

Willowbrook boys soccer team defeats Elmwood Park

Warriors look strong in coach Riskind's debut

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys soccer team gave new coach Dan Riskind a nice present.

The Warriors were 4-2 non-conference winners against Elmwood Park in Riskind's debut. He takes over the program after previously coaching at Aurora Central Catholic.

Norman Deci (senior forward), Francisco Perez (senior midfielder), Cole Tucibat (junior midfielder) and Kalep Martinez (senior center back) each scored a goal for the Warriors.

Willowbrook led 1-0 and then saw the scoreboard go from 1-1, 2-1 to 2-2 before the Warriors put a couple of goals in the net in the last six minutes of the contest.

"It was a really exciting game," said Riskind. "I told the team their mental attitude was really strong. They did not give up. That's something we talked about. I liked how they had a positive attitude out there."

Riskind has seen plenty of progress already since summer camp. "We have a lot of seniors, but we've been kind of feeling each other out," he said. "I'm new to the program and am trying to create more depth. We have a base of 13 to 15 players and I would like to add to that."

Riskind said Willowbrook will be strong on the attack this fall. "Our forwards are really good and our attacking-mid is really good. Dorian Mahone (senior forward) has exceptional skills and Norman and Franny Perez are really good attackers," he said.

Riskind also sees plenty of potential in the back. "Defensively we are

solid as well," he said. "The guys back there are all seniors. We have two center backs who are really capable with Brian Fuentes (senior center back) and Kalep Martinez. We're really strong in the back."

Willowbrook is using two goalies in senior Isai Aparicio and Riley Johnson. "Riley is a sophomore and is new to the team," said Riskind. "Both are really good goalies. I trust both of them."

Riskind said plenty of learning has occurred as the squad adapts to its new coach's philosophy and strategy. "We're teaching them how to play a possession-based game," he said. "They will have to trust the process. In knocking the ball around there might be some hiccups and mistakes along the way, but by the end of the season they are going to be a much better team."

But Riskind stresses teaching this

group has been a pleasure. "They are great kids," he said. "I have been with them all summer and in summer league and they love soccer. They are very respectful and fun. It's fun working with them. I just watched the tape from that first game and on our first goal we connected 12 passes. That was a big achievement for them. It's a good group of guys that is continually learning. I know it sounds cliché, but we are taking it one game at a time. The first game was really good. I tell the boys to let the process take care of itself and we will see where we are at the end of the year."

Willowbrook was scheduled to play Maine West earlier in the week. The Warriors have a pair of West Suburban Conference Gold Division contests slated for next week on the road at Leyden (Sept. 10) and at Addison Trail (Sept. 12).

"It was a really exciting game. I told the team their mental attitude was really strong. They did not give up. That's something we talked about. I liked how they had a positive attitude out there."

—Coach Dan Riskind



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

District 88's Best

Willowbrook senior Eric Hoda (left) was named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for August. Hoda, who is pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (right), was honored during the District 88 Board of Education meeting on Aug. 26. The district's board and administration created the 88's Best award to honor students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The honor is presented to one student from each of the district's two schools—Willowbrook and Addison Trail—during each month of the school year. As a student, Hoda consistently pursues the most rigorous courses available at Willowbrook. He has maintained a class ranking within the 99th percentile, and he has been named to the Distinction Honor Roll each semester he has been at the school. Hoda is an inductee of the National Honor Society, the National English Honor Society and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Outside of the classroom, Hoda is a member of the school's boys soccer team and the Addison Trail/Willowbrook boys swim team. Hoda is looking to apply to the University of Chicago, where he plans to pursue a pre-medical degree and continue his athletic career.

Willowbrook girls golf team showing improvements

Rattana and Mitrick leading the way for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls golf team has made significant strides in the early part of the 2019 season.

Through early last week, Willowbrook was 2-3 overall in dual matches and 1-2 in West Suburban Conference play. Last season, Willowbrook went 0-8 in WSC play.

The Warriors hold wins against Glenbard East (non-conference) and Hinsdale South (WSC victory) and have lost recently to York and Glenbard West in WSC play.

Willowbrook is led by sophomore Emma Rattana, while coach Jim White noted junior Peyton Mitrick has made progress as well of late. "Emma is consistently our top golfer," White said. "Peyton really came on strong for us in the last two matches. Both have scores usually in the 35-40 range."

White noted another key for the Warriors has been scoring depth. "We are counting on our top golfers

each week, but sometimes our 15th, 16th- and 18th-seeded golfers are coming through big," he said.

Improvements in the team's mental approach, as well as progress the short game have White optimistic. "They are finding ways better their round and reducing scores by putting better, improving their short game or feeling more comfortable overall," he said.

White added team chemistry making a big difference in the scheme. "I am impressed with the team awareness and the encouragement of others," he said. "The leadership skills are creating a great team atmosphere."

Rattana is a returning state qualifier, having made it to the Class meet as a freshman. White would like to see her have company this season. "Emma and Peyton are strong and succeeding to make it state," he said.

Willowbrook is in the midst of a heavy WSC schedule. The Warriors are slated to face both Downers Grove North and Downers Grove South next week at home at Twin Lakes in Westmont before facing Hinsdale Central on the road at Ruth Lake and Lynd Township next week.

Authorities seek information about last week's fatal hit-and-run crash near Villa Park

The DuPage County Sheriff's Office is searching for the driver of a pickup truck that was reportedly involved in a fatal hit-and-run accident early Friday morning on Roosevelt Road near Villa Park.

According to the sheriff's office, a vehicle struck a pedestrian at the intersection of Roosevelt Road and Addison Avenue shortly after midnight. The victim, 59-year-old Robert Szabo of Glen Ellyn, was transported to Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. He was

later pronounced dead at the hospital. Witnesses observed a man driving the vehicle that allegedly struck Szabo as he crossed the street at intersection. That vehicle is reportedly a Ford F-250 pickup truck with yellow roof lights. The driver of vehicle allegedly fled eastbound Roosevelt after striking Szabo.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash, or who may have information related to the incident is asked to call the DuPage County Sheriff's Office at 630-407-2400.

SPORTS

SEPT. 5, 2019 •

Warriors kick off season with a loss to Providence Catholic

Late drive ends with
a turnover

By Chris Fox

VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook football team, which posted a perfect regular-season record last year, opened the 2019 season with Friday night's 14-7 loss to Providence Catholic in front of a packed stadium in Villa Park.

The Warriors scored their only touchdown on a 13-yard run by senior quarterback Sam Tumilty in the second period. Providence Catholic tied the game early in the third quarter. The visiting Celtics scored what turned out to be the game-winning touchdown with about 10 minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Tumilty and senior receiver Everett Stubblefield connected on a 47-yard pass play late in the fourth quarter to give the Warriors a first-and-goal opportunity with less than two minutes to play. Moments later, the Celtics intercepted a pass at the goal line and returned the ball to midfield. Providence Catholic then made one first down and proceeded to run out the clock.

The Warriors, who have advanced to the quarterfinal round of the IHSA state playoffs in each of the last three seasons, posted a perfect 9-0 record last season. They finished the year with an overall record of 11-1. Willowbrook won two playoff games before losing an overtime thriller at Batavia in the IHSA Class 7A quarterfinals.

Willowbrook kicked off the 2018 season with a convincing win over Chicago's Curie Metro High School. The Warriors played their 2019 opener against a much stronger program. Providence Catholic of New Lenox has won 10 IHSA state football championships. The Celtics won their most recent state title in 2014, when they captured the 7A trophy. Providence Catholic lost in the first round of the Class 6A playoffs last year.

"We couldn't get much going all night," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after Friday's contest, which was played in ideal weather. "We were just depending on big plays. We weren't at any point really sustaining drives."

Hildreth, who described Friday's loss as a wasted opportunity, noted big-play capability of his team's offense, which includes two deep-threat receivers—Stubblefield and senior Deandre Holliday.

"We like that, but at the same time, we don't want to depend on the big play," said Hildreth, who stated the Warriors were unable to

"Providence is an elite program. They've got a bunch of really good football players. We made some mistakes that we have to clean up in order to be successful."

— Nick Hildreth,
Willowbrook football coach

generate an effective running game against the Celtics.

"Providence is an elite program," said Hildreth. "They've got a bunch of really good football players. We made some mistakes that we have to clean up in order to be successful."

Willowbrook scored its touchdown on an 82-yard drive that began after Holliday made a solo defensive tackle on a Providence Catholic running play on a fourth-and-two play from the Warriors' 19-yard line. Willowbrook began its drive late in the first quarter and completed it with Tumilty's scrambling 13-yard touchdown run with 10:15 left in the second period. Sophomore Izzy Manning converted the extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 7-0 lead.

Willowbrook tried an inside kick to start the second half. The Celtics recovered the kick at midfield and drove 53 yards for a touchdown. The Celtics kicked the extra point to tie the score at 7-7 with about eight minutes left in the third quarter.

Both of Willowbrook's third-quarter offensive drives ended in punts. Providence Catholic drove 73 yards for the go-ahead score. The drive began in the third quarter and ended in the fourth period. The Celtics managed to draw the Warriors offside on a fourth-and-three play from the 7-yard line. The penalty gave Providence Catholic a first-and-goal chance. The Celtics crossed the goal line on a second-down run. The extra-point kick gave them their 14-7 lead with 9:55 to play.

Willowbrook's next drive ended with a punt. The Celtics eventually punted the ball back to the Warriors, who took possession at their 20-yard line with 3:39 to play. Tumilty was sacked for an



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Pub

The Willowbrook football team opened the 2019 season with Friday's 14-7 loss to Providence Catholic in Villa Park. Senior quarterback Sam Tumilty is pictured above while scoring the Warriors' only touchdown of the night—a 13-yard run—in the second quarter. Senior lineman Michael Navarro (No. 6 shown below) pursuing the Providence Catholic quarterback. Navarro and junior Sergio Ayala comb to make a sack on the play. Willowbrook will play a non-conference game at Oak Park/River Forest Friday. The Warriors will open their West Suburban Gold Conference schedule with a Sept. 13 game against Downers Grove South.

eight-yard loss on the first play of the drive. He fired a 28-yard pass to Holliday on the next play. Moments later, Tumilty fired the long downfield pass to Stubblefield, who made a running catch and raced down to the Celtics' 7-yard line.

"Sam led me to the ball," said Stubblefield. "It was a good throw and I made a nice catch. I just couldn't put it all the way into the end zone."

Providence Catholic made the interception at the goal line one play later on a second-and-goal pass.

"We need to be more efficient and convert more," said Tumilty, who played offense and defense and intercepted a Providence pass during the second quarter.

"We need to get better at doing the little things. We've got to keep our heads up and get better in practice."

The Warriors face a tough opponent this Friday—they will travel to Oak Park to take on the Oak Park/River Forest Huskies of the West Suburban Silver Conference. The Huskies, who won the Silver championship last season, posted an 8-3 overall record and advanced to the second round of the 8A playoffs in 2018. The Huskies opened the 2019 season with a 23-14 loss at Wau-bensie Valley.



Addison Trail girls volleyball team has busy first week

Blazers record four victories, including two at Metea Valley/Oswego East tournament

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail girls volleyball team got match-tested real quick.

The Blazers started the season with seven matches last week, going 4-3 overall.

Addison Trail opened the season with a two-set win against Lake Park in non-conference action and then downed Maine East in another non-conference sweep.

The Blazers then headed to the Metea Valley/Oswego East tournament where they went 2-3.

"We played some great teams there," said Addison Trail coach Dan Styler.

The Blazers lost to a Sterling team that is garnering national recognition. "They are ranked first in Class 3A and are ranked nationally," said Styler.

Addison Trail also dropped a contest to Naperville Central. "We lost to them, but battled well," said Styler.

The Blazers defeated Yorkville in pool play, lost a three-setter to Oak Park-River Forest and then came back to close out with a win against

Glenbard East.

"Our girls applied pretty good serving pressure in the tournament," said Styler. "We also did a really good job grinding out points with hustle plays. We battled through some long volleys, which was exciting to watch. We stretched some volleys against some great attackers on the other side of the net. We had some great touches. I'm very proud of our defensive effort so far this year. The girls are gelling on the floor and that's something that has resonated in every match so far, win or loss. The team camaraderie has been great."

Styler cited Amy Reyes, the team's

setter, with strong play. "Amy is doing a great job," said Styler. "She's a 5-foot setter running a 5-1 offense. She's probably the best undersized player in the western suburbs and I say that being unbiased. We beat two teams with Division I college setters by Amy running our offense efficiently. I'm proud of her play so far. It's exciting to see Amy compete against these teams and run our offense."

Jess D'Ambrose also has played well out of the gates for the Blazers. "She's a four-year varsity starter who has elevated her game even more this year," said Styler.

Looking back on the first seven

matches, Styler said a point of emphasis going forward will be consistency. "Every team probably says they want to be more consistent," he said. "We will go through spurts where we gash teams for points on long runs and then we'll get stuck in a few rotations. I think that's going to be a priority. We are only as good as our serving and passing. We are built on running a fast offense. If we are predictable, we will have challenges with bigger blockers across the net."

Addison Trail played York earlier this week and then heads to the Willowbrook tournament this weekend. "York is always tough, so we're excited for that," said Styler.

Warriors rebound from tough loss to post their first win of 2019

Season begins with a tough three-game loss at Bartlett, followed by a win over East Aurora

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team split its first two matches of the 2019 season. The Warriors opened the season with a tough three-game loss at Bartlett.

Two days later, Willowbrook earned a home victory against East Aurora.

The Warriors beat East Aurora 25-16, 25-8 in an Aug. 28 match in Villa Park. Freshman Natalie Cipriano provided seven kills for Willowbrook. Sophomore Kyla Ostrowski contributed three kills and nine digs. Junior Grace Reckamp handed out nine assists and connected for three kills. Senior Payton Ceh made seven digs, while junior Alejandra Lopez delivered four digs and three service aces. Sophomore Katie Linnig had five assists. Senior Alondra Mendoza had three kills.

Bartlett outlasted the Warriors 29-27, 18-25, 26-24 in the season-opening battle on Aug. 26. Ceh piled up 29 digs; she also contributed four service aces and two assists. Ostrowski piled up 18 digs, seven kills and three aces. Cipriano hit 12 kills, while Mendoza bashed six kills. Reckamp amassed 22 assists, 14 digs, seven kills and a pair of blocks. Linnig had 10 assists, six digs and a

pair of kills. Junior Stephanie Dasbach had six blocks.

"It was a good battle over there," said Willowbrook coach Irene Mason of the match at Bartlett. "We saw a lot of good things."

Mason noted that last year's team included eight seniors. The current group, however, includes several experienced players.

"We have a strong core of girls who have played a lot of club volleyball," said Mason. "It's a solid crew. Hopefully they'll keep working hard."

Mason mentioned the strong play of two of the team's youngest players—Cipriano and Ostrowski—through two matches.

"She's been giving us great swings in the front row," said Mason of Cipriano. "Kyla has been dominant on the outside. She was on the freshman team last year. She's made a lot of growth."

The Warriors return to action with this week's non-conference home match against Glenbard North. They will then play in their own eight-team invitational this Friday and Saturday. Willowbrook will open its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a Sept. 10 match at Addison Trail.

Addison Trail boys soccer team off to 3-0 start Blazers record big win at Lake Park

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys soccer team got itself off to a nice start by winning its first three contests of the 2019 season.

The Blazers kicked off the season with an impressive 2-0 non-conference road win at Lake Park. The game was tied 0-0 at halftime.

"Lake Park played on a grass field, so it took us some time to get adjusted to that," said Addison Trail coach Ryan Dini, who noted his squad usually plays on turf fields. "We had a very good second half."

In the win, Jose Galindo, a junior, scored both goals. He talked his first off a crossing play and then nailed a 35-yard strike.

"It was a beautiful goal," said Dini of the second tally.

Adrian Guzman and Aaron Sanchez, a junior new to the team coming out of one of the academies, each had an assist.

"Jose plays center-mid for us," said Dini. "He came off the bench and has now worked his way into the starting lineup. He will play about half the game for us. He's a senior who has a very good leg. He's dangerous anytime he's on the field if he gets a shot off."

Addison Trail also notched a 3-2 win against Fenton in the first game of the Blazers' annual Joe Novy tournament.

The Blazers won the game with two minutes left in regulation. Leo Acosta, Anthony Hernandez and Sanchez each had a goal. Hernandez scored his on a

penalty kick. Martin Murillo and Brian Hernandez each had assists.

"The game-winner was a scramble in the middle of the field," Dini explained. "There was an outlet to our center-mid who crossed it about 40 yards to the wing and Leo Acosta took on three guys and finished by the penalty line. He's a senior doing a real nice job. He responded when we needed it. Fenton played us tough. They are feisty and hung around the whole game. We outshot them 16-5 so finishing is a little bit of an issue for us right now."

Addison Trail also downed Proviso West 9-0 in another Novy tournament game.

"Right now I like our depth," said Dini. "We are able to go 15-16 players which gives us five guys off the bench. It's a good mix of seniors and juniors, and the big thing is getting the juniors up to speed on the varsity game. In these next couple weeks they will be getting more minutes. I also like our senior leadership. We don't have a lot of seniors, but the guys we have are key players and they are outspoken. They know what it takes to be a good team and they are consistently trying to get these younger guys up to speed."

But overall, Dini isn't complaining about the 3-0 start. "Lake Park was top-four in the state last year and they don't lose many games at their place," he said. "That was a big win for us that gave us confidence. We brought a couple guys back but we're pretty much a new team. We had five goals in the first two games from four guys. That's going to be a key. We need a lot of guys to contribute. We need this to be a team effort."

Week 2 Preview

Addison Trail (8-1) at Downers Grove North (1-4)
When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Downers Grove North High School, Downers Grove

Last week: Cougars 34, Addison Trail 7; Downers Grove North 35, Buffalo Grove 14

Last year: Teams did not play

Outlook: Addison Trail looks to rebound as a team here after a tough Week 1 loss at home to Cougars. The Blazers will face a Downers Grove North team that took care of business on the road against Mid-Suburban League against Buffalo Grove. The Trojans, out of the West Suburban Conference Silver Division, went 4-5 a year ago. Addison Trail then faces Proviso East in Week 3 before squaring off against elite power Glenbard West, which opened eyes with a Week 1 win against fellow power Maine South.

Week 2 Preview

Willowbrook (6-1) at Oak Park-River Forest (6-1)
When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Oak Park-River Forest High School, Oak Park
Last week: Providence Catholic 14, Willowbrook 7; Washburn Valley 23, OPRF 14

Last year: Teams did not play

Outlook: Willowbrook went toe-to-toe with one of the more decorated high-school football programs around in Providence Catholic last week. Now, the Warriors begin the first of a two-year West Suburban Conference crossover across with Oak Park-River Forest. The Huskies went to Aurora and dropped a one-point decision to Washburn Valley last week. Oak Park-River Forest went 8-3 last year, advancing to the second round of the Class 8A state playoffs. The Huskies finished in a three-way tie atop the WSC Silver but were the conference's automatic state representative. OPRF started 1-2 last year before rolling off seven wins in a row.

Week 2 Preview

West Chicago (8-1) at Fenton (1-6)
When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Fenton High School, Bensenville

Last week: Fenton 33, Larkin 0, South Elgin 65, West Chicago 0

Last year: Teams did not play

Outlook: Fenton's debut in the Uptate Bright Conference was a successful one, with its debut victory against Elgin Larkin.

The Bison jump right back into conference play this week against a West Chicago team that was overwhelmed by South Elgin in its opener. West Chicago is coming off a 2016 season where it went 1-8. West Chicago was playing against a South Elgin team that had made the 2016 playoffs.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS © Rock Valley Publishing

Rattana finishes in top 30 at tournament Fenton boys go invitational

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys golf had players going in two different directions this past Saturday.

At the always competitive tournament Invitational at White Pine Bensenville, Willowbrook senior Rattana finished 28th in the with an impressive 18-hole round of 78.

Willowbrook also sent a crew to its annual John Hanemann Scramble hosts at Sugar Creek in Villa Park.

The Warriors finished with a combined 1-under in the scramble. Individually, freshman Brett Vandercompel competed in his first varsity invitational. He shot a 90, including on the back nine at Sugar Creek.

Willowbrook was scheduled to open West Suburban Conference Gold Division action this week against Hinsdale South and Princeton East, before welcoming Leyde Sugar Creek next week for an WSC Gold match.

Boys basketball all-decade team

NBC Sports Chicago recently came out with its all-decade high school boys basketball team for

See BASKETBALL, Page 2

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Warriors open the season

The Willowbrook girls tennis team began the 2019 season with last week's home meet against Glenbard East. The visiting Rams defeated the Warriors 6-1 in the Aug. 29 dual meet, which included three singles matches and four doubles matches. Willowbrook earned its victory in the No. 2 doubles contest. The duo of juniors Lizzie Martynenko and Victoria Zlatkova teamed up to earn a 6-2, 6-3 win for the Warriors. Zlatkova is pictured at the net. Sophomore Penelope DelValle (pictured) of the Warriors faced Glenbard East senior Ashley Ziemer in the No. 1 singles match. Ziemer secured a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Fenton girls volleyball team off to 7-0 start

Bison football team wins first game in new conference

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

It was a perfect week for the Fenton girls volleyball team.

The Bison kicked off the season by going 7-0, including a repeat championship at their own Fenton Bison Blast-Off tournament.

Fenton scored non-conference wins against Proviso West and Proviso East before downing Chicago Curie, Chicago Lindblom and St. Joe's in pool play of the Blast-Off. Fenton defeated Waukegan in the semifinals and Ridgewood in the championship match.

A key ingredient thus far for Fenton has been success at the service line. "It's our serving," said Fenton coach Kelly Torres. "We are very strong across the lineup when it comes to serving. Anyone who is serving is a threat to go on a run. We have complete confidence that if we can just get the ball back, our servers will take care of the rest."

Torres added eight different Fenton players have had at least five aces in a set. "When we can get that kind of serving, it really changes the complexion of the match," she said.

On the flipside, Fenton is making

strides when it comes to its serve-receive. "Our serve-receive is gradually improving," said Torres. "We really struggled in our opening match, but have made slow progress and will continue to work on it in practice each day."

Overall, Torres is seeing progress both offensively and defensively. "Our offense and defense are really improving as we continue to get varsity experience for a lot of the girls," she said. "Our setting has been solid. We have scored a good number of points just from our setter dumping the ball over the net."

Junior libero Kimena Boratto has been a key contributor thus far. "Kimena missed summer camp and has come in and really given us a spark as the libero," said Torres. "She is playing with great energy and is really helping to solidify our defense."

Junior outside hitters Alexa Mendoza, Ashley Mitchell and Madison Spencer also have been key to the Bison's success to start the season. "All three have been put into a lot of action after one of our starters suffered an injury in practice," said Torres. "These three girls have stepped right in and all contribute in a different

way and have really helped make for the loss of the starter."

On that front, Torres said contributions from many have made a difference. "What has really impressed us this first week is we have received contributions from everyone, on roster," she said. "We have a lot of girls getting their first taste of volleyball and they are all stepping in and contributing to our success."

Fenton opened Upstate Eight Conference play earlier this week against Larkin and then followed a non-conference match against Grove on the road.

The Bison return home today for UEC match against South Elgin before facing Addison Trail next week ahead of the West Chicago tournament.

Fenton football

The Fenton football team's foray in the Upstate Eight Conference was a successful one.

The Bison defeated Elgin Lark home by a 33-0 count.

It was Fenton's second Week 1 in a row under coach Matt Lynch.

Fenton returns to action Friday in another UEC contest at home against West Chicago.

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GreenMan Theatre announces cast for 'The Government Inspector

GreenMan Theatre is pleased to announce the cast for the first production of their 16th season, *The Government Inspector*, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, from the original by Nikolai Gogol. A talented ensemble of actors from around the area will take the stage to bring this wild and improbable comedy to life. The Government Inspector runs three weekends at GreenMan's performance space in Elmhurst at 232 S. York St. The production opens Friday, September 27 and closes October 13. Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 and Sundays at 2:00. Tickets are \$17 for adults and

\$15 for students and seniors. There is ample free parking onsite but seating is limited. For more information about the production or to purchase tickets please call 630-464-2646, or visit greenmantheatre.org.

The year is 1836. In a small Russian village, the Mayor and his advisors are in a panic. Rumor has it that a government inspector is on his way to root out corruption and report back to the Tsar. Now it's every man, woman, and child for themselves as they try to cover their tracks before they all get sent to Siberia. Mother Russia was never so funny as in this modern adaptation of Gogol's classic

farce.

Appearing in the production are Lars Timpa (Wood Dale) as the Mayor, Carolyn Pizzato as the Mayor's wife, and Kayla Smith (Villa Park) as their daughter. Chris McCabe (Villa Park) plays their servant. Allison Porschakin, Heather Ristanovic,

Donna Miller, Tom Ochocinski, and Peter Plane are the Mayor's close aides. Kiara Wolfe and Therese Marie Caldwell play a pair of local landowners, Jaime Sandoval plays a hapless visitor to the town, and Ron Alfano (Itasca) is his servant. GreenMan Theatre's artistic director Da-

vid Soria will direct the production. Cheryl Turek is the stage manager. Other volunteers working on the production include Alma Read, E. Basley, Carolyn Thomas-Davi, Chuck Erickson, Debbie Proska, Ocasek, Rich Geiger, and Steven

Alan Sue photographs: New Winter and Old China

Art exhibition opens Sept. 16 at Elmhurst College

Elmhurst College will host photographer Alan Sue's exhibition "New Winter and Old China" beginning on Monday, Sept. 16.

The exhibition highlights two bodies of Sue's work. His "Winter" series is photographed on a short stretch of beach along Lake Michigan in Wilmette, Ill. The project, which began in 1976, regained momentum decades later during the polar vortex of 2015 and has continued

to the present time. The "uneasily effects" created in these photographs frequently are achieved by combining long exposures with post visualized color and movement.

Sue's second body of work, the "China" series, comes out of a documentation of his seven trips to China between 1988 and 2003. The work takes place on a very personal level, dealing with self-discovery and an examination of culture.

The "New Winter and Old China" exhibition begins on Monday, Sept. 16, and ends on Saturday, Sept. 21, in the Frick Center, Four Lounge on the campus of Elmhurst College. A public reception for artist will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18, with a talk by the artist at 5 p.m. Admission is free to both the exhibition and reception, and the p is invited.

•Basketball (Continued from page 24)

last 10 years.

Of note in writer Scott Phillips' three-team rankings is former Willowbrook player Alonzo Verge, who made the third team. Here is what Phillips wrote: "Putting together two huge seasons at two different schools was Verge. As a sophomore at Willowbrook, Verge put the program back on the map with electrifying scoring performances as he averaged over 23 points per game and became an all-area player. After a year away in Florida, Verge returned to Thornton and became NBC Sports Chicago

Player of the Year in 2017. Leading the Wildcats to a Class 4A sectional title, Verge had a memorable postseason run his senior season that included a 40-point near triple-double in a win over Bloom.

Willowbrook boys soccer

The Willowbrook boys sophomore soccer team opened up play in the Joe Novy Invitational tournament at Addison Trail with a 3-0 win over Sycamore. The win moved the Warriors to 2-0 in the young season. Willowbrook didn't give up a goal in its first two games.

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Administration:

Dee Longfellow
News Coordinator

Debra Hamilton
Advertising Director

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Oxford Bank named among Best Banks to Work For

Cited for outstanding employee satisfaction

Oxford Bank & Trust has been named one of the Best Banks to Work For in 2019.

"The Best Banks to Work For" program, initiated in 2013 by American Banker and Best Companies Group, identifies, recognizes and honors U.S. banks for outstanding employee satisfaction.

Oak Brook-based Oxford Bank employs 125 people at its corporate headquarters, operations center and six branch offices, one of which is located in Addison.

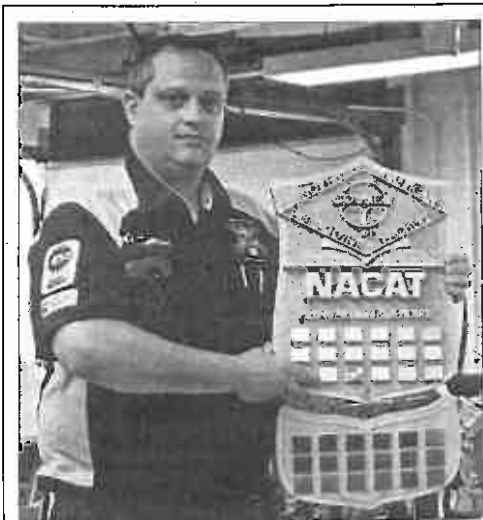
Bruce Glawe, president & CEO of Oxford Bank, said the recognition is a reflection of the bank's employees sharing Oxford's common values.

"We hire based on our four core values and this is discussed with each candidate," Glawe said. "If a candidate has these values - having passion to do the right thing for the customer, being a committed and caring team member, pursuing greatness and having fun - they

will want to come and work with us. The core values aren't just covered during recruitment; they are frequently reviewed and discussed. Glawe said the bank's emphasis on achieving work-life balance also fosters employee job satisfaction.

"We talk about it all the time and we truly care about each other," he said. "So much of our time together is spent talking about our families, personal well-being, and relationships. I personally know a great amount of detail about each of our employees not because I have to but because I want to. We communicate that their priority list has to be family and faith first and then meaningful work at Oxford Bank."

"One of the critical factors in a bank's success is how it treats its employees," said Rob Blackwell, editor in chief of American Banker. "This year's list honors those institutions which have gone above and beyond to invest in employees' personal and professional growth."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Teacher named NACAT MVP

Pictured is Addison Trail Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Keith Santini, who was recently named as this year's North American Council of Automotive Teachers (NACAT) MVP. Santini received this honor in recognition of his work with starting a program through NACAT to reach out to schools struggling to find and retain qualified automotive instructors.

Addison Trail High School welcomes new School Resource Officer

A new School Resource Officer has joined the team at Addison Trail - but he's a familiar face to the community.

Larry Biles, who is with the Addison Police Department Investigations Division, succeeds Eric Brant in the position, who served in that role since October 2017. Biles said he has been shadowing Brant since May to ensure he's successful as Addison Trail's School Resource Officer. He might be new to Addison Trail, but he has been with the Addison Police Department for 11 years.

"I wanted to pursue the School Resource Officer (SRO) position because I saw the lasting friendships and connections the prior officers had with the community," he said. "Being an SRO means providing security to the students and faculty, as well as a resource to the school community."

Although Biles' job is to enforce the law and school policies, he knows the role encompasses so much more, and he looks forward to making a positive impact at Addison Trail.

"I think most people's first encounter with the police is usually a negative one such as getting a ticket or getting pulled over," he said. "I want to have positive interactions with the students as much as possible, so if they ever have contact with the police in the future, they will draw from positive memories."

Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden said the school is thrilled to welcome Biles, and he knows he will continue the excellent work Brant and previous School Resource Officers have established.

"Our No. 1 priority is the safety and security of our students and staff, and the School Resource Officer position is one more way for us to ensure the well-being of everyone in our building," Bolden said.

"We look forward to working with Biles and continuing our tremendous partnership with the Addison Police Department."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured is Larry Biles, Addison Trail's new School Resource Officer.

Preserve (Continued from front page)

Architects.

"The former clubhouse was a favorite gathering place for nearly a century," said Forest Preserve District Commissioner Marsha Murphy, District 1. "Since the fire in 2009, the community has been anticipating a place to serve the public and create memories for the next 100 years, and the new building will be the perfect complement to the reinvented property."

Since the renovation of The Preserve

at Oak Meadows, the Forest Preserve District's three-course golf operation has demonstrated the ability to fully support operating expenses with golf revenues. Once completed, the new clubhouse is projected to generate an additional operating profit and financial sustainability without subsidy from the tax levy, and future excess golf profits are designated to help support other Forest Preserve District programs.

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Gazebo improvements

The Village of Villa Park installed new railing around the Rugaard Gazebo last week. The gazebo, located just west of Ardmore Avenue and south of the Illinois Prairie Path, is a focal point of several events in the village. It is named after longtime Villa Park resident and businessman Regin "Ray" Rugaard, who passed away in 1989.



Library offers card design contest for children 18 and under

Winners in each division receive a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card; deadline to enter is Sept. 30

The Villa Park Public Library's library card design contest for children and teens, which began earlier this month, continues through Sept. 30. Children in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to enter their artwork in the contest. The winning designs will appear on new library cards issued by the library beginning in December.

The library will make two different cards—one from two divisions—children in kindergarten through sixth grade, and teenagers in grades 7-12.

The winner in each division will receive a \$100 gift card from Barnes and Noble. The Friends of the Villa Park Public Library donated the gift cards.

The contest is open to contestants 18 and younger who have a valid Villa Park Public Library card. If a contestant does not currently have a card, they must apply for one in person with a parent/legal guardian before turning in their entry prior to the deadline of Sept. 30.

Entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, which is available at the library at 305 S. Ardmore

Ave. The entry form is also available online at the library's website, www.vppl.info.

The card dimensions are 2 and 1/8 inches by 3 and 3/8 inches. All artwork must be original and in color. Submissions can include high resolution computer-generated submissions, or paper submissions using colored pencils/pens/paint. Artwork should be one-dimensional for printing purposes.

There is a limit of one entry per person.

Entries may be submitted directly to a library staff member at the check-out desk, by mail, or via email.

Digital submissions should be emailed to kkretter@vppl.info.

All entries will be displayed in the library throughout October and judged by a panel including community members. The winners from each division will be announced and notified on Monday, Nov. 4. The winners will be invited to attend the Villa Park Library Board meeting on Nov. 25.

For more information, visit the library's website at www.vppl.info.

Little Warrior Preschool begins Oct. 8

A few spots remain open for fall program

Registration for Willowbrook High School's fall 2019 Little Warrior Preschool is open, and only a few spots remain. The program is open to children ages 3 to 5. To register, contact Willowbrook Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher and Little Warrior Preschool Coordinator Stephanie Ennis at sennis@dupage88.net.

The eight-week fall preschool session will begin on Oct. 8. Sessions take place from 10:05 a.m. until 12:20 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The cost of the program is \$125 per child.

The preschool class is taught by Willowbrook students in the Preschool I, Preschool II and Preschool Internship courses. Participants experience lessons in math, science, art, music and language arts.

Seniors can sing their favorite tunes with local chorus

Villa Park resident director of Lilac Town Chorus

By Jane Charnelo
 VILLA PARK REVIEW

To hear them tell it, a group of local seniors believes that "happy days are here again," at least on Thursday mornings when they gather to sing some classic tunes.

These individuals are members of the Lombard Park District's Lilac Town Chorus, a senior citizens choral group that performs at a variety of venues, sharing a common interest in singing together and entertaining others.

For about the last five years, the chorus has been under the direction of Jeanne McNamara, a senior herself who has been singing since her own youth.

McNamara is a Cape Cod native who recalled how she enjoyed singing since she was young, and was once cast as the lead in "The Sound of Music" through her local church theater, when she was about 20 years old.

The Villa Park resident explained that she is a retired nurse, and when asked how she came to the area, she replied with a laugh that she was actually on her way to Hawaii many years ago, when funds ran dry and she

See CHORUS, Page 13

Patel named 88's Best for August at ATHS

Aesha Patel has been named as Addison Trail's August recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments. Patel, a senior, was recognized during the Aug. 26 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

When she graduates from Addison Trail, Patel will have taken nine honors courses and 12 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, and she has managed to receive all As. Patel said her parents never pressured her to be successful, but wanted her to pursue her interests and goals. Her parents immigrated from India, al-

ways worked hard and followed their dreams – and Patel said she wants to make them proud.

"(Patel) took to honors biology like a duck to water," said Andrea Grossart, science teacher. "Difficult concepts of abstract material came very easily to her. She was one of my top biology students her first year, because she exemplified the ideal student. Not only does she achieve high marks, but she also is a team player in and out of the classroom, because she is very willing to help and encourage other students to do well in their courses. It is no surprise to me

she aspires to become an amazing member of her community I believe whatever (Patel) chooses to do in life, she will be successful because of her dedication and motivation to be a lifelong learner. I can guarantee she will be an asset to any college in the near future. She has proven herself during the three years I have known her, and I am very proud of her."

Italian teacher Enza Spilotro agreed.

"(Patel) was a phenomenal Italian language student," Spilotro said. "She was very self-motivated to do her best at all times. I had the pleasure of having her in class for two years. She is wonderful inside and out, and I know she will go far in life with her positive mindset, determination and passion to pursue whatever she desires."

While Patel's focus is clearly on her studies, she also is involved in

extracurricular activities that make her a well-rounded student. She is Vice President of National Honor Society, she has been in Key Club all four years of her high school career and she has participated in Italian Club and raising funds for UNICEF.

Patel is looking to apply to Northwestern University, Loyola University Chicago and Elmhurst College. She plans to study medicine and hopes to become a radiologist.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured is with Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden is senior Aesha Patel, who has been named as Addison Trail's August recipient of 88's Best recognition for her outstanding academic accomplishments.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

H	E	M	A	L		S	O	D		F	R	A	U
E	D	E	M	A		L	E	A		G	E	E	K
A	D	O	P	T		A	R	C		O	L	D	I
R	O	W	L	I	N	G		H	I	N	T	O	N
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B	U	N	C	H		R	O	D		E	A	T	E
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SPORTS

SEPT. 12, 2019 • 2

Warriors move to 1-1 by holding off Huskies

Willowbrook kicks off conference play with this week's home game

The Willowbrook football team improved to 1-1 by beating Oak Park/River Forest 21-6 on Friday night in Oak Park.

The Warriors held a 7-0 halftime lead. The Huskies (1-1) cut Willowbrook's advantage to 7-6 with a third-quarter touchdown. The Warriors responded with a pair of touchdown runs by senior quarterback Sam Tumilty, who scored once in the third quarter and once during the final period.

The Warriors scored their first-half touchdown on Tumilty's pass of about 30 yards to senior Everett Stubblefield. Sophomore kicker Izzy Manning added the first of her three extra-point kicks to give Willowbrook a 7-0 lead.

The Warriors will open the West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's home game against Downers Grove South (1-1). Willowbrook has posted perfect 6-0 conference records in each of the last two seasons.

Fenton football team 2-0 after conference win against West Chicago

First 2-0 start since 2011, last time squad made the playoffs

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton's football team has done something it had not experienced since 2011. The Bison's 51-13 Upstate Eight Conference win against West Chicago at home in Bensenville put them at 2-0 overall and 2-0 in UEC action. The last time Fenton started the season 2-0 was back in 2011 when it finished 7-2 and qualified for the playoffs. Fenton hasn't enjoyed a playoff berth since that same 2011 season. Fenton opened the season with a 33-0 win against Elgin Larkin in its first game in the Upstate Eight Conference. "The common theme with the first two games is we executed both offensively and defensively," said Fenton coach Matt Lynch. Lynch said his players are getting after it on Friday nights. "I like how hard our players are playing. They are playing extremely hard," he said. "I like how we are competing."

Lynch saw positives from where the team was at after the Larkin game to where it was at after the West Chicago win. "Really, it's that our focus always has been about us and about us getting better," he said. "We went out there to erase some mistakes we made against Larkin and to work on some technique. At first glance against West Chicago, some of the stuff was OK and some of the stuff we still have to keep working on."

The execution factor was positive in the West Chicago win.

"We ran our offense and we ran our defense," Lynch said. "We ask ourselves are we running and executing the offense and the same thing with the defense. That's it. It's all we care about. It's a whole team approach."

Lynch said the list of players who have enjoyed strong starts the first two weeks is lengthy. "We have numerous kids playing well," he said. "Our receivers are playing well, our offensive line is playing well, the running back position is playing well. It's not about any one guy. Collectively we are playing good football and because of that everybody is standing out."

Lynch said the message to his 2-0 team after the West Chicago win was simple. "Enjoy it tonight, because we go back to work tomorrow," he said. "Our focus now is on Streamwood (Week 3 foe). We just want to win the day and that's what we talk about every day. It's a long season."

But a season thus far that has rewarded Lynch's squad handsomely.

"I'm absolutely so happy for the kids," he said. "They bust their tails and they continue to work hard. It's great to see them rewarded at the end of the week for all their hard work."

Next up is another UEC game at Streamwood Friday.

"The focus is Streamwood," he said. "We absolutely still have a long way to go. That's why the games are played on Friday night."

Fenton has outscored its first two foes 84-13. It took Fenton four games last year to score 84 points.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors in action

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team won three of five matches and finished in third place in its own eight-team invitational, which took place on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors played three matches on Friday. They defeated Glenbard North and West Chicago in their first two matches. Willowbrook lost its final match on Friday, dropping a three-game battle to Addison Trail. The Warriors suffered a 25-21, 29-27 loss to Metea Valley (the invite's eventual champion) on Saturday morning. Willowbrook finished the invitational with Saturday's three-game victory over Glenbard South. The Warriors held an overall record of 4-4 at the end of Saturday's play. Senior Payton Ceh (No. 5-above), made a total of 90 digs for the Warriors during the team's five matches in the invite. Junior Grace Reckamp (right-pictured at the net) bashed 25 kills during the event. The Warriors are pictured in their first match of the event—Friday's 25-20, 25-11 win over Glenbard North.



Addison Trail boys' cross country team splits WSC Gold double dual

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Addison Trail boys' cross country team split a recent West Suburban Conference Gold Division double dual with Willowbrook and Proviso East. The Blazers defeated Proviso East 17-32 and dropped a 24-33 decision to Willowbrook.

Coach Brad Donaldson's team is coming off a fifth-place conference finish a year ago, but returns a number of key performers from that group. Junior Dylan Moran is back. He was a sectional qualifier last year and ran a season-best time at that postseason meet. Donaldson noted Moran is aiming to break the school record this year. "Dylan is our top runner with the biggest potential right now," said Donaldson. "He is the race leader, and I'm really excited to see how good he can be. He is a competitor at heart and will challenge himself against the best. I look forward to some great races."

Senior Julian Lara also returns. "Julian is a tremendous leader for

us," said Donaldson. "His leadership ability keeps everyone on task." Senior Jonathan Ramos is the Blazers' No. 3 returning scorer from 2018. "Jonathan also is a tremendous leader," Donaldson noted. Junior Cole Greaves also is back and Donaldson said he will be a key scorer for the Blazers. "Cole has tremendous upside with great foot speed," he said. "He just needs to carry it over distance." Sophomore Alex Martinez was a regional team member as a freshman last fall. "Alex is only a sophomore and has tremendous potential in cross country," said Donaldson. "Seeing where he is at this year after track season is amazing. It could be a real battle to see if he can catch up to Dylan." Moran and Martinez finished second and third in the double dual against Willowbrook and Proviso East.

Key newcomers to the group include sophomores Max Ojeda and Aaron Paz (transfer). "This group has a tremendous work ethic," Donaldson said. "They have been engaged and work-

"This group has a tremendous work ethic. They have been engaged and working out since the end of the track season and have had a consistent focus and commitment to improving their personal performance."

—Brad Donaldson
Cross country coach

ing out since the end of the track season, and have had a consistent focus and commitment to improving their personal performance. Even outside organized workouts, they have been getting together and working out and pushing each other. It's great to see them holding each other accountable."

Donaldson has a deeper roster this season.

"Our overall depth and fitness level has improved dramatically," he said. "We have a larger group of athletes focused on competing this year, more so than just training." Focus is something Donaldson is stressing to his runners.

"I think overall focus and staying focused on the season goals is going to be the key," he said. "They are a group that over the next two years can be really good. They just need to keep those beliefs at the forefront and not be swayed by individual meet results or the gen-

eral ups and downs of the season." Donaldson said Downers Grove South and Morton look to be key contenders in the WSC Gold once again.

"We are focused on spots 3-5 and looking to be competitive with Willowbrook, Leyden and Hinsdale South," he said. "We are hoping to push them for the middle of the conference and make it a tight race in October. We're also focused on getting out of the regional as a team, rather than as just individuals." Addison Trail heads to the First to the Finish invitational in Peoria Saturday.

Block improves for Fenton boys' golf team

Bison boys' soccer team also on the upswing

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton boys' golf team sported a 1-2 record in Upstate Eight Conference action through late last week. Additionally, coach Rick Johnson was impressed with Patrick Block's 89 for 18 holes at the recent Fenton invitational at White Pines in Bensenville. "Patrick is really improving from last year," said Johnson.

Johnson noted additional team positives on the practice links. "We are practicing well," he said.

"We have a very competitive team. We are looking to take that attitude to the course (during meets)."

Play around the green and putting also has improved for the Bison. "The short game work is starting to pay off," said Johnson.

In addition to Block, Andrew Hoffer and Matt Riley have taken steps forward.

"Patrick, Andrew and Matt are starting to get themselves around the course, even when they don't

have their best stuff that day," Johnson noted.

Fenton has seven freshmen in the program.

"We are very young, so we are looking to get better each day," Johnson said.

Fenton boys soccer

The Fenton boys' soccer team was 0-2 in its first two contests. Fenton lost a recent 3-2 decision to Addison Trail at the Joe Novy tournament hosted by Addison Trail. In that game against Addison Trail, Jason Fuentes and Chris Hernandez each had a goal for the Bison. "We are still working to build team chemistry," Fenton coach Victor Ruiz said.

Ruiz noted Fenton is working hard to improve in "all aspects of the game," and is seeing improvements in all areas of the field.

"We are getting there," he added. "In our first two games I was happy with the effort they put in." Fenton opened Upstate Eight Conference play earlier this week at home against Streamwood.

Fenton girls volleyball

Fenton's girls' volleyball team was slated to host South Elgin and Addison Trail this week before heading to the West Chicago tournament on Saturday.

Willowbrook girls' volleyball team making strides

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Willowbrook girls' volleyball coach Irene Mason has seen her team get quite defensive out of the gates this fall.

As in playing improved defense. "Overall, the team is doing an excellent job in serve-receive," Mason said. "We're passing the ball consistently and playing great defense."

Mason pointed out Willowbrook graduated eight seniors from last year and has lost one returning player to injury this season, which means plenty of new faces are becoming acclimated to the varsity game.

"We have improved on getting up to speed with the game," she said. "We have a lot of players who have had to adjust to the speed of the game at the varsity level."

Mason added improvements also are being seen at the net as well as in transition. "Our blocks have gotten much quicker, as well as our transitions," she said.

Individually, Mason has seen

well-rounded improvements from sophomore Kyla Ostrowski. "Kyla has stepped up in all area of her play; passing, serving, defense and scoring," she said. "She is quickly emerging into the confident outside hitter we've been looking for."

Ostrowski and freshman Natalie Cipriano are two of those younger players making an impact. "I've been most impressed by the ability of some of our younger players to step up and perform in key roles," said Mason. "Kyla and Natalie have really stood out and led our team offensively."

Junior Grace Reckamp was landed for her leadership. "Grace has shown great leadership throughout the off-season and that has continued into the start of this season," said Mason. "She commands the offense for us, and her set selection and winning attitude have been outstanding."

Willowbrook continues to benefit from the defensive play of senior all-conference returner Payton Ceh.

"Payton's ability to read and react to the opponent's swing has been very impressive, as well as her overall court vision and ability to see the opponent's defense and place the ball in open areas," Mason explained. "I've also been impressed by Payton's ability to bounce back after her season-ending injury last year. She is back to dominating the back court and leading our team defensively."

In recent action, the Warriors dropped a 19-25, 25-23, 25-19 non-conference match to Glenbard North. The loss put the Warriors at 1-2 overall.

Ceh had one kill and 17 digs. Senior Alondra Mendoza had five blocks. Ostrowski had two kills, one ace and eight digs. Reckamp had five kills, two aces, three blocks, 10 digs and 11 assists. Sophomore Katie Linnig had six assists and eight digs.

The Warriors played District 88 neighbor Addison Trail earlier this week.

Week 3 football previews

Downers Grove South (1-1) at Willowbrook (1-1)

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Willowbrook High School, Villa Park

Last week: Downers Grove South 20, York 14; Willowbrook 21, Oak Park-River Forest 6

Last year: Willowbrook 42, Downers Grove South 29

Outlook: Willowbrook opens West Suburban Conference Gold Division play against Downers Grove South in Week 3. Both teams shook off Week 1 losses to win their respective WSC crossover contests in Week 2. Looking back to 2010, Willowbrook leads this series 5-4, having won the last four contests. Downers Grove South won conference titles in 2010 and 2013, while Willowbrook has won the last two WSC Gold titles and posted a 12-game conference winning streak on the line Friday after having lost its last conference game of the year to Leyden in the 2016 season. Willowbrook's defense has allowed 26 points in the first two games against Providence Catholic and Oak Park-River Forest.

Addison Trail (0-2) at Proviso East (1-1)

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Proviso East High School, Maywood

Last week: Downers Grove North 41, Addison Trail 0; Lyons Township 31, Proviso East 20

Last year: Addison Trail 44, Proviso East 8

Outlook: A big week here for Addison Trail. The Blazers dropped their first two contests to Comets and Downers Grove North and now have a chance to look off the West Suburban Conference Gold Division portion of their schedule on a positive note against Proviso East. The Blazers split their first two contests of the year, beating North Chicago 37-6 at home and then dropping its Week 2 WSC crossover game on the road to Lyons Township 31-20. Addison Trail then has state power Glenbard West on the schedule in Week 4.

Fenton (2-0, 2-0) at Streamwood (1-1, 1-1)

When: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Millennium Field, Streamwood High School

Last week: Streamwood 33, Larkin 13; Fenton 51, West Chicago 13

Last year: Did not play

Outlook: Fenton is 2-0 to start the season for the first time since 2011, which corresponds to the last time the Bison qualified for the state playoffs. Fenton has outscored its first two opponents 84-13 and now heads to Streamwood for its third UEC contest. Streamwood beat Larkin 33-13 last week, while Fenton beat Larkin 33-0 in Week 1. Streamwood's other contest was a 13-6 loss to Glenbard South in its season opener. After Streamwood, defending UEC champion Glenbard East awaits in Week 4.

Willowbrook boys' golf team squares off against Hinsdale South Rattana off to strong start for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook boys' golf team dropped a recent 146-167 West Suburban Conference Gold Division contest to Hinsdale South at par-32 Sugar Creek in Villa Park. The loss put the Warriors at 1-2 overall on the season.

Senior Logna Rattana led the way for the Warriors with a 35. Freshman Brett Vandergrift added a 41, while junior John "Wedge" Donovan had a 45 and junior Andrew Rugg finished with a 46. Hinsdale South's Grant Blum was the medalist with a 34.

Earlier, the Warriors partook in a pair of invitationals. Willowbrook hosted its annual John Hamman 18-hole scramble at Sugar Creek. The Warriors shot a 1-under-par 63 to take seventh. Joey Zopel, Jake Cieslak, Rugg, Bennet Fleming and Max Hirsch competed at Sugar Creek for the Warriors.

The Warriors sent a split-squad up the road to Bensenville and White Pines where they shot a 370 and took 21st at the Fenton invitational.

Of note at White Pines, Logan Rattana shot a 78, which earned him a 26th-place finish and an individual medal at the event, which coach Gary Walker termed a "loaded invite."

In addition to Rattana's 78, Vandergrift had a 90, senior Utah Keenener shot 99 and "Wedge" Donovan

ended with a 103 for 18.

Walker noted Willowbrook has 17 fresh-soph golfers and eight varsity competitors. "We have a very healthy program," he said. "Coach (Scott) Forcash and I are very happy to have those young Willowbrook athletes out for our sport."

Walker has seen an uptick in practice performance as well. "What we do daily at practice has improved," he said. "Coming off the summer, many of our athletes are doing other sports. We offer them highly structured practices to help them reach their potential."

Rattana has been a standout thus far for the Warriors. "Logan has been our leader for a few years now," said Walker. "He just fired a 78 at the Fenton invite. We have seven other athletes on the varsity who are a complete joy to work with and coach. We are looking forward to seeing how each of them ends the year."

Walker said the month of September should be a fruitful one for the Warriors. "The season is going according to plan," he said. "We always make a big jump in September. I always am impressed by how teachable and coachable our athletes are."

Willowbrook was scheduled to return to action earlier this week against Leyden in a WSC Gold match at Sugar Creek.

Addison Trail football team findings its way

Blazers open conference play Friday in Maywood

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Earlier last week, Addison Trail football coach Paul Parpet Jr. noted he thought his team might have to work its way through some growing pains in the early going of the season.

"It's where we are at right now," he said. "I assumed we would go through some growing pains and it showed in our game against Conant (Week 1) in terms of what we did."

Addison Trail lost to Conant 54-7 in Week 1 and then dropped a 41-0 decision to Downers Grove North in Week 2 to drop to 0-2.

"From an offensive standpoint we had seven players who had never played in a varsity game before," said Parpet Jr. of opening night. "On defense it was six and that includes sophomores, juniors and one senior. We have a lack of experience and it really showed in what it meant to compete in a varsity football game."

"We had two sophomores, two juniors and a senior on the offensive line and that shows too. We had an overall lack of experience, but we are going to get better."

Parpet Jr. said the Conant game was a good measuring stick.

"We needed something to assess where we were at," he said. "We went out there inexperienced and it showed."

Parpet Jr. said the message to his group has been simple. "I told each guy in the room that

they need to get better at two things," he said of last week's preparation. "If we do that, we'll be OK. We can't feel sorry for ourselves. We have to continue to get better and rise to the occasion. We are going to figure it out. We are going to go through some ups and downs, but this group is going to stay grounded and we are going to keep moving forward. Against Conant we never quit and we could have handed them out but when that 40-point rule kicked in, the kids played hard for 48 minutes. We're not hanging our heads and feeling sorry for ourselves. These guys want to rise to the challenge and get better."

Parpet Jr. has been pleased with the overall work of veteran AJ Carlson. "AJ is one of our senior captains who is out there making plays," the coach said. "He is our playmaker."

Parpet Jr. said Addison Trail cannot overly obsess about who is on the schedule each week.

"We will be outmanned a lot of the weeks, but this is a fight between us and us," he said. "We have to continue to get better. You compete to get better. Successes are measured in a lot of ways. Nobody in this building wants Addison Trail football to win more games than I do. We have to focus on the weekly successes. These guys are positive and resilient. One particular week does not make a season."

Addison Trail faces Proviso East in Maywood Friday to begin West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

Willowbrook cross country teams compete at LT invitational

King finishes 29th in boys' varsity race; Martinez top 25 for Willowbrook girls

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail girls' cross country coach Kristen Olson has reasons for optimism.

The Blazers return a number of key runners off a 2018 team that finished fifth in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division a year ago. Back is junior Viviana Sanfilippo, who was a 2018 all-WSC Gold performer and a sectional qualifier.

Her personal record last year of 18:39 is the second-fastest time in Addison Trail girls' cross-country history. Also returning is sophomore Maddie Ford, who was a freshman all-WSC Gold selection and her 20:48 PR ranks sixth on the program's all-time list. Juniors Jina Patel and Stephanie Arreguin also return from last year's varsity.

Key newcomers to the team include junior Elizabeth Guerrero, freshman Ximena Juarez and junior Jade Campos. Guerrero is in her first year of cross country, but was third in Addison Trail's top seven in the Blazers' season-opening meet against Willowbrook and Proviso East.

Juarez also is in her first year and was Addison Trail's fourth runner in the Willowbrook and Proviso triangular, while Campos, another high school rookie in the sport, was the squad's fifth runner. "We have an enthusiastic group of new runners who already are making efforts to continue the strong team bond that is Addison Trail cross country," Olson said.

Olson said the team is hard at work continuing to develop its competitive perspective and putting in the miles to match it, especially in its summer preparation.

In that season opener against Willowbrook and Proviso East, Addison Trail scored 15 points and defeated the Pirates and lost 24-37 to Willowbrook.

Sanfilippo won the double dual in a time of 19:49. Ford was third in 21:57. "We are hopeful that as our new runners develop during the season that we can continue to improve our overall conference place," Olson said. Addison Trail runs in the First to the Finish invitational in Peoria on Saturday.

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Both Willowbrook cross country teams were in action at Saturday's Mike Kuharic Invitational hosted by Lyons Township.

Willowbrook's boys' team was 13th out of 15 teams at the varsity level with a score of 312. Junior Tyler King finished 29th in the 3-mile race with a time of 16:26.97. Senior Brandon Heselson was 68th with a time of 17:36.54. Junior Nick Leo was 71st with a time of 17:47.93, while junior Thomas Florey was 76th with a time of 17:57.53. Junior Ben Cunneen was 80th with a time of 18:08.88.

At the boys' JV level, sophomore Damien Rocha finished 70th with a time 19:04.12. The Warriors were 12th as a team in the JV race. At the boys' freshman level, Charlie Hayes was 33rd with a time of 13:02.61 for two miles. Willowbrook's freshmen were seventh with 205 points.

Willowbrook's varsity is coming off a 2018 season where it finished

fourth in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division.

Top returning runners for the Warriors this season include King, Heselson and Leo. "Tyler most likely will be our top runner," Willowbrook coach T.J. Artman said. "Brandon is a strong senior with leadership who is ready to work and Nick is a strong junior who wants to be competitive and win."

Artman said strengths for this year's group will be team work and its positive attitude.

Artman also has been pleased with the team's progress in the strength and mileage departments since last season.

Artman said staying healthy and having fun every day will be keys to a successful season.

In terms of the WSC Gold Division, Artman said Downers Grove South is the team to beat. "Then who knows?" he said.

The Warriors opened the season with a dual against conference foes Addison Trail and Proviso East. Willowbrook won against both

schools.

Upcoming for the Warriors are invites in Peoria and Minooka.

Willowbrook's girls' team also was in action at Lyons Township. Willowbrook's varsity was seventh in the 14-team event with 18 points. Junior Melissa Martinez finished 24th in the 3-mile race; she completed the race in 20:03.45. Senior Madeleine Wilkie was 28th in 20:26.66. Senior Michelle Villalobos was 39th in 20:55.67. Junior Gracie Tumilty was 45th in 21:24.77. Junior Daylee Brader was 48th in 21:49.91.

Isabel Willett was 21st out of 264 runners in the JV race. She covered the course in 23:08.04.

Willowbrook's freshman girls' team was sixth with 145 points. Amelia Barrington took eighth with a time of 14:32.16 for 2.2 miles.

Yazmin Setaram was 17th in 15:23.70, while Cailley Dotson was 23rd in 15:42.84.

Lily Weder was sixth in the sophomore race in 21:15.85, while Paulina Minjares was 37th in 24:21.29.

Willowbrook girls' tennis team opens season against Glenbard East and St. Franc

Warriors to co-host District 88 Classic Saturday

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

It's a new day for the Willowbrook girls' tennis team. The Warriors are under the direction of new coach Ed Delacruz, who is fresh off a stint as Willowbrook's head boys' soccer coach. Willowbrook opened the 2019 season

with a 6-1 non-conference loss to neighbor Glenbard East and then dropped a 7-0 contest to Wheaton St. Francis.

"We have gotten off to a rough start, but our schedule is top-heavy with many talented teams in the beginning," Delacruz noted. "I know the wins will pile up soon."

Willowbrook is coming off a 2018 season where it took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division and finished with an overall 10-5 mark in dual matches. Top returners for the Warriors include the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Maddie Brown (a team captain) and Ellie King.

Sophomore Penelope DelValle is Willowbrook's No. 1 singles player, "which is amazing because she was No. 2 singles last year as a freshman," the coach pointed out.

DelValle's sister, Priscilla (also a team captain), plays No. 2 singles, while senior Ryley Gales will help out in a variety of spots. "Ryley is my most versatile player where I can play her high up at singles and/or doubles," said Delacruz, also the school's boys' tennis coach.

Delacruz already has seen progress in the short time the season has been underway. "Right now, I'm working on the structure of the team as I bring a new style," he said. "The ladies have done a great job with

having a hard work ethic in practice. My highest coaching philosophy will be improving team chemistry. I'm trying to get to know players' tendencies and them in

Delacruz added Willowbrook fortunate to have a roster with a lot of options on it. "I have 13 girls rotate around to fill the 11 spots," he said. "As the season on, I believe this area will take and turn into a solid strength against our opponents."

The Warriors are scheduled to WSC Gold action Thursday against Proviso East ahead of hosting a with Addison Trail the annual district 88 Classic on Saturday starting at 8 a.m.

Fenton girls' cross country team starts anew in Upstate Eight Conference

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton's girls' cross country team is starting its first season as a member of the Upstate Eight Conference. And what better way to start anew with an experience-heavy roster. Coach Frank Kekstadt has exactly that with six of the team's top seven runners back from a 2018 team that took fifth in the Metro Suburban Conference Blue Division and advanced to a sectional where it took seventh as a team.

Back for Fenton are juniors Audrey Benitez, Guadalupe Honorato, Angelika Gasior, Amy Czauderina and Lissette Hernandez, along with sophomore Carolina Rosas.

Top newcomers for the Bison include freshman Tania Miranda, sophomore Ally Durkowski and freshman Samantha Matuk. The only loss to Fenton's starting lineup was Ruth Kirkwood to graduated.

Kirkwood qualified for the state meet in her senior season. "It is possible that if our top newcomers show consistent improvement, we will be a better team," Kekstadt said. "We have better depth than last year as well, and that is our greatest improvement. We will have 11 girls competing for our top seven spots."

Kekstadt said the keys to a strong season always are the

same: "Staying healthy and consistent improvement during the entire season," he explained. Kekstadt said captains Benitez and Honorato are a pair of runners to keep an eye on this fall.

"They both have chances to qualify for the state meet based on improvement during the summer," he said.

Kekstadt added Fenton's initial foray into the UEC brings with it plenty of unknowns. "This is our first year. Nine of the 10 schools have larger enrollments," he said. "It's too early in the season to know how we will stack up and I am not concerned about it. This is my second year and my focus is on building a program."

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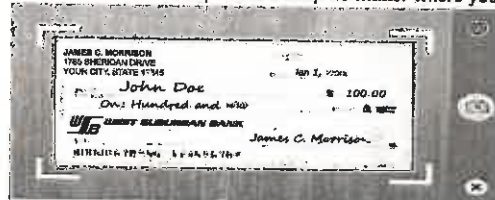
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