

## SPORTS

JULY 4, 2019 • 15



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS The Independent/Vista Park Review

## Athletics prevail in Minor title game

The Athletics defeated the Rays 7-1 in Saturday's Villa Park Youth Baseball Association Minor Division championship game at Lions Field. One photo (left) from the game shows Aubry Raffan of the Athletics firing a pitch. Another photo (middle) shows Nick

Bostian of the Rays on the mound. Lincoln Jakubowski (right) of the Athletics is pictured running toward first base after connecting for a run-scoring hit. Dylan Borkowski (bottom left) is shown celebrating after the Athletics recorded the final out.



## Addison Trail graduate Little takes over Blazers' girls basketball program

Previously coached in boys and girls programs

By Mike Mizaga  
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail didn't have to look very far at all for its new girls basketball coach.

Cory Little, an Addison Trail graduate and a longtime coach in both the girls and boys programs, is the Blazers' new head girls basketball coach, taking over for longtime coach Rob Schader, who stepped down after a strong 13-year run in the program.

Little coached in the girls program for eight years and the last three in the boys program. He was a varsity assistant boys coach for a year and boys sophomore head coach for two years.

"I have always wanted to be a head coach," Little told the Independent. "I wanted to have my own philosophy and my own program. I worked with Rob (Schader) and Brendan (Addison Trail boys head coach Lyons) and watched them establish and run their programs. I wanted the same opportunity for myself."

Little counts Schader, Lyons and current Hinsdale Central boys coach and former Driscoll boys head coach Nick Latorre as key influencers and

mentors in his coaching career. "I look up to Nick as a head coach," said Little. "I watched him prepare and develop kids. It opened up my eyes. I also watched Rob develop a lot of kids and during that time had the opportunity to coach my sister there. Brendan Lyons is a breakdown guy who can take things from ground-zero to 100 miles an hour. Both Rob and Brendan get the best out of the kids who go to Addison Trail. I watched them break down film and get the absolute best out of those kids."

Little played at Addison Trail and then at UIC under coach Jimmy Collins before embarking on a professional career overseas. He graduated from Addison Trail in 1997.

"I want to give back to these girls and give them the same opportunities that were given to me by my coaches," he said. "I want to build a team and a team environment. I want them to have the same love playing for me as I had playing for my coaches."

As far as Little's coaching philosophy? "What they can expect from me is a dedicated coach who will work hard for the girls," he said. "I will push the girls to be their best and there will be a leader and not just a vocal one. I'll be out there showing

them how to do things. If I can't do it, I don't expect them to do it. When parents walk in the gym and see their child playing for me they will see the love, trust, understanding and values I have for these girls. They will be taught life lessons. This will be a community program. I want to see the love and the smiles when they are playing and not going out there and worrying about producing. This isn't just Addison Trail's program, this is the community's program. I want this to be one big family that is going to grow and develop."

Little noted Addison Trail moved all its summer games to the high school, following a similar path like the boys program does. The Blazers previously played in the Palatine summer league.

"We have changed some things up," said Little. "They are learning some new things. I'm a big stickler on development and I felt the girls needed more skill development and to learn how the program is going to be run before we go all-out in games."

Addison Trail played Willowbrook, Oak Park-River Forest and Fenton in the first week of camp and

See LITTLE, Page 18

# Elmhurst American Legion 17U team defeats Manhattan

IC Catholic Prep's O'Brien throws seven-inning complete game in 15U Muddogs victory over Burlington

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

The Elmhurst American Legion Post 187 17U team recorded a come-from-behind 11-7 win over the Manhattan Badgers in a recent game played in Bourbonnais.

Elmhurst led 4-0 in the first in-

ning only to have Manhattan answer with seven runs in the top of the second inning. Elmhurst then scored two in the bottom of the frame and tacked on five more in the third.

Aldo Flores Jr. had a hit and walked twice. Andrew Zwolins-

ki had two hits, a run scored and an RBI. Jose Perez had a hit, two runs scored, three RBI and a walk. Jack Ryan had three hits, two runs scored and two RBI. Julius Sanchez had a hit and a run scored. Ricky Saucedo had a hit. Michael Hilgart had two hits and scored two runs.

Abraham Otero had a hit and a run scored. Kyle Mitchell had two hits and scored a run. Jack Klein walked twice. Perez doubled, while Sanchez, Perez and Hilgart each stole two bases.

Flores Jr. was the winning pitcher. He struck out three and allowed only one earned run in 3 1/3 innings of work. Saucedo pitched the final 1 2/3 innings and struck out two to record the save.

Elmhurst also lost a 13-1 game to the Schaumburg Seminoles National team in Bourbonnais. Perez had the team's only hit. DeSimone, Zwolinski and Flores Jr. each walked once. Sanchez took the loss. Jack Ryan pitched an inning and struck out two.

In earlier action, Post 187 lost 11-2 to Wheaton Post 76 at Redmond Park in Bensenville. Elmhurst was limited to five hits.

Flores Jr. had two hits, scored two runs and walked once. Jake Galanis had a hit and an RBI. Mitchell had a hit. DeSimone walked once. Otero had a hit. Galanis' hit was a double. Flores Jr. stole two bases. Galanis took the loss on the mound.

Post 187 was 3-7-1 overall through late last week. Elmhurst returns to action at the Wheaton Legion Classic July 12 at Pfund Stadium in Carol Stream.

## Post 187 15U Muddogs

The Elmhurst Post 187 Muddogs 15U team recorded a 7-4 win over

the Burlington Merchants at Htage Park in Wheeling.

Elmhurst scored four runs in top of the seventh en route to come-from-behind win after tting 4-3 late.

George O'Brien had two and scored a run. Oscar Torres three hits, scored three runs, two RBI and walked once. J Marshall had a hit and a run scored. Will Ryan had a hit and a scored. Riley Corbin had a hit two RBI. Jace Klein had an I and a walk. Jayden Ayala had a scored and a walk. Corbin doub while Torres tripled and stole th bases. O'Brien stole two bases.

O'Brien was the winning pitc He threw a seven-inning comp game, allowing only six hits, one earned run while striking three.

The Muddogs also lost 11-4 the Fox Valley Freedom at Herit Park in Wheeling.

Elmhurst led 1-0 after a half ning and then scored three run the fifth inning. Elmhurst had th hits and made five errors. Sanc was 1-for-3 with a run scored. N shall had a hit, as did Corbin, I also scored a run and had two R Matthew Maziarka, Damian Pac co and Ayala (1 run scored) e walked. Corbin and Sanchez e had a double and Marshall sto base. Maziarka took the loss.

Post 187 was 2-12-1 through last week

## • Little (Continued from page 15)

then played Willowbrook, Elk Grove and Beecher the second week.

"I'm super-excited to embark on this journey," said Little. "The program excitement is there. They want to go out there and play. Next year we may do something even more different and embark on a month-long shootout on Tuesdays and Thursdays just like the boys do. The more we play the better we're going to get. This summer, we focused more on skills development and getting them more comfortable and then actually getting out there and physically seeing it themselves. They did that by getting in the gym and doing drill, drill, drill and work, work, work. They want to get to the gym early and they want to stay after and get more shots in. I felt a sense of urgency and development came out of this camp. They want to put in more work."

Little also is excited about his

coaching staff that includes Leane Williams (AT graduate and a former WNBA player), Kendrick Thomas (AT grad), Ryan Dini (last year's sophomore coach) and Jenn Schulmeister (former Addison Trail girls basketball player). "We have a great staff in place that will be there to support and develop the players," he said. "Leane's basketball mind is unbelievable and her basketball pedigree speaks for itself."

Little was pleased with what he saw from the likes of varsity veterans Demi Koulogeorgas, Quiana Birmingham, Mia Johnson and Ally Severino. "Demi's whole mindset with the game has totally changed," said Little. "Quiana, we call her 'Q' was on the varsity as a freshman last year. Ally was a sophomore on coach Ryan Dini's team and is going to be one of our best inside-outside threats, and Mia's whole game has adjusted. She's running the floor and is going to be a threat. Those four, in particular,

have mastered the concept of extra work pays off, and they have taken things to the next level. The girls want more reps. They want to develop and get better. It's not just the varsity girls. The sophomores have caught some eyes. They want to do it. The whole program believes in what we are doing and they are having fun developing. They are grasping what I want in the program. They are leading and guiding and taking it to another level. If they can adapt to that, it's going to carry over to October where they believe they can knock down shots.

"We didn't preach wins and losses this summer. I told them not to worry about missing shots. Worry about locking things down on defense. If you miss a shot, shoot it again. That's how they are going to get confidence. This is all exciting for them. There is excitement throughout the program. I think we can do some great things coming up."

## Elmhurst Youth Baseball Little League



Team 14U placed 2nd In State

## FALL REGISTRATION FOR 2019 IS NOW OPEN

Online Registration open at [www.eybaseball.org](http://www.eybaseball.org)



## York Township honors Villa Park resident, World War II veteran

Villa Park resident Peter Kurasz recently visited York Township Hall to see the "Remember When" display in his honor commemorating his service in the United States Navy during World War II and again for the Korean War.

Peter Kurasz joined the United States Navy in June of 1943, 10 days before his 21st birthday. He served as a MM3c, Machinist's Mate 3rd Class, in the engine room on the converted light cruiser ship USS Langley (CVL-27) overseas in the Pacific during World War II.

Peter was honorably discharged in November of 1945 after the war was won. He came home to his lovely wife

Marian and went on to have 2 children before being called back into the Navy in 1950.

In 1950, he served on the battleship USS New Jersey (BB-62) for seven months during the Korean War, and was again honorably discharged from the Navy to come home to his wife who was carrying their third child.

After his brave and honorable service, Peter worked for Sargent & Lundy Engineers, building power plants for 30 years before he retired. Shortly after Peter turned 80 and after many years in retirement, he began working at Courts Plus in Elmhurst. He continued to work for another 15 years and now he still goes about twice a week

to do his workouts.

He was married for 53 years and has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Peter received the American Theater Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with 9 Service Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with 2 Service Stars, and a World War II Victory Medal.

York Township Supervisor John W. Valle said, "York Township is proud of Peter Kurasz, and we just wanted to express our gratitude for his service to our country by honoring him in our 'Remember When' display at Township Hall."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Villa Park Review

York Township Supervisor John W. Valle and World War II veteran Peter Kurasz, who lives in Villa Park.



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From left to right: Deirdra Lumpkin, Elmhurst Hospital (EH); Colin Dalough, Edward-Elmhurst Health; Andrea White, EH; Lt. Brandon Mitsuka, Villa Park Fire Department (VPFD); Andrew Fillipp, VPFD; Melissa Lund, EH; and Brian Morrice, VPFD. Not pictured: Frank Reposh, VPFD.

### Elmhurst Hospital's EMS awards 'Run of the Month' for January, 2019, to Villa Park Fire Department

Villa Park Fire Department crew members were recognized for their care on Jan. 22 of a 76-year-old woman who was having difficulty breathing.

Using cardiac monitoring, paramedics determined the woman was experiencing an abnormal heart rhythm. She was taken to the Elmhurst Hospital Emergency Department for further treatment and was discharged from Elmhurst Hospital in good condition six days later.

In the "Run of the Month" program, Elmhurst Hospital's EMS Team reviews ambulance runs

by pre-hospital providers and selects one to be recognized based on the following criteria:

- Excellent communication from the field that resulted in the timely delivery of pertinent clinical information to the Elmhurst Hospital ED staff;
- Clear and thorough documentation;
- Superior clinical assessment skills that resulted in accurate recognition of a clinical situation;
- Behavior exceeding the call of duty in the field;
- Superior partnership and teamwork with Elmhurst Hospital.

### Willowbrook student selected to serve as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders

From June 23 to 25, Willowbrook student Mya Love Griesbaum (class of 2022) served as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.



Mya Love Griesbaum

The Congress took place in Massachusetts and is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields.

The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who

aspire to be physicians or medical scientists to stay true to their dream, and, after the event, to provide path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

During the Congress, Griesbaum joined students from throughout the country and heard Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about lead medical research; was given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

Read more at <https://www.dage88.net/site/page/11015>.

### • Calendar (Continued from page 9)

Velous Mornings will return to the Villa Park Public Library storytime schedule in May. Young children of all ages and their adults are invited to join library staff for stories, songs, and activities, including a "make and take" project to enjoy together. Sessions will be held at the library on Saturdays July 6 and 20; and Aug. 3 and 17 from 11-11:45 a.m. Registration is not required. For more information, visit the library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or call 630-834-1164.

#### Annual Summer Reading Program under way

Everyone can have a reading experience that is out of this world with the 2019 Summer Reading Program at the Villa Park Public Library. This year's theme is A Universe of Stories. Sign-up is under way. The program will continue through Friday, Aug. 2. All summer long, the library is offering a variety of activities and incentives for everyone from babies to seniors. Summer Reading is easy, fun and open to everyone. For more information, visit the library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or call 630-834-1164.

#### Library hosts weekly storytime for toddlers

The Villa Park Public Library will

present weekly Toddler Time sessions this summer. Toddlers who are walking can enjoy stories, musical activities, rhyming games and playtime. Parents can choose between two weekly sessions: Mondays, through July 29, at the Community Recreation Building (320 E. Wildwood St.) or Thursdays through Aug. 1 at the Depot at Co Park (320 E. Kenilworth Ave.). Sessions are from 10:15 to 10:45. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Siblings are welcome to attend as well. Registration for this weekly storytime is required. For more information, visit the library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or call 630-834-1164.

#### Library presents creative science program for children

The Villa Park Public Library holds Creative Science: Bouncy B this summer. Children ages 5 to 8 experiment with mixing ingredients to make a bouncy ball and see the science of springing spheres in space. As they may get a bit messy, attendees are encouraged to dress for a mess.

Registration is required for Wednesday, July 17 session from 3 p.m. For more information, visit library's website at [vppl.info](http://vppl.info) or call 630-834-1164.

# IHSA releases 2019 football schedules

**Warriors kick off their season with an Aug. 30 home game against Providence Catholic**

By Chris Fox  
STAFF REPORTER

The IHSA released the 2019 football schedules last week. Willowbrook, which has advanced to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs in each of the last three seasons, will open the upcoming campaign with an Aug. 30 non-conference home game against Providence Catholic. The Warriors will play their second game of the season at Oak Park/River Forest on Sept. 6. Willowbrook did not face Providence Catholic or Oak Park/River Forest last season.

The Warriors will play all nine of their regular season games on Friday nights. Each game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Willowbrook, which has not lost a West Suburban Gold Conference game since 2016, will open the 2019 conference season with a Sept. 13 home game against Downers Grove South. The Warriors' conference season

will continue with a Sept. 20 game at Leyden, followed by a Sept. 27 conference home battle against District 88 rival Addison Trail.

Willowbrook will play a conference game at Hinsdale South on Oct. 4. The Warriors will return home to play York of the West Suburban Silver Conference on Oct. 11. Willowbrook will play a conference game at Morton on Oct. 18. The Warriors will wrap up the regular season with an Oct. 25 home game against Proviso East.

The Warriors posted perfect 6-0 conference records to win undisputed West Suburban Gold titles in both 2017 and 2018. Willowbrook produced an unblemished 9-0 regular season record in 2018. The Warriors then won two home playoff games to advance to the IHSA Class 7A quarterfinals. Willowbrook played a memorable game at Batavia in the quarterfinal round. The Warriors rallied from behind to take the lead late in the fourth quarter. Batavia tied the game in the closing seconds of regulation and went on to beat the Warriors 34-27 in overtime.

Batavia then lost to Nazareth Academy—the eventual Class 7A state champion—in the semifinals.



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Independent/Villa Park Review

## Winning Wildcats

The Villa Park Wildcats 10-U softball team produced an undefeated 2019 season that included an 11-0 win over the Bensenville Diamond Divas in the Five Star Softball League's 10-U championship game. Members of the Wildcats (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Vivian Zachar and Megan Radak; (middle row) Abby Schroeder, Delaney Smrz, Anna Kingsbury and Samantha Rennie; (third row) Natalie Quigley, Lilly Zachar, Megan Abbott, Aleena McNamara, Marli Smrz and Mae Luebke; (back row) assistant coach Sean Radak, head coach John Smrz and assistant coach Scott Rennie.

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