



David Toney for Shaw Media

Willowbrook works out Aug. 12 during the first day of football practice for the 2019 season.

High expectations for Anthony Yannotti, Willowbrook

By BOB NARANG
editorial@mysuburbanlife.com

VILLA PARK – Willowbrook senior linebacker Anthony Yannotti was one of the leaders during warmups before the first practice of the season Aug. 12.

At 5-foot-11 and 187 pounds, Yannotti was an imposing figure in comparison with most of his teammates. Immediately after warmups, Yannotti shed his gold chain to symbolize the start of practice.

"I took it off for practice," Yannotti said, smiling. "Me and [quarterback] Sam Tumilty just jumped in to lead the team on the first day of practice. We both hang out a lot and just wanted to start off practice."

"This year, I'm a leader, so I have to put the guys in control who are not

doing their jobs or what they are supposed to be doing."

Under coach Nick Hildreth, Willowbrook has become a consistent playoff team with lofty goals ever since 2012. The Warriors have won at least eight games in the past three seasons, highlighted by an 11-1 record last season.

Even though the Warriors lost a solid chunk of players from last season's team, Yannotti said expectations remain high.

Yannotti said he didn't play on offense last year, but is scheduled to help out at tight end this fall. He worked on adding more speed and becoming more explosive to make a difference on both sides of the ball.

"Last year was a fun year, for sure," Yannotti said. "Everything

clicked and it was a real competitive practices and games. The games were a fun environment. The varsity is a much faster game and it takes a lot more harder work to succeed on that level than others. We're used to winning and it's become a nice little habit we want to keep going. We're trying to make it as far as we can, take each game at a time and win."

Willowbrook senior wide receiver Alessio Battaglia came off the bench last season. Led by Tumilty's prolific running and passing, the Warriors won all six games in the West Suburban Gold behind their high-octane offense. The Warriors averaged a robust 33.3 points a game. Battaglia is part of a solid wide receiver group that includes Deandre Holliday and Everett Stubblefield III.

"I've worked on being a better receiver this season," Battaglia said. "I'm every excited to see what is to come for this year. I want to do what I can for the team. I've been working a lot in the weight room and put in time catching footballs to do what I can to play a big role on this team. I'm happy to play and help us."

Hildreth said Yannotti and Battaglia are two players who represent the program in a positive way.

"As a football program, we always talk about being a reflection of the community and the school," he said. "Those two guys are great examples. They give great effort. This is a fun group. They like to play and fly around and we're trying to get the crisp pieces back in and get ready to play in full pads."

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Out and About

ESO plans concert featuring Stange

To celebrate 50-year collaboration with Kiwa.

Fifty years ago, the Kiwanis Club of Elmhurst and the Elmhurst Symphony Association joined forces to create the Robert Stange Young Artist Concerto Audition to provide a forum for outstanding area high school instrumentalists to compete for the opportunity to perform a concerto

movement with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra during a subscription concert each season.

To help celebrate this golden anniversary of supporting young musicians, the ESO invites you to an evening of marvelous musical performances by three past audition

winners, followed reception, all at the beautiful and historic Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook.

Elmhurst's own Stolper, Golding to perform

Featured on the program are flutist Mary Stolper and oboist Kathleen Golding, both Elmhurst natives, who were awarded first place in the Stange Audition in 1971, performing together in Cimarosa's Concerto in G major for Flute and Oboe, and the 1998 winner, violinist Dylana Leung. All have gone on to illustrious careers as professional musicians. Elmhurst's own Mary Stolper is Principal Flute of both the Grant Park Symphony Festival Orchestra and the Music of the Baroque Orchestra.



Mary Stolper

She also acts as Principal Flute with the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra and the Joffrey Ballet, among many other prestigious positions, and is a sought-after chamber musician. She recently retired from DePaul University, where she taught for 30 years.

Kathleen Golding is a member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra and has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Richmond, Va., Symphony, the Grant Park Orchestra, and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Mineria in Mexico City, where she was principal oboe. Washington, DC, audiences have heard her as a soloist at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center



Kathleen Golding

Willowbrook's Silver and Blue Community Night takes place Friday

*School's fall athletic teams will be introduced

Willowbrook High School will hold its fourth annual Silver and Blue Community Night on Friday, Aug. 23, in the school's football stadium. Gates will open at 6 p.m. Activities will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted, with proceeds benefiting District 88 students. Refreshments will be on sale at the concession stand.

The event will feature introductions of the school's fall athletic teams, as well as a brief scrimmage by the varsity football team. The District 88 Foundation, which raises funds to benefit District 88 students, is sponsoring the event.

For more information, call 630-530-3989, or email Dani Brink, District 88's director of community relations, at dbrink@dupage88.net.

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Villa Park calling. They sure know how to gum up traffic around here. With all the construction going on on North Avenue east of the Route 83 intersection, the lines are unbelievably long when traffic is reduced to one lane each way. I'm now avoiding North Avenue east of Route 83, and west of Route 83, for that matter, at all costs. I see they're also working on the bridge on St. Charles Road near Route 83, reducing traffic there from 4 lanes to 2. No way am I going eastbound on St. Charles Road to Route 83 at 5 o'clock. I've seen the long line. It's terrible. Bye.

I saw the good news on Channel 7. Tom Cullerton indicted for 41 counts. If found guilty, I hope he goes to jail for a long, long time. By the way. This is Villa Park calling.

Hi. I am very concerned citizen. I read in the news of a Daniel Waters, 22, allegedly in possession of illegal materials that could make a bomb. His bond is \$100,000 and he gets to pay 10 percent of that to get out of jail. I believe that when the state requested it to be a \$1 million bond that they are correct. It should be a \$1 million bond. I do not want someone like this man in neighborhood, around my children.

How does that quote go? I screamed at God for the starving child until I saw the starving child was God screaming at me. Our prayers to Juan, Darlyn, Jakelin, Fe-

lipe, Wilmer and Carlos—six children who died in while in the custody of our federal government while in detention on the border.

So, our local politicians want to reduce the burden of our high property taxes? I don't see how that will ever happen. It's been so much lip service from every politician to pass through DuPage County. All talk and no walk. Look at the biggest slice of your tax pie. It's schools. What politician is willing to tell the school districts they can't have as much or have to make cuts and God forbid, make do like the people who pay their salaries? The only other way I see to cut taxes is reduce tax rates, but then the other slices of that pie suffer also. Well, I am suffering as a result of the high property taxes, so all I know is, reduce that bottom line for us taxpayers, please.

A quote by Martin Niemoller has always haunted me and seems pertinent to our times now: "First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist; Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist; Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me"

In response to the post in Speak Out on Aug. 8 that began, "It is easy

to be the champion of the unborn," and went on to talk about children of illegals being in terrible circumstances, I have this to say: One, these parents who are crossing illegally are subjecting their own children to this situation. Two, Congress and specifically the Democratic Party, refuses to provide funding for better facilities. We are not set up to accept waves of immigrants and the government is doing what they can to house them.

What is happening in America today is civil war. It is a modern, high-tech type civil war. It is between Trump white people and people of color. But this started before Trump and will continue even when he is no longer president. White people are king of the hill and they won't give up their top status and power without a fight. This is a civil war that won't end soon.

This is Villa Park. Donald Trump accused Clinton in the death of Jeffrey Epstein, even though everyone knows Trump and Epstein were friends. The reactions to these statements were consistent: namely that Trump is a reckless buffoon, a racist moron and someone who even his senior advisers say should be ignored. These days he should not

be taken seriously or literally. Yet because he holds this office he is steering the U.S. and the world into a trade war and perhaps a financial crisis and worldwide recession. He is wrecking the structure of U.S. allies in Asia and his rhetoric is inciting shootings against minorities. This presidency shames and disgraces the office every minute of every hour of every day and even when it ends the stink and shame of it will linger for years. Trump needs to be removed from the presidency as soon as possible. Thank you.

The acting director of ICE recently expressed how upset he was that people were comparing his agents to Nazis, stating that his agents were, "only following orders." I am not certain if he knew that his phrase is known as the Nuremberg Defense—the unsuccessful legal strategy used by Nazis in their post-war prosecution for war crimes. And, the government has confirmed that currently there are Pentagon mass surveillance balloons over Illinois, and other states, but they maintain that it is just a test program.

"Poor kids are just as bright and just as talented as white kids." So.

Rock Valley Publishing - Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019 • 9VP said Joe Biden recently. Did he misspeak? Maybe. But if President Trump had said exactly what Biden said, my gosh, the media and Democrats would have gone more berserk than they already are.

I don't understand how Twitter determines whose accounts get banned or suspended. I just read that they suspended Anthony Scaramucci's account because they determined he fat-shamed Trump for being overweight. And this is the guy who was once Trump's communications director. Why don't they shut down Trump's Twitter account? Aren't a lot of his insults far worse than fat-shaming someone? That proves to me right there that it's all about the money for Twitter simply because he's the president and has millions of followers.

I generally support Donald Trump, but I really think he's hurting the country with his ongoing trade war with China. I would agree that China has taken advantage of us for years regarding trade, but there has to be a better way to go about this than ordering tariffs. No president should be able to unilaterally impose tariffs. Congress should have a say in this.

Villa Park Lions Club holding 50/50 raffle

Minimum prize of \$1,000; drawing at Willowbrook's football game on Sept. 27

The Villa Park Lions Club is holding a 50/50 raffle with a guaranteed minimum prize of \$1,000. The drawing will take place at Willowbrook High School's home football game against Addison Trail on Friday, Sept. 27.

Participants do not need to be present at the drawing to win the prize.

The raffle proceeds will benefit the Villa Park Lions Club's charities, as well as the club's scholarships for Willowbrook students.

Raffle tickets are on sale for \$5 per ticket, or \$20 for five tickets. Tickets are on sale at the remaining Thursday concerts in Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park (tonight, Aug. 22, and Aug. 29).

Tickets are also available at the Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 Friday fish fry events through Sept. 20. Raffle tickets will also be sold at Willowbrook's home football games on both Aug. 30, and Sept. 13.

For more information, email the club at villaparklions@gmail.com.

Rep. Conroy hosting school supply drive

As students and teachers in the community begin preparing for the new school year, state Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park, is requesting donations from local residents for her annual school supply drive from now through Friday, Sept. 6.

"In previous years, we've been able to make a real impact for students, their parents and our teachers," Conroy said. "Every child deserves to start the school year with the tools they need to learn, but it can be tough for parents to afford all of the supplies on their list in addition to the increasing cost of school fees and other expenses that come up every fall."

Drop-off locations include:
• Rep. Conroy's Constituent Service Office—28 S. Villa Ave., Villa

Park
• Glenside Public Library—25 E. Fullerton Ave., Glendale Heights
• RE/MAX All Pro—66 Stratford Dr., Bloomingdale
• Glendale Heights Village Hall—300 Civic Center Plaza, Glendale Heights
• Glendale Heights Sports Hub—250 Civic Center Plaza, Glendale Heights

"I'm grateful to all of the local businesses and organizations who've come together to support local students year after year," Conroy said. "The school supply drive is a fantastic way to give back to our community—even a little bit of help can make all the difference."

Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of Rep. Deb Conroy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

*The journey begins

Willowbrook High School's 2019-20 school year began on Wednesday, Aug. 14. District 88 Superintendent Scott Helton (foreground, left) and Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (background, right) joined students to ride a bus to school on the opening day of the year.

SPORTS

AUG. 22, 2019 • 19

Mowing down a challenge, and giving a helping hand

Young resident cuts lawns for free; earns a free mower and equipment

Villa Park teenager Sean Kling recently completed the "50 Yard Challenge" by mowing 50 lawns for free for some of his fellow Garden Village residents.

The 14-year-old Kling, who started his freshman year at Willowbrook High School last week, accepted the challenge at the beginning of the summer after his mother Jeanette noticed it on the Internet. Kling cut his 50th lawn for free a few weeks ago.

"I like helping my community," said Kling, who attended Jackson Middle School before going to Willowbrook. The enterprising Kling started his own landscaping business—Kling Lawn Service—earlier this year. While he cuts lawns for money, Kling was happy to accept the challenge and provide free lawn care for some Villa Park residents.

The 50 Yard Challenge is the brainchild of Rodney Smith Jr. of Huntsville, Alabama. A few years ago, Smith observed an elderly man cutting his lawn. Smith decided to help the man. Less than two months

later, Smith had cut 100 lawns for free.

Smith went on to create Raising Men Lawn Care Service, which promotes free lawn care for the elderly, disabled, single mothers, veterans and anyone in need of help. Raising Men Lawn Care Service's website is www.raisingmen.com.

Smith has traveled to and cut lawns in all 50 states. He was recently featured on ABC's *Good Morning America*. The program noted that Smith drove his SUV through all of the lower 48 states. Delta Airlines helped Smith travel to Alaska and Hawaii after Smith reached out to the airline on Twitter. Smith is traveling the country this year in a specific effort to cut lawns and raise awareness for veterans.

In addition to mowing lawns during his travels, Smith visits boys and girls (the Raising Men Lawn Care Service's 50 Yard Challenge is open to boys and girls) who have completed the challenge. Smith presents them with a new lawn mower and other equipment, as well

as a black T-shirt.

The mowers received a colored T-shirt for each 10 lawns they mowed—the first 10 earned an orange shirt; the 20th lawn earned a green shirt. The 30th lawn brought a blue shirt, while the 40th lawn earned a red shirt. The challenge allows participants to mow the same lawn more than once on the road to completing the challenge.

Smith visited Villa Park earlier this month to present Kling with a new Yard Machines lawn mower, along with a blower and a trimmer manufactured by Remington.

Kling has a trailer hooked up to the back of his bicycle to haul his new mower around and continue his landscaping business. Before obtaining the new mower, he used his family's own mower, or in some cases, the mower of the resident whose lawn he cut. In addition to mowing lawns, Kling has performed a few other landscaping projects, such as moving rocks.

"I hope to either become an electrician or own my own business,"

said Kling of his future plans. As of now, he is hoping for the right number of clients—not too many to overwhelm his schedule, but enough to keep some cash flowing. In ad-

dition to school, Kling's schedule includes practices and meets with Willowbrook's boys cross country team. The program held its first practice of the season last week.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Sean Kling of Villa Park accepted and completed the "50 Yard Challenge" this summer. The 14-year-old Kling mowed 50 lawns for free in the village. Rodney Smith Jr. of Alabama, who created the 50 Yard Challenge, visited Kling earlier this month and presented him with a new lawn mower, as well as a blower and a trimmer. Kling is pictured in his back yard with his new mower. He's wearing the T-shirt he received for completing the challenge. Kling, who began his freshman year at Willowbrook High School last week, will use the new mower for his own landscaping business—Kling Lawn Service. Kling is a member of Willowbrook's boys cross country team.

Addison Trail boys soccer team poised for more success

Hernandez top returning goal scorer for Blazers

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Boys soccer continues to thrive at Addison Trail.

Coach Ryan Dini noted this year's program has 100 total players across five levels (freshman A and B, sophomore, JV and varsity).

And at the varsity level, the Blazers have won two regional titles in the last three years, including a crown last year. Addison Trail is coming off a 2018 campaign where it went 17-6 and took second in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 5-1 mark (losing only 2-1 to Morton).

Back for the Blazers are seniors Leo Acosta (center-mid), Martin Murillo (left back) and Ernesto Padua (goalie), along with junior Anthony Hernandez (forward). Hernandez logged 11 goals and four assists last year, while Acosta had seven goals and five assists. Padua had one goal and four assists last season. Also back is senior

midfielder Uriel Rojo.

Dini took time to laud the efforts of Rojo. "He constantly wins back 50/50 balls and pressures at a high work rate," he said. "Last season, he was a role player because of the excellent team we had. He was able to learn from five players who we sent to play college soccer. He has turned into an all-in-type player. He also has excellent ball control and is a great distributor. We are really looking forward to seeing the impact he can make in 80 minutes of a soccer game."

Key newcomers to the team include juniors Angel Gomez (defender), Jose Vega (defender), Ray Fischer (defender), Adrian Guzman (outside mid) and sophomore Alex Sandoval (midfielder).

"My overall outlook on the season is very positive," said Dini, in his eighth season at the helm (85-55-9). "We have a really good mix of juniors and seniors and have some depth. If I had to predict a record, I would say 12-6-2 for the regular season. We had an excellent summer. We just need to keep getting chemistry with our starters since we do have three players coming from club/academy who

didn't play last year. Our strengths are our team speed, ball control and depth. Our weakness right now is finishing at times."

Dini noted the team is comprised of nine seniors, nine juniors and one sophomore. Addison Trail went 6-2-1 in summer league play and made the final-four teams of the playoffs. The Blazers lost in a shootout in the semifinals. "We have three academy players who are playing high-school soccer for the first time, which should really increase our skill level on the field," he said. "We are a very fast and technical soccer team."

Once again, Dini has stacked Addison Trail's schedule with contests against top-flight competition. "Our schedule is loaded with quality teams," he said. "We host our own eight-team Joe Novy tournament and are in the PepsiCo Showdown where we have been in the top bracket the past two seasons (80 teams). We look to compete for a conference title after having placed second twice in the past three seasons. We should be in the top 20 in the preseason rankings and we expect to have another solid season."

Willowbrook boys golf team ready to take next step

Warriors have eyes on another top-tier conference finish

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys golf team has momentum on its side.

The Warriors posted an 11-3 dual-meet record a year ago and took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

And coach Gary Walker would

like to see his squad amp things up even more. "I have confidence we will take second in the conference behind Downers Grove South," he said.

On the personnel side, Walker welcomes back veteran Logan Rattana, who took eighth in the WSC Gold tournament a year ago.

Key newcomers to the squad include Jacob Cieslak, Nick Cipriano, John "Wedge" Donovan, Utah Keehner, Andrew Rugg and Joey Zopel.

Walker said distance off the tee

won't be a problem for his 2019 group. "We are very athletic," he said. "The boys all have the ability to hit the ball a ton."

Walker added his roster is filled with students of the game. "The entire program is extremely coachable," he said. "From the freshman to the seniors, they really are a great group to be around, teach and coach."

One key, the coach noted, will be on-course management.

"Our athletes will need to keep their emotions in check if their

round starts to go sideways," said Walker. "This will help them get back on track for the remaining holes."

Willowbrook kicked off the season this week with a busy slate. Earlier in the week, the Warriors were slated to face West Chicago in a non-conference tilt at Sugar Creek in Villa Park.

Today, the Warriors are scheduled to head to Oak Park Country Club for another non-conference match against Elmwood Park.

Next week, Willowbrook heads

to Oswego for the Panther invitational (Tuesday, Aug. 27) be playing in the 51st annual J ton invitational at White Pine Bensenville (Saturday, Aug. 31). Willowbrook host its own Willowbrook invitational at Sugar Creek.

Other highlights on the schedule include a pair of quads on Sept. 13 (at White Pines hosted by Ley) and on Sept. 26 (at Oak Mead hosted by Addison Trail).

The WSC Gold meet is slated Oct. 1.

Fenton girls volleyball team looking to build upon 2018 success

Bison coming off 24-win season; Krebsch headlines list of returners

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton girls volleyball team enjoyed plenty of success a year ago.

The Bison went 24-12 and finished 3-3 in Metro Suburban Conference Red Division play.

Now, Fenton is looking to keep the success train rolling and has the roster to continue to fuel those expectations.

Coach Kelly Torres returns a host of players, including senior middle blocker Julianna Krebsch, who put down 149 kills and registered 30

blocks last season. Senior outside hitter Britania Aguilar had 36 kills and 13 blocks, while senior setter Noha Zaggoti served at a 91 percent clip. Senior outside hitter Iza Faron had 22 digs last year and senior right-side hitter Sydney Minard had 46 aces.

New to the team are sophomores Hailey Miller (setter-defensive specialist) and middle blocker Abby Boehm.

One place, in particular, that Torres feels the Bison will excel at is on offense. "Our strengths this season certainly will be our front-row attacks," she said. "We are very strong across the front row when it comes to hitting. The offense is looking very good for this early in the season. We feel that we will be able to attack from all over the front row."

Torres added the energy in the practice gym has been high thus far. "The girls have been coming to practice very excited, and many of them are eager for their opportunity to contribute to the program at the varsity level," she said.

Fenton continues to double-down on the defensive side of the net. "This is a work in progress," said Torres. "We have many girls who are competing for spots in serve-receive. We will continue to work on this each practice and get all the girls as many reps as possible."

Zaggoti takes over the setting position this season. "Noha has spent the last two years on varsity learning from and practicing with graduated Mackenzie Miller," Torres noted. "Now, it is her time to shine. She is more than capable, and we

are excited to see her perform."

Torres said Fenton benefited from a strong summer camp. "We like the way they pushed themselves during summer camp, and then came into tryouts and were very competitive with each other," she said. "It is a very healthy competition we have going on at a few spots."

Torres said success will boil down to taking care of business on the orange and blue side of the net. "The number-one thing we have to do in

order to be successful is perform the best of our abilities every practice and match," she said. "If take care of what we can control will be successful."

Fenton begins play this year in Upstate Eight Conference. "This our first year in the Upstate Eight said Torres. "We know that there are many very good programs in conference. We are very excited to have this opportunity to compete in a new conference."

IC Catholic Prep boys golf team filled with potential

Veteran coach Sujack has strong mix of returners and newcomers

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The IC Catholic Prep boys golf team plays each year in the talent-filled Glen Oak invitational held at Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn.

This year, veteran Knights coach Don Sujack's lineup was slated to consist of six golfers, split right down the middle. Three returners and three promising freshmen.

All of which has Sujack optimistic about his team's 2019 prospects.

First the returnees. The Knights welcome back senior Louis Narcisi. "Lou has the game and the maturity," said Sujack. "He's been on the varsity for three years now. He enjoys golf, and eats this stuff up. He's a great kid and he's our captain. He's a kid who does things the right way."

Also back is senior Shane Rollins. "Shane looks like he's taking things very seriously," said Sujack. "He looks poised to have a good year for us."

IC Catholic Prep's other returner is junior Michael Hilgart. "Michael is a really solid putter for us," said Sujack. "His short game will keep him in a lot of matches. Shane and Michael have been strong participants in this program for two and three years now."

The freshmen crew features Jann Atendito, PJ Wisniewski and Nick Zanol. "We have a large group of talented freshmen in the program

that have some tournament experience," said Sujack. "There be some serious competition our returning golfers to get the starting lineup. We have a lot of guys on this team who are looking to make their mark. It's a healthy competition. Someone play better than someone else every week. There are going to be opportunities to step into the lineup."

Sujack likes the fact the Knights partake in the Glen Oak event year. "That's a big-boy golf competition," he said. "It's a great opportunity for guys to get their wits about the game."

The Knights also are part of Mundelein invitational fielder in the season at Steeple Creek. "That tournament has teams as Loyola and New Trier—a lot of good teams," said Sujack. "It's an opportunity for the kids to test games on a big-boy golf course against traditionally strong programs."

The Knights also are slated to host a Class 1A regional this at Maple Meadows in Wood Dale. "By the end of September, that be a strength for us," said Sujack. "The team will play its matches at Maple Meadows, for one contest at the Preserve Oak Meadows in Addison. It will be very helpful."

Overall, Sujack is excited about the team's prospects out of gates. "I think we could be competitive right away," he said. "As young as we are, we are developing some golf toughness that will help us later in the year suspect things will shift continue throughout the year. It will be to see how things shake out."

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