knotted the score at 42 before Annie Guinan gave her team the lead for good with a pair of free throws.

"Basketball is my favorite sport and I'm just really enjoying playing it," Wagner said. "My teammates are looking for me always and I appreciate it. It feels great to get the win, and I feel like we are going to do good this season."

St. Francis was within 3 in the closing stages, but a steal and layup by Hannah Johnson with 10 seconds left sealed the outcome.

The Spartans (0-5) led 20-13 at the end of the first quarter and 25-24 at halftime before ICCP pulled ahead by as many as 8 in the third.

The visitors, who were led in scoring by the 16 points of Ashley Sullivan and the 11 points of Katelyn Chaparro, responded with a 10-0 run to pull in front 42-40.

"This was our best game this season," St. Francis coach Sandy De Craene said. "The energy was there and that makes a big difference. We have a lot of young players, we are basically starting from scratch, so it will take time to rebuild. This was a positive. We came to play today. A couple of shots just didn't go our way."

Jackie Lara also checked into double figures for the Knights with 10 points, including a big bucket late in the fourth.

"Our energy was up all game and we worked hard," said Lara, one of only three seniors on the team. "Everything we worked on in practice came through today. I know there were a couple of rough patches, but we overcame those and the end result was good. We really worked as a team."

Alia Johnson totaled 10 rebounds for ICCP and Gabi Zanon and Wagner had 7 apiece. Megan Lombardo topped St. Francis with 7 rebounds.

—Scott Schmid

Naperville North 61, Waubonsie Valley 36:

Naperville North sophomore Greta Kampschroeder doesn't have to score a lot of points in order to dominate a game.

Oh, she was prolific, eventually, on offense Thursday night against Waubonsie Valley. But it was her all-around floor game that got the visiting Huskies in rhythm early in their 61-36 DuPage Valley Conference victory in Aurora.

Kampschroeder had only a fifth of her team's points in the first half, but her 6 assists and 4 steals were a big reason why Naperville North (4-1, 1-0) led 30-12 at halftime. She finished with 22 points, 11 rebounds, 7 assists, 4 steals and 2 blocks.

"It's great to have that," Naperville North junior guard Nikki Kwilosz said. "Even if she isn't hitting shots, she's getting the ball to people."

"She's getting people open looks and her passes on fastbreaks are beautiful. I know she got me a couple layups on fastbreaks."

The fastbreaks came early

Kwilosz sank her first four shots and finished with 11 points. Letti Drummond and Kaitlyn Castillo each added 8 points and 3 steals for the Huskies, with Drummond pulling down 8 rebounds.

Most of that production came in the first half when Kampschroeder missed 8 consecutive shots and 10 of 11 at one point.

"Normally when my shot is not on I have to just take the wide-open shots and then I feel my role is getting my teammates the ball," Kampschroeder said. "Pushing the ball in the transition is something that we did very well."

"My teammates are really good at running the floor and I try to get them the perfect pass so they can finish, which is good."

The 6-foot Kampschroeder was brilliant with her distribution, at times waiting an extra beat for someone to get open and then threading the needle for a backdoor layup. In another instance she launched a full-court pass to set up a layup. Naperville North coach Jason Dycus called that pass a Division I-level play.

Waubonsie Valley (2-4, 0-1) played evenly with the Huskies in the third quarter but it did not go good. Naperville North's balanced attack forced the Warriors to focus on multiple players and that left Kampschroeder open for pull-up jumpers and drives down the lane.

Kampschroeder tallied 16 of her points in the second half and sank her last 5 shots to finish 9 for 21. Ahniya Melton led the Warriors with 11 points, while Lauren McKnight added 8 points.

"(The Huskies) are great," Kampschroeder said. "That's how I get my points."

"I can't do it without them. They make good passes and we work on that in practice."

Kwilosz said Thursday's performance showed the Huskies at their best.

"We had pretty balanced scoring today," Kwilosz said. "When we're all balanced I think we're playing more as a team and not thinking about points or specific things."

"We're definitely looking around to see who's open and getting the ball up the floor. I'm excited."

So is Dycus.

"We did a lot of really good things," Dycus said. "Our defense was outstanding."

"We got a lot of deflections and a lot of steals and run-outs and the game becomes easier when you play great defense and rebound."

—Matt Le Cren

## Lake Park 47, Batavia 45:

Opening night in the inaugural season of the DuKane Conference turned into a nail-biter between the girls basketball teams from Lake Park and Batavia.

Senior guard Casey Darre knocked down a pair of free throws with 39 seconds remaining to break a 45-45 deadlock and the Lancers (7-0, 1-0) held on for a 47-45 victory over host Batavia (3-4, 0-1) Thursday night.

"I was thinking that we're 6-0 and I wanted to get this win for the team," said Darre, who scored 16 points. "I was talking

tightness.

When she was on the court, Rogers was a force to be reckoned with, scoring a game-high 29 points while grabbing 16 rebounds.

The DePaul recruit, who finished with four 3-point baskets, scored 19 first-half points to help the Lancers to a 27-23 lead at halftime.

"She's a special player and she's on a tear right now," Rupp said of Rogers, who poured in a school-record 49 points during a win over Hinsdale South earlier in the week. "Her range is nuts. I played 1-on-1 against her and I hit the first two 3-pointers to go up 6-0 — and I lost 11-6."

Senior guard Hailey Orman paced the Bulldogs with 15 points — all on 3-point baskets — while Erin Golden and Geddy Kerko added 12 and 10 points, respectively.

"I couldn't ask them to play any harder — we played so incredibly hard," said Batavia coach Kevin Jensen. "Allison Newberry and Geddy Kerko played about as well as you can on Rogers. That's (29 points) a ton, but she just scored 20 more two nights ago."

"We honestly said before the game that if she doesn't go for 40 (points), we've got a chance. She had to work for it and she had to come out for a little bit — that helps us. They had a couple other players hit some nice shots."

Jensen came away impressed with Rogers' all-around skills.

"She's one of the best players in the state of Illinois," the Batavia coach said.

Batavia had a couple chances of its own to take the lead late after the Lancers missed the front end of back-to-back 1-and-1s.

However, both of the Bulldogs' 3-point attempts came off the rim, including a last-second, 35-foot try by Golden that hit the back rim.

"We executed a play down the stretch," Jensen said of Rerko's 3-point try from the wing with 16 seconds left. "She's heartbroken she missed but executing a play doesn't have anything to do with a make or a miss."

"We ran a play we wanted to run and got a good look. (Rerko) hit a tougher 3 to extend the game (against Bartlett)."

Kate Kirkham added 3 points and 9 rebounds for the Lancers, who survived on the road.

"This is going to be like every night in this conference," Rupp said.

—Craig Brueske

## Boys basketball

### Benet 77, St. Charles East 60:

Kendrick Tchoua was unstoppable.

Then again, Colin Crothers was not too shabby either for Benet on Thursday night at St. Charles East in a nonconference boys basketball game.

"Not a bad game for our 4 (power forward, Tchoua) and 5 (center, Crothers) tonight," Benet coach Gene Heidkamp said after the Redwings held St. Charles East scoreless for the first six-plus minutes of the fourth quarter to secure a 77-60 victory.

Both players also hit two



Willowbrook's Annemarie Knudtson, right, drives against York's Emily Rohman in girls basketball action on Thursday in Villa Park. The Dukes won 50-40.

points, missed a shot as Benet scored 32 of the combined 57 points in the period to take a 42-40 lead into halftime.

Tchoua pumped in 16 second-quarter points on an array of power moves on the inside; Crothers showed dexterity from the post as well as the perimeter to add 10 of his own in the quarter.

"I see myself as an inside-outside player," Tchoua said. "When I drive, I put my all into it. Our defense is what brought us back."

"None of those shots would have happened without our guards," Crothers said.

"We knew going in there would be mismatches at several positions," said St. Charles East guard Nathan Ortiz, who led three St. Charles East players in double digits with 18 points.

With St. Charles East trailing by 7 points as the clock wound down in the third quarter, Ortiz nailed a 30-footer as time expired to bring the Saints to within 59-55.

"We really needed that going into the fourth quarter," Ortiz said. "(But) momentum has to lead to execution."

But St. Charles East (4-2) would not score again until Luke Matheny converted a three-point play with one minute, 41 seconds to play.

In the meantime, Benet scored the first 14 points of the fourth quarter to take command.

Will Engels' all-around play seamlessly complemented the play of the Redwings' twin post players.

The senior overcame first-half foul issues to score 9 of his 14 points in the final quarter.

Benet guard Charlie Dollard also sparked the team with 8 points off the bench.

"It's a different team than last year," Heidkamp said. "We're more offensive-minded. The two big guys were the story tonight."

"That's how we know we can be good," Crothers said of he and Tchoua scoring 10 times from the field each.

Both players also hit two

Thursday. The Sabres downed visiting Glenbard East 70-60 in both teams' Upstate Eight Conference opener.

Late in the game, Streamwood senior Keenon Cole made two free throws to go over the 1,000-point mark.

"When I first came into high school, knowing about 1,000 points, I thought it would be pretty hard," Cole said. "I just wanted to be next. I've been a part of this system since I was a kid. It's had a big impact on my basketball career. That means a lot to me, working hard, just playing varsity for two years and these last five games. It's just been a great accomplishment for me."

Cole scored 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as Streamwood (2-3, 1-0) held off repeated charges by the Rams. He added 10 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 blocks.

Nikola Sinik also scored 24 points, hitting 8 of 11 from 3-point range. He grabbed 8 rebounds.

Kozay Wright added 9 points and Zach Marquez 8 for the Sabres.

Streamwood never trailed and the game was tied for only the first 11 seconds before Sinik nailed his first 3-pointer. But the Sabres never led by more than the final 10-point margin. Every time the Sabres seemed on the verge of blowing the game open, the Rams came back.

Streamwood led 57-50 after Sinik's final 3-pointer of the night, but back-to-back baskets by Daron Hall got Glenbard East within 57-53.

An odd three-point play gave Streamwood some breathing room. Zach Marquez made a layup and got fouled, but cramped up and had to leave the game. Jeremy Lunz came in and made the free throw to make it 60-54, but Hall answered with a 3 at the other end.

Alijah Nelson led Glenbard East with 15 points. Hall scored 11 of his 13 in the fourth quarter to help keep it close. Deon Cook had 9 points off the

## Scouting DuPage County boys swimming

**Top teams:** Nequa Valley, Waubonsie Valley, Naperville Central, Hinsdale Central.

**Top swimmers and divers:**

**Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op:** Jack Burns, sr.; Evan Zimmerman, sr.; Aidan Nichols, jr.; Thomas Holmes, jr.; Eric Hoda, jr.; Benet: Ryan Flynn, sr.; Colin Flynn, jr.; Ian Smith, sr.; Brady Quinlan, so.; Nick Tommasone, so.; Downers Grove North: Kevin Sullivan (diver), sr.; Jonah Kopeckey (diver), so.; Patrick Deitrich, sr.; Glenbard East-North co-op: Christian Vergara-Hernandez, sr. Glenbard West-South co-op: Gage Ridinger, sr.; Hinsdale Central: Donovan Lahmann, sr.; Trystan Lundgren, sr.; Frankie Morrissey, sr.; Cullen Cochlan, jr.; Conor Dunne, sr.; j Kareem Bitar, sr.; Ryan Donnell (diver), sr.; Hinsdale South: Tommy Matulis, jr.; Andrew Schmid, so.; Will Gallagher, jr.; Joseph Ofenloch, sr.; Kamil Kawiecki, sr.; Lake Park: Ben Kimmel, jr.; Ernest Berdy-chowski, so.; Norbert Szczotka, jr.; Bryan Mendoza, fr.; Metea Valley: Sam Kastan, sr.; Austin Martinson, jr.; Janssen Gamilla, so.; Alex Lafferty, jr.; Naperville Central: Luke Klein-Collins, sr.; Brad Sanford, sr.; Andrew Dai, jr.; Cameron Kalish (diver) sr.; Goncalo Wanzeller, so.; Matt King, sr.; Sam Flessner, sr.; Ben Russo, sr.; Naperville North: Joey Yuan, sr.; Grant Bochenski, so.; Andrew Li, so.; Nequa Valley: Jack Hiss, sr.; Sathya Subramanian, sr.; Connor Boyle, so.; Patrick Jensen, sr.; Tanner Schrey, sr.; Jimmy Senese, so.; Ethan Tuel (diver), sr.; Waubonsie Valley: Ayush Deshpande, jr.; Jake Darlinger, sr.; Ryan Ruhde, sr.; Lucas Conrads, so.; Reilly Tremain (diver), sr.; Brad Daugherty, sr.; Elmer Wang, so.; West Chicago: Teegan Cook, so.; Kyle Wolford, jr.; Garret Sims, jr.; Brian Culloton, jr.; Logan Townsend, fr.; York: Jay Jensen, jr.; Isaac Marlott, sr.; Ben Harrington, so.

swim on Saturday in individual events and fill key relay positions. Tuel is expected to be among the top echelon of divers. This team is similar to last year's, but they know how hard they have to work to win conference again and return to the state's top 10. Waubonsie Valley, which finished ninth at state despite missing three key swimmers to injury, is expected to challenge the Wildcats in conference and compete for one of the top five places at state. "We were better than the ninth place team we saw last year," said first-year coach Chris Hagenbaumer. "And we could be even better this year." Deshpande, who was eighth in the 100 butterfly, leads a strong group of Warriors looking to swim on the second day of the state meet in individual events such as Daugherty and Conrads. They'll also be mainstays of the Waubonsie relays, which Hagenbaumer believes can finish in the top six. Wing is an outstanding sophomore who can eventually score in the 100 breaststroke. "We have a lot of competition for spots on the relays," Hagenbaumer said. "And the eventual relay lineup will determine who swims in which individual events at sectionals. We've got some experience and the talent coming in is exciting. Our goal is top five, but we may be even better than that as the boys continue to learn and compete." Naperville North — which loses a deep and talented class of seniors, including II Qiao, who is now swimming for Brown — will have to work hard and see the development of some of its younger guys in order to equal or top last year's 12th-place finish. Bochenski is poised to break the Huskies record in the 200 free. Li is a top-flight distance freestyler, and Yuan will be competitive in several races. "We have a nucleus that we're counting on," coach Andy McWhirter said. "And they're being pushed by a solid group of newcomers who will fill in the holes left by the graduating seniors. Three qualifying relays and a few qualifications in individual swims would prove that we're back on the right track." Naperville Central has a lot of talent returning from the team that finished 24th at state. That includes a group that swam on a pair of scoring relays. These returnees now have state experience, which will be a big help at the end of the year. Dai finished top 12 in the 200 IM and is looking to improve on that performance. "We had a lot of young kids last year, and now they're experienced veterans who know what to expect," coach Mike Adams said. "We are just looking for steady improvement and everything else will take care of itself. Our goals are to qualify more kids and improve upon last year's finish." Metea Valley is probably less experienced than it has been in recent years, but a new crop of promising swimmers should replenish the Mustangs relays. Martinson in the fly, Gamilla in the breaststroke and Lafferty in the backstroke give them a strong nucleus. "Our young guys are technically sound and could develop into something pretty decent," coach Mark Jager said. Hinsdale Central will be back in the mix this year after losing a

turn are definitely ready for prime time. Lahmann and Lundgren are returning scorers and Cochlan is a standout flyer. "We have a lot of moving parts, including several people who went on our scoring relays," coach Bob Barber said. "We'll find the guys to fill in the holes. We're shooting for top five and could be a trophy team if the pieces fall into place." Benet's fortunes are looking up as coach Ben Gensler has his deepest squad in recent years. They have several potential qualifiers, including freestyler Tommasone, Smith and Flynn. "We've improved in every one of the past three years," Gensler said. "And we're looking to continue to grow this year. We have a lot of competition for the relay positions." Downers Grove North is in a sort of rebuilding mode, but the Trojans do have returning state diving champion Sullivan, who has committed to Penn State. The hallmarks of Sullivan's excellence are his consistency and his mental approach, which is to not let one bad dive bring down the rest of his program. The Trojans will be young and hoping to improve as the season goes on. West Chicago-Batavia co-op is headed by the versatile Cook, who could qualify in a number of events and Woolford. He has improved as a backstroke contender. Freshman Townsend is a quality distance swimmer. Addison Trail-Willowbrook co-op's Burns is a potential state qualifier as a sprinter and the main guy in the quest to qualify a relay team. Hinsdale South's conference champion has Matulis who was close to qualifying in both the 200 IM and the 100 breaststroke and worked hard in the offseason to make sure he gets to state this year. Schmid and the versatile Gallagher lead a potentially strong supporting team. Lake Park features Kimmel, one of the top swimmers in the state who finished fifth in the fly and sixth in the backstroke. This year he should put up some points in the 200 IM. "Ben is faster this year," coach Dan Witteveen said. "He's a unique talent and he's starting to believe that he can be pretty good." There's also enough talent emerging to give the Lancers a relay or two at state. Freshman Mendoza is a future gem. York has a pair of possible qualifiers in Jensen and Marlott, and needs to find a backstroke to complete a high quality medley relay team. Ridinger of the Glenbard West-Glenbard South co-op team didn't swim last year but hopes to qualify in the 500 freestyle as a senior and Vergara, who started swimming as a freshman has a chance in the 100 breaststroke for the Glenbard East-Glenbard North co-op team

**Key dates:** Dec. 8: West Chicago Relays; Dec. 14-15: Nequa Valley Invite; Downers Grove South Invite; Dec. 21-22: Naperville North College Events Invite; Dec. 29: Waubonsie Valley Aquapentathlon; Jan. 5: Hinsdale South College Events Invite; Jan. 12: Hinsdale Central Diving Invite; Jan. 18-19: Downers Grove North Trojan Invite; Jan. 25: Metea Valley Invite; Feb. 1-2: Conference meets; Feb. 16: Sectional meets; Feb. 22-23: IHSA State Meet at

## Gilliam, Blazers push the pace

Daily Herald Reports

Addison Trail senior post player Serena Gilliam felt ready to play basketball Monday.

"I woke up this morning, I could actually breathe," she said with a laugh, glad to be rid of a pesky cold.

The Blazers created some breathing room early in their nonconference game against visiting West Chicago, scoring the first 13 points in a 41-12 victory.

"It was good," Gilliam said. "It was really fun. It was nice to play with control. And we got to practice our outside shots more today."

### Girls basketball roundup

The Blazers moved to 4-3 on the season head-



ADDISON TRAIL'S DEMI KOULOGEORGAS (1) DRIVES PAST WEST CHICAGO'S JADE BUCIO DURING THE GIRLS BASKETBALL GAME MONDAY IN ADDISON.

ing into West Suburban Gold games against archrival Willowbrook and Downers Grove South.

"We've been doing pretty well," Gilliam said. "Some games it's a little slower, and as long as we push it, we do really well. Like when we run full-court press we've been getting steals, and when we keep the pace fast we've been doing really well."

Gilliam also has been doing very well lately, the product of off-season work on her post moves.

"I know my coach (Rob Schader) is always telling me I have more potential and I should start scoring more," she said. "So I wanted to work hard and get to that point, especially for my senior year."

Gilliam and sophomore post player Mia Johnson led all scorers with 10 points apiece in limited minutes. That total is well below what Gilliam has been scoring lately, but the Blazers didn't need much production from her Monday.

"It was crazy," she said. "Like, the last two games my friends told me, like, 'Nice, 22 points, 17 points.' I was like, 'That's how much I scored? I didn't even realize.'"

West Chicago (0-9) is struggling so far this season and was outnumbered with just seven girls in uniform. The Wildcats have no seniors on the roster.

"We've got a couple that are nicked up a little bit and the ones that are actually out there, they're playing full of vinegar," first-year West Chicago coach T.J. Nall said. "We talk about it every day in practice how they just have to be full of vinegar, that inner pirate attitude that they gotta have. We'll play with what we got. They'll compete."

Sophomore Shailee Patel led the Wildcats with 5 points.

— Orrin Schwarz

### Lisle 72, Manteno 41:

Lisle senior guard McKenzie Weaver shrugged off her first shot in Monday's girls basketball game against Manteno.

The 5-foot-4 Weaver smiled after shooting an airball on a perimeter jumper early in the first quarter. After missing her next shot, Weaver suddenly caught fire. She scored a team-high 17 points and added 5 steals to lead Lisle to a 72-41 victory over Manteno in the Interstate Eight

Conference in Lisle.

Emma Rossin added 15 and Cassidy Allen tallied 13 for the Lions. Weaver said the entire team showed some nerves early in the game because it was the first home game of the season after a cancellation last week due to snow.

"I get nervous in games with big crowds and that showed on my first shot," Weaver said. "After that I got it out my head and blocked out the crowd and got more involved in the game. Once I made some plays, it gave me motivation to keep going."

Guard Maddie Lacer had a memorable game, scoring 5 points in Manteno's first three trips down the court to score a game-high 24 points.

Paced by a five-guard attack that stymied the taller Panthers, the Lions (7-1, 2-0) broke open the game in the second half. Weaver's layup off a steal padded the Lions' lead to 33-27 midway through the third. With the Panthers struggling with turnovers, the Lions built a 42-27 lead with two minutes left in the quarter.

In the half Lisle set the tone a hot-shooting performance when Rossin canned a 3-pointer on the first shot of the game. The Lions repeatedly used their speed and passing to find open spots in Manteno's zone defense.

"We had consecutive stops and that helped us a lot and we had good ball movement," Rossin said.

After shooting an airball on her first shot, Weaver bounced back to score 7 points in Lisle's final three first-quarter possessions for a 15-13 lead. Weaver hit a short jumper, then made 2 of 3 free throws and drilled a 3-pointer to end her scoring barrage.

Behind back-to-back 3s by Rossin and Tara Kane, the Lions built a 22-16 lead, but Manteno clawed back into the game behind Lacer. The junior hit two 3-pointers late in the second quarter to finish with 17 points, slicing the Lions' lead to 29-26.

The Panthers fell victim to fatigue, a cold-shooting spell and turnovers in the second half. The Lions held Manteno to 10 points for the first 11:30 of the second half to build a 56-36 lead. Cassidy Allen's

3-pointer extended the margin to 61-38 with 3:52 left to put the game out of reach.

— Bobby Narang

### Chicago Christian 36, Wheaton Academy 21:

When it came to the areas of defense and rebounding, the Wheaton Academy girls basketball was superb Monday night.

But the Warriors just couldn't get a shot to go in.

Held to just one field goal in the second half and no points in the fourth quarter, Wheaton Academy lost 36-21 to Chicago Christian in a Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division matchup in West Chicago.

"That will lose you games 100 percent of the time," said Wheaton Academy coach Erin Carwell about her team scoring 4 points in the second half. "Our shots just didn't fall tonight. We will be back in the gym tomorrow getting a lot of shots up [at practice]."

"We had one senior on the court tonight. We've got a young team that loves to play and one that we will keep developing."

The Warriors actually took a 7-0 lead out of the gate on a 3-pointer by Imani Hillmer and baskets from Britta Swoboda and Molly Vanhuizen. They held the visitors to just 2 points in the opening quarter and were still clinging to a 17-16 advantage at halftime.

But after the score was knotted at 21 midway through the third, Chicago Christian (5-3, 2-1) scored the final 16 points of the contest. Deja Claybrooks led the Knights with 11 points and Janay Turner had 9.

Wheaton Academy (2-5, 1-2) finished 1 of 17 from the 3-point arc and 2 of 9 from the free-throw line.

"Defense is something we've been working hard on because we had been struggling with it," Chicago Christian coach Karl Frixen said. "We want to keep the ball in front of us and then as soon as the shot goes up, make sure we box somebody out. We did a better job of that in the second half."

"The first quarter was a bit of a struggle, but it was good to see them play pretty well the next three quarters."

— Scott Schmid

# Suburban Life

## MVA - ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**TATIANA THOMAS**  
**MONTINI**  
 Freshman | Basketball

**Why Thomas was selected:**

Montini freshman Tatiana Thomas scored 19 points and had 21 rebounds in the Lady Broncos' 60-54 win over New Berlin Eisenhower, the No. 1-ranked team in Wisconsin.

Thomas talked to Suburban Life sports editor Joshua Welge about her big game and the season so far. Here is an edited version of the transcript.

**Welge: How big of a win was that?**

**Thomas:** It was actually a pretty big win. We took a hard hit when we lost to Nazareth. This win boosted our confidence. We still need to work to keep getting better, but this was a good win against a good team.

**Welge: Were you surprised when you heard how many rebounds you had?**

**Thomas:** Yes, I was pretty surprised. When I'm playing, I don't pay attention to how many points or rebounds I have. I just play. But finding out stuff like that puts a smile on your face.

**Welge: How has your team dealt with**

**the loss of [senior point guard] Sam [Mitchell, out for the year with a torn ACL]?**

**Thomas:** That was pretty hard to deal with, but I think we're honestly doing OK. My teammate, Sophie Sullivan, she is stepping up and being the point guard. I'm proud of her. Collectively as a team it was a big hit. Sam was our leader, and not having her on the court is hard. But she's still there for us.

**Welge: You play with an aggressiveness unique to freshman. Have you always played that way?**

**Thomas:** I've pretty much always played that way. I wanted to be on the court. I think I get that mindset from my mom. She is strong and I look up to her. She's a good inspiration for me to play hard.



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PREP ROUNDUP

# Willowbrook junior Everett Stubblefield III sets lofty goals

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

ST. CHARLES – Willowbrook's Everett Stubblefield III stayed the course throughout the Nov. 24 game against St. Charles East.

Despite his team trailing by double digits throughout the entire second half, Stubblefield kept sprinting up and down the court. Whether hitting a 3-pointer or forcing a turnover with just over a minute left in regulation, Stubblefield was in constant motion. He attempted 26 shots, but turned the ball over just once.

Considering Stubblefield's lofty career goals, his nonstop two-way play is a good indicator of a bright future.

The junior point guard scored a team-high 19 points to go with five rebounds, three assists and two steals in a 77-60 loss to the Saints in the title game of the St. Charles East 60th Annual Ron Johnson Thanksgiving Tournament.

"These next two years, I'm going to try and be one of the best guards to come out of Willowbrook," Stubblefield said.

For the near future, nearly every high-scoring guard who plays for Willowbrook (3-1) will elicit some mention – or comparison – to former Willowbrook star Alonzo Verge.

Stubblefield's game is vastly different than the nonstop, thrilling show that Verge put on nightly during his brief tenure wearing Columbia blue and silver. Stubblefield doesn't rely on elite athleticism, but with his speed and shooting, he can impact both ends of the court.

"This year, now that he's going to be one of the focal points of the defense, he has to get ready for that challenge and we have to do a better job of freeing him up," Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins said. "I don't know his ceiling yet, and that's a good thing. He has to continue to work, and the ball will be in his hands a lot to make plays."

Stubblefield said his father, Everett Stubblefield Jr., introduced him to basketball. Stubblefield said his father played at Lewis University. Basketball is a big part of the Stubblefield family fabric, the younger Stubblefield said.

"The last time I played him, he ended up beating me by a couple of points, but I'm taller than him," Stubblefield said.

After being promoted to the varsity toward the end of his sophomore season, Stubblefield said he's excited



Karen Naess - For Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Everett Stubblefield III drives to the basket against St. Charles East on Nov. 24 at the Ron Johnson Thanksgiving Tournament in St. Charles.

for his new role. He was moved from shooting guard to point guard this season.

"My role is more advanced from last year when I was just asked to come off the bench and get a couple of points," he said. "I have to now be a major impact in the game. I practiced over the summer to get better in shooting because that was one of my weaknesses. It has opened up my game a lot."

**Timothy Christian**

Josh Harris scored 23 points and Matt Owens added 12 to lead the Trojans to a 63-47 win over Lisle on Nov. 24. Harris had 20 points in Timothy's 69-59 win over Yorkville Christian on Nov. 21.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL Willowbrook**

The Warriors beat Proviso East 54-51 on Nov. 27.

**York**

Kathleen Levins and Sara Krissinger each scored 16 points to lead the Dukes past Proviso West 64-36 on Nov. 27. Kaitlyn Kjome scored 11 points to lead York past St. Viator 60-49 on Nov. 24.