

Horsing around works well in Willowbrook victory vs. Blazers

By CHRIS WALKER
Daily Herald Correspondent

Boys gymnastics

Like some female gymnasts who would live happily ever after in a world where the balance beam didn't exist, there are male gymnasts who feel the same way about the pommel horse.

Taming that beast has rattled even some of the best gymnasts, but apparently not those at Willowbrook.

The Warriors posted the top four scores on pommel horse during Thursday's West Suburban Gold meet against Addison Trail and used their dominance on the despised-by-many apparatus to earn a 129.3 to 124 victory.

Cooper Ross led the way with a 7.4 and was followed by Saad Omar's 7.1, Collin Donaldson's 6.7 and Brendan Bailey's 6.6.

"Today was awesome on pommel," Warriors coach Caleb Strejc said. "Cooper and Saad hit and Collin and Brendan both fell, but they got up and made their travel down, which was huge because that's an element group, so the fact that they got up and hit it the second time was awesome. And that was the first time they've done that well on horse so it was pretty

exciting." Strejc obviously has seen incredible performances on pommel horse. He placed 10th in the state when he was the all-around champion in 2010, was teammates with Kyle Carmona at York when he won it in 2008 and took second in 2007 and coached Adam Sousa last year when he was the all-around champion and tied for fifth on the apparatus. "It's a fun group and that group practices horse every day," Strejc said. "They'll usually do one day off on an event, but they do a lot of horse and that's kind of showing with those competitive scores."

Senior Brendan Bailey and junior Danny Saldana led the winners as Bailey edged Saldana, 42.6 to 42.3 in the all-around. Bailey, whose best event is parallel bars, won that as well as still rings, while Saldana won high bar.

"It was a pretty good meet, although I could've done better with some form adjustments," Saldana said. "Last year I did JV dual meets and then went up to varsity for invites, but now that I'm varsity, I'm really liking it."

It helps that Willowbrook is enjoying some early success, despite losing Sousa to graduation and specialist Isaiah Lewis moving out of the district.

"We went up a few points since Saturday (Niles West Invite)," Strejc said. "And the funny thing about Saturday's meet is we placed higher than we did last year even without Adam and Isaiah, and the only teams that beat us were with guys with previous club experience. So I'm really impressed with these guys who all started gymnastics in high school."

Noah Pulli placed second on high bar and Sean Luner was right behind Bailey on still rings for second place for Willowbrook.

Addison Trail, which was competing for the first time in 10 days, got a huge boost with the return of sophomore Matt Wojdak, who had been injured.

Wojdak won vault with an 8.7 and floor with a 9.4. He had a 9.3 while tying for sixth in the state on floor last May.

"He had a stellar floor routine where he looked like he was on par from where left off last year," Blazers coach Mike Galfi said. "And he had a really good vault. He's taking it nice and slow with it being his first meet, but he looked good."

It's family night for Stec, York

By BOBBY NARANG
Daily Herald Correspondent

Girls water polo

to how the season goes."

Despite giving up 6 goals in the second half, Giuliani said his team made progress against a talented Mustangs team.

"I was really impressed with the way the kids played," Giuliani said. "We have a young team, a big team of juniors and we're still learning a lot. We're not doing a good job on the perimeter with passing and pressure. We're relying heavily on the counterattack, but we're recognizing the floor well and that we need to leave on defense."

The Mustangs took some positives from the loss following a sluggish first half. Ella Krauss, a senior captain, paced the Mustangs with 4 goals, including 2 in the fourth.

"We didn't come out the way we wanted to play," Mundelein coach Mike Vukovics said. "The second half, especially in the third quarter, we showed a lot. We have a lot of young girls, so it was cool to see them grow and hopefully learned from this experience. Krauss is doing great now, doing a great job taking the younger girls under her wing. She's always willing to help out the younger girls and played good today."

last year, and it was pretty clear she was ready to step up here," he said. "I think she got out of the water once tonight. She had a really good game. She's a beast. It's really fun to have a sophomore that strong and aware. She's really good, and it's really fun to watch her play."

Waldherr is one of the most experienced players on a York team vying to make some noise this season. A three-year varsity player, Waldherr is also one of the leaders on the team.

"Moleigh is able to help her teammates who don't have much experience, just to see the pool and understand what they need to do," Giuliani said.

Waldherr scored the final goal in the third with 28 seconds left, then added the final one of the match at the 26-second mark in the fourth.

"Emma had a great first half and played amazing," Waldherr said. "I'm glad that our team is coming together and playing well. We started the season rough with a loss. But we've become a much stronger team because of it. Most of the girls, it's their first year on varsity, so I'm looking forward

Ready for the big finish

By JOHN RADTKE
HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS EDITOR
jrادتke@dailyherald.com

Boys basketball

With a collective record of 131-11, this weekend's Class 4A Final Four IHSA state boys basketball tournament at Carver Arena in Peoria promises to be a fan's dream.

And the Class 3A field isn't all bad, either.

The tournament commences with 3A semifinals on Friday afternoon, 4A semis Friday night, 3A third-place and championship games Saturday afternoon and the 4A third-place and championship games Saturday night.

All eight games will be televised live on NBC Sports Chicago.

Here's a look at the semifinal matchups.

Class 4A

No. 6 Evanston (31-4) vs. No. 9 Rockford East (34-2), 5:30 p.m. Friday: Evanston has been on a mission to return to Peoria since finishing third last year.

The Wildcats, who played in the very first IHSA state basketball tournament in 1908, are making their 15th state final appearance. They won the 1968 state title under legendary coach Jack Burmaster, an Elgin High School graduate. Until last season, Evanston had not made a return trip to the state finals since 2008.

The Central Suburban League power had to survive overtime against Stevenson in Tuesday's Sears Centre supersectional, but they did so in resounding fashion, outscoring the Patriots by 12 points in the extra session to come away with a 57-45 win.

Coach Mike Ellis' team has only lost this season to Glenbrook South, Brooklyn South, Channahon (N) and Palmyra.



STEVE LUNDY/
slundy@dailyherald.com
Stevenson's Luke Chieng, left, has his shot blocked by Evanston's Ryan Bost during the Class 4A boys basketball supersectional Tuesday night at the Sears Centre.

have three state trophies, the last coming in 1978 when they finished fourth in Class AA.

East is led by 6-4 junior Sincere Parker (19 ppg, 11.9 3-pointers), who had 27 points against Geneva Tuesday. Chris Burnell, a 6-3 senior, averages 14.1 per game and 6-6 senior Sha'Den Clenton 13.4.

No. 1 Curie (34-1) vs. No. 2 Belleville West (32-4), 7:15 p.m. Friday: Prime time game, prime time teams. Fans have been waiting for this one since the brackets were released and the two top-ranked teams in the state should provide a barnburner. Curie's only loss this season was a 63-57 setback on Jan. 4 to Richmond Salesian (CA) and the Condors are the only ranked team (No. 12) in USA Today's national Top 25.

Coach Michael Oliver's 2016 club won the 4A title, beating Benet 65-59 in the title game. It's the only other state

State. He averages 20.3 points per game and just under 10 rebounds and has proved to be a shot-blocking machine. Senior guard Lawrence Brazil III complements Liddell at 13 points per game.

Coach Joe Muiriz's team entered the state tournament series having gone 3-3 in its final six regular-season games, losing to Collinsville, East St. Louis and Alton, but have righted the ship since then.

Class 3A

DePaul College Prep (25-9) vs. No. 2 Bogan (29-3), 11 a.m. Friday: DePaul Prep heads to Peoria as the first team in IHSA basketball history to have reached a state final tournament via forfeit (since the supersectional era began in 1956). That came about when the 3A sectional final at North Lawndale between the host school and Farragut ended in a double forfeit.

DePaul Prep, formerly Gordon Tech, defeated St. Viator 62-53 to win the Grayslake Central sectional. The Rams are led by 6-4 senior Perry Cowan (18.6 ppg) and 6-3 senior Raheem Anthony (14.4). Junior Lance Mosley (6-3) scores 11.1 ppg.

The Rams are coached by former DePaul University standout Tom Kleinschmidt, who led Gordon Tech to a runner-up finish at state in 1990. He began his coaching career at York High School in 2011-12 before moving on to his alma mater, where he has now won 163 games in eight seasons.

Bogan, which knocked off No. 1 Morgan Park in the sectional finals, is in the state finals for the first time. Its only losses are to Morgan Park, Curie and Class 2A champion Orr.

The runaround



JOHN STARKS/jstarks@dailyherald.com

Waubensie Valley's Area Mitchell runs in the 800-meter relay at the DuPage Valley Conference girls track meet at North Central College in Naperville on Thursday.

Captain: Glenbard West senior Evan Taylor

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one of the top players in DuPage County, he became one of the most respected. After a Glenbard West loss this season an opposing fan yelled down from the stands to congratulate Taylor on a well-played game. Taylor saluted back.

"He's highly respected on and off the court," said York coach Vince Doran. "When preparing for them, 90 percent of your time is spent on what to do about him. We had the pleasure of watching him grow as a player."

Taylor grew to new heights this season.

He was one of the best at

scorer. With 1,479 points he passed Pierce, who passed Shurna.

In 83 games during three varsity seasons, Taylor averaged 17.8 points, 8.1 rebounds and 3 assists.

"I've always tried to keep myself grounded and just focused on getting better," he said. "My parents taught me the value of working hard."

Welcome home

Taylor's life changed in fourth grade when he and his family moved from Arizona to Glen Ellyn.

He just missed Shurna's time at Glenbard West

and Jill of America chapter. Taylor was also part of the interviewing process for a Glenbard West assistant principal.

All that and basketball while carrying a 4.8 GPA on a 5-point scale. Taylor's family — parents Edward and Lori, and siblings Justin and Sydney — provided the motivation and inspiration.

Taylor received his first scholarship offer from the University of Alabama-Birmingham after his freshman year, creating a long recruiting process. In addition to offers from schools like Southern Illinois and Loyola, Taylor considered

Scouting DuPage County girls soccer

Top teams: Benet, Downers Grove South, Metea Valley, Naperville Central, Naperville North, Neuqua Valley, St. Francis, Waubonsie Valley, Wheaton Academy, Wheaton Warrenville South.

Top returning players: Allie Anderson (Wheaton Warrenville South, sr., MF); Paige Buranosky (Metea Valley, jr., D); Barbie Castellanos (West Chicago, jr., MF); Amy Chiero (Glenbard East, sr., MF); Nikki Coryell (Metea Valley, jr., GK); Jill DiTusa (St. Francis, sr., D); Nicole Fajardo (Downers Grove South, sr., F); Lizzy Florey (Willowbrook, jr., F); Kate Flynn (Benet, jr., D); Sam Guido (Hinsdale Central, sr., D); Mary Kate Hansen (Benet, sr., D); A.C. Hardy (Wheaton Academy, sr., MF); Erin Haslett (Glenbard South, jr., F); Abbey Hillman (Naperville Central, sr., D); Danielle Hopkins (Neuqua Valley, sr., MF); Olivia Hurt (IC Catholic Prep, sr., F); Sam Johnson (Glenbard East, sr., D); Sophie Lindquist (Wheaton Academy, sr., MF); Mia Marconi (Downers Grove North, sr., MF); Hannah Martin (Naperville North, jr., F); Erin McCarthy (Neuqua Valley, sr., D); Paige Miller (Wheaton Warrenville South, sr., MF); Katelynn Nardulli (Neuqua Valley, so., MF); Lindsey Novak (Glenbard East, sr., F); Alexis Parker (Downers Grove North, jr., F); Caroline Reedy (Naperville Central, sr., F); Reilly Riggs (Naperville North, sr., D); Hannah Rittenhouse (St. Francis, sr., F); Jordan Rose (Downers Grove South, jr., MF); Grace Setter (Waubonsie Valley, jr., MF); Leah Shumate (Naperville North, jr., MF); Sam Schutte (Glenbard South, sr., F); Mia Tommasone (Benet, jr., F); Michaela Ward (York, sr., F); Anna Warfield (Wheaton North, sr., MF); Caroline Zimmer (St. Francis, sr., F/MF).

Outlook: Addison Trail should be excellent in the midfield and strong on defense but needs to find some finishers. The team had 11 seniors a season ago. The Blazers (7-11-3) welcome back junior midfielder/forward Lucia Fullone, senior defender Jenny Santana and sophomore defender Valerie Soto. A key question for the Blazers on the defensive end is depth and stamina. While coach Sergio Nunez considers the team's back line to be strong, he said it's "not 80 minutes strong." Watch for freshmen Stephanie Mondragon and Melanie Tinajero.

Benet (20-4-1) set a school record for wins last spring and won the East Suburban Catholic Conference. This year it will look to duplicate those efforts and ideally advance to the final weekend in the Class 2A tournament. The Redwings are loaded with 18 upperclassmen, including a dozen players who are in their third or fourth season. They return eight of their top nine scorers, including Abby Casmere and Mia Tommasone as well as dynamic defensive duo of Mary Kate Hansen and Kate Flynn among others and goalkeeper Evan Frantzen. Tremendous depth, team speed and skill on the ball have the Redwings geared for a championship run.

so they will need to regroup on defense as soon as possible.

Downers Grove South (12-6-4) returns nine starters from last spring's co-West Suburban Gold champion team. "So the accomplishments we experienced last season are the minimum expectation going into this season," Mustangs coach Chris Hernandez said. "We have two players (Gabi Galvez and Maddie Raftery) joining us this year who play at a very high club level, so we are hoping that the experience, potential and talent within this team can take us deep into the state series. Jordan Rose and Jillian Paladino are back in the midfield, Brynn Davis returns to lead the back line and Nicole Fajardo returns at forward."

Fenton would like to finish its final season in the Metro Suburban Conference strong and also rebound from last year's winless conference season. The Bison finished 3-14-1 overall. "I think we will be strong in the back line and midfield and hoping to add some goals," Fenton coach Victor Ruiz said. Seniors Natalie Diaz, Cynthia Mendoza, Jaqueline Nogueza, Angela Casas and Kimberly Rivera and sophomore Lesly Mora are among the team's top returnees.

Glenbard East (17-4-3) will attempt to four-peat as Upstate Eight Conference champ and win a fourth consecutive regional title. It'll take a team effort to do it after losing 10 seniors and seven full-time starters from last season. "With half the roster being freshmen or sophomores, we'll have to rely on a lot of young players to produce this season," Rams coach Kent Overbey said. "The learning curve will have to be quick." A positive is that the Rams return players who combined for 36 goals last spring, and the new group of players is a seriously talented one. Seniors Lindsey Novak, Amy Chiero and Sam Johnson return to lead the way. Chiero is a four-year starter and the other two are three-year starters. Sophomore Maddie Weitin is coming off a great debut season a year ago.

The rebuild continues at Glenbard North (4-13). The Panthers do return quite a few players but will still endure growing pains as coach David Stanfield asks for patience. "I will be happy if we can develop an identity and style of play, play hard and have fun," he said. Sofia Espana, Hannah Arista and goalie Karissa Chalus are among the senior returnees.

Glenbard South returns most of its players from last year's 13-9-2 regional championship team. "We are not that deep, however, as we replaced our graduates with players that either spent the season on JV last year or are freshmen this year," Raiders coach Kevin Berner said. "We hope to compete for another regional championship, then we will see what happens. I have no expectation for our new Upstate Eight Conference schedule as I am not sure what to expect from any of those programs." Berner, though, does expect big seasons in the midfield from Abby Stewart and Alex Hsu.

Preseason rankings

Team	Comment
1. Barrington (21-3-2)	Back-to-back Class 3A champion
2. St. Charles North (21-1-1)	Strong senior leadership for North Stars
3. Naperville North (20-4-4)	Riggs keys the defense
4. Neuqua Valley (14-6-0)	McCarthy looking for big year
5. Benet (20-4-1)	The Redwings are loaded
6. WW South (15-8-0)	Brennan is back in goal
7. Conant (14-6-3)	Mazurek, Smeltzer form potent duo up top
8. Fremd (7-10-4)	Vikings right there with Barrington, Conant
9. Downers South (12-6-4)	Mustangs return nine starters
10. St. Francis (18-4-3)	Won Class 2A championship last year
11. Wauconda (17-2-1)	A lot of experience returns
12. Mundelein (11-6-3)	Should be a contender in the NSC
13. St. Viator (18-6-2)	Heavy graduation losses for 2A runner-up
14. Libertyville (13-7-0)	Could challenge in battle for NSC title
15. Batavia (14-4-2)	Bulldogs will be tough to score on
16. Vernon Hills (8-11-3)	A very good group is ready
17. Cary-Grove (13-3-2)	Sheehan lands in net
18. Naperville Cent. (11-12-1)	17 returnees for Redhawks
19. Metea Valley (14-8-3)	Five straight regional titles
20. St. Charles East (13-6-6)	Saints return seven starters

and Brianna Hernandez will provide the Hilltoppers with some talented new players.

Hinsdale Central is looking to win a conference title for the first time in a few years. The Red Devils (5-11-2) welcome new coach Tony Madonia. Senior center backs Sophie Simmons, Sam Moriarty and Sam Guido and forwards Madigan Lynch and Jackie Blake return. "It's a group of girls that are willing to put in the work needed to reach common team goals," Madonia said. "Excited to see how they utilize their strengths to achieve this year. It is up to them on how far they go this season; a very capable group." Some new players will certainly help, including senior Caroline Lyman, a Missouri recruit.

Hinsdale South will need to regroup in the defensive third. If the Hornets (8-11-3) can do that, and if their youngsters mature quickly, they should battle. "The biggest strength is also our biggest weakness in the sense that we are young," Hornets coach Jen Belmonte said. "So we are full of energy and competitive spirit for positions and playing time, but we are young in our experience and technical skill. Defender Keaton Lancaster will be a team captain, while sophomores Ellie Urbanski and Elena Mazurek and junior Taylor Panico give the team a lot of strength in the midfield. Sophomore Madison Arltack returns in goal.

IC Catholic Prep is an experienced group, which bodes well since the team is coming off a solid 16-11 season. Midfielders Abi Wagner and Bella Leslie, forward Olivia Hurt and goalkeeper Gabriela Smola all return with a great deal of experience. Look for freshman Claire Wagner, sister of Abi, to make contributions immediately. Coincidentally, Olivia Hurt's sister, Sophie, a sophomore, will be a defender on the squad.

Lake Park (5-16) may feel some relief in departing the DuPage Valley Conference, but as coach Sean Crosby knows from the boys season in the fall the

the team's key returnees.

Lisle could be at the very beginning of a state-qualifying season. After going 17-2-1 and winning a regional last year, Lisle remains quite experienced and deep at most positions despite being young overall so these are good times in Lisle, especially if Alexis Jueland returns from a knee injury in time for the playoffs. "Even though we have a young roster, we are quite experienced and deep at most positions," Lisle coach Paul Kohorn said. Seniors Alexa Fasone, McKenzie Weaver and Chloe Pokorny and sophomores Tara Kane and Gabby Sojka are looking to make big contributions once again.

Metea Valley has won a regional championship five straight years. When the Mustangs (14-8-3) lose great players they don't seem to miss a beat. This season they'll have to do so without the services of Maeve Riordan, Sophia Senese and Chesney Wargo among others. "We have a number of girls that were a part of the varsity team last year that are hungry for larger roles and more playing time," Mustangs coach Chris Whaley said. "Expectations are always high and we will continue to be in the mix with the best teams in the area this year. The team is strongest defensively with Nikki Coryell in goal and Nicole Dawson, Paige Buranosky and Kaiya Hansen returning to the backline.

Montini (9-8-4) will be young with just a single senior, but the Broncos have some talent in its youth with sophomores Alivia Gianatasio and Shea Smith returning and freshmen Sawyer White, Mackenzie Parente and Hailey Cabon joining the team. Senior Ellie Krick and junior Casey Ohm return and will provide leadership while junior defender Erin Carver will join the back line.

Naperville Central (11-12-1) returns 17 players from last year's regional championship team, including five who are in their third or fourth season with the Redhawks. Once again, the Redhawks will be looking to

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grit and maturity, plus 11.7 points per game and 67 3s. He shot 39 percent on 3s, 65 percent on 2-pointers, 80 percent on free throws. MVP at Batavia and all-tournament at Jacobs, Cannon will play at Rochester. "He was All-Area last year and he is better this year," coach Jason Mead said.

Erik Cohn, York

When Cohn got hot from the perimeter, there was no better shooter. And it happened a lot this season. The 6-foot-3 senior guard, a three-year starter, knocked down 44 percent of his 3-pointers — 85 total — while hitting 58 percent of his 2-point attempts. Cohn played his best basketball late in the season as the Dukes claimed a regional championship. He averaged 13.3 points and 3.6 rebounds. "He's one of the best shooters I've coached," coach Vince Doran said. "You just can't leave him open out there."



Colin Crothers, Benet

A third-year varsity member as a junior, Crothers continues to impress with his development and his consistency. The 6-foot-8 center was a devastating low-post scorer and a menace on defense underneath the basket. Crothers rounded out his game by knocking down 3-pointers and bringing the ball up the court after grabbing a rebound. Crothers averaged 13.2 points and 8.2 rebounds while hitting 60 percent of his shots from the field. "As good as he's been, he made huge strides for us this season," coach Gene Heidkamp said.



Justin Eagins, Downers Grove South

Make no mistake, Eagins could flat-out score. He's a two-time All-Area selection who, in only two varsity seasons, managed to top the 1,000-point mark. The 6-foot-2 senior guard added strength and maturity, allowing him to improve in just about every facet of his game. All of Eagins' numbers improved from a year ago — 17.9 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 1.7 steals and 95 3-pointers. "He's obviously a very skilled offensive player," coach Kris Olson said. "He put it on his shoulders to make all his teammates better."



Cole Hardtke, Glenbard South

In 1990 Raiders coach Wade Hardtke was DuPage County All-Area captain. Now a son of his, 6-foot-4 senior forward Cole, is an All-Area selection. After starting one game as a junior, he broke out as the top rebounder and scorer on Glenbard South's Class 3A supersectional squad. All-Upstate Eight Conference and all-District 87, he opened the playoffs scoring 29 points against Kaneland. Hardtke averaged 12.2 points and 5.5 rebounds, about a third of them offensive boards. "He's become a multidimensional player both inside and outside," Wade Hardtke said.



Ethan Helwig, Metea Valley

The 6-foot-4 senior wing rewrote Mustangs records. A Merrimack College commit, he set all-time marks with 1,272 points and 189 3-pointers, 590 points and 87 3s in a season, and 38 points in a game. Averaging 20.3 points, 3.5 assists and 3.4 rebounds, Helwig earned second straight All-Area, all-DuPage Valley and team MVP honors. A gym rat, he added lift to his jumper and improved his ability to get to the rim; he shot 164 free throws and made 75 percent. Coach Matt Walpole called him a team-first player. "He plays with a fire and attitude that's contagious to others."



Sema'j Henderson, Downers Grove North

There were few players better with the ball in his hands in transition. Seemingly speeding at 100 mph for 32 minutes a game, Henderson made the most of his three varsity seasons. Extremely physical in the backcourt, the 6-foot-2 senior overpowered opposing guards on offense and on the ball on defense. Henderson averaged 16.2 points, 5.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists and took 212 free throws. "Sema'j has got such a strong will and a passion for the game," coach Jim Thomas said. "I'll always appreciate that from him."



Nick Kosich, York

It'll be pretty strange not seeing Kosich in a York uniform next year. A varsity member since his freshman season, the 6-foot-2 senior guard surpassed the 1,000-point mark by scoring in just about every conceivable way. But it was the intangibles Kosich brought to the program that allowed him to be a part of two regional championship teams. He averaged 11.7 points, 3 rebounds and a team-high 3.1 assists. "He's an incredibly bright player," coach Vince Doran said. "He's a special player I'll always remember."



Taylor earned his place as a local legend

BY KEVIN SCHMITT
kschmitt@dailyherald.com

The names of local legends don't simply rattle off the tongue.

Names like John Shurna, they linger. Names like Justin Pierce, they endure.

Names like Evan Taylor. At Glenbard West it's not difficult to list the boys basketball legends. And as someone steeped in recent program history, Taylor is close as can be to the source.

(Shurna and Pierce have) been very helpful to me, encouraging me to be the best person I can be and the best player I can be," Taylor said. "It's been good to learn from such great players."

Add another name to the list of legends.

Passing Pierce and Shurna on the Hilltoppers' ladder of all-time leading scorers, Glenbard West senior Evan Taylor is the Daily Herald's DuPage County All-Area Captain for 2018-19.

Taylor joins Shurna, a 2008 graduate, and Pierce, a 2016 graduate, as Glenbard West players named All-Area Captains. It's a trio cherished by those close to the program.

It's a shortlist on which Taylor, committed to Southern Illinois University, absolutely belongs.

"He's definitely aware of what they accomplished," said Hilltoppers coach Tim Hoder. "He knows them because they come back here. They've worked in our gym and been around our guys. As important as basketball is to Evan, he understands his place in the program. He's one of the best we've had."

The last line

The last time through postgame handshakes is telling.

As Taylor, a 6-foot-6 wing, shook hands with opposing West Suburban Silver coaches for the sixth and final time this season, the comments he heard resonated with him.

"Almost every coach in the conference acknowledged me, and I was real happy about that," he said. "They were very complimentary about my career."

Taylor not only developed into

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Daily Herald DuPage County Boys Basketball Captains

- 1988-89 -- Tyrone Parks, West Chicago
- 1989-90 -- Wade Hardtke, Glenbard East
- 1990-91 -- Roger Suchy, Glenbard North
- 1991-92 -- Lance Brodersen, Waubonsie Valley
- 1992-93 -- Anthony Parker, Naperville Central
- 1993-94 -- Adam Shafer, Downers Grove South
- 1994-95 -- Eric Norberg, Downers Grove South
- 1995-96 -- Cory Little, Addison Trail
- 1996-97 -- Brian Wardle, Hinsdale Central
- 1997-98 -- Henry Domercant, Naperville North
- 1998-99 -- Tim Szatko, Naperville Central
- 1999-2000 -- Drew Carstens, Downers Grove North
- 2000-01 -- Kyle Kleckner, Downers Grove North
- 2001-02 -- Derrick Clanton, Waubonsie Valley
- 2002-03 -- Bobby Catchings, Neuqua Valley
- 2003-04 -- Andy Mack, Lake Park
- 2004-05 -- Bryan Mullins, Downers Grove South
- 2005-06 -- Mike Capocci, Glenbard East
- 2006-07 -- Mike Capocci, Glenbard East
- 2007-08 -- John Shurna, Glenbard West
- 2008-09 -- Drew Crawford, Naperville Central
- 2009-10 -- Dwayne Evans, Neuqua Valley
- 2010-11 -- Frank Kaminsky and Dave Sobolewski, Benet
- 2011-12 -- Kenny Obendorf, Metea Valley
- 2012-13 -- David Cohn, York
- 2013-14 -- Sean O'Mara, Benet
- 2014-15 -- Matt Rafferty, Hinsdale Central
- 2015-16 -- Justin Pierce, Glenbard West
- 2016-17 -- Tai Bibbs, West Chicago
- 2017-18 -- Zion Griffin, Hinsdale South
- 2018-19 -- Evan Taylor, Glenbard West

Honorable mention

Caden Anderson (Westmont, sr., F), Cameron Dougherty (Naperville Central, jr., G), Billy Durkin (Hinsdale South, jr., G), Kevin Enright (Glenbard South, sr., G), Kai Evans (Montini, so., G), DaRon Hall (Glenbard East, jr., G), Manny Hess (Metea Valley, sr., F), Wes Hooker (Downers Grove South, sr., G), Diamond King (Fenton, jr., F), Matas Masys (Willowbrook, sr., G), Jay McGrath (Lisle, sr., F), Trevor Montiel (Lake Park, jr., F), Alijah Nelson (Glenbard East, jr., G), Isaac Nelson (West Chicago, sr., G), Matt Owens (Timothy Christian, jr., G), Sam Ricci (West Chicago, sr., F), Matt Rush (Hinsdale Central, sr., G), Jacob Schauer (Wheaton North, sr., G), Nate Shockey (York, jr., G), Aaron Tims (Hinsdale South, jr., F).

DuPage County's top players. A good shooter who thrived getting to the basket, this season Reng became more of a threat with his back to the rim. He averaged 15 points and 7.1 rebounds. "He always shows great effort, but getting stronger made a big difference," coach Dave Brackmann said.

Luke Sgarbossa, Lake Park

As the Lancers smashed last year's win total by 17 and claimed a regional title, they leaned on Sgarbossa. Up on varsity as a sophomore, the 6-foot junior guard did it all for his team during a tremendous regular and postseason run. Able to score at all three levels, especially on drives to the basket, Sgarbossa's improved midrange jumper made him even more effective. He averaged 15.5 points and 2.1 assists. "Just a great overall player," coach Billy Pitcher said. "He doesn't care if he scores. Just as long as we win."



Marcus Skeete, Waubonsie Valley

The 6-foot-5 junior wing consistently presented matchup problems, hurting teams inside and out. A two-time all-DuPage Valley Conference pick, the Burlington Central MVP and all-tourney at Jacobs, Skeete averaged 14.8 points, 8 rebounds. He led Waubonsie with 50 steals and made 35 3s but also went to the foul line 164 times. Skeete scored 29 points with 12 rebounds against Hampshire and scored 23 points in the playoffs against Lincoln-Way East. "I really liked that once he got the rebound he was able to push the ball," said Warriors coach Jason Mead.



Everett Stubblefield III, Willowbrook

Brought up to varsity late in his sophomore year, it didn't take long for Stubblefield to become the program's second-leading all-time scorer. The 5-foot-10 junior guard had a monster season while scoring off the dribble, in transition thanks to his defense, on the perimeter ... pretty much everywhere. Stubblefield averaged 19.2 points, 3 assists and 3.1 steals. "He made a big leap for us this season," coach Chris Perkins said. "He was able to make the right decisions at the right time out there."



Evan Taylor, Glenbard West

The Daily Herald's DuPage County All-Area Captain committed to Southern Illinois University after considering numerous other offers. Taylor ended a three-year varsity tenure as Glenbard West's all-time leading scorer with 1,479 points. The 6-foot-6 senior wing led DuPage County with 21.7 points and 10.2 rebounds a game and also averaged 3.8 assists as the Hilltoppers' primary ballhandler. "I knew he was going to have a great year, but that's a lot of points to score in a single season," coach Tim Hoder said.



Kendrick Tchoua, Benet

Talk about instant impact. Tchoua moved in from Maryland and helped the Redwings maintain their streak of 10 straight 20-win seasons. The 6-foot-7 senior forward was an automatic finisher around the basket and unstoppable in transition. Tchoua, who holds offers from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Indianapolis, scored 16.4 points a game — making 60 percent of his field goals — and averaged 7 rebounds. "He had a tremendous ability to impact the game in many different ways," coach Gene Heidkamp said.



Sam Walsh, York

He might not have looked the part, but Walsh was the area's most effective post player this season. Walsh, a 6-foot-5 senior forward, dazzled with a variety of moves with his back to the basket, providing the Dukes with the perfect counter to their four-guard offense. He proved especially unstoppable in a 29-point, 15-rebound performance in the sectional semifinals against Young. Walsh averaged 12.8 points on 66 percent shooting, and 5.9 rebounds. "He improved as much as anyone we've had," coach Vince Doran said.



Tom Welch, Naperville North

Not bad for an all-state soccer goalkeeper. As good as Welch was on the pitch, the 6-foot-8 senior wing will play basketball at Loyola. Welch missed five games due to soccer commitments and nagging injuries, but he still managed to lead the Huskies to a DuPage Valley Conference championship as the league MVP and lone returning starter. Welch averaged 21 points and 8.6 assists while shooting 60 percent from the field. "He's such a versatile player and impacts the game in so many ways," coach Gene Nolan said.



SPORTS

MARCH 14, 2019 •

Willowbrook badminton team has high expectations

Senior standout Hannah Konrath headlines list of returners

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls badminton team means business.

Coach Eastman Tiu noted the Warriors have their sights set on some big goals as the 2019 season gets underway this week.

"We have high expectations this season," he said. "Our goal is to win our conference, as well as qualify several players for the state tournament and have some play on Day 2 of the state tournament."

Willowbrook is coming off a 2018 season where it went 13-5 overall and took second in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 4-1 mark.

Returning for the Warriors are top-16 state finisher and senior Hannah Konrath. The singles player also was Willowbrook's team MVP. Seniors Charlotte Dewyer (singles), Grace Wachholz (singles

and doubles) and Sydney Wilson (doubles) also are back.

Tiu has been especially impressed with Konrath, Dewyer and Wachholz in the early going. "Hanna, Charlotte and Grace are amazingly strong and talented players," the coach said. "They have been on varsity since their sophomore year and are in a position to have a lot of success this year."

Juniors Chloe Harr (singles and doubles), Lizzie Romero (singles and doubles) and Jessica Whiting (singles) are key newcomers expected to help the team.

"Experience and talent both

peaking going into this season is our greatest strength," said Tiu. "Since these seniors were freshmen, we have been looking forward to what they would become their senior year. They also are putting a lot of effort into becoming a true team by making each other better and supporting each other every day."

Singles right now is Willowbrook's strongest suit, Tiu noted. "We are strongest at singles where I would be willing to put my top-four players against any other top four in the state," he said. "The top of our doubles lineup also is strong.

We have quality players from top to bottom and expect to compete every match."

Team chemistry is another plus for the Warriors. "I like all the different personalities of the team, but they have a common goal which brings them together," said Tiu. "I've known and coached some of these girls for three years and have gotten to know them quite well. I miss them when the season is over and these seniors graduate."

Willowbrook had a match scheduled this week against Wheaton-Warrenville South, Down Grove North and Shepard.

Addison Trail boys gymnastics team opens season at Glenbard West

Sophomore Wojdak, who placed sixth at state on floor, is back for the Blazers

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys gymnastics team's season is underway. The squad recently competed in the President's Cup event at Glenbard West.

The Blazers registered a 118.2 team score in the event.

Addison Trail, under the direction of coach Mike Galfi, went 2-2 in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division and took third.

Galfi returns a good chunk of tal-

ent from last year's team, including sophomore standout Matt Wojdak who is an all-arounder and took sixth in the state last year on floor exercise. He also was a state qualifier on vault.

"Matt is looking to improve on his freshman-year finishes," said Galfi. "He is improving his all-around score, while adding difficulty to his floor and vault routines."

The Blazers also return seniors Eric Estrada, along with juniors Caleb Michaliska and Jakub Sitko.

Junior all-arounder Jacob Bastian is a key newcomer to the group.

"This year we have most of our squad returning," said Galfi. "With the addition of Jake Bastian, we have been able to add difficulty on almost every event."

Galfi noted the team also benefits from its unity and from the consistency of its routines.

The coach added vault, in particular, will be an event the team expects to do well on. "By the end of the season we expect vault to be our strongest event," Galfi said. "We have multiple athletes working difficult vaults that we hope to compete with by the end of the season."

Early-season practices have yielded positive results for the Blazers. "The team is extremely dedicated this year and it works tremendously hard in the gym," said Galfi. "We have an excellent support system and everyone always is celebrating the gains made when new skills are learned."

As far as the 2019 season goes, Galfi said: "We hope to be competitive this year in the conference and do our best to win."

Addison Trail returns to action

Thursday with a WSC Gold medal against District 88 neighbor Willowbrook in Villa Park and then heads to the Hinsdale Central invitational Saturday.

New Elmhurst youth football program stresses safety importance

Elmhurst Bears to debut with two divisions

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

There's a new youth football organization in Elmhurst.

Meet the Elmhurst Bears who are debuting two Pop Warner-sanctioned divisions at the Mitey-Mite (ages 8 and 9 with a maximum weight of 100 pounds) and Junior Pee Wee (ages 9-10 with a maximum weight of 115 pounds and 11-year-olds under 95 pounds) levels.

And Bears vice president of operations Jeff Judycki stresses the organization is looking to change the way youth football is done everywhere through five core principles that include coaching, player safety, community partnerships, economical fees and education.

In terms of coaching, Judycki noted players will be coached by professional individuals with bona-fide football playing and coaching backgrounds.

"Our coaches are there to develop football players," he said. "They will give every child an equal opportunity to grow and develop, and as a larger body of work they will develop the program."

"We will develop every child who steps on the field at all levels with no favoritism. Our board is made up of local business professionals who want to see the way football is done at the youth level change, which is

why they will not be any part of football operations. That will be left to the experts, the coaches. We have coaches developing coaches who will ultimately develop players from second through eighth grade. We are one team with one message and one way of doing business."

Judycki stressed safety will be another major cornerstone of the Bears program. To that point, the organization has invested heavily in equipment, particularly, Riddell helmets that feature technology that help detect potential dangerous blows to the head.

Judycki said the ITT technology in the helmets is implanted in one of two other youth programs in the state of Illinois. "Outside of our technology and equipment, every coach we need to go through a rigorous training course designed by Riddell to ensure they understand how to utilize this technology to the best of their abilities," he said.

"Investing in safety is our top priority. We believe it's the most important piece here. These helmets will allow us to see in a practice or game whether or not a potentially devastating hit to the head has occurred. The technology will teach coaches to look for better coaches. This is a huge safety measure that we cannot emphasize enough. We're taking the extra steps necessary to ensure the safety of our kids. And with our coaches in place they are teaching these kids to play the game safer. They are being taught the right way immediately."

See FOOTBALL, Page 11

Fenton girls badminton team improved

Bison return seven starters from last year's squad

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton's girls badminton team didn't have the greatest record in 2018.

The Bison went 2-18 overall, but the bigger story is the seven players who started on the varsity are back and a year older and more experienced for coach Brian Hastings.

"Five of those athletes played at sectional last year, which should provide us with valuable experience," he said.

Senior Sammen Nascer leads the way. "Sammen has been a leader for the past two seasons and will be our captain through example and voice this year."

Nascer has registered 23 combined career wins between singles and doubles play.

Also back is junior Joanna Toledo, who had 12 wins last season and also will be a captain this season for the Bison.

"Joanna is a well-rounded player," said Hastings. Toledo's doubles partner is junior Fiza Anwar, who registered 10 wins a year ago. "Fiza also has a

lot of experience," Hastings noted.

Juniors Virginia Salazar and Abigail Mathew also will be key parts of the Fenton lineup.

"Virginia and Abigail have had a nice career," said Hastings. "They have had a lot of success playing doubles together and playing seniors."

Senior Monse Estrada is yet another player Hastings is counting on. "Monse is another well-rounded and competitive player who we expect to compete with most opponents," he said.

Hastings added senior Marilyn Mendoza is another varsity returner who brings a lot of quality experience to the table.

Other Fenton players expected to round out the varsity lineup include seniors Marilyn Quevedo, Susana Martinez, Giselle Robles, Justice Newsome, Ashley Anaya and Lillian Ulloa, along with junior Emily Sanchez.

"With all of the aforementioned returning experience, we anticipate having a solid season," said Hastings.

Fenton has a busy week this week out of the gates. The Bison opened the season earlier in the week against Riverside-Brookfield. Fenton heads to Plainfield South today for another dual meet and then will take part in the Addison Trail invitational on Saturday.

Suburban Life Media All-Area Boys Basketball Team

■ **EDDIE BOSTON, DOWNERS GROVE NORTH, SENIOR, GUARD:** Dynamic duo with Sema'j Henderson that led Trojans to first sectional final since 1999. Boston averaged 16.9 points, 4.3 rebounds and 2.0 assists. Scored 20 points in both regional final and sectional semifinal and 35 in sectional final.

■ **JUSTIN EAGINS, DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH, SENIOR, GUARD:** Smooth 6-foot-2 lefty teamed up with Wes Hooker to lead 23-8 Mustangs to share of West Suburban Gold title and a regional final. Eagins, repeat All-Area, averaged 17.7 points, 4.5 rebounds and 2.8 assists.

■ **NATE FERGUSON, LEMONT, SENIOR, FORWARD:** Signed with Drake. Athletic 6-foot-7 wing averaged 20 points, eight rebounds and two assists for regional finalist. Only fourth player in school history to play major college basketball.

■ **SEMA'J HENDERSON, DOWNERS GROVE NORTH, SENIOR, GUARD:** Three-year starting point guard led 23-12 Trojans to second sectional final in program history. Henderson, who will attend Charlotte Basketball Academy in North Carolina next year, averaged 16.2 points and team-high 5.4 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.9 steals.

■ **NICK KOSICH, YORK, SENIOR, GUARD:** Point guard for 29-5 regional champs led Dukes to most wins in school history and Jack Tosh Classic title. Kosich averaged 11.7 points, 3.1 rebounds, three assists, two steals and made 69 3-pointers at a 40 percent rate.

■ **JEFF KRATZ, WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH, SENIOR, GUARD:** One of the area's best shooters, Kratz averaged 15.6 points, 3.2 assists, 2.5 steals and made 93 3-pointers for 20-12 regional finalists.

■ **NOLAN NIEGO, LYONS TOWNSHIP, SENIOR, GUARD:** Heady 6-foot-2 guard led 23-10 Lions to first regional title and most wins since 2011. Niego averaged 13 points, four rebounds and four assists.

■ **EVERETT STUBBLEFIELD III, WILLOWSBROOK, JUNIOR, GUARD:** An explosive scorer, Stubblefield averaged 19.2 points in first full varsity season. Stubblefield, who scored career-high 42 points in win over sectional finalist Oswego East, averaged 3.7 assists, 3.1 steals and shot 78 percent from free-throw line.

■ **EVAN TAYLOR, GLENBARD WEST, SENIOR, GUARD:** Signed with Southern Illinois. Glenbard West's all-time leading scorer with 1,479 career points. Do-all 6-foot-6 talent averaged 21.7 points, 10.2 rebounds and 3.8 assists for 20-10 regional finalists.

■ **KENDRICK TCHOUA, BENET, SENIOR, FORWARD:** In his only year at Benet after moving from Maryland, this 6-foot-7 chiseled post was a force for 24-8 Redwings. Tchoua averaged 16.4 points, seven rebounds, 1.9 assists and shot 60 percent from the floor. Holds offers from Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Indianapolis.

■ **ZACH VAIA, RIVERSIDE-BROCKFIELD, SENIOR, GUARD:** Two-time Metro Suburban Conference MVP led 28-4 Bulldogs to most wins in school history, matching 2015 team, and conference and regional titles. Vaia, with 1,040 career points, averaged 14.7 points, 5.8 assists, 3.5 rebounds, 2.1 steals, shot 82 percent from free-throw line and 38 percent on treys.

■ **SAM WALSH, YORK, SENIOR, FORWARD:** The 6-foot-4 post finished his career in fantastic fashion with career-high 29 points, nearly willing Dukes past Young in sectional semifinal. Walsh, who will play lacrosse at Merrimack College, averaged 12.8 points, 5.9 rebounds and shot 66.3 percent.



Glenbard West's Evan Taylor, the Suburban Life Player of the Year, goes in for a layup against Glenbard East's Alijah Nelson in a game Jan. 26.

Mike Mantucca for Shaw Media

BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

KING OF THE HILL

SIU recruit Evan Taylor leaves quite a legacy at Glenbard West

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

Evan Taylor charted his course before he ever pulled on a varsity basketball uniform.

His arrow's pointed up since. Taylor, a Glenbard West senior, sat down with his dad right before his first varsity game, as a sophomore, to map out his next three years. He put pen to paper on what he wished to achieve before he left.

He wanted to go further in the playoffs than ex-Hilltoppers star Justin Pierce ever went, to sectionals. He wanted to make all-conference. He wanted to become Glenbard West's all-time leading scorer.

"The biggest thing," Taylor said, "is I wanted to leave a legacy that people can look up to me in the most positive way possible."

Taylor did not realize every goal.

There's little doubt, though, about the kind of young man Glenbard West will remember him as.

On the court, Taylor indeed will graduate as the program's career scoring leader. He achieved that in a regional win over Naperville North, finishing with 1,479

points. This season, the 6-foot-6 Southern Illinois recruit averaged 21.7 points, 10.2 rebounds and 3.8 assists for the 20-10 Hilltoppers.

Those numbers, though, hardly tell the whole story of the Suburban Life Player of the Year.

Glenbard West coach Tim Hoder glows talking about a kid forever dedicated, forever determined to make the right lifestyle choices to make his dreams possible.

Taylor received his first college offer before he ever played a varsity game. That didn't keep him from putting in the work.

"He's such a great representative of our school," Hoder said. "His dedication, what he's done for our program, he's a role model for athletes. If he doesn't put in the work, maybe his trajectory is different. He has dedicated himself."

Taylor moved to the area from Scottsdale, Arizona, the year after another Hilltoppers star, John Shurna, graduated from Glenbard West. The last couple of years, when Shurna returned to the school, Taylor probed him with questions.

Taylor sat on the bench as a freshman during Glenbard West's playoff run with Pierce. He watched how Pierce interacted with teammates. How aggressive he was. How much he cared.

Those two ex-Hilltopper stars helped Taylor along his way, but nobody has guided him more than Taylor's dad.

"He is my biggest supporter," Taylor said. "When he sees something in my game, we'll go to the gym and work on it. I never can appreciate that enough."

His first two varsity seasons, Taylor said that he let the game come to him. Not this year. Putting in the time helped his aggressiveness. He had dominant games throughout the season, with 30 points and 12 rebounds against De La Salle, 24 and 18 at Hinsdale Central, 33 and 14 at home against Hinsdale Central. In the regional semifinal, against Loyola recruit Tom Welch, Taylor got the upper hand with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

"He is the one player in our league that could beat you by himself," York coach Vince Doran said. "He's just a great competitor."

Taylor averaged double digits in rebounds, despite playing point guard the majority of games. He shot 48 percent from inside the 3-point line, despite being the clear focal point of defenses.

And he developed a deadly mid-range game, a lost art in today's game.

"His mid-range game is unbelievable," Hoder said. "That's probably the single biggest area of improvement. He couldn't do that as a sophomore; he was almost a set shooter. His ability to pull up makes him almost unguardable."

Area girls soccer teams ready to play

By MATT LE CREN
editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

Girls soccer teams begin the quest to reach the state tournament at North Central College in Naperville. Here is a preview of area teams.

Glenbard East Rams

COACH: Kent Overbey
2018 RECORD: 17-4-3

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Lindsey Novak	sr.	F
Amy Chiero	sr.	M
Sam Johnson	sr.	D
Maddie Weltin	so.	F

Outlook: The Rams have enjoyed a golden age, winning three straight conference and regional championships. Novak, a North Central recruit, is an all-sectional pick who racked up 19 goals and 10 assists last year. Weltin tacked on eight goals and 10 assists. Denison-bound Chiero, who had 10 assists last season, and Elmhurst recruit Johnson are both three-year starters.

Glenbard South Raiders

COACH: Kevin Berner
2018 RECORD: 13-9-2

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Sam Schutte	sr.	F
Clare Willis	sr.	M
Erin Haslett	jr.	F
Abby Showalter	jr.	M
Emily Villesenor	jr.	GK

Outlook: The Raiders will be making their debut in the Upstate Eight Conference. They have a good offensive piece to build around in Schutte, a North Central College commit.

Glenbard West Hilltoppers

COACH: Adam Szyzsko
2018 RECORD: 9-13

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Liz Hughes	sr.	M
Caroline Hennessy	sr.	M/D
Katie Cavanaugh	sr.	D
Sarah Shellady	sr.	GK
Rosie Reynaga	sr.	M

Outlook: Hennessy, an Illinois State recruit, comes from club soccer. Midfielders Brianna Hernandez and Sophia Lee and defender Emily Roberts are newcomers who will provide depth.

IC Catholic Prep Knights

COACH: Antonio Godinez
2018 RECORD: 16-11

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Olivia Hurt	sr.	F
Abi Wagner	jr.	M
Bella Leslie	jr.	M
Gabriela Smola	sr.	GK

Outlook: The Knights have some dynamic and experienced athletes in the attack. Hurt is a four-year starter and the team's top scorer. Wagner and Leslie are beginning their third year on varsity. So is Smola, who recorded seven shutouts last season.

Lement Indians

COACH: Rick Prangen
2018 RECORD: 25-2

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Erin Crispo	jr.	F
Michaela Egan	sr.	M
Katie Knutte	sr.	F
Adriana Patino	jr.	M
Danielle Irwin	jr.	M

Outlook: Six starters return from a squad that finished third in Class 2A, including all-conference picks Crispo, Egan and Knutte. Crispo had 22 goals last year, while Olivet Nazarene-bound Knutte tallied 17 goals and seven assists and Egan was all-sectional.

Montini Broncos

COACH: Sue Brown
2018 RECORD: 9-8-4

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Ellie Krick	sr.	D/M
Alivia Giantasic	so.	F
Shea Smith	jr.	F
Casey Ohm	jr.	D

Outlook: Forward Sawyer White, midfielder Hailey Cabon and defender Mackenzie Parente are the top newcomers along with junior defender Erin Carver.

St. Francis Spartans

COACH: Jim Winslow
2018 RECORD: 18-4-3

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Hannah Rittenhouse	sr.	F
Caroline Zimmer	sr.	F
Jill DiTusa	sr.	D
Emma Armbrust	sr.	D
Katherine Lemke	so.	D

Outlook: The reward for winning the Class 2A state championship was a bump up to Class 3A this season. That dims the Spartans' prospects for another title run. The Iowa-bound Rittenhouse had 25 goals last season, while Zimmer netted 15. The defense, led by Southern Indiana recruit DiTusa, should be solid.

Timothy Christian Trojans

COACH: Jon Hamelinck
2018 RECORD: 9-7-1

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Emma Carter	so.	M
Abby Carstensen	sr.	M
Celeste Vandermeer	sr.	D
Jana Kunz	jr.	D

Outlook: The Trojans return most of their starting lineup, but also have 14 freshmen and sophomores. Carter was all-conference as a freshman after scoring 10 goals and having six assists, while Carstensen and Vandermeer provide strong senior leadership. Defender Sophie Biscan and midfielder Ella Vandermolen are two freshmen who could make an immediate impact.

Wheaton Academy Warriors

COACH: Jeff Brooke
2018 RECORD: 13-7-3

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Sophie Lindquist	sr.	M
AC Hardy	sr.	M
Emma Goebel	jr.	M
Amy Alexander	so.	M
Kat Sezonov	sr.	D

Outlook: The midfield could be exceptional as Lindquist, a Wheaton College commit, and Hardy were honorable mention all-sectional picks and Goebel and Alexander earned all-conference nods. Hardy and Goebel will continue their careers at Taylor, while senior midfielders Lydia Sedjo (Grove City) and Rebecca Steininger (Grace) also are playing college soccer.

Wheaton North Falcons

COACH: Tim McEvilly
2018 RECORD: 4-14-2

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Anna Warfield	sr.	M
Kristen Szumski	sr.	D
Sarah Brcka	sr.	F
Leila Parente	sr.	F
Riley Winckler	jr.	M
Rachel Brady	jr.	D

Outlook: The Falcons aren't deep in experience outside of Warfield, a four-year starter, and second-year starters Szumski and Brcka. Newcomers Kayla Shebar and Ella Kocher, both sophomores, could inject new life into the team.

Wheaton Warrenville South Tigers

COACH: Guy Callipari
2018 RECORD: 15-8

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Paige Miller	sr.	M
Maria Dohse	sr.	D
Allie Anderson	sr.	M
Evelyn Demsher	sr.	M
Audrey Siebert	sr.	M
Abbey Brennan	sr.	GK

Outlook: With 10 returning seniors, this is a squad that is primed for a deep playoff run. The Northwestern-bound Miller had 13 goals and 11 assists last year, while Anderson added 11 goals and nine assists and Demsher had seven goals and five assists. Dohse is a shut-down defender and leads a solid back line that also boasts seniors Molly Fank and Maddie Monaco and junior Sam Buol.

Willowbrook Warriors

COACH: Julio Del Real
2018 RECORD: 9-9-3

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Kaleigh Rugg	sr.	M
Lizzy Florey	jr.	F
Sara Fitzgibbon	jr.	M
Gracie Tumilty	so.	M

Outlook: Florey scored 13 goals and had five assists last season, while Tumilty added seven goals and five assists. Fitzgibbon had three goals.

York Dukes

COACH: Stevan Dobric
2018 RECORD: 11-6

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS.
Riley Haug	sr.	D
Michaela Ward	sr.	F
Emma Czech	sr.	D
Allie Milkowski	sr.	M/D
Siena Pinkerton	sr.	D
Lindsey Schiller	sr.	M

Outlook: York has nine back from a team that tied for second in the West Suburban Silver. Illinois Wesleyan recruit Haug leads an experienced back line. Ward, an all-conference selection, is the top scoring threat. Senior forward Rene Sieracki and senior midfielder Maddie Welz are the top newcomers.

VILLA PARK REVIEW

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DUPLICATE HS DISTRICT 88
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Students come together to fight cancer at annual Relay for Life event

District 88 students' efforts raise over \$90,000

The ninth annual Relay for Life of District 88 Youth took place last Saturday evening at Willowbrook High School's field house.

Hundreds of students from District 88's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—participated in the event, which raised funds for the American Cancer Society. The teams entered Saturday night having raised nearly \$70,000. By the end of the Saturday night/Sunday morning event, the overall fundraising tally exceeded \$90,000.

District 88 students formed several fundraising teams to raise money before Saturday's event. More than 500 students spent Saturday evening at Willowbrook. They arrived around 6 p.m. and didn't leave until early Sunday morning. Throughout the event, participants from each of the fundraising teams took turns walking around the track of the field house. Each team was directed to have at least one member walking on the track at all times during the night to signify that cancer never sleeps.

The opening lap of the Relay for Life of District 88 Youth event was reserved for cancer survivors. Survivors and caregivers took part in the second lap around the field house's track. All student participants took to the track for the third lap.

The all-night event included several games, as well as concessions, a talent show, a talent show, dodgeball and a dance off competition.

Saturday night's relay featured a luminaria ceremony at about 10 p.m. That ceremony honored the memory of loved ones who have died from cancer, as well as those who are currently in treatment, and those who have overcome cancer.

For more about the District 88 fundraiser, visit RelayForLife.org/D88IL.

Students at Willowbrook enjoyed a spirited week leading up to the Relay for Life. The Brook Olympics took place during the week of March 4-8. The weeklong event was created to initiate tradition and a sense of class spirit and pride. During the Brook Olympics, each of the school's four classes battled in a variety of competitions and challenges. The week also featured special dress-up days for students and staff.

Last Friday was Class Colors Day, with freshmen in white, sophomores in gray, juniors in black and seniors in blue. Friday's school

day ended with an all-school assembly in the main gymnasium. Students and faculty took part in a variety of spirited competitions on Fri-

day afternoon. At the end of the event, the juniors—the Class of 2020—were named as the winning class in this year's Brook Olympics.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Several hundred students took part in last Saturday's Relay for Life of District 88 Youth event at Willowbrook High School. More than 500 District 88 students spent the entire night at the school for the fundraiser, which raised money for the American Cancer Society. The students formed fundraising teams to raise money prior to Saturday's event. They raised about \$70,000 going into Saturday night. By early Sunday morning, the total stood at over \$90,000. The photo above shows cancer survivors walking the opening lap of the event. Another photo (below right) shows caregivers joining survivors for the second lap. At least one member from each fundraising team was directed to walk on the track throughout the event, which lasted until early Sunday morning. Pictured (below left - left to right) are some of the seniors on the 1ma9line team: Trevor Behrendt, Josh Roucka, Matt Tuma, Vito Tito, Richie Scheelk and Michael Karl. Another photo (bottom right) shows (left to right) sophomores Jackie Schiro, Anna Tymoszenko, Allison Smith and Cara Burns of the Super Novas fundraising team. One more (bottom left) photo shows (left to right) freshmen Emily McNamara, Francesca Parrillo, Izzy Manning, Maggie Siegler and Tess Placek of the Pirates of The Cure-Ibbean fundraising team.



LOMBARD 2017

#3 AGENT | TEAM

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DEE LONGFELLOW PHOTO Villa Park Review

Dedicated cookie-sellers

These young ladies, members of Girl Scout Troop #42164, withstood the cold and strong winds to sell Girl Scout Cookies in front of the Walgreens store located at Ardmore and St. Charles Road on Sunday, March 10.

Movie Poster event for all ages coming to library March 16

'REEL' fun with movie posters, chance to win prizes

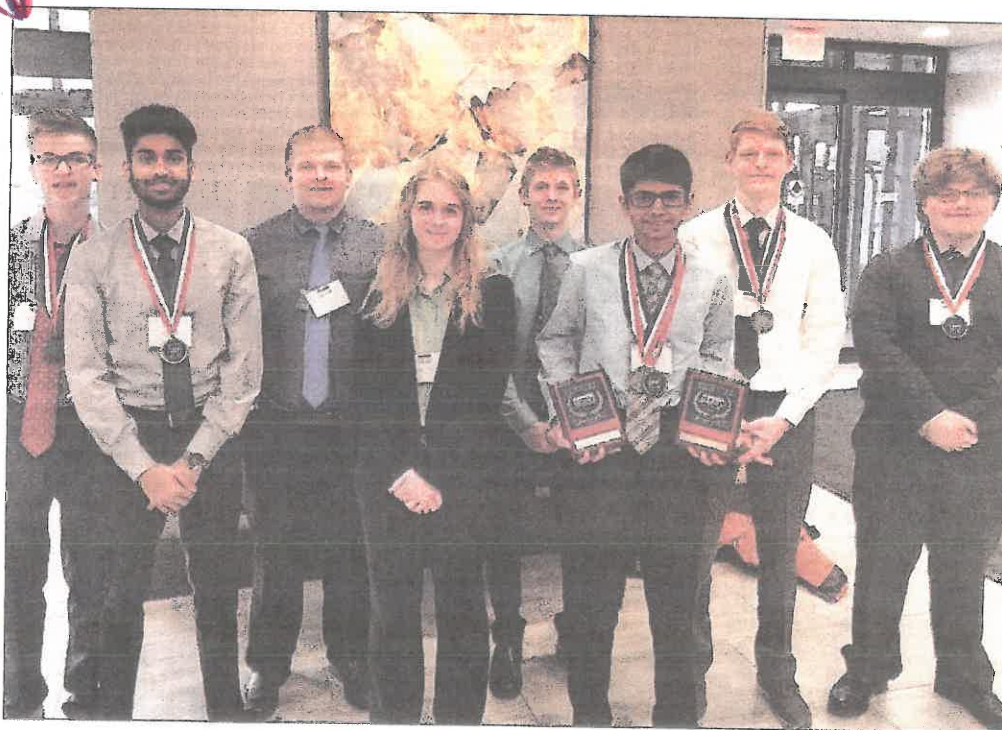
On Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., residents and neighbors of all ages are invited to the Villa Park Public Library for a Movie Poster Matching event to win prizes.

Movie maniacs, film freaks and cinema-centrics are invited to visit the library to view a large array of movie posters from pop culture films (current and upcoming) in the lobby area. To test your skills of observation, match one of several descriptions with its corresponding poster on display and, if you are correct, you'll have a chance to win a prize.

Some participants will be chosen for a chance to receive a bonus entry. Only 20 tickets will be given. To claim your free ticket and confirmation code, visit eventbrite.com/. Then, just bring a print out (make sure it's a full page) and present it after you participate in the matching event and that will serve as your bonus entry.

(Note: Only one ticket per person present will be accepted.)

Prizes at the event include movie passes, gift cards to area restaurants and more.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park Recreation Department news

Soccer registration now open; practices start week of March 18

The Villa Park Youth Soccer League is still accepting registration for the spring season. Register your child age 4-13 at the Iowa Community Center, 338 N. Iowa. Practices start the week of March 18 with games on Saturdays starting April. All practices and games are held on the soccer fields at Jackson Middle School. Call 630-834-8970 for any questions.

Sign up now for Spring Camp

Parks and Recreation's is offering Spring Camp for kids age 5-12 to give them fun activities to do while on their spring break from school. Spring Camp will be held March 25-29 at the Iowa Community Center. Camp is available 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily with a \$28 fee (\$33 on field trip Wednesday); if your camper needs to extend their camp day Sunrise and Sunset Camps are available for additional fees.

Campers will enjoy theme days with many games and

activities to keep them busy. A Wednesday field trip is planned to Splash Central Aquatic Center in Bartlett for a fun day of swimming. Please send a non-perishable lunch each day. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Sign up for the full week of camp or just the days you like. Pre-registration required.

Time to think spring gardening

Villa Park's Community Garden plots are available now purchase for the season. Anyone who has a green thumb or wants to try their hand at gardening is welcome to purchase a plot. Garden plots will be available for planting starting May 14 and the complete fall cleanup needs to be done by Oct. 31.

The Garden Plots and are located at Westmore Park (at Biermann just off Plymouth). The fee to reserve a 10' x 10' plot is just \$10. Plots are sold on a first come, first served basis at the Iowa Community Center. Call 630-834-8970 for more information.

Police to conduct special patrols March 14-17

Drive sober, buckle up for a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration

The Villa Park Police Department announced it will conduct special patrols beginning Thursday through St. Patrick's Day to arrest impaired drivers and to encourage use of seat belts.

"We're urging you to plan ahead for St. Patrick's Day festivities," said Sgt. James Cihak. "Don't ever drive under the influence of alcohol or any drug. It's not just about you. There are other people on the roads who are impacted by your decisions."

If you're hosting a St. Patrick's Day party:

- Remember, you can be held liable if someone you serve is involved in an impaired driving crash.
- Make sure your guests des-

ignate a sober driver in advance or help arrange ride-sharing with sober drivers.

- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Download a ride-sharing app on your phone to help partygoers, and keep phone numbers for local cab companies handy.

• Take keys away from anyone who is trying to drive impaired.

If you're going out for St. Patrick's Day:

- Designate a sober driver ahead of time, and give that person your keys.
- If you don't have a designated driver, call a cab, use ride-sharing, have a sober friend or family mem-

ber pick you up, or stay where you are and sleep it off.

- Never let a friend leave your sight if you think they're about to drive impaired.
- Buckle up—it's your best defense in a crash.

Pedestrians are at risk, too. If you are walking, keep an eye out for cars. Designated drivers should remain alert for impaired walkers who may not obey street signs and pedestrian signals.

The St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign is part of the Illinois "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" programs supported through federal funds administered by IDOT.

5 Willowbrook students qualify for 2019 BPA National Leadership Conference

Five Willowbrook students have qualified to compete at the 2019 Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference.

That event will take place from May 1-5 in California, and this year's theme is "Together We Create." Students who will compete are:

- Senior Daniel Leskiewicz: Systems Administration Using Cisco® (placed fourth at State) and C++ Programming (placed fifth at State);
- Senior Ashish Satsangi: Visual

Basic/C# Programming (placed fifth at State);

- Sophomore Michael Elvery: Visual Basic/C# Programming (placed fourth at State);
- Sophomore Talha Ali: Computer Modeling (placed second at State) and Visual Basic/C# Programming (placed third at State);

• Senior Samuel Munoz: C++ Programming (placed third at State).

For more information about BPA, go to www.bpa.org. According to

the website, "BPA is the premier CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, information technology, finance, office administration and other related career fields.

With 45,000 members in more than 1,800 chapters across 25 states and Puerto Rico, BPA is a co-curricular organization that supports business and information technology educators by offering co-curricular exercises based on national standards."

Pictured are Willowbrook students who recently competed in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State competition. They are (from left) junior Jack Carey, senior Ashish Satsangi, senior Tomas Pelesinas, senior Kianna Becker, senior Alban Sharneti, sophomore Talha Ali, senior Daniel Leskiewicz and sophomore Michael Elvery. Leskiewicz, Satsangi, Elvery, Ali and senior Samuel Munoz (not pictured) qualified to compete at the 2019 BPA National Leadership Conference, which will take place from May 1 to 5 in California.

Princess Ball takes place this Friday evening

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Young ladies and their favorite date are formally invited to the Princess Ball this Friday, March 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Iowa Center Castle, 338 N. Iowa.

All will be treated like royalty while enjoying dinner, desserts and dancing the night away with Coach Josh and DJ Superman.

Highlighting the special night will be a visit from a very special Princess who is sure to delight the girls.

Couples will also receive a keepsake photo. The Princess Ball is \$33 per couple, \$11 each additional daughter. Wrist corsages and boutonnieres can be ordered at time of registration for an additional fee and they will be available for pick up at the Princess Ball.

No vote yet on video gaming in Lombard

Possible ordinance, referendum in the works

By Jane Charnelo
LOMBARDIAN-VILLA PARK REVIEW
STAFF REPORTER

At a special workshop on Thursday, March 7, residents, and business owners and employees spoke to what appears to be an evenly divided Lombard Village Board of Trustees—at least based on President Keith Giagnorio's description.

Prior to public participation, Giagnorio asked for civilizational proceedings, saying, "Let's all remember, too, who we are. We're all Lombardians."

He also shared how he has been on the receiving end of name-calling and misinformation about his position on video gaming, and accusations that he is rushing the issue through.

The president said he has no bias about video gaming and "this idea of rushing this issue through is just absurd," pointing out that discussions have been ongoing since last August.

"There's been comments that if a compromise is reached the village is going to get destroyed, and I'm going to be the big part of it," he continued.

"I can't take more offense than I already have on that," Giagnorio said. "Some of the emails; really? Really?"

The president said it appears the board is evenly divided on the issue,

and that he has worked to try and find a compromise. They—and the residents and businesses—could live with.

Proposing to bring a non-binding advisory referendum before voters at the first opportunity in March, 2020, and a video gaming ordinance that would allow businesses the option to provide video gaming in the meantime, the president said, "I have bent over backwards trying to come up with a reasonable compromise. I'm trying to be fair."

However, the board "could not come up with an agreement," he continued, adding, "I got stuck in the middle. This happens, very, very rarely."

Giagnorio said that if the ordinance does pass, "It does allow people to see the games."

And, said Village Manager Scott Niehaus, there is a "sunset clause" that would force the board to revisit video gaming at the end of June 2020, although they could do so when the new board convenes. Either way, the current ordinance would expire at that time.

Residents weigh in

A number of residents and establishment owners/employees spoke to the board, echoing past sentiments from moral to revenue implications for both the businesses and village.

A sampling from residents: Jerry Nash said, "I believe video gaming begins to define your town."

Chris Cholewa wondered aloud who might participate in video gaming: "Are they your parents? Are they your family members?"

Marymae Meyer said one of her concerns is that "the new governor [is] hell-bent on expanding gambling in Illinois."

Dana Moreau said that while she is a downtown business owner, she has concerns about other small businesses in part, because if the new board at some point reverses the policy, the owners would have to remove their equipment and lose their investment. She suggested waiting a year.

Kathy Gilroy commented that she believes the issue is "being pushed by those who profit from video gaming."

She said these "mini casinos" would not have enough security measures, for one, and "a business that needs gambling to survive really needs a new business plan."

Colleen Whittington said, "I really believe that benefiting from somebody's losses is not the way to go."

By holding a public referendum, "At least we took the time" to see what residents want, and she suggested waiting until the new board is seated.

"Let the residents have their voices," she added.

Cary Weisgram believes the suffering of businesses is overstated, and he questioned the estimated revenue video gaming would produce.

"I think it looks tacky," said Jen-

nifer Maercklein, adding that video gaming "has a low-class feel to it."

Business owners, employees address issue

Business owners and employees had their own take:

Liam Quirke, from Punky's said, "Gambling is not illegal in Lombard," pointing to a church's \$500,000 pot, versus placing a \$2 bet with a maximum payout of \$500.

"Why don't you give businesses the choice?" posed Brendan Fitzharris, who said he would expand his business to Lombard if video gaming were allowed.

Lynn Mitchell, from Otto's, said the key is, "Competition, competition, competition. We don't have the opportunity to lower our costs."

Her brother, John Mitchell, said, "We are losing revenues. It's real."

"I want to be able to have the choice," said Jennifer Shannon of Shannon's Deli.

Joel Rabb of Brauer House disagrees with the picture being painted of "a boogeyman, a post-apocalyptic Mad Max."

"This is starting to remind me of the town from 'Footloose,'" said Steve Brauer, also from Brauer House.

He said not allowing video gaming "handcuffs us," and it's not just about survival but being able to compete as a business.

Mark Cook from Brauer House said there are "irrational fears and unfounded concerns" (about video gaming). Access does not always lead to excess.

Trustees comment

Trustees weighed in on the language of a possible referendum after resident requests to change it the yes or no wording, and looked at tweaking some of the potential ordinance wording, such as not requiring a new

business to wait a year before applying for a VG-class license, since gaming "cafés" would not be allowed.

Giagnorio said the current board could possibly vote for the short term with the new board looking at the long term.

"We were divided on this but not a board divided," commented Trustee Dan Whittington, who said he wants the referendum.

"The town has spoken twice already," said Trustee Reid Foltyniewicz. "This is the third time. That's why we're in this mess."

He suggested voters read up on the candidates for office, adding, "I don't need to have a referendum. We'll have one April 2."

Trustee Robin Pyke commented she is willing to go forward and see how it goes, and Trustee Bill Ware said, "I want to give the choices to the businesses."

A compromise, though, "gives everyone a chance to have their input on this."

Trustee Bill Johnston said that while he had been a proponent of a referendum, "I don't really need to go that way," and expressed concern for businesses that what might pass now could be taken away later.

"I'd like to make a decision. I'd like to get this settled without anybody losing money over this," he added.

Trustee Mike Fugiel said he would rather see a binding referendum, but ultimately would like to see at least a 4-2 vote on the issue.

"The path of ultimate least resistance is to try to get four votes on this board to go ahead and make a decision on a referendum," he added.

It is expected that ordinances will be placed on the March 31 agenda for first reading.

For more information, visit www.villageoflombard.org/video gaming, or the village's social media pages.

Pritzker releases initial rates in push for income tax overhaul

97 percent of Illinoisans would see tax rates drop, proposal claims

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker last week framed Illinois' \$3.2 billion structural budget deficit as having three possible solutions: a 15 percent across-the-board cut to state spending, including education; a 20 percent income tax increase on every Illinoisan; or his preferred solution of a graduated income tax structure, which he claims will lower taxes on 97 percent of Illinoisans.

At a press conference in his office, Pritzker laid out the first public rate structure for the graduated income tax, which was a frequent talking point of his successful gubernatorial campaign. He detailed a proposal to lower rates for earners pulling in less than \$250,000 while raising an estimated \$3.4 billion in added revenue by hiking up the rate on income over \$250,000.

"People like me should pay more, and people like you should pay less," Pritzker, whose net worth is estimated at \$3.2 billion, told a room full of reporters.

Ultimately it would be up to the voters as to whether the graduated tax structure can become law. If three-fifths of the General Assembly votes to put the proposed constitutional amendment on a ballot, the public will have a chance to vote on the measure in November 2020.

If a majority of those voting in the election, or 60 percent of those voting on the question, want a graduated tax, the Legislature will then have the authority to implement Pritzker's proposed rates or ones of its choosing.

Opponents said if the voters approve the amendment to change Illinois' flat tax—which is currently 4.95 percent—there's no telling whether the rate structure remains favorable to middle-class earners in the future.

"The General Assembly, with support from Governor Pritzker, would further increase the tax rates in the future," Rep. David McSweeney, R-Barrington Hills, said. "You would really have to trust Governor Pritzker



Gov. J.B. Pritzker speaks at a press conference from his Illinois State Capitol office last week as deputy governor Dan Hynes looks on. Pritzker proposed rates for a graduated income tax structure he says will help eliminate the state's \$3.2 billion structural budget deficit.

and Illinois politicians to set 'fair tax rates,' which I don't."

Pritzker's current proposed rates would range from 4.75 to 7.95 percent, and anyone making less than \$250,000 per year would see their taxes decrease under the plan. The details came in an 8-page packet containing the basics of his proposal, which is not yet on file as official legislation.

The taxes would be applied marginally, meaning 4.75 percent rates would be applied to an earner's first \$10,000 of income, a 4.9 percent rate would apply to the next \$90,000 of income, and a 4.95 percent rate would apply to an earner's income from \$100,001 to \$250,000.

According to the plan, that means taxpayers in those brackets would pay a lower rate than Illinois' current 4.95 percent rate, which applies to every penny of income.

A 7.75 percent tax would take effect for income between \$250,001 and \$500,000, and a 7.85 percent rate would apply to an earner's next \$500,000, up to \$1 million.

But it's the plan for the highest bracket that led Illinois Chamber of Commerce President Todd Maisch to call the plan a "millionaire's tax," which he said will drive high-income earners out of the state: When an earner hits \$1 million of income, every penny they bring in would be taxed at a 7.95 percent rate.

"There's always a need for more money, especially when you think about the fact that you're squeezing

more than \$3.4 billion out of those high earners, how many are going to stick around to pay that tab?" Maisch said. "That tab then has to get pushed down the scale and we see it in other states. It always starts out as a millionaire's tax, always ends up a tax on the middle class."

Maisch said it's difficult to analyze the measure via an eight-page presentation. He said to promote transparency, he wants to see language passed in both houses and held on the governor's desk before a constitutional amendment is brought to voters.

"They would love to pass the concept in a constitutional amendment and then figure it out later once they're off the hook," he said. "I think, let's go ahead and see this plan in a bill, let's see it introduced and let's see the supporters, if they can muster the votes, pass it."

The Illinois House Republican caucus has unanimously signed onto a non-binding resolution opposing the tax and saying there's "no need to negotiate" between the caucuses.

Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady, of Bloomington, said in a statement "without guaranteed protections for middle class families," his caucus would be opposed to the "\$3.4 billion tax increase" as well.

Tim Schneider, chairman of the state's Republican Party, said in a statement the bill will lead to "even more out-migration."

Fallen deputy graduated from Willowbrook

2001 graduate died in the line of duty

McHenry County Sheriff's Deputy Jacob Keltner, who was killed in the line of duty last week, is a Willowbrook High School graduate. Keltner, 35, graduated from the Villa Park school in 2001.

Willowbrook Athletic Director Brandon Murphy, who was a classmate of Keltner, noted last week that Keltner was a member of the school's boys gymnastics team.



Jacob Keltner

According to information provided by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office and the Illinois State Police, Deputy Keltner served with the McHenry County Sheriff's Office for 13 years. He was shot at a hotel in Rockford on March 7, while attempting to serve an arrest warrant with the United States Marshals Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force. He died later that day.

Deputy Keltner's funeral was held on Wednesday, March 13, at Woodstock North High School.

The suspect fled the area in a vehicle and was arrested following a high-speed chase on Interstate 39 and Interstate 55. The chase, which lasted over 150 miles, ended when Illinois State Police officers struck the suspect's vehicle, which came to rest in a ditch on Interstate 55 near Lincoln, which is about 35 miles northeast of Springfield.

The suspect reportedly barricaded himself inside his vehicle for about six hours before police took him into custody. According to the Illinois State Police last week, the suspect would eventually be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Left photo: (from left to right) Pictured are Willowbrook senior Sydney Wilson, senior Jenna Krenz, senior Ditzta Montesinos, sophomore Samantha Williams and senior Danielle Lee. Those students recently had their artwork showcased in the Illinois High School Art Exhibition (IHSAE) in Chicago (along with senior Kashf Fatima) and visited the display with their peers on Feb. 27. Right photo: Krenz stands by one of her pieces at the exhibition.

Willowbrook students showcased in Illinois High School Art Exhibition

Artwork created by six Willowbrook students was recently showcased in the Illinois High School Art Exhibition (IHSAE) in Chicago.

Pieces by seniors Danielle Lee, Jenna Krenz, Kashf Fatima, Sydney Wilson and Ditzta Montesinos and sophomore Samantha Williams were displayed at Zhou B Art Center, and Lee received

state-level Gold recognition in the ceramics category.

The five seniors listed above submitted portfolios of work as well, and they each had a highlight piece selected to be displayed at Bridgeport Art Center. They also received \$915,852 in scholarship offers from numerous art schools.

On Feb. 27, 26 Willowbrook art students enrolled in Drawing

and Painting and Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level Studio Art took a field trip to Chicago to view the exhibit. They also visited the National Museum of Mexican Art and the National Veterans Art Museum.

For more information about the IHSAE, go to <https://www.ihsae.org>.

Illinois could lose extra congressional seat, billions of dollars if residents dodge census

State has lost a congressional seat every decade since 1930s

By Grant Morgan
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The loss of two congressional seats and billions of dollars in federal funding are only two of the problems facing Illinois if it cannot get all of its residents to respond to the 2020 census.

Although the official count does not start for another year, the federal government and state and local governments are ramping up their efforts to make the next census as accurate as possible.

Activists, lawmakers and community leaders around the state, meanwhile, are fighting to address all the factors that might contribute to an undercount.

The census

The federal census is conducted every 10 years to count population and demographics for every household in the U.S. The data is used to reapportion congressional seats and distribute more than \$800 billion in funds for more than 300 federal programs, according to a study by the George Washington Institute of Public Policy.

In fiscal year 2016, for example, Illinois received more than \$34.3 billion in federal funds for 55 federal spending programs guided directly by data from the 2010 census.

This is on top of dozens of state programs that use census data to programs that use census data to appropriate money and services, including but not limited to local government unit boundaries and redistricting, tax credits, agency appropriations, and school and infrastructure needs.

"It's everything from schools to highways getting paved to the information McDonald's needs to build another franchise," said Jay Young, executive director of non-partisan Common Cause Illinois, which works on redistricting and election reform as well as census outreach.

"If you don't get counted, you don't exist, and I [the federal government] don't need to put a qualified health center in your communi-

ty if you don't exist. I don't need to boost police presence if you don't exist," Young said.

The 2010 Census

Illinois' initial response rate to the 2010 census was 80.7 percent, which puts it in the middle of the pack compared to other states.

Census workers had to follow up either by mail or in person to get responses from the other 19.3 percent, and an unspecified number of those people did not respond at all.

While the exact undercount number is not clear, "it is a general consensus that Illinois was historically undercounted during the 2010 Census efforts and data seems to support this theory," according to a November 2018 report by the Illinois Complete Count Commission, a panel of elected officials from all over the state created to help with census outreach.

For every one person missed, according to the George Washington study, Illinois lost \$953 in federal dollars.

In fiscal year 2015 alone, according to the same study, Illinois lost \$123 million in federal funding for every 1 percent of the population not counted in 2010.

Stacked up over the years, the Complete Count Commission's report said, those numbers amount to "the forfeiture of billions of dollars in federal assistance that aid in the support of children, veterans, senior citizens, and middle- and low-income families, as well as... schools, healthcare facilities and infrastructure."

But federal dollars are not the only loss Illinois faces with a census undercount.

Congressional representation

The census also determines state representation in Congress. Every 10 years, the federal government doles out congressional seats based on the relative size of each state's population.

Illinois has lost a congressional seat every decade since the 1930s, falling to its current number of 18. With the estimated state population declining over the last five years,

however, Illinois is all but guaranteed to lose another congressional seat after 2020.

But the state also faces the loss of an additional seat—not because of people leaving, but because of people not responding to the census.

"We think we're so close to losing two that it's within the margin that will be controlled by the potential undercount," Young said.

Election Data Services, a consulting firm that analyzes congressional seat changes using the Census Bureau's complicated formula for reapportionment, issued

a report in December 2018 backing this up.

Assuming the loss of one seat already, Illinois is holding onto the 435th Congressional seat by a mere 25,149 to 53,598 people, according to EDS.

That's less than half of 1 percent of the state's population, a number that, based on county-by-county response rates, could reasonably be undercounted in the next census.

Illinois' congressional maps will have to be redrawn after the census to account for one lost seat. If a second seat is lost, it would require even greater changes decided

through a deeply partisan redistricting process carried out by state lawmakers that always favors the party in power.

All three branches of the state government are currently controlled by Democrats.

Illinois would also lose two electoral votes, weakening its strength in future presidential elections.

Future installments in this series will examine a number of bills moving through the Legislature and specific outreach efforts by local governments and organizations to address the factors that make a 2020 undercount likely.

Statewide bag tax advances out of Senate committee

Sponsor says it's 'subject to change' after negotiations with Pritzker

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill levying a 7-cent tax on plastic and paper shopping bags advanced out of the state Senate's revenue committee last week with its sponsor promising to bring an amended proposal back to the committee in the coming weeks.

There was unanimous approval to advance the bag tax, Senate Bill 1240, from five Democrats and two Republicans present at the committee.

The bill's sponsor, state Sen. Terry Link, a Waukegan Democrat, said the legislation would be amended after negotiations with Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's office.

Pritzker's proposed budget includes \$20 million in anticipated revenue from the tax.

"I'm working with the governor's office to get the bill that they want and we want together," Link said.

Link's bill in its current form levies a 7-cent tax, with 2 cents being kept by the retailer to cover the costs of implementing the tax.

The other 5 cents would be collected by the state, with 2 cents go-

ing directly to the general revenue fund and another 3 cents deposited in the Checkout Bag Tax fund, which would fund solid waste management programs in the counties in which the tax was collected.

Link said these distributions of the revenue would be subject to change after negotiations.

The bill excludes the municipalities of Chicago, Oak Park and any other municipality which had a bag tax on the books as of Feb. 1, 2018. The tax in SB 1240 is currently structured the same as Chicago's tax.

"We wouldn't want to add 7 cents on top of their already 7 cents," Link said.

The Illinois Retail Merchants Association filed in support. Rob Karr, IRMA's president, said the group is supportive because of the comprehensiveness of the plan in its promotion of solid waste management.

He also said every bag tax passed around the country thus far has given a portion back to retailers to administer the cost.

The Illinois Restaurant Association filed in opposition to the bill.

Currently, SB 1240 does not contain exemptions for carry-out bags at restaurants, which are part of the legislation in Chicago.

At the moment, some environmental groups oppose the bag tax because of exceptions and pre-emptions included in the bill.

Still, Jack Darin, director of the Sierra Club environmental group which is currently opposed to the bill, said there's "a lot to be excited about" with the bag tax and its potential to curb waste.

"Our concerns are about the pre-emption provisions" Darin said. "What we view as a broad pre-emption of auxiliary containers."

According to the bill, auxiliary containers include containers designed to be reusable, packaging for bulk items, newspaper bags, wraps for frozen foods and several other containers. They are pre-empted from taxation in the current bill.

The bill also exempts bags used to transport items purchased using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, also known as food stamps, or items purchased using other government aid programs.

Sports

**LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW**


SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Montini senior offensive and defensive lineman Michael McNicholas (pictured with head football coach Mike Bukovsky) will continue his academic and athletic pursuits at Kent State University. McNicholas, who is from Lombard, attended Glenn Westlake Middle School before attending Montini.

Montini Catholic's McNicholas commits to play football at Kent State

Montini Catholic congratulates senior offensive and defensive lineman Michael McNicholas, for his commitment to join Kent State University's football program in the fall of 2019.

McNicholas formally committed on National Football Early Signing Day.

Last fall, McNicholas, a CCL all-conference pick, was instrumental in taking his Broncos to second place in the Class 5A state playoffs and is glad to have been a part of the team's 2015 state championship.

McNicholas has also competed as a Bronco wrestler (helping take the team to its 2018 state championship) and a member of the track and field team. But, it's the kinship of football that he will always hold dear.

"The bond formed with your brothers is unbreakable on and off the field," he said.

McNicholas is looking forward to his academic life post high school and is considering a career in sports management and education. He is also ready to further his skills at the collegiate level in football.

Although he considered University of South Dakota, South Dakota

State, Western Illinois, Illinois State, University of New Mexico, University of Missouri and Eastern Illinois, it was Kent State that represented the proper fit for McNicholas.

"After visiting Kent State and spending time with their coaching staff, I realized their coaching style would help me to excel as a student and as a player," he said. "Their campus is beautiful and has a lot to offer both on the football field and for my education."

"Mike has had a great career thus far at Montini Catholic," says head coach Mike Bukovsky. "As a senior captain, he has demonstrated the work ethic and values that are at the core of the Bronco football program, and is a big reason behind our tremendous success this season."

"We are very proud and excited he will be continuing his football journey at Kent State University, and we wish him great success as a student athlete."

McNicholas was extremely honored to have been selected this year to play in the 2019 Blue-Grey All American Bowl held in January in Houston (shown on ESPN3) to represent Montini and its football program.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Masys chooses MIT

Willowbrook senior Matas Masys recently announced that he will continue his academic and athletic careers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Masys played spent four seasons as a member of Willowbrook's boys varsity basketball team. In December, Masys became the second Warrior to reach the 1,000-point mark in his varsity career. His former teammate, 2018 Willowbrook graduate Ethan Schuemer, reached the 1,000-point milestone during the 2017-18 season. Masys averaged nearly 13 points per game for the Warriors during the 2018-19 season. He missed a few games during the middle of the season because of injury. One of the highlights during his senior season at Willowbrook included a 22-point effort in the Warriors' 72-60 win at Addison Trail in the opening game of the West Suburban Gold Conference season on Nov. 30. Masys delivered another memorable performance in his team's 79-69 conference win over Proviso East on Feb. 12 in Villa Park. Masys made seven 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 27 points in that victory. Willowbrook completed the season with an overall record of 17-14. "He's been with me for four years," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the Warriors' final game of the 2018-19 season. "There are not enough good things I can say about him. He came in as just a skinny freshman, a spot-up shooter. I watched his overall game evolve to where he was able to run the point guard position and guard the tougher opponents. He should have a great college career."



SUBMITTED FILE PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Glenbard East graduate wins another national 400-meter title

Glenbard East graduate Patrick Mikel, who's now a junior at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, won his second straight national title in the 400-meter run last Saturday. Mikel ran to a first-place finish in Saturday's 400-meter final of the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He completed the race in a winning time of 47.52 seconds. One year ago, Mikel won the 400-meter title at the 2018 NCAA Division III Indoor championship event in Birmingham, Alabama. His winning time last year was 47.74 seconds. In his senior year at Glenbard East, Mikel placed fifth in the 400-meter run at the 2016 IHSA Class 3A state meet.

Glen Crest eighth-grade girls earn regular-season basketball championship

The Glen Crest Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team is DuPage Metro Valley Association Conference regular-season champions after completing the season with just one conference loss.

The girls team finished 10-1 in conference, highlighted by a dramatic victory against co-champions Herrick Middle School.

"They're the nicest group of girls," said Glen Crest head coach Danny

Sheridan. "They work hard. They're a close-knit group and really fun."

The Spartans' only conference loss this season came Feb. 7 against Herrick Middle School in Downers Grove. Herrick had also beat Glen Crest three times during seventh grade.

Going into the Feb. 26 re-match, the Spartans knew the game would be critical for their chances of winning the conference title. The game was close throughout. With Glen Crest

ahead 25-23, Herrick had two shots to win or tie at the end of the game.

"The last eight seconds felt like they took eight minutes. The clock would just not go to zero," Sheridan said. "It was a great game. The spirit of the girls on the bench was awesome; they were cheering from beginning to end."

The Spartans finished the season

See GIRLS, Page 13

Mixed breed Gretzky The Great One, trained by Lombard resident, contending for national title at American Kennel Club National Agility Championship this week

Lombard resident Maria Sutjimin and her All American/mixed breed Gretzky The Great One, will be among the contenders at the American Kennel Club® National Agility Championship taking place this week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Thursday through Sunday.

More than 1,300 of the quickest, most agile dogs in the country will all be aiming for the title of national

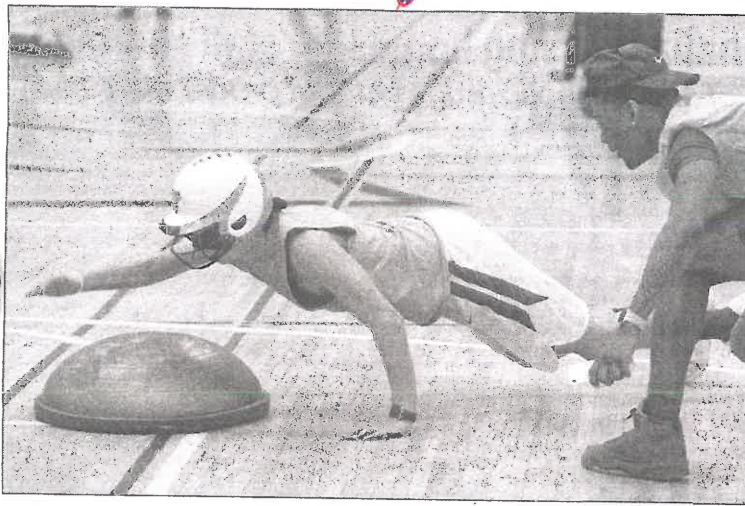
champion.

Maria and Gretzky train at For Your K9 in Elmhurst and Lyons Township Dog Training in Villa Park, met tough standards to qualify for this competition. During the event, they will run timed agility courses, off-leash, striving for a perfect score of 100. Any missed obstacles or other mistakes result in penalty faults, which are deducted

from the score.

Agility, AKC's fastest-growing canine sport, is an activity that provides fun and exercise and strengthens the bond between dog and handler.

Dogs demonstrate their agile natures and versatility by following cues from the handler through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, weave poles and other objects.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

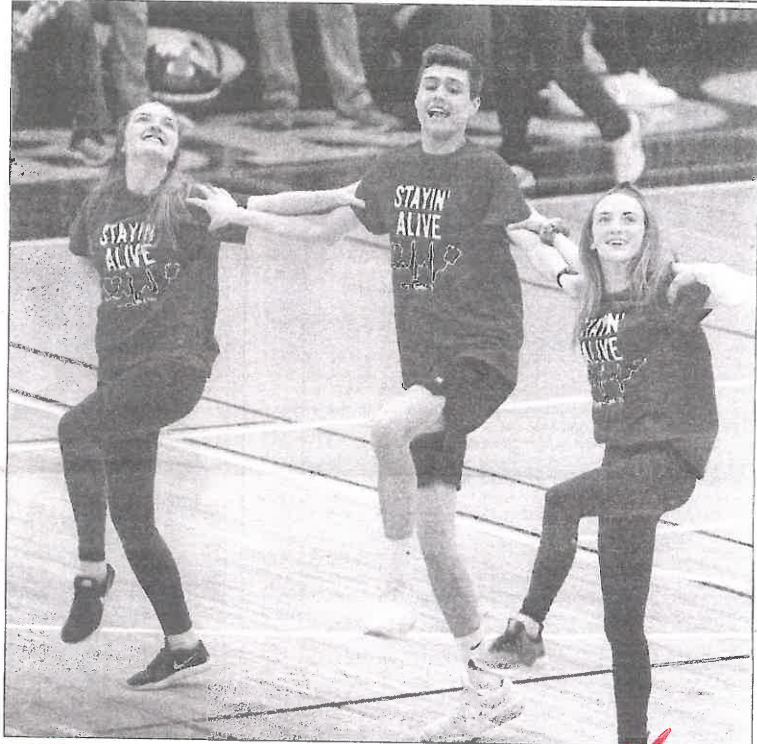


The Brook Olympics

Willowbrook High School's assembly last Friday afternoon completed the weeklong Brook Olympics. The Brook Olympics were created to increase spirit and pride at Willowbrook, and to support the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of District 88 Youth. The Relay for Life event took place on Saturday night and Sunday morning at Willowbrook. One photo (above left) from Friday's assembly in the main gymnasium shows senior Richie Scheelk diving for the target to give the Class of 2019 a victory in one of many of the day's competitions. Another photo (above right) from Friday shows Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause in fine form during the pony race competition. Krause and Willowbrook Athletic Director Brandon Murphy teamed up to win their heat in the relay event. Also pictured at right on Friday are (left to right) seniors Hope Rickord, Joey Guthrie and Claryce Dooley. Rickord and Dooley are members of Willowbrook's pom/dance team. Guthrie and several other boys teamed up with the girls on the pom/dance team for Friday's special performance.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review



Reading is fun-damental

Story time for kindergarten students at Manor Hill Elementary recently took on a unique twist thanks to a group of very special visitors—basketball players from Glenbard East High School. Students visited the classroom on Feb. 11, following an invitation from Manor Hill teacher Denise Glennon. Glennon saw the visit as an opportunity for students to engage with older students, build connections to the high school and have time to ask important questions about the high school experience.

Girls (Continued from page 12)

with wins at O'Neil and Marquardt to close out the regular season. The conference tournament got under way last week and continues this week.

The Glen Crest team is: Abby Bergmann, Michela Coluzzi, Zoey Conn, Bryde Cronin, Adriana Den-

wood, Hailey Filburn, Lizbeth Hernandez, Sophia Hoderman, Amelia Lake, Kara Lange, Cammy Kucaba, Kayla Milano, Brynn Robbins, Maggie Schmidt and Rachel Torres. Arjanna Mora was the team's assistant coach.

Sudoku Puzzle Answers

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



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

A memorable season

Willowbrook High School's pom/dance team enjoyed a historic 2018-19 season. For the first time in the history of its program, Willowbrook earned a berth in the IHSA competitive dance state meet. The team secured its trip to the state meet with its fourth-place performance in the 2A-2 division of the Geneva Sectional on Jan. 19. Willowbrook advanced to the state meet, which took place Jan. 25-26 at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. The team performed in the preliminary round and did not advance to the finals in its division. The 2018-19 Willowbrook team finished its season with its Senior Night halftime performance at the Feb. 15 boys basketball game. The photo from Senior Night shows (front row, left to right) seniors Kristy Holloway, Samantha Corso, Hope Rickord, Kaylee McEllin and Claryce Dooley; (back row) sophomore Katie Kramme, freshman Sabrina Corso, freshman Coco Bernardi, Freshman Nelly Irion, Junior Charlie Wozniak, freshman Olivia Erhardt, Junior Gianna Irion, freshman Ava Cappitelli, sophomore Jessica McEllin and sophomore Alexis Venegas. Not pictured are sophomore Natasha Daum, sophomore Michaela Meier and freshman Nahomi Castillo. Willowbrook's head coach is Maggie Lamb. Autumn Jones is the assistant coach. Both Lamb and Jones are Willowbrook alumni who were members of the school's pom/dance team.