

Willowbrook boys cagers hard at work on the hardwood this summer

Warriors make progress during 50 plus game slate

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

As usual, the Willowbrook boys basketball team packed plenty into its summer session.

Coach Chris Perkins noted the Warriors played in the neighborhood of 55 games this summer. In addition to playing in the summer league at Riverside-Brookfield, Willowbrook played in shootouts at Oswego East, Plainfield East, Batavia and hosted its own shootout before ending up at the NCAA live recruiting period event hosted by Ridge-wood High School.

"We've had a pretty good summer," said Perkins. "I would say we've done alright. We don't keep track of records, but we've won

more than we lost. It's a long grind, but we've seen a lot of progress."

Perkins said the goal of the summer session is to get a good handle on the future, namely the upcoming 2019-2020 season. "We are figuring out what next year could look like," he said. "The guys are coming together, forming their identity and creating chemistry. They are establishing something we can build off for this next season. We're getting guys acclimated to new roles for next season."

Perkins noted Willowbrook's approach will not be a big departure from this past season. "Our style is going to be similar to last year," he said. "We will be undersized, but fast and athletic. We are going to

play to our strengths—you have to."

Willowbrook graduated four starters from last year's squad, but Perkins has watched plenty of contributors show what they can do this summer. That group includes the likes of Everett Stubblefield Jr., Sam Tumilty, Jeremiah Robinson, Sam Bruns, Isaac Gaines and Jalen Flowers.

"We have some good shooters off the dribble than just catch-and-shoot guys," Perkins explained. "Defensively, we have been coming along. We have been able to scrap and create opportunities for ourselves with our defense."

Perkins noted Willowbrook played in a total of two NCAA live recruiting period events where

college coaches can be present, a new wrinkle in the summer season. Willowbrook hosted one of those events.

"It's no different for the players other than there are college coaches there to watch," he said. "It's a good opportunity for our players. A lot of them get this opportunity in AAU basketball, now they are getting it with high school."

Willowbrook is coming off a 2018-2019 season where it went 17-14 overall and finished third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division. Among the graduation losses for the Warriors was 1,000-plus-career-point scorer Matt Masys.

The Warriors' freshman team won 21 games and went unbeaten en route to a WSC Gold title.

Cheer camp at Willowbrook next week

Registration available on the first day

The Willowbrook High School cheerleading program will hold its 2019 Junior Warrior Cheer Camp at the school next week. The camp, which is for children in kindergarten through eighth grade, will take place daily from July 15-19. Each session runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

All friends and family members of the campers are invited to attend the performance at 5:30 p.m. on July 19. The campers will show what they learned throughout the week.

The campers will join Willowbrook's cheerleaders to perform during halftime of a Warriors' varsity football game in the upcoming fall season.

The fee for the camp is \$75 per child. Registration is available on the first day of the camp. A parent must be present to fill out a waiver.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
The Independent/Villa Park Review

Skills competition champion

Kate Borho of the 8-U Owls won the 8-U softball skills competition during the Villa Park Youth Baseball and Softball Association's All-Star Weekend, which took place June 28-30. One photo shows Kate during the competition. She is also pictured with Coach Bruce Turpin.



Successful stretch for Elmhurst Post 187 American Legion baseball team

Muddogs take twin bill from Lake Geneva Post 24

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Elmhurst American Legion Post 187 baseball team had a successful recent run, going 3-0 against the Chicago Pirates and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

The three wins moved Post 187 to 8-5-1 overall.

After a 6-5 win over the Chicago Pirates, Post 187 headed north to Badger High School in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin where it swept a doubleheader from Lake Geneva Post 24.

In an 11-0 five-inning win in the opener, Elmhurst scored five in the first, two more runs in the second and four in the fifth.

Ian Stezorth had a run scored and two walks. Ryan Malek also scored a run and walked twice. AJ Parnell had two hits, a run scored and two RBI. Jack Enright had a hit, a run scored and an RBI.

Tim Bowbin had a hit, two runs scored, an RBI and a walk. Connor Gwaltney had a hit, two runs scored, two RBI and a walk. Tim Beecroft had a hit, a run scored and an RBI. Dave Sykora finished with a hit, a run scored and two RBI. Adam Parat had a hit and a run scored, while Jimmy O'Donnell had a hit, two RBI and a walk.

Elmhurst had nine hits in the game. Gwaltney, Enright and O'Donnell each doubled. Gwaltney stole two bases.

Ken Slepicka, an Oak Park Fenwick product, was the winning pitcher. He threw a five-inning shutout, allowing only two hits. He threw 41 of 55 pitches for walks and threw a first-pitch strike to 13 of the 17 batters he faced. He struck out five and walked none and faced two batters over the minimum.

The Muddogs took the nightcap by a 5-1 count. Elmhurst scored a run in the first and plated three more in the fourth and one in the sixth.

Stezorth, a York graduate, had two hits, two RBI and walked once out of the leadoff spot. Parnell had a hit and a run scored. Enright was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Bowbin walked twice and scored a run. Gwaltney had a hit, two runs scored and walked twice. Beecroft had a run scored and walked twice. O'Donnell had an RBI and walked once. Gwaltney, Stezorth and Enright each had a double.

Parnell was the winner for the Muddogs. He went five innings and allowed only four hits, while striking out two. Stezorth pitched the final two innings and struck out one.

Post 187 was slated for a busy beginning of the week with contests against Mt. Prospect Post 525 (Monday, at Plunkett in Elmhurst), Barrington Post 158 (at Barrington High School Tuesday) and Beloit, Wisconsin Post 48 at Puhman Field in Beloit, home to the Class A Beloit Snappers (Wednesday).

Post 187 is slated to open the 11th District American Legion playoffs, the week of July 15 at the Carol Stream Legion Post 76 baseball stadium. Carol Stream also is hosting the 2nd Division playoffs. The state playoffs will be hosted by Barrington.

Fenton girls basketball team prepares for future

Coach Mello pleased with how summer session unfolded

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton girls basketball team graduated nine seniors off last year's team, meaning the recently completed summer session was extra important for coach Dave Mello's program.

Fenton played in the Montini summer league over in Lombard and took part in shootouts at Addison Trail and Oswego.

"In terms of wins and losses, we haven't done well," said Mello. "However, we only run one team with all grade levels on it, and we play varsity teams. We are hoping to grow the summer program a little more next year and have a varsity team and a

lower-level team."

More importantly, Mello was pleased with the development he saw during June. "What impressed me the most is they really have listened to us about not worrying about the scoreboard and just go out and work on the things we need to work on," he said. "The effort level has been really good."

Mello also liked the pace at which the newer players in the program have grasped various concepts. "We have really started to see the younger girls and other girls who are new to varsity, begin to understand how the system works," he explained. "Last summer we struggled to get the games at our pace, and that hasn't been much of an issue this summer."

Mello said all improvement cards are still on the table. "We can still get better at everything," he said. "We

graduated nine seniors so we will be working a lot of new girls into the rotations during the season. We can really improve in all aspects of the game."

On the individual front, junior Brianna Tellez is up from the Bison JV team. "Brianna probably has the best shot of anyone in the program," said Mello. "She has really picked up what we are trying to do. She had some really good games this summer. She has good length, which helps her on the press and with rebounding. She will play a very important role on the team this season."

Sophomore Hailey Miller is back with the team after being on the varsity as a freshman last year. "Hailey was on the team last season and played a lot, however her older sister, Mackenzie, also was on the team and was one of our leaders," Mello said. "Hailey has really stepped up this summer

both as a leader and as a player. We have been able to move her to a wing more this summer, and her shooting has really progressed. She always plays hard and will give us whatever we need. She will have a big sophomore year, and is well on her way to having a great career at Fenton."

Another promising player is sophomore Sophia Haska, whose summer, Mello noted, was cut short due to injury. "However, when she was playing, she was a force down low with solid post moves and just pure

strength. She also is able to set and bind the 3-point line and knock 3s. To make it even better, she can handle the ball, which allow to play anywhere on the court for

Mello noted the chief goal to get the newer players rolling, comfortable with the Bison way, goal coming into the summer to acclimate all the new girls to our team and get them game experience. "We feel we will start on 4 with a good understanding of what we can do."

*Addison Trail athletic teams get it done in classroom

Blazers register nearly 120 all-academic selections for 2018-2019 seasons

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail athletic teams had a strong showing in the classroom this past school year.

The Blazers had nearly 120 all-conference academic selections for the 2018-2019 campaigns.

In the recently completed spring season, baseball players Nick Daudelin, Vince Daudelin, Lucas Hernandez, Josh Meglio, Michael Scali, Terry Thompson and Nick Zucero earned all-academic honors.

Vince Daudelin and Scali were named to the all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division team for their efforts on the diamond.

In boys gymnastics, Eric Estrada earned all-academic conference honors, while Jacob Bastian, Estrada, Caleb Michaliska and Mateusz Mojdak were all-WSC Gold picks.

Giada Alessi, Lucia Fullone and Valerie Soto earned all-WSC Gold honors in girls soccer.

On the softball field, Maddie Biancalana, Samantha Bucher, McKenna Gayon, Sophia Hawkins and Bella Provinzino were all-academic selections. Valentina Pentrelli and Anna Ruffolo were all-WSC Gold picks.

For boys track, Randy Almarales, Noe Alvarez, Ricardo Arreguin, Oscar Dominguez, Cesar Herrera, Pablo Moseley, Dip Patel, Lukas Rodriguez, Giovanni Rojas, Sergio Serna, Christopher Trujillo and Josiah Varghese were all-academic selections. Heirera and Dylan Moran were all-WSC Gold picks for their track and field performances.

For girls track, Stephanie Avila, Lizbeth Balbuena, Kate Diego, Maddie Ford, Alaisia Hunt, Mia Johnson, Maggie O'Connell, Viviana Sanfilippo, Francesca Scarabaggio, Paulina

Stachura, Julia Swierzb and Juliana Tamayo were named to the all-WSC Gold team.

In boys volleyball, John Daniels, Joseph Mosny, Nicholas Nastl, Robert Ruffolo, Machael Tulke and Justin Werderitch were named to the all-academic team, while Mosny, Gianfranco Patano and Werderitch were named to the all-WSC Gold team.

Winter Season

During the winter sports season, Brenda Berumen, Angelina Carreiras, Joanna Garay, Serena Gilliam, Karime Martinez and Natalie Obrzut were named to the all-academic team. Gilliam was an all-WSC Gold selection.

In boys basketball, John Baumgartner, Daniels, George Papanicolaou, Adem Mehmeti, K'Vhon Pounds, Thompson and Werderitch were named to the all-academic team. Daniels was an all-WSC Gold selection.

For the Blazettes, Magdalena Roguszewska was named to the all-academic team.

For bowling, Yvette Beltran and Claudia Herrera were all-academic honorees.

In girls gymnastics, Delaney Gregory, Madalyn Rumps and Scarbaggio were all-WSC Gold picks.

In boys swimming, Evan Zimmerman was an all-academic choice, while Marco Chaidez, Michal Niemirski and Zimmerman were all-WSC Gold selections.

In wrestling, Christian Arellano and Brian Reyes were all-academic selections. John Asiuaras, Guillermo Juarez, Jake Matthews, Eric Reed, Reyes, Xavier Sierra, Nick Skamra and Adam Skrzpek were all-WSC Gold picks. Juarez and Matthews were state qualifiers.

Fall Season

For the 2018 fall season, Balbuena, Melissa Bouharati, Melisa Castro, Natalie Diaz, Marie Eddy, Mercedes Lopez, Nileena Mahesh, Claudia Molina, Alex Nava and Sanfilippo were named to the all-academic team. San-

filippo was an all-WSC Gold selection.

In boys cross country, Almarales, Patel and Josiah Varghese were all-academic selections with Almarales also earning all-WSC Gold honors.

For football, Daniels, Nick Daudelin, Kevin Catano, Vince Daudelin, Hernandez, Meglio, Moseley, Nastl, Pounds and Alex Sakleh were all-academic selections. AJ Carlson, Daniels and Nick Daudelin were all-WSC Gold choices. Daniels was an all-state selection.

In boys golf, Aleksander Grabowski, Blaise Morris and Rob Ruffolo were all-academic selections.

For girls golf, Anna Tracz, Megan Reed, Ilic Karafil, Demetra Paphos, Jillian Marshall, Maggie O'Connell and Rachael DeGuzman were all-academic picks.

In boys soccer, Melvin Mora, Eduardo Huerta, Samuel Sandoval, Luis Silva, Rodriguez, Axel Valbuena, Trujillo, Miguel DelaTorre and Luis Medina were all-academic picks. Mora, Huerta, Sandoval, Julio Agusta, Anthony Hernandez and Martin Murillo were all-WSC Gold choices.

For girls swimming, Carly Zaprzal, Nancy Obrzut, Natalie Obrzut, Gayon, Suzzane Ramirez and Nell Pawlowski were all-WSC Gold selections.

In girls tennis, Nicole Porter, Wenyuan Zhang, Beltran and Gabby Bonilla were all-academic picks.

Nina Muell, Sam Pocietca and Hawkins were all-academic in girls volleyball with Muell and Jessica D'Ambrose earning all-WSC Gold honors.

In terms of fall athletes, Sanfilippo was a two-time all-conference pick on girls cross country. Morris was a four-time all-conference boys golfer, Mora was a two-time all-WSC Gold pick in boys soccer along with Huerta. Nancy Obrzut was a two-time all-conference swimmer, while D'Ambrose was a two-time all-conference girls volleyball player, as was Muell.

Concerns linger over new ownership at Rivers Casino

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Kentucky-based Churchill Downs Inc. has completed its \$326 million acquisition of a majority stake in Rivers Casino in Des Plaines despite state gambling regulators concerns that the new ownership group does not include enough women and minorities.

The Illinois Gaming Board gave its initial approval of the sale on March 1, pending the execution of final documents to seal the transaction. At the time, board members said they wanted Churchill Downs to make a "good faith effort" to bring in more women and minority investors over the next 90 days so they would comprise up to 10 percent of the ownership interest.

Gaming board officials confirmed the transaction was finalized June 4, despite the fact that there had been no stock sales to women and minority investors, something that had been a statutory condition of granting the original license in 2008 to a consortium that included Midwest Gaming and Entertainment LLC, Rush Street Gaming LLC, and a Canadian private equity firm, Clairvest Group Inc.

During a June 13 meeting in Chicago, Illinois Gaming Board Chairman Donald Tracy said that even though the deal had closed, he wanted the board to continue reviewing the transaction and to take up the issue again at the board's next meeting Aug. 1.

"And at that board meeting, I hope and expect the board to determine whether or not the ... Churchill Downs effort to sell up to 10 percent to statutory investors was a good faith effort or not," Tracy said.

Tracy made that comment during what turned out to be his final meeting as a member of the board. He has since resigned and Gov. J.B. Pritzker has accepted his resignation.

But it also came about two weeks after the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation, which Pritzker is expected to sign, authorizing the development of six new land-based casinos in Illinois, along with the legalization of sports wagering.

Rivers Casino is the state's largest and most profitable riverboat casino. In 2018, according to the Gaming Board's most recent annual report, it reported gross revenues of \$441 million, generating \$170 million in revenue for the state, plus another

\$25 million in revenue for local governments.

History of Rivers Casino

Rivers, however, is actually a successor to one of the state's or 10 riverboat casinos, Silver Casino, which was located in Dubuque on the Mississippi. It closed in 1997, but its name is known at the time as HP Inc. retained the license.

In 1999, amid heavy lobbying HP, Illinois lawmakers passed legislation authorizing the casino to come to Cook County. That legis also required that women and minority shareholders make up a 20 percent of the ownership in the enterprise.

Around that time, HP changed name to Emerald Casino Inc., began making plans to develop a riverboat casino in Rosemont. It Emerald even began construction of the project before the Gaming Board had approved it, which involved bringing in new investors, including some that the Gaming Board had to have ties with organized crime.

As a result, the Gaming Board revoked Emerald's license in January 2001, a decision that was later held by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Two years later, the General Assembly passed a law authorizing the Gaming Board to reissue a license through a kind of a process. Eventually, in December 2008, the board accepted a proposal from Midwest Gaming, in large part because of its plan for bringing minority and female investors.

That decision came at the height of the Great Recession when the financial industry in the United States was on the brink of collapse.

Neil Bluhm, chairman of Midwest Gaming, told the regulatory board March that in order to finance the project, his company recruited a Canadian private equity firm, Clairvest Group Inc.

"Clairvest has been a good partner, but they're a private equity firm," Bluhm said. "As such, they're not on having a provision in our partnership agreement that after five years of opening, Clairvest could sell the property, the entire portfolio. Like most private equity firms, they needed to sell at some point to a profit, show a good (internal) return for its institutional investors. They were not long-term investors like we are."

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District 88 shares important information regarding registration for 2019-20 school year

It's almost time to register students for the 2019-20 school year, which will begin on Aug. 14.

Below is important information regarding the registration process, and specific details will be mailed home to parents/guardians.

Online pre-registration open on July 15

Online pre-registration will open on July 15 and must be completed before coming in to register students. Details regarding the online pre-registration process will be mailed home. Willowbrook will be open during the times/dates listed below for those who need computer and Internet access.

- 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. from July 15 to 18;
- 7:30 a.m. to noon on July 19;
- Class of 2020 registration: 8 to 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 5 (specific times by last name will be mailed home);
- Class of 2023 registration: 8 to 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 6 (specific times by last name will be mailed home);
- Class of 2022 registration: 8 to 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 7 (specific times by last name will be mailed home);

- Class of 2021 registration: 8 to 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 8 (specific times by last name will be mailed home);
- Evening registration (for all classes): 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Aug. 8
- Late registration (for all classes): 8 to 11:45 a.m. on Aug. 9 and 10.

For questions regarding registration, contact Willowbrook Assistant Principal Bob Daly at rdaly@dupage88.net or 630-530-3441.

Residency verification

District 88 will continue to implement its residency verification process to ensure the district can maximize its resources for families who reside within District 88 boundaries.

Residency verification must be completed for all incoming freshmen, new students and transfer students before registering for the 2019-20 school year. To access the residency verification form in various languages, go to www.dupage88.net/Residency.

Willowbrook will be open to process/assist with residency verification from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday in July; 7:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays in July.

Textbook purchases

District 88 continues to research ways to reduce expenses for families, while maintaining a stable budget and a high-quality educational experience for students. As part of that effort, the district will maintain the practice of using federal grant money to buy classroom sets of textbooks that have been identified as high cost. The goal is to help control the expense of textbooks to better support families financially.

Addison Trail and Willowbrook will still provide a list of textbooks for each class, so parents/guardians have the option to buy their student his or her own copy of that book through the school bookstore or from an outside vendor.

To view the 2019-20 booklist for Willowbrook, go to www.dupage88.net/WBBooklist2019-20.

For financial assistance with textbooks, contact Willowbrook Assistant Principal Bob Daly at rdaly@dupage88.net or 630-530-3441.

Chromebooks

District 88 will provide an update regarding the delivery model for in-

structional technology that was implemented in 2018-19 with the class of 2022.

Starting this fall, all students will have access to a Chromebook. On March 11, the District 88 Board of Education approved funds to buy Chromebooks for the class of 2023 and the class of 2021. This funding will be used to provide each student in those two classes with a Chromebook for in-school and out-of-school use.

Members of the class of 2022 will continue to use the Chromebooks they received during the 2018-19 school year. The district will assign students in the class of 2020 with Chromebooks to use through the end of their senior year.

Freshmen, juniors and seniors will receive their device during registration. A letter with full details will be mailed home.

For questions or more information about District 88's delivery model for instructional technology, contact District 88 Director of Technology, Teaching and Learning Dr. Aaron Lenaghan at alenaghan@dupage88.net or 630-782-3133.

Willowbrook principal named 2019-20 president of the Illinois Principals Association

Willowbrook Principal Dr. Daniel Krause has been named as President of the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) for the 2019-20 school year.

Krause has been a member of the IPA since 2002. During his time with the association, he has served as President-Elect, member of the Board of Directors and member of the Membership Committee. Krause also has served the DuPage Region as State Director, Awards Chairperson and member of the State Superintendent's Principal Advisory Council.

Krause has been recognized by his peers as the 2013 DuPage County High School Principal of the Year by the IPA, a finalist for the 2016 Golden Apple Stanley C. Golder Leadership Award and the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel program.

"Dr. Krause's accomplishment of being named as President of the IPA is a prime example of how our administrators and staff members at District 88 go above and beyond to be engaged and involved in education and to make a positive difference for students," said Dr. Scott Helton, DuPage High School District 88 Superintendent. "Our mission at District 88 is to work for the continuous improvement of student achievement, and it's through the dedicated, passionate and creative leadership of team members like Dr. Krause that we're able to fulfill that mission. Through the years, his vision, experience and guidance have helped build futures for our pupils, and we're thrilled he will share his zeal for education on a broader scale with the IPA."

To read more about Krause and his new position, see a press release from the IPA at www.dupage88.net/KrauseIPAPresident.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS VIA Park Review



Celebrating the Fourth of July

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801's annual Fourth of July Parade in sunny and warm weather last week. Retired U.S. Army Major General James H. Mukoyama Jr. served as the grand parade marshal. He is pictured (above left) with Charlene Marie Boyles, the junior vice commander and chief of staff of Post 2801. A Chicago native, Mukoyama served as an infantry company commander in the Vietnam War. He also served during Operation Desert Storm. Mukoyama was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit and the Combat Infantry Badge. Another photo from the parade shows triplets (left to right) Halley, Alexa and Madelyn Held—age 6—wearing matching red, white and blue outfits. Their uncle, Jeff Brown, is a Villa Park firefighter/paramedic. Another Villa Park firefighter/paramedic—Andy Fillipp—dressed in patriotic attire and rode atop a parade float. Another photo shows members of the Willowbrook High School Marching Band on the parade route. One more picture (below left) shows longtime Post 2801 member Sid Bergh. A World War II veteran, Bergh has been involved in the post's annual Fourth of July Parade since 1966.



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Pom camp at Willowbrook *

CHRIS FOX PHOTO VIA Park Review

Willowbrook High School's pom team held its annual kids summer camp last week. The five-session camp concluded with Friday's performance for family and friends. Willowbrook's pom team will hold its Pink Out Kid Camp from Oct. 7-11. That camp, for kids ages 4-13, will offer sessions from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. from Oct. 7-10.

Campers will meet at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 to perform the Warrior Fight Song before the varsity football team's home game. The campers will join the varsity pom team to perform during halftime of the football game. For more information about the October camp, contact Willowbrook head coach, Maggie Lamb at mlamb@dupage88.net.

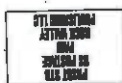
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SPORTS

Addison Trail boys * basketball team enjoys more summer home cooking

Blazers accomplished plenty between shootouts and camp days

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

As has been its custom in recent years, the Addison Trail boys basketball team parked it at home for the majority of its summer slate.

"We've been doing the same thing we've done the last six or seven years where we hosted a lot of shootouts at our place," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons.

Addison Trail also played at the Willowbrook shootout that was a live NCAA recruiting period event.

"We played about 27 games," said Lyons. "We also had 13 days of camp. That's more than enough for the summer. We started this concept about eight years ago where it was really small with these eight-team shootouts at our place where you play three games back-to-back-to-back."

"We did eight of those this summer. It's very convenient for us. We have a lot of guys on the team who do multiple sports. We get a lot of teams from around the Chicago metro area to come over. It ends up being

"We got a good feel for who can play at the varsity level. We were able to get a lot of information and see a lot of kids. This will give us a good idea of what we want to do come November."

— Coach Brendan Lyons

Junior Robert Roszkiewicz, who played up with the varsity last season, also was impressive. "Robert is our biggest guy at 6-6 and showed a lot of versatility playing down low and shooting the ball from the perimeter," said Lyons. "Robert, AJ and Alex really stood out for us shooting the basketball."

Lyons said the Blazers also experimented with different defenses this summer. "When you look at our lack of size and overall lack of height, we've been a man-to-man team here. In my 13 years we've been man-to-man probably 98 percent of the time," he explained. "We experimented with zone a little bit and got a good feel for what we can handle. It



CHRIS FOX PHOTO The Independent

Three longtime Mariners swim their final home meet

The Villa Park Mariners recognized their three outgoing swimmers during Saturday's regular-season finale against Roselle at Jefferson Pool. Pictured left to right are: Jack Burns, Kaitlyn Fox and Spencer Benedict. The three swimmers competed in their final home meet as Mariners on Saturday. Burns, who spent 12 seasons with the Mariners, graduated from Willowbrook High School earlier this year. He will soon attend the University of Iowa. Fox, who also graduated from Willowbrook this year, swam with the Mariners for 11 seasons. She will continue her academic and swimming careers at Monmouth College. Benedict, who recently graduated from St. Francis High School in Wheaton, spent eight seasons with the Mariners. He will continue his academic and swimming careers at Grove City College in Pennsylvania.

Fenton student-athletes rack up all-conference awards

Willowbrook girls basketball team concludes highly successful summer season

Warriors post 27 wins; Enjoy team camp at Grand Valley State University

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

A 27-7 record in any sporting endeavor falls into the superior category.

Willowbrook girls basketball coach Terry Harrell concurs with that assessment after his team posted that mark during the recently completed summer season.

"We played extremely well," he said. "We did lose our post player during the summer to injury, but we still played well despite having no size in the middle. Having a 27-7 record, I was really happy with what we did over the summer."

Willowbrook is returning three starters from last year's squad, plus

a fourth player who logged extensive minutes as well. "So that's four-fifths of our starting lineup going into this year. They played very well. I thought the whole team played well and everybody played well together. We have a nice junior class coming in that looked pretty good as well."

Willowbrook returns K'Aliyha Herron, Grace Tumilty, Stephanie Dasbach and Annemarie Knutson from last year's team. "Those four played a lot for us last year," said Harrell. "They all averaged more than 20 minutes of playing time a game."

Willowbrook's fifth starter in the summer was Olivia Sobieszczyk. "Olivia is a welcome addition," said Harrell. "She's suited for the big guard spot. She gets in there and uses her strength and rebounds. I feel confident where we are at right now

at this point. Hopefully everybody stays healthy. I thought we passed the ball very well as a team. In the first half of the summer we shot the ball very well. With the summer time, we're squeezing 35 games into 20 days. I thought we rebounded well for a smaller team and played great team defense. Those games in the summer are 36-40 minutes with running clocks. We're out there averaging 10 steals a game and we were really tough on the perimeter defensively."

Harrell isn't too concerned about the team's shooting dropping off at the end of the summer. "Hopefully our shot comes back," he said. "We were playing games at a pretty hectic pace there. One week we had 15 games."

Willowbrook competed in the Morris shootout and also hosted its

own shootout. As usual, the Warriors ventured to Grand Valley State in Michigan for a team camp. "Grand Valley State is a good opportunity to go up there and play against teams we don't normally see. It's different competition and different styles of play, and that makes the girls adjust. That camp is a good experience. It's good for team bonding. We go away to the campus and they put the girls in dorms with girls from the college team. My favorite part is the drive back from Grand Valley State because the girls act like a family. That bonding experience is very important."

The Warriors also did a one-day shootout down in Bradley and another at Loyola Academy. Willowbrook did not play in a summer league.

In addition to Sobieszczyk's contributions, Harrell also was happy

with the play from the likes of Hannah Guthrie, Abby Spada and Kenya Lewis.

"Hannah filled a big spot for us this summer," said Harrell. "Abby is a guard who is real quick, played great defensively and handled the ball well. Kenya is a small, quick guard who also is a good ball handler and defender. We saw marked improvement in a lot of kids such as returning players K'Aliyha Herron and Grace Tumilty, and it was great to see Annemarie Knutson take more shots. We played well together and I loved the overall improvement of the girls. It looked like the experience we had from last year will really help us this coming season. Our starting lineup is going to be very solid and we're working hard on improving our depth. I think we can be a good team this year."

Elmhurst American Legion 17U baseball team defeats Wheaton

Muddogs gearing up for 2nd Division tournament

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Elmhurst 17U American Legion baseball team returned to tournament play at the recent Wheaton Legion Classic held at Lee Pfund Stadium in Carol Stream.

Elmhurst opened play with an 8-3 win over host Wheaton Post 76.

The Muddogs then dropped a tough 18-0 decision to Moline Post 246. Moline scored six runs in the first and seven more in the third in-

ning. Michael Hilgart (IC Catholic Prep) had a hit, as did AJ Howard (ICCP). Nick DeSimone (Fenton), Andrew Zwolinski (IC Catholic Prep), Julius Sanchez and Jake Galanis each walked. Sanchez stole two bases. Kyle Mitchell (Fenton), Zwolinski and DeSimone pitched in the game.

Post 187 then lost 9-4 to Danville Post 210 in the Wheaton Classic. The game was knotted at 2-2 until Danville scored five runs in the bottom of the third and another in the bottom of the fourth to open things up.

Elmhurst had seven hits. Jack

Klein went 2-for-4 with two runs scored. DeSimone had a run scored and two walks. Galanis had an RBI. Marcos Montoya (Fenton) walked. Sanchez had two hits. Ricky Saucedo (Fenton) had a hit, a run scored and a walk. Abraham Otero (Fenton) had a hit and an RBI, while Victor Hyso (York) had a hit. Otero doubled, while Klein stole two bases. Galanis and Montoya pitched. The duo combined to strike out seven Danville batters.

The Muddogs also lost 11-0 to Ford County Post 432. Ford County scored four runs in the third and four

more runs in the fifth inning.

DeSimone walked in the game, as did Galanis. Saucedo had a hit. Damian Pacheco and Klein also each had a hit. Montoya stole a base. Saucedo and Hilgart pitched for Elmhurst, which sported a 4-11-1 record through late last week.

In earlier action, Elmhurst dropped a 6-1 game to the Manhattan Badgers at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee.


Manhattan led 3-0 until Elmhurst scored a run in the sixth inning. Manhattan added three runs in the seventh inning.


Jack Ryan (ICCP) and Klein each had a hit for Elmhurst. Hilgart and Ryan each drew walks. Zwolinski had an RBI. Hilgart stole two bases and Zwolinski had one steal.

Elmhurst now turns its attention toward the upcoming Illinois 2nd Division tournament hosted by Wheaton Post 76 at Pfund Stadium.

Elmhurst opens play on July 25 at 7:30 p.m. against Round Lake. The victor faces the winner of the Morris and Palos contest. The double-elimination tournament also features Wheaton and Steger and runs through July 28.

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

Elmhurst Post 187 splits pair of games

* Muddogs competing in 11th District tournament this week

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Elmhurst American Legion Post 187 baseball team split a pair of games ahead of its participation in the 11th District tournament, the annual start of the American Legion playoffs.

Elmhurst dropped a 3-0 decision to the Chicago Pirates at Plunkett Athletic Complex in Elmhurst. Chicago scored single runs in the second,

fourth and sixth innings.

Ryan Malek (IC Catholic Prep) had two hits in three trips to the plate. Connor Gwaltney (Timothy Christian) drew a walk. Dave Sykora (IC Catholic Prep), AJ Parnell (Addison Trail) and Jimmy O'Donnell (Leyden) each stole a base.

Sykora pitched the first four innings and allowed no earned runs, while striking out four. Tim Beecroft (Fenton) pitched the final three innings and struck out two.

Post 187 then recorded a 10-7 win over Beloit (Wisconsin) Post 48 in a game played at Pohlman Field in Beloit, the home of the Class A Beloit

Snappers minor-league baseball team (affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers).

The score was tied 1-1 through three innings before Elmhurst scored a run in the fifth and then five more in the sixth to take a 6-0 lead. The Muddogs added three more runs in the top of the seventh inning and held off a late Beloit rally. The game featured a total of 23 hits.

Ian Steinorth (York) had two hits, two runs scored and three RBI. Malek had three hits, two runs scored and two RBI. Parnell had a hit, a run scored and an RBI. Jack Enright (IC Catholic Prep) had two hits and an RBI. Tim Bowbin (York) had a hit, an

RBI and a run scored. Gwaltney had two hits. O'Donnell had a hit, scored three runs and walked twice. Beecroft scored two runs and walked twice.

Malek and O'Donnell each doubled, while Steinorth and Malek each hit a triple. Steinorth and Parnell each had a stolen base. Bowbin had a sacrifice fly.

Ken Slepicka (Fenwick) started and went three innings. He struck out two and allowed three hits. Parnell and Malek also pitched. Steinorth pitched the seventh and earned the save for Slepicka's victory.

Post 187 was in the midst of the 11th District tournament earlier this

week in Carol Stream, which is the American Legion playoffs. Elmhurst was one of four squads in tournament along with Wheaton 76, Elgin Post 57 and Steger 521. Elmhurst opened play against Wheaton.

The winner of the 11th District tournament advances to the 2nd vision tournament also hosted Wheaton Post 76 at Lee Pfund stadium in Carol Stream. Barrin Post 158 hosts this year's Depart tournament July 27-30. Post 93 of Charleston, Illinois is the host of year's Great Lakes Regional 7-11.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Independent



Ice cream social

The Villa Park Historical Society and the Villa Park Historical Preservation Commission sponsored an ice cream social at the Villa Park Historical Museum on July 3. In addition to ice cream, the event featured ponies, music, exhibits and a miniature train display. The attendees included (above-left to right) Villa Park Trustee Robert Wagner, Villa Park Village President Albert Bulthuis and Larry Poggi—the owner of the Funky Java Coffee House.

