

Lufkin Pool demolition delayed

Village to re-bid contract

By Paul DeGuidice
FOR THE LOMBARDIAN-
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Village of Villa Park officials suspended the scheduled demolition last week of Lufkin Pool after a member of the 'Save Lufkin Pool' grassroots group raised a question about the bidding process.

The American Demolition Corp. of Elgin won the \$77,700 contract to dismantle and haul away the pool and bathhouse at 1000 S. Ardmore Ave.

Village President Al Bulthuis responded to concerns about the bidding process, which originally took place in 2017 when the Board first voted to cease funding critical maintenance items and to close the pool. The pool has been closed since the end of the 2017 season.

Bulthuis directed staff to investigate the bids for demolition and it was found that three bids were submitted, however, the Village Code calls for contracts over \$20,000 be awarded to "The lowest responsible bidder after advertising for bids." Village staff had asked three companies for bids, but did not advertise for bids.

The village will now advertise for bids and the Board of Trustees will again have to vote when bids are received and staff vets the lowest responsible bidder.

This process will likely result in a vote in mid June, according to village officials.

The final vote to demolish Lufkin pool was held on April 8, six days after the April 2 election. This created some controversy, as the board had tabled the vote back

in November 2018 until June to allow for the election and to find out what residents felt via a non-binding referendum question on the ballot.

When voters rejected the non-binding question 1,059 (52.66 percent) to 952 (47.34 percent), the board took the item off the table and voted 4-3 to demolish the pool.

While Villa Park voters rejected the advisory referendum question, they also voted in two new Trustees, along with incumbent Dave Cilella. Trustee Don Kase was voted out. Cilella and Kase were joined by President Bulthuis and (now former) Trustee Chris Aiello in voting to demolish the pool. Both new trustees, Kevin Patrick and Christine Murphy, have advocated for keeping Lufkin Pool open.

Trustee Bob Wagner voted against demolition. Trustees Cheryl Tucker and Nick Cuzzone joined Wagner in opposing the demolition during the April 8 meeting. Tucker said at the meeting that she feels the money needed to repair and maintain the 65-year-old Lufkin Pool facility is too much. Tucker also said the referendum results were informative and it is time to move on.

She voted 'no' on April 8 strictly because the Board had tabled the final vote to June, and she wanted to keep to that schedule. Cuzzone said on April 8 that he is for the demolition of Lufkin, but voted 'no' on April 8 because the original promise was to delay the vote until June.

On Tuesday, April 9, Village crews performed some demolition duties at Lufkin Pool. This included the removal of benches and other fixtures and taking out useful items such as the pump (to use for parts, as Jefferson Pool uses the same one). The work of demolishing and hauling away the pool structure and the bathhouse will require several days and a professional demolition company.

Villa Park news briefs

Police announce results of distracted driving enforcement

The Villa Park Police Department participated in Illinois' Distracted Driving Enforcement campaign in April.

The department announced last week it issued 153 citations during the campaign. The department issued 105 electronic communication device citations during April, along with three DUI arrests, four speeding citations, three seat belt citations and 19 citations for driving without insurance.

The department also made one drug arrest and issued one citation for driving with a suspended/revoked license. The department issued 17 other citations as part of the month-long campaign. "Driver distraction is a persistent issue in Villa Park, and often has life-altering consequences," said Villa Park Police Sgt. James Cihak in a release issued by the department. "Issuing a citation is a proven way to get motorists to reduce distracted driving."

The Distracted Driving Enforcement campaign is supported through federal funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Village's Spring Sweep recycling event takes place May 18

The Villa Park Community Pride Commission and the Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission are teaming up to hold a Villa Park Spring Sweep recycling and shredding event on Saturday, May 18. The event will take place from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Traffic for the event will flow down Home Avenue, entering at the intersection of Harvard Avenue and Home, and exiting toward Ardmore. (Use 42 W. Home Ave. as a general starting point). The event is free to Villa Park residents, although a fee will apply for paint recycling. Non-residents are welcome, but a fee will apply for document shredding, electronics recycling and paint recycling.

Volunteers will work to collect and sort all items straight from your car to ensure an easy and safe drop-off. Simply load your car, drive to the entrance of the event and volunteers will direct you from there.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, send an e-mail to pride@invillapark.com.

Lauren M. Kiefer Memorial 5K takes place June 15

The 13th annual Lauren M. Kiefer 5K Family Run/Walk will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 15. The run/walk starts and ends outside of Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave. Registration is \$25 per participant. Children 12 and under can participate for free with a paid adult. A child waiver form must be completed. All proceeds from the event benefit the Lauren M. Kiefer Memorial Foundation, which provides funds to local families and groups. The foundation also provides scholarships to Willowbrook students. Registration for the run/walk can be completed online or through the mail. To register online, or to download a registration form, visit rememberlaur.com/events. Race day registration—\$25 cash—will also be available, starting at 7:30 a.m.

Villa Park's Hannah Klamecki receives the Warrior Award

Willowbrook senior survived harrowing ordeal as a child

Numerous members of Willowbrook High School's Class of 2019 were honored during Friday's senior recognition ceremony, which took place in front of the entire student body in the main gymnasium. The final honor of the ceremony—the Warrior Award—went to senior Hannah Klamecki of Villa Park. The Warrior Award honors a student who has shown great strength and determination.

A brief video, played just before Klamecki accepted the award from Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause, described the harrowing ordeal Klamecki survived in June of 2007, when she was 5 years old.

Klamecki joined her grandfather, David Klamecki, on a boating trip on the Kankakee River. They departed on a Wednesday. When they didn't return that evening, the family contacted authorities.

On the following Friday morning, about two days after the Klameckis disappeared, searchers recovered the body of David Klamecki, who had drowned in the river. Rescuers feared that Hannah had also drowned. But approximately two hours after her grandfather's body was recovered, Hannah walked out of the woods and approached some of the searchers.

Hannah and her grandfather were apparently swept away by a river current. Hannah, who was wearing floats on her arms, wound up near the shore and managed to pull herself from the water. She then survived alone for about two days in the remote and wooded area.

"One of my guidance counselors asked me if I would be interested in receiving this award," said Klamecki shortly after the presentation. A few months ago, Klamecki took part in an interview that was used in the video shown at Friday's ceremony.

"The most clear thing I can remember is being in the water with my grandfather right before he got pulled under by the current," she said in the video. "He pushed me forward and tried to push me away from the current, saving my life in the process. I remember grabbing onto a branch at the side, and pulling myself out of the water and onto the river bank. I remember just sitting there and waiting for him to come back up to the surface, but he never showed up again."

Klamecki did not see the completed video that described her story until it played at the ceremony.

"I saw a rough cut," said Klamecki about the video shown to the student body. "Seeing it again up on the big screen, that was very different."

In the video, Klamecki said that she followed the river and went in the general direction of where she thought her grandparents' cottage was located.

"I remember I was really scared at night," she said during the video. "I was scared of the noises, and I didn't like the dark, because I was very young at the time."

Klamecki, who went to Jefferson Middle School before she came to Willowbrook, will attend Concordia University in Chicago. She will study nursing. She noted she hasn't told too many people about her story of survival from her childhood.

"I haven't really shared it with very many people," said Klamecki after the awards ceremony. She



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Villa Park resident Hannah Klamecki, a senior at Willowbrook High School, received the Warrior Award at Friday's senior recognition ceremony at her school. The award is presented to a student who has shown great strength and determination. When she was 5 years old, Klamecki joined her grandfather for a boating trip on the Kankakee River. Her grandfather, David Klamecki, was swept away by a river current. His body was recovered about two days after the pair went missing. Searchers feared Hannah had also perished, but shortly after her grandfather's body was located, she emerged from the woods after having survived on her own for about two days in a remote and wooded area. Klamecki and her fellow members of Willowbrook's Class of 2019 will celebrate their graduation on May 19. Klamecki will attend Concordia University in Chicago. She plans to pursue a career in nursing.

referred to the counselor who advised her to accept the award and let people know about her ordeal.

"I've only told a couple of my very close friends about this experience," said Klamecki, who said she was pleased she took part in the interview for the video played at Friday's ceremony. "I think it did help, especially when someone else told it. That was a little bit easier. This definitely helped me realize the potential that I have with my story, and how it can inspire others."



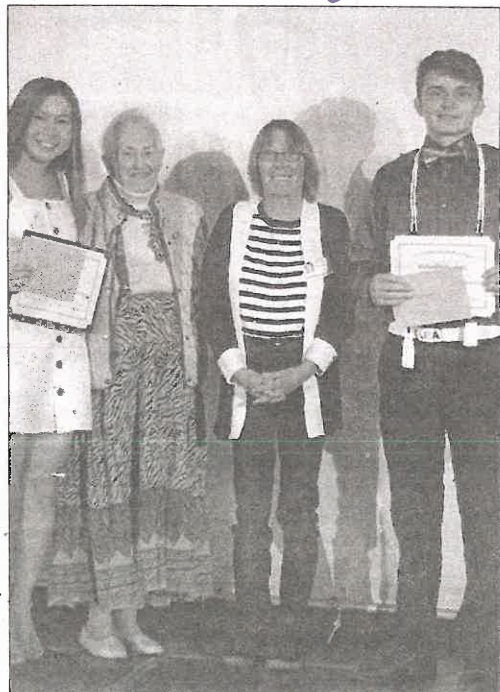
SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Review

Senior awards

Willowbrook High School held its senior recognition ceremony on Friday morning in front of the entire student body in the main gymnasium. The honorees included seniors Julia Langer and Richle Scheelk, who both received the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

Right: Pictured left to right are Langer, Villa Park Chamber of Commerce board member Rae Rupp Srch, Villa Park Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alesia Bailey and Scheelk. Other honorees included Cassidy Paul and Jane Huske, who received scholarships from the Villa Park Junior Women's Club.

Above: Paul (left) and Huske (right) are pictured with Villa Park Junior Women's Club President Bailey McMurray.



Sports

LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW

Sixteen straight! The Warriors keep on winning

Four wins this week would complete a perfect conference season

The Willowbrook baseball team closed in on the West Suburban Gold Conference championship by posting a pair of impressive victories over Downers Grove South on Friday and Saturday. Those wins extended the Warriors' winning streak to 16 games and gave the team a conference record of 14-0 and an overall mark of 19-3.

Willowbrook could finish off a perfect 18-0 conference season this week. The Warriors would need to sweep their three-game series against Leyden, as well as beat Downers Grove South in the third game of the series.

The Warriors have not lost a game since March 29, when they dropped a 2-1 decision at Maine South. Willowbrook went 14-0 during the month of April. The Warriors' final game of that month was their 5-2 conference win at Addison Trail on April 26. The soaking rains of the next few days kept the Warriors off of the field until Friday's home game against Downers Grove South.

Willowbrook beat the Mustangs 2-1 in Friday's exciting eight-inning battle in Villa Park. The Warriors trailed Downers Grove South 1-0 in the middle of the fifth inning. They tied the score at 1-1 in the bottom of the fifth. Senior Trevor Jaloszynski singled, stole second base and advanced to third base on a groundout.

He scored on an infield hit by senior Scott Tumilty.

Senior Joey Guthrie pitched brilliantly for the Warriors, giving up no earned runs over seven innings. Guthrie allowed seven hits and one walk. He struck out one batter. Guthrie closed out the seventh inning by reaching the maximum number of pitches allowed per game—105. Senior Josh Roucka took the mound and pitched a hitless eighth inning that included two strikeouts.

Willowbrook ended the game in the bottom of the eighth inning, which began with a double by Tumilty. Senior Marshall McDonnell then dropped a single down the right-field line to send Tumilty to third base. Junior Isaac Gaines ran for McDonnell and stole second base. Senior Danny Holloway then delivered a sacrifice fly to center field. Tumilty tagged up from third base and slid head first into home plate to end the game.

"That's a really well-played high school baseball game," said Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner after Friday's win. "The pitching on both sides was about as good as it gets."

Senior Ryan Mintz provided an excellent pitching performance in Saturday's 4-1 win at Downers Grove South. Mintz, who held the Mustangs scoreless through six innings, gave up two hits in the game.

He recorded six strikeouts and allowed three walks.

Mintz also contributed to the win with his bat, going 3-for-4 with one run batted in. Junior Anthony Yannotti went 2-for-2 and drove in two runs. Tumilty went 2-for-4 and drove in one run.

The Warriors scored single runs in the first, third, fifth and seventh innings. Mintz drove in the first run. Yannotti drove in the second and third runs with a pair of singles. Tumilty's seventh-inning single drove in the team's fourth run.

Downers Grove South entered the series against Willowbrook with one conference loss. Saturday's result sent the Mustangs' conference mark to 8-3. The Mustangs will finish their conference season next week.

"We've got guys who can play; it's just an all-around team effort," said Wisner in describing the team's success after Friday's win. "They care about each other. They play hard. They play really good fundamental baseball."

While the rain fell outside, the Warriors tried to stay sharp with indoor practice sessions in their school's field house.

"These kids are so talented and so humble, which I think is the most important thing," said Wisner. "They know they're good, but they're super humble about it."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Willowbrook's baseball team extended its winning streak to 16 games with its West Suburban Gold Conference victories over Downers Grove South on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors beat the Mustangs 2-1 in eight innings on Friday in Villa Park. Willowbrook defeated Downers Grove South 4-1 on Saturday in Downers Grove. Saturday's win gave the Warriors a conference record of 14-0 and an overall record of 19-3. One photo from Friday's home win shows senior Joey Guthrie, who pitched the first seven innings for the Warriors. Another photo shows senior Scott Tumilty sliding home to score the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning. Senior Danny Holloway hit the sacrifice fly that drove in Tumilty. The Warriors then ran toward first base to congratulate Holloway for his game-winning RBI.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Rams split a doubleheader

Senior Kevin Stallings (pictured) helped Glenbard East's baseball team to a win over West Aurora in the second game of Saturday's Upstate Eight Conference doubleheader against West Aurora. The Blackhawks defeated the Rams 3-0 in the first game. Glenbard East edged West Aurora 2-1 in the second game. Stallings pitched the last four innings of the contest to earn the victory. He gave up four hits, one run and three walks while striking out three batters. Senior Jacob Bailey pitched the first three innings for Glenbard East. Bailey allowed three hits and struck out four batters in three scoreless innings. He gave up two walks. Senior Mitch Glennon went 1-for-3 and drove in one run for the Rams, who scored both of their runs in the sixth inning. Glennon doubled to drive in senior Jimmy Cotterill, who had reached base with a single. Glennon then scored the Rams' second run on an error. The victory in Saturday's second game sent the Rams to 16-9 overall and 11-5 in the conference. Glenbard East's schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Streamwood.

Rams pick up two more conference wins

Team prepares to make a post-season run on its own turf

The Glenbard East girls soccer team improved to 15-4-2 overall and 5-1-1 in the Upstate Eight Conference with a pair of conference victories last week. The Rams opened the week with a 7-1 victory over Streamwood in Lombard on April 29. Two days later, Glenbard East defeated Glenbard South 5-0 in Glen Ellyn.

The Rams will finish their 2019 conference schedule with this week's matches against Elgin-Larkin and Elgin. They could still earn a piece of the conference title, but they will need some help from Glenbard South and/or West Aurora in those teams'

matches against first-place South Elgin this week. The Rams suffered their only Upstate Eight Conference loss of the season against South Elgin on April 20. South Elgin entered the final week of the conference season with a 5-0-2 record.

The Rams have won conference titles in each of the previous three seasons.

Glenbard East and Glenbard South played a scoreless first half in last week's match in Glen Ellyn. Senior Lindsey Novak delivered the Rams' first goal of the day about three minutes into the second

half. Senior Amy Chiero then scored with about 23 minutes remaining. The lead moved to 3-0 when Chiero booted a free kick toward sophomore Maddie Weltin, who headed the ball into the net with about 19 minutes to play.

Junior Elaine Wesling and freshman Maia Zatarski provided the Rams' final two goals against the Raiders during the last seven minutes.

"We figured it out in the second half, and we did the things we've been doing," said Glenbard East coach Kent Overbey following the win over Glenbard South. "We executed our offense."

Novak scored three goals in Glenbard East's home win over Streamwood. Wesling, Chiero, Zatarski and junior Molly Galvin each scored one goal. Zatarski, Weltin, Chiero, freshman Sarah Liljestrand, freshman Sarah Conroy and senior Hayden

Dudek each contributed an assist in the Rams' senior night match.

Glenbard East is capable of making a lengthy push in the upcoming IHSA Class 3A post-season. If the Rams do make a playoff run, they will do it with four matches on their home field. Glenbard East is hosting both a regional and a sectional this year. The Rams are the No. 2 seed in the sectional. Lyons Township is the No. 1 seed.

Glenbard East will begin the post-season with a regional match against Curie on May 14. The Rams hope to advance to the May 17 regional final against either Willowbrook or Whitney Young.

Warriors overwhelm Proviso West

Willowbrook bounced back from a West Suburban Gold Conference loss on April 30 to Downers Grove South to post a 9-0 non-conference win over Proviso West on Saturday

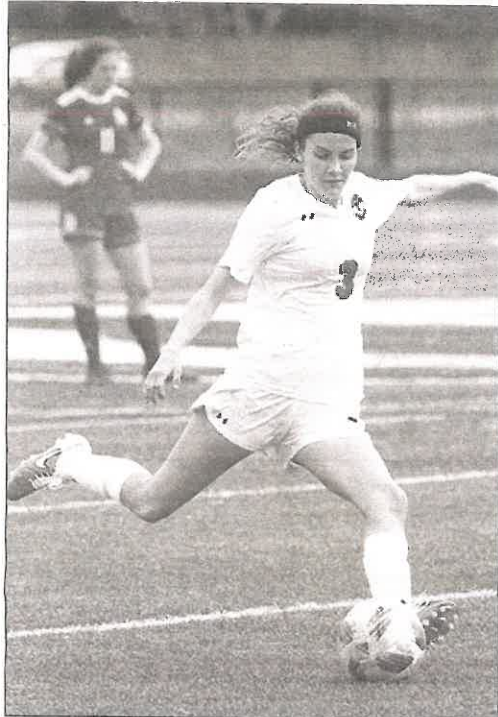
in Villa Park.

Saturday's win gave the Warriors an overall season record of 10-8-1. The team fell to 3-2 in the conference with its 7-1 loss to Downers Grove South.

Junior Julianna Paulsen scored three goals in Saturday's win. Juniors Erinn Bell and Lizzy Florey each scored two goals. Sophomore Gracie Tumilty and freshman Brooke Vandergrift both provided one goal.

Freshman Erin Fitzgibbon scored the Warriors' lone goal in the team's match against Downers Grove South.

The Warriors are wrapping up their regular season with this week's conference match against Hinsdale South and non-conference contest against York. Willowbrook will then face Whitney Young at the Glenbard East Regional on May 14. The Warriors are the No. 11 seed in the Glenbard East Sectional. Whitney Young is the No. 7 seed.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Glenbard East girls soccer team beat Glenbard South 5-0 on May 1 in Glen Ellyn to improve to 15-4-2 overall and 5-1-1 in the Upstate Eight Conference. The Rams scored all five of their goals in the second half. One photo shows senior Amy Chiero (No. 3), who scored the second goal, bashing a free kick. Chiero's kick sailed toward sophomore Maddie Weltin, who headed the ball into the goal to give Glenbard East a 3-0 lead. Pictured during the celebration of the goal are (left to right) Junior Molly Galvin (No. 12), freshman Sarah Liljestrand (No. 2), Weltin (No. 15) and Junior Elaine Wesling (No. 4). The Rams will finish their regular season this week. They will open the IHSA Class 3A post-season with a home match on May 14. Glenbard East is hosting a regional and a sectional this season. The Rams would need to win four straight post-season matches to win the regional and sectional titles. The winner of the Glenbard East Sectional will advance to the Reavis Super-Sectional.



Warriors take third at conference meet

Palma and Blackwell win individual titles; Distance relay team also delivers a win

The Willowbrook High School girls track and field team competed in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Morton High School's west campus in Berwyn. Senior Victoria Palma of the Warriors won the 1,600-meter run in 5 minutes, 16.94 seconds. Palma joined junior Michelle Villalobos, sophomore Melissa Martinez and sophomore Daylee Braden on Willowbrook's winning 4-x-800-meter relay team. The foursome won the race in 10:00.30—more than 15 seconds ahead of the second-place team.

In addition to winning the 1,600-meter run and contributing to the victorious relay team, Palma ran to a second-place finish in the 800-meter run, which she finished in 2:22.11.

Senior Miani Blackwell of the Warriors won the conference title in the shot put. Her best effort of the meet covered 36 feet, 7 inches. Blackwell, who set a new personal record with that throw, also placed third in the discus throw. Her top throw of the meet traveled 89 feet, 1 inch.

The Warriors finished third in the conference meet's team standings. Downers Grove South won the team title, while Morton finished second.

Willowbrook will compete in this week's IHSA Class 3A sectional at Naperville North High School. The Warriors will try to earn berths in the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which will take place May 17-18 at Eastern Illinois University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AIMEE VITTORIO Lombardian/Villa Park Review

Scoring eruption

Junior Julianna Paulsen (No. 9, right) of the Willowbrook girls soccer team scored three goals in the Warriors' 9-0 victory over Proviso West on Saturday in Villa Park. Juniors Erinn Bell and Lizzy Florey both scored two goals for the Warriors in the non-conference win. Willowbrook will complete its regular season with this week's matches against Hinsdale South and York. The Warriors will open the post-season with a match against Whitney Young at the Glenbard East Regional on May 14.

State qualifiers



Two players from Willowbrook and one from Glenbard East will compete in this week's IHSA state badminton meet at Eastern Illinois University. Willowbrook seniors Hanna Konrath and Charlotte Dewyer earned their state-meet berths at the Nequa Valley Sectional on May 2. Glenbard East senior Kat Furst secured her state-meet berth one day later at the Naperville Central Sectional. The top four players in both singles and doubles from the state's 16 sectionals advanced

to the state meet. Konrath, who also qualified for the state singles meets in 2017 and 2018, placed second at the Nequa Valley Sectional, while Dewyer earned a fourth-place finish. Gowri Salem of Nequa Valley, who won the sectional title, beat Dewyer in the semifinal round before defeating Konrath in the final. Furst qualified for the state meet with her third-place showing at the Naperville Central Sectional.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review



Warriors in action

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Lombardian/Villa Park Review

The Willowbrook softball team played West Suburban Gold Conference home games against Proviso East and Downers Grove South last week. The Warriors pounded Proviso East 16-0 on Friday afternoon. Downers Grove South defeated Willowbrook 4-1 on Saturday. The visiting Mustangs improved to 18-2 overall and 5-0 in conference play with the win. Willowbrook dropped to 13-6 overall and 5-1 in the conference. Senior Katie Pettinger and freshman Kayla Neff are pictured during Friday's win. Pettinger is pictured while connecting for one of her two hits in the game. Neff pitched a complete-game shutout for Willowbrook, allowing one hit and striking out seven batters in four innings. Freshman Caitlyn Kulczynski pitched for the Warriors in Saturday's game. Sophomore Annemarie Knudson hit a home run—her third of the season—in the fourth inning to account for Willowbrook's run. "We did some confident things," said Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos after the loss to the talented Mustangs. "We had a couple of errors early, but we didn't let them snowball. We bounced back." The Warriors have a full schedule this week—five conference games in a span of five days.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Near the finish line

The participants in Saturday morning's Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley Run for the Kids: Superhero Hustle run/walk event in Villa Park included Andy Kozlarski and his daughter Amelia (bib No. 1707). They are pictured near the finish line. Amelia is a client of the facility; her father is on the Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley board.

'SHE'S QUITE THE POWERHOUSE'

Willowbrook soph Annemarie Knudtson may be small, but has mighty impact with bat, glove

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

Annemarie Knudtson has a quick explanation for why she goes by "Ree." Long story short, it's mom.

"When I was little, my name was long," the Willowbrook sophomore said, "and my mom would yell at me to come down to dinner and all I would here is 'Ree.' It kind of stuck."

So has Knudtson.

She showed up for Willowbrook softball tryouts as a freshman, and within days head coach Rachel Karos pulled her up to varsity.

The little 5-foot-3 girl with the short nickname has made a huge impact.

"She came in as a freshman and I wasn't really sure if I would take her or not, but once I pulled her up, I couldn't send her back down," Karos said. "I didn't realize the impact she would have. She is naturally talented, but the fact that she is so coachable is what makes her successful."

Indeed she is.

On a Willowbrook club bursting with young talent, Knudtson shouldn't be overlooked. Batting second and playing second base, Knudtson is hitting .429 with 11 extra-base hits, 23 RBIs and 22 runs scored.

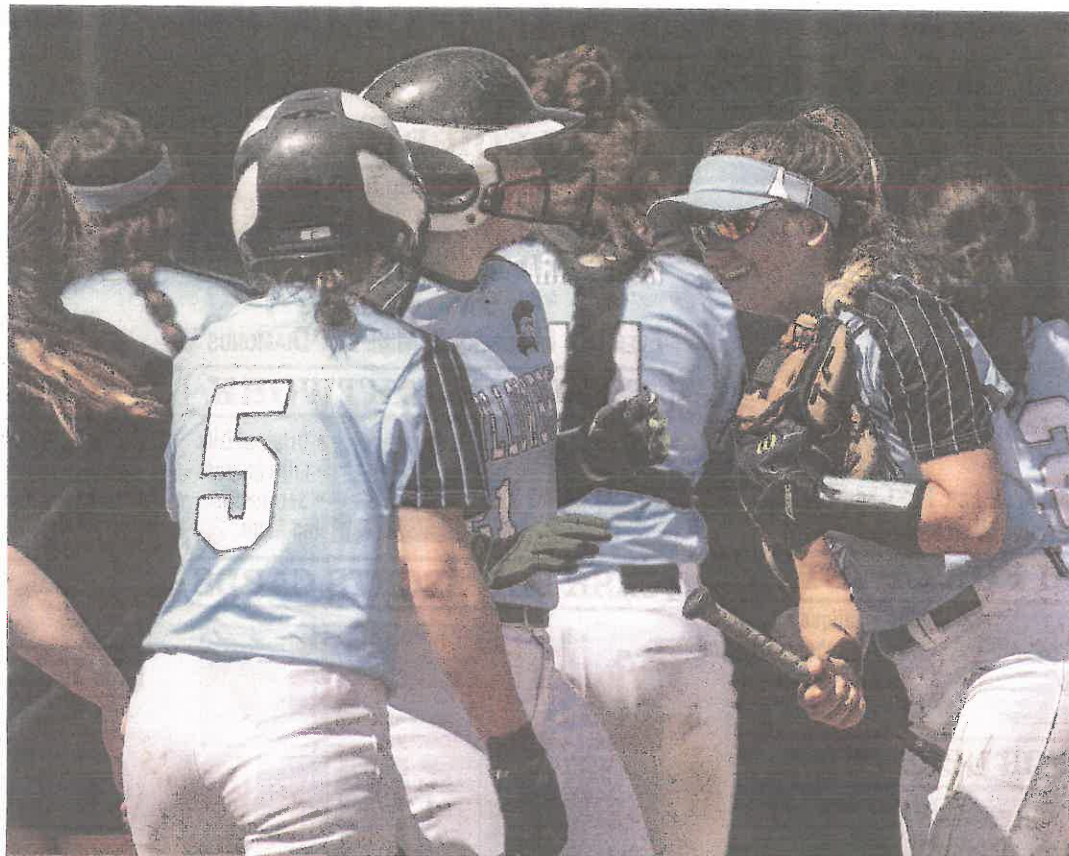
The Warriors are 13-7 and are the fifth seed in the Class 4A Marist Sectional.

"I just keep a level head, and whatever the coach needs me to do, I'm going to do to help the team no matter what," Knudtson said. "I just try to get the bat on the ball, try to get it in play, try to get the offense going."

That's the modest attitude of a girl who comes from an athletic family, and the Knudtsons are that.

Annemarie is the youngest of five. Her oldest sister played basketball. Her brother, Matt, was a senior lineman for Willowbrook's football team that reached the Class 7A quarterfinals this year.

Annemarie and her sister, Shannon, Willowbrook's junior shortstop, first tried gymnastics. Her dad, who played slow-pitch softball, started them in softball by the time Annemarie was eight. Annemarie used to play



Mike Mantucca for Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Annemarie Knudtson (21) celebrates with teammates after hitting a home run against Downers Grove South on May 4.

outfield and catch, and she tried out her freshman year as an outfielder. But Willowbrook's second baseman got hurt, Annemarie filled in alongside Shannon, and she hasn't looked back.

"The biggest adjustment was reacting to the ball. It's nice to know that I can rely on her and she relies on me," Annemarie said.

Karos could play Annemarie Knudtson anywhere besides pitcher, and calls her a go-getter and workhorse. A consistent part of Willowbrook's lineup, Knudtson was an all-conference selection as a freshman, hitting .455 with 25 RBIs and 35 runs scored.

"She is a huge part of our offense and an even better defender," Karos said. "She could play anywhere, but at second base she gets the majority of our grounders. She is very consistent

and one of the hardest workers you'll ever meet."

And she's fearless.

A guard in basketball, the little Knudtson isn't afraid to go up strong against a center, or face an imposing pitcher in softball.

"She looks small, but she's quite the powerhouse," Karos said. "She plays bigger than she is. She's unpredictable in what she can do, and she's fearless. That's the type of attitude she has, that never going to lose attitude that makes her successful."

Knudtson made a slight tweak at the plate that's proved a benefit. Very compact before, not quite hunched over, she straightened up her top half to get a bit taller.

"She has really quick hands," Karos said. "She was able to get a lot of power. It was a minor adjustment."

Knudtson thinks it all starts with her mindset.

Knudtson has a ritual every at-bat where she puts her bat on the plate, stands up, takes a deep breath and looks at the pitcher.

"My dad always tells me I need to take a deep breath and relax. It's one at-bat at a time," Knudtson said. "I try to keep that in mind."

Even after two losses to Downers Grove South, which both were competitive, Karos sees a team that is buying in, has confidence at the plate and is hitting its stride at the right time.

"They got a glimpse of what we can do, even losing to Downers South," Karos said. "I don't think I've ever been seeded this high for the playoffs. We have an opportunity this year. I think they're hungry for it, to do some things."

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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019

Addison men charged following DEA investigation

*Kilo of heroin found at
car dealership*

By Dee Longfellow

FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Late last week, the Independent learned that two Addison men had been charged with possession of about one kilogram of heroin as a result of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigation.

Luis Ortiz, 24 and Christian Cardenas, 23, were arrested on Tuesday, April 30, according to a news release issued by the office of Robert Berlin, Du Page County State's Attorney.

According to the release, the DEA executed a search warrant at a used car dealership owned by Cardenas in Addison and discovered about a kilogram of heroin inside one of the vehicles on the lot. Ortiz, who is an employee of the dealership, and Cardenas were arrested, prosecutors said, following a brief foot chase.

"In 2018, more than half of the 98 opioid deaths in DuPage County were heroin related," Du Page County State's Attorney Robert Berlin said. "One kilogram of heroin is an extraordinary amount with a street value of between \$200,000-\$300,000."

Judge John Kinsella had set bond at \$300,000, of which 10 percent applies, for both men. A "proof of funds" hearing was also granted, which means the defendants have the burden of proof that any funds used toward their bail were not obtained illegally.

"Most concerning is the number of deaths that amount of heroin could cause," Berlin said. "Thanks to the efforts of the DEA and the Addison Police Department however, that kilo of heroin will never make it to the streets."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

Addison Trail yearbook staff honored at NIPSA Conference

These student staff members of the 2018-19 Addison Trail yearbook, ATtribute, show off the awards they received at the Northern Illinois Scholastic Press Association (NIPSA) Conference on April 12. The students earned two Blue Ribbons for Coverage and Theme Development. Pictured are (from left): Jenna Wislek, Arianna Ortiz, Diego Guzman, Noe Alvarez Jr., Karina Nevarez, Connor White, Rafal Kaczówka and Brian Reyes. Not pictured are team members who did not attend the Conference including: Angela Addante, Zachary Favia, Zainab Ghanem, Edward Haskell, Ethan Macaraeg, Margaret O'Connell, Bianca Piscopo, Gabriella Piscopo, Isabella Provenzino, Madalyn Rumps, Nicolette Scorza, Andrea Susa, Breanna Trejo.

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SPORTS

MAY 9, 2019 • 17

Addison Trail boys volleyball team in hunt for upper-conference finish

Wojdak qualifies for state gymnastics meet

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys volleyball team split four recent matches against Maine West, Joliet Catholic, St. Charles North and Downers Grove South.

The Blazers dropped a 25-22, 25-12 contest to Maine West and scored wins against Joliet Catholic (25-20, 25-21) and St. Charles North (25-18, 25-15).

Addison Trail also lost 25-17, 25-10 to Downers Grove South in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play in a contest where the Blazers played without setter Nico Nas-

ti. Freshman setter Vince Calzante stepped in.

Through late last week, Addison Trail was 9-16 and 3-2 in WSC Gold play.

Joe Mosny was leading the team in kills with 168 through late last week and was tops in blocks with 46. Nasti was the team leader in aces (14) and setting assists (428), while Michael Tulke was leading in digs with 99. He's now out for the season with a hand injury, coach Chad Grant noted.

"Our young players are passing very well overall," said Grant. "We struggle with the hard jump serve right now, but we will keep getting better."

Grant likes the progress he's seeing offensively. "Our offense has improved the most," he said. "It took a while, but I think we found the best positions for everyone to be in for

this team to be successful moving forward."

Grant said Enzo Ciaccia has done a fine job stepping in at the libero spot the last few matches. "He communicates well and does a nice job on defense."

Prab Dhillon, a 6-8 sophomore, also has made nice strides. "Prab has started to earn himself some playing time," said Grant. "We look forward to him to keep getting better."

Grant explained Nasti is becoming more consistent with his setting, "and has been very efficient from the service line," he said. Grant add-

ed the team is happy to have Justin Werderitch back as well.

"I like where we can get to by the end of the season," he said. "We haven't played a lot of matches with our starters together, for various reasons. The next few weeks will be very important. I think our tough schedule will have us prepared for the post-season."

Addison Trail had a run of home matches this week against Lyons Township and Beavert Academy. The Blazers host Leyden on May 14 with second place in the WSC Gold on the line.

Addison Trail boys gymnastics

Addison Trail's Matt Wojdak is headed to the IHSA boys gymnastics state finals meet. Wojdak won the floor exercise title at the recent Schaumburg sectional. Wojdak won with a score of 9.450. Addison Trail finished sixth as a team with a 130.350 score.

Addison Trail badminton

The Addison Trail girls badminton team was fifth at the recent Arlington Heights Hersey sectional. The Blazers did not have any players advance to the state finals.

Fenton softball team posts more wins

Lozada becomes all-time Bison hits leader

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The news has been of the good variety recently for the Fenton softball team.

Times two.

The Bison were 17-8 over their first 25 contests and stood at 4-1 in Metro Suburban Conference Red Division action through late last week.

Fenton swept a doubleheader from Proviso East by counts of 22-1 and 24-0. Prior to that, the Bison were 21-1 and 22-1 winners against Chicago Amundsen. Fenton also lost 18-0 to Chicago Whitney Young, beat St. Edward 15-2 and took a MSC Red double-dip from Timothy Christian to the tune of 18-2 and 22-4 triumphs.

In the first game of the Proviso twinbill, senior shortstop Isa Lozada went 4-for-4 and became Fenton's all-time hits leader with 156. "She will finish at or near the top of just about every offensive category for

career stats," noted Fenton coach Dave Mello.

Through late last week, Lozada was leading the team in batting average at .627, on-base percentage (.695), slugging percentage at 1.133, hits (47), triples (6), home runs (6), RBI (39), runs (45) and steals (24).

Other category leaders through late last week included Gianna Mendoza leading the team in doubles with nine and Cynthia Ibarra leading in all key pitching categories. She has a team-high seven wins, 47 strikeouts and also is leading the way in ERA.

Mello pointed to Fenton taking full advantage of a weight-lifting program as one of several reasons for its success this spring. "The team is understanding what it takes to be successful," he said. "We have a lifting program in place and the girls are consistently showing up at 6 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday to lift, in addition to other days when we lift at night. Recently, we lifted at 7:30 a.m., before our doubleheader, and after we had played two games the previous night. All 17 girls were there and ready to work."

Juggling, yes juggling, has been another ingredient for success. "The biggest improvement has occurred with our pregame juggling and our overall focus," said Mello. "We instituted juggling this season after a few seasons without it in an effort to improve hand-eye coordination and focus. Every girl has made tremendous strides."

And those strides have been seen on the field in all phases of the game. "The offense has really been strong as of late, with the exception of the Whitney Young game," said Mello. "Our approach at the plate has been good and our base running has been really good. Again, with the exception of the Whitney Young game, our defense and pitching have been really good. We just had a bad night against a really good team."

Claire Panos, Mendoza and Madison Spencer were also cited for recent strong play. "Claire really has taken over the three-spot in the lineup and has been on fire at the plate," said Mello. "She also has given us great

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Willowbrook badminton team wins WSC Gold crown Warriors Konrath, Dewyer heading to state tourney

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls badminton team executed its version of the daily-double recently.

The Warriors not only won the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title, but also qualified two individuals for this weekend's IHSA girls badminton state finals meet in Charleston.

Willowbrook recently competed at the Nequa Valley sectional where it took second as a team with 11 points. Host Nequa Valley won the title with 17.5 points.

However, Willowbrook seniors Hanna Konrath and Charlotte Dewyer both qualified for the state singles tournament to be held this weekend in Charleston on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

Konrath finished second in singles at Nequa Valley. She was a 21-7, 21-4 winner in her first match against a player from Chicago Payton. Konrath then scored a 21-7, 21-18 win against Nequa Valley's Nayoon Lee, who finished third in the tournament. Konrath then dropped a 21-8, 21-13 decision to Nequa Valley sophomore Gowri Salem in the championship match.

Dewyer was a 21-3, 21-3 winner over a Chicago Whitney Young player in her opener and then scored a 21-16, 21-7 win against Glenbard South. Dewyer lost to Salem in her third match by scores of 21-12, 21-10. She was a 24-22, 19-21, 21-15 winner over Downers Grove North in her fourth match and lost to Lee in the third-place contest by scores of 21-19, 21-10.

Earlier, Willowbrook won the conference title thanks to having eight champions in either singles or doubles.

Konrath won the No. 1 singles title, while Dewyer won the No. 2 singles crown. Fath Fabian won the No. 7 singles title and Lizzie Romero won the No. 9 singles title.

Sydney Wilson and Grace Wachholz won the No. 2 doubles crown, while Konrath and Dewyer won the No. 3 doubles title. Fabian and Sania Irfan won the No. 4 doubles title, while Chloe Herr and Romero won the No. 5 doubles title.

"The conference meet was impressive with how hard each player fought in the entire field house all evening," said Willowbrook coach Eastman Tai. "They never gave up and played through exhaustion and supported each other when they were not actively playing. The support made all the difference in the final and deciding match."

Warriors baseball team takes two from Downers Grove South in critical conference matchup

Willowbrook pushes record to 19-3-1

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook baseball team took the first two games of a critical West Suburban Conference Gold Division three-game series from Downers Grove South.

Willowbrook came into the series with no conference losses and Downers Grove South had one loss. The two wins put Willowbrook at 19-3-1 overall.

In a 2-1 win against Downers Grove South in Villa Park in eight innings, Both teams plated a run in the fifth.

The score remained deadlocked at

1-1 and necessitated extra innings. In the Willowbrook half of the eighth, Scott Tumilty doubled to left field on a 1-0 pitch. He went to third on Marshall McDonnell's single to right. Courtesy runner Isaac Gaines advanced to second on defensive indifference.

Tumilty scored the game-winner on Danny Holloway's sacrifice fly to center field.

Jack Hines went 2-for-3, while Trevor Jaloszynski had a hit. Tumilty had two hits and an RBI.

Josh Roucka was the winner in relief. He pitched the eighth and fanned two. Joey Guthrie went the first seven innings and allowed seven hits, no earned runs and struck out one, while walking one. He threw 72

of 106 pitches for strikes and threw a first strike to 19 of the 30 batters he faced.

Willowbrook then recorded a 4-1 win at Downers Grove South. The Warriors scored single runs in the first, third, fifth and seventh innings and had 10 hits.

Ryan Mintz was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Anthony Yannotti was 2-for-2 with a run scored and two RBI. Tumilty was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Willowbrook also walked six times in the game. Jeremy Conforti and Mintz each hit doubles. Tumilty stole three bases and Willowbrook had five steals as a team.

Mintz was the winning pitcher. He threw a two-hit complete game, while striking out six.

Willowbrook boys gymnastics team wins WSC Gold title

Warriors claim crown for fourth time in last five years

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The West Suburban Conference Gold Division gold in boys gymnastics has been parked at Willowbrook in recent times.

This year is no exception. The Warriors, who went a perfect 4-0 in conference duals, won the WSC Gold Division meet with a 129.20 score to capture the conference title for the fourth time in the last five years (2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019).

Addison Trail was a close second, posting a 127.50 score and Hinsdale South placed third at 125.95.

In earlier action, the Warriors closed out WSC Gold dual action with a 132.00-115.30 win against Leyden.

At the conference meet, Brendan Bailey won the all-around title. He took first on parallel bars, second on horse, fifth on rings and was seventh on floor and horizontal bar.

Danny Saldana was the conference runner-up in the all-around. He was second on floor, third on horse, fourth on vault, seventh on rings and ninth on parallel bars.

Noah Pulli was fifth on floor and ninth on vault. Elkin Wells took sixth on horizontal bar and seventh on parallel bars.

Collin Donaldson won the pommel horse conference title, while Cooper Ross was fourth on horse and 10th on rings.

At the junior-varsity level, Erin Rosario won the horse, rings and horizontal bar titles, while Lisandro Ramirez was first on parallel bars and won the all-around title. Geo Lopez was first on vault, while Jorge Ibarra was third in the all-around scoring.

Willowbrook coach Caleb Strejc noted his team has been particularly

strong this year on pommel horse. "As usual, the team is doing well at using our team score on horse as an advantage," he said. "We know if we did well on horse it could help us a lot at the conference meet and create some space between us and the other teams. If you look at the scores, the next closest team still was 6.85 points behind us on horse, which is honestly a crazy gap on an event. For reference, the differences between the top two teams on the other events was 0.6 on floor, 0.2 on rings, 1.5 on vault, 0.05 on p-bars and 2.25 on high bar."

Strejc liked his team's progress on floor exercise. "Looking at conference, I think our biggest improvement was on floor," he said. "Danny Saldana had his highest score of the year and then Noah and Brendan also were in the 8s, which gave us our highest team score on that event this year."

Strejc was pleased with a number of gymnasts coming out of the conference meet. "Danny and Brendan have stepped up as we move closer toward conference," he said. "They are great competitors and I appreciate their focus when it comes to meet time. Being guys who work all-around, it can become really hard on your body near the end of the season. So to keep working hard and pull it together to place first and second in all-around at conference was very impressive to me."

Strejc also had high praise for Wells. "Elkin also stepped up for varsity to add some depth at conference because we had two seniors who weren't able to compete," he said.

Willowbrook then took sixth at the Lyons Township sectional and had no automatic state qualifiers. At-large qualifiers for the state meet were not available as of press time.

"I would have to say what I like most about this season is winning conference," said Strejc. "These seniors are a very special group to me and to see them accomplish this in their last conference meet really made me proud as a coach."

MOTHER'S DAY 2019




THE SPRING ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION & KIWANIS CLUB OF ELMHURST

PET PARADE

Saturday, May 18, 2019

PRE-REGISTRATION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED



WHERE: BEGINS AT THE SILVERADO GRILL at 447 S. Spring Road
TIME: 11:30 AM CHECK IN TIME AT SILVERADO GRILL PARKING LOT 447 S. Spring Road
 1:00 PARADE STARTS

WHAT: PET PARADE - All kinds of animals are invited to participate!
 FACE TATTOOS- Get your face or hand decorated with a variety of temporary tattoos!
 PET PORTRAITS- get a photo with your pet!
 MOON JUMP- enjoy the Moon Jump! (11:30 - 2:00)
 PET TRICKS- Demonstrate your pet's talents!

COST: FREE- but donations will be accepted for the Yorkfield Food Pantry (nonperishable goods or cash)
WHO: ANYONE OF ANY AGE can enter their pet of any species/breed
QUESTIONS?? email: SpringRoadPetParade@gmail.com

RULES

1. Pet owners are responsible for the conduct and control of their pets at all times
2. Animals must be in good health, free of illness and communicable diseases
3. All dogs and cats must be currently vaccinated against rabies
4. Please come prepared to remove feces left by your pet
5. Children under 9 must be accompanied by an adult
6. Pre-registration is recommended ~ and guarantees you receive a "goody bag"
7. Return registration form to locations listed below by May 12, or at parade site May 18

~ Ribbons will be awarded in the following categories ~

Most Obedient Pet	Best Dressed Pet
Best Groomed Pet	Oldest Pet
* Most Original Pet Trick (register below) * Pets must be registered to demonstrate Pet Trick	


ENTRY BLANK (FILL OUT, TEAR OFF BOTTOM AND DROP OFF AT De Vries Animal Hospital or BMO Harris Bank)

=====

NAME: _____ Your Age: _____
 Email: _____
 Pet Species (cat, dog, fish, etc): _____ Breed: (Collie, Persian, etc): _____
 Pet's Age: _____ Sex: _____ Color: _____

I do NOT wish to receive emails about other Spring Road events
 (Optional) My pet will perform the following trick- 1 trick per pet, please: _____

On or before May 12, bring your entry blanks to:
 DeVries Animal Hospital (528 Spring Rd) or
 BMO Harris Bank (1121 S. York Rd.)
 FAX to 630-530-3570, or email to: SpringRoadPetParade@gmail.com
 After May 12, bring entry blanks to: parade starting point
 (THE SILVERADO GRILL 447 S. Spring Rd.)



Softball (Continued from page 17)

work in the circle. Gianna has been very consistent in the circle and has hit very well when she gets at-bats. Madison, since becoming primarily a drag bunter, has raised her average about .300 points. She's a true threat to get on base each at-bat."

Mello also has been pleased with the work of recent junior-varsity call-up Alyssia Russo. "Alyssia has contributed as a courtesy runner and also at shortstop to let Isa get some rest."

As of late last week, Fenton had 10 regular-season games remaining, in-

cluding five MSC Red games. "We're looking to continue to improve each game and have the girls peaking at the right time for regionals. Weather permitting, we really like the way the games are scheduled for the final two weeks. It will allow for a few good practices before regionals."

Fenton had a full slate of games scheduled this week against Guerin Prep, Addison Trail and Elmwood Park, as well as Chicago Christian (today) and St. Edward (Friday at home).

