

Warriors enjoying the moment

Last team standing.

With three losses and one gigantic win last weekend, DuPage County's football season has narrowed to Willowbrook.

The Warriors finally broke through that quarterfinal barrier, and this week's Eyes on Five tips its cap to the area's last hope at a state championship.

1 A giant leap:

The last time Willowbrook advanced to the state semifinals, we were on Super Bowl IX.

Yes, 1975 was a long time ago.

It seemed so easy at the time. The Warriors were a semifinalist in 1974, the first year of the IHSA playoffs, and returned the following season.

In the next 40-plus years they made plenty of playoff appearances but couldn't get past the quarterfinals.

The Warriors saw their hopes dashed the last three years in that pivotal playoff round by powerhouses East St. Louis, Prairie Ridge and Batavia.

On Saturday, however, quarterback Sam Tumilty

and the boys made history with a 28-10 victory over Lake Zurich. Now the No. 5 Warriors (11-1) will play host to No. 1 Mt. Carmel (12-0) in the Class 7A semifinals in Villa Park.

A win away from the state title game in DeKalb.

What a moment for the program.

2 Generational talent:

Proudly, Willowbrook's football program found success by getting the most out of good — not elite — high school players.

Make no mistake, all the Power Five talent will be on the other sideline this Saturday. Mt. Carmel boasts a slew of scholarship offers, not to mention the legacy of 12 state titles in its past.

Willowbrook, meanwhile, hasn't fielded Division I talent since Collin Madison in 2006. Matt Roth headed off to Iowa in 2001.

Other than a few blips of supreme individual talent, the Warriors leaned on guys like Dom Battaglia, Jack Jensen and a long list of others who'd go through a wall for their teammates.

This year it's Sam Tumilty, Deandre Holliday, Ryan Ranieri and so many more on a team short on scholarship offers but long on heart.

It's the Willowbrook

blueprint.

3 Snow or shine:

Congrats to Richmond-Burton, which ended IC Catholic Prep's stretch of three straight state titles with a 24-14 victory over the Knights.

But I can't help but wonder what might have been on an artificial surface.

Last week's snow mostly melted by the time Saturday's games kicked off, but any grass field — like Richmond-Burton's — was doomed to destruction because of the lingering slop.

IC Catholic Prep prepared as best it could by getting practice time on a grass field at the Plunkett Park facility in Elmhurst, but there was simply no way for them to play their usual brand of football on Saturday.

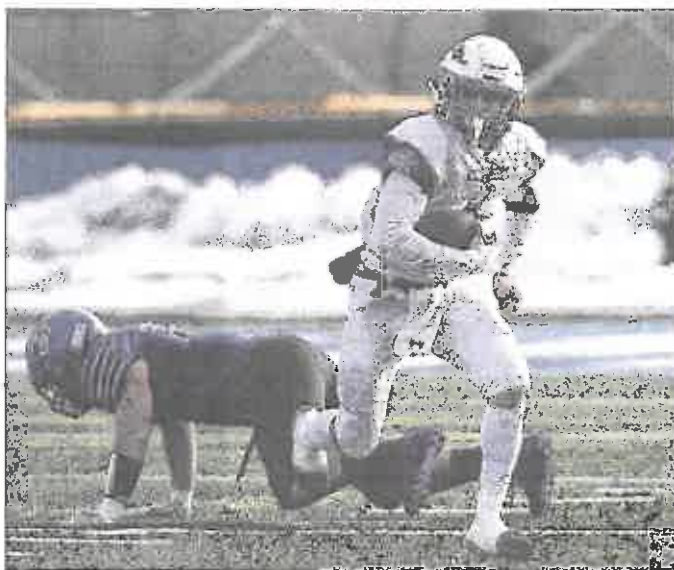
Without the ability to cut or take advantage of the edges, IC Catholic Prep's athleticism was stifled. Running back Kyle Franklin couldn't be Kyle Franklin.

Maybe Richmond-Burton still wins on an artificial surface. But we'll never know.

4 Public vs. private:

The Class 7A and 8A semifinals should be interesting.

Rolling Meadows plays Nazareth and Willowbrook takes on Mt. Carmel in 7A



Willowbrook will play in the state semifinals this weekend for the first time since 1975.



Kevin Schmit

while Brother Rice plays Warren and Lincoln-Way East faces Marist in 8A.

That means in both classes we could have an all-private school title game, an all-public school matchup or any combination in between. No matter what happens, the annual howling is coming soon in the public vs. private debate.

Which reminds me ... next week the IHSA Legislative Commission meets to decide

which bylaw amendment proposals will be placed on the December ballot for member schools.

Among the proposals is a plan to separate the public and private schools into different state series, something that pops up every couple years.

And, as we've talked about for weeks, there's a football proposal to expand the playoff field and a proposal to keep

things the way they are. But are a direct counter to the district plan voted in last year.

Can't wait to see that ballot

5 Stat time:

Only one of last year's eight state champions remains alive heading into the semifinals.

That team is ... unbeaten Nazareth, the No. 2 seed in Class 7A.

Twitter: @kevin_schmit

First game, first victory for West Chicago in tourney

By D.J. WANBERG

Daily Herald Correspondent

There's a lot of basketball left for the West Chicago girls, but the Wildcats got the season off to an happily strong start Tuesday night in Aurora.

West Chicago jumped out to a 21-5 first-quarter advantage en route to a 58-30 win over Harvard on the first night of the Illinois Math and Science Academy Hoops Happenings Tournament.

Girls basketball

First-year coach Mark Fitzgerald did not mince words in saying what he thought of the Wildcats' performance.

"If we play like that every night, we'll be competitive. I have been coaching for 30 years and this was the most enjoyable opening night I have coached," he said.

The victory equals West Chicago's win total of all of last

season. Fitzgerald said this season's team is very focused on improving its lot in its basketball life.

"I'm extremely proud of them. The kids really want it. They've worked hard all summer and we have four, five players out for the team that didn't play last year," Fitzgerald said.

The first few minutes of the game were even. Then the Wildcats turned on the afterburners. Harvard coach Larin

Flip called a timeout with 3:51 remaining in the opening period with West Chicago leading 14-5 with the help of four 3-point baskets from Shelle Steward. Steward finished with five 3-pointers total and 18 points overall.

Steward was prepared to bring her 3-pointer onto the court this season.

"I did put in a lot of work," she said.

The second quarter saw the Wildcats' Shalee Patel lead the

offense and be responsible for most of the Hornets' 8 turnovers during that span. She scored 13 of her game-high 21 points during the second quarter.

The Hornets (0-1) finally got back on the scoreboard with 4:39 remaining until halftime and West Chicago ahead 31-7. The Wildcats led 42-9 at halftime.

Late in the third quarter, Fitzgerald emptied his bench and his team continued to have a firm grip on the contest.

"We have to keep working as a team and giving it our all," Patel said.

The West Chicago coach said the team would enjoy their victory and then move on.

"We face a very good team (Ottawa on Thursday night back at IMSA) and they were 17-9 last year," Fitzgerald said. "We have to improve on some things. We have to improve on boxing out. We'll work on those things (Wednesday practice)."

York seeing carryover success

By ORRIN SCHWARZ

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York has been wondering if its success in the girls basketball summer and fall leagues would translate to the regular season.

Through two games the answer is a resounding yes.

York moved to 2-0 on the season with a 58-32 victory against Downers Grove South at the York Thanksgiving Tournament.

"You're wondering if we're that good, I'm wondering if we're that good, to be honest," York coach Brandon Collings said. "We came out here and we dominated in our first two games, but I'm nervous stepping in until we come out and beat a good team. Then I think once we come out and beat a really good team, we play well for fourth quarters and get it done in a close game..."

Sydney Fuglsang's three-point shot to seal the first



Blazers catch Metea Valley

By GREGG VOSS

Daily Herald Correspondent

And that's why they play four quarters.

The Addison Trail girls basketball team fell behind 10-2 to start its game against Metea Valley on Tuesday in the first round of the Brenda Whitesell Invitational at Hinsdale Central.

That 8-point deficit held until the second half, when the Blazers began chipping away at it, like the little engine that could.

Know what? They did. A 10-1 fourth-quarter run with under 4:12 to go allowed Addison Trail to prevail 44-41.

Here's the "Ah-ha!" moment for the Blazers. They turned the ball over 16 times in the first three quarters — but only twice in the fourth. Translation: Take care of the ball and good things will happen.

What changed?

"Myself and the coaches

talked about being more poised," Addison Trail coach Cory Little said, "taking the time, relaxing, being more poised out there. We want them to have fun and enjoy the game, but poise is what controls the game."

"If you're rushing and want to make things happen quickly, we're going to turn the ball over. Once we slowed down and gathered ourselves, we were able to make the right pass, make the right shot to the shot and go from there."

Addison Trail senior guard Demi Koulegeorgas, who led all scorers with 15 points, was tough as nails down the stretch.

Her layup off a lane drive with 2:48 to go gave the Blazers a lead they wouldn't relinquish, and she added to it 32 seconds later with a pair of free throws.

That gave the Blazers a 42-28 advantage. The best the Mustangs could muster in the final two minutes were three free

throws.

Were there opening-night nerves for Koulegeorgas? We ...

"No, I did not, but a lot of teammates did have pregame jitters and all you can do is tell them that they'll be OK," she said, adding the 10-1 run late was due to the poise that Little mentioned.

"I think that we started to see what we were doing better on our defense started to work harder, and we were getting through on everything," she said. "The 10-1 run is because of our defense. It doesn't come from anything else."

It was a tough opening night for Metea Valley and coach Keith McIntosh, but get to know this man: Khaliah Reid. She's a freshman, and in her first varsity game she paced the Mustangs with 13 points, including a 3-pointer late in the first quarter.

SPORTS

Nov. 14, 2019 •

Warriors advance to quarterfinals with thrilling win over Yorkville

Program makes its fourth straight trip to the round of eight; Willowbrook riding 10-game winning streak into this week's game at Lake Zurich

By Chris Fox

VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook football program earned its fourth straight berth in the quarterfinal round of the IHSA playoffs with Saturday's 33-24 win over Yorkville in a Class 7A second-round battle in Villa Park.

The Warriors, whose season has ended in the quarterfinal round in each of the last three seasons, will travel to Lake Zurich for this week-end's quarterfinal clash. The opening kickoff will take place at 1 p.m.

The Warriors will enter the quarterfinals with a 10-game winning streak and an overall season record of 10-1. Lake Zurich has a record of 8-3. The Bears advanced to the round of eight with Saturday's 14-7 win over Hersey.

Willowbrook has won eight playoff games in the last four seasons. None of those victories were as narrow or exciting as Saturday's win over Yorkville, which finished the season with an 8-3 record. The Warriors led the Foxes 27-24 in the closing minutes of the game.

A late interception of a Yorkville pass helped Willowbrook hang onto its lead. The Warriors padded their margin of victory by scoring a touchdown on the game's final play.

"Our guys never hung their heads," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after Saturday afternoon's win, which took place in clear and cool conditions. "They're tough

and they always keep battling. They continued to battle and found a way."

Senior Sam Tumilty led Willowbrook to the win with a tremendous performance on both offense and defense. The elusive quarterback threw two touchdown passes and ran for two scores. Tumilty's defensive contributions included the critical interception at his team's 4-yard-line with 3:36 to play.

Senior Deandre Holliday, another of Willowbrook's two-way standouts, deflected the Yorkville pass that Tumilty hauled in for the interception.

"I just came down on the ball," said Holliday of the massive play. "Sam was right there. When I tipped it up he was there. It was just a great play by both of us."

"Deandre made a nice break on the ball," said Tumilty. "He made a deflection, and I saw it pop up and went to grab it."

Yorkville took a 7-0 lead after scoring on a 33-yard touchdown pass on its first offensive drive of the game. The Warriors tied the score at 7-7 midway through the second quarter. Tumilty and Holliday connected on three pass plays during Willowbrook's first scoring drive of the day.

Tumilty's 13-yard completion to Holliday on a third-and-seven play from the 14-yard line put the Warriors at the 1-yard line. Tumilty ran the ball into the end zone on the next play. Sophomore Izzy Manning

kicked the extra point to even the score at 7-7 with about seven minutes left in the second quarter.

The Warriors took a 14-7 lead after Tumilty and senior Alessio Battaglia connected on a 16-yard touchdown pass with 2:59 left in the first half. Manning converted the extra-point kick.

Yorkville tied the Warriors at the start of the second half. The Foxes opened the half by returning the kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown. The extra point leveled the score at 14-14 with 11:46 to play in the third quarter.

A long completion to Holliday put the Warriors in position for the go-ahead touchdown—a 1-yard burst by Tumilty on a fourth-and-goal play with 6:38 remaining in the third quarter. Manning added the extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 21-14 lead. Willowbrook maintained the lead for the rest of the game.

Both teams misfired on some key plays in the second half. Yorkville threw a pass on a fake punt play; the pass fell incomplete, giving the Warriors possession at midfield. A short time later, Willowbrook threw an incomplete pass on a fourth-and-one play. The Foxes took possession at their own 28-yard line.

In the closing seconds of the third quarter, Yorkville applied a heavy rush against the Warriors on a punt play. Willowbrook couldn't get the punt airborne, and Yorkville took over at the Warriors' 25-yard line. Moments later, after the start of the fourth quarter, Yorkville kicked a 36-yard field goal to cut Willowbrook's lead to 21-17 with 11:49 to play.

The Warriors needed a little more than one minute to respond. Tumilty heaved a 79-yard touchdown pass to senior Everett Stubblefield on a third-and-five play with 10:38 left in the game. Stubblefield caught the long pass and raced down the sideline as his teammates and coaches cheered him on.

Willowbrook missed the extra-point kick after Stubblefield's touchdown, leaving the Warriors' lead at 27-17.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park

Willowbrook's football team advanced to the IHSA Class 7A quarterfinals following Saturday's 33-24 second-round playoff win at Yorkville in Villa Park. Senior quarterback Sam Tumilty (No. 6) threw two touchdown passes and ran for a pair of touchdowns also made a critical interception on defense with less than four minutes to play. Senior Deandre Holliday (also pictured bottom left) shown while making a reception during Willowbrook's first touchdown drive of the game. Like Tumilty, Holliday plays both offense and defense for the Warriors. Holliday deflected the Yorkville pass that Tumilty intercepted late in the fourth quarter. One more (to the below) shows Willowbrook head coach Nick Hildreth speaking to the team after Saturday's victory. "You guys bounced back responded against a very good football team," said Hildreth to Warriors in his post-game comments.



Moran thrilled with finish to cross country season

Addison Trail junior breaks school record at Class 3A state meet

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

It took Addison Trail junior Dylan Moran a bit to collect his thoughts when told he had qualified for the

Class 3A boys state cross country meet.

"I was more surprised than excited," he said. "It took me a little bit." Moran said the prospect of making it to Peoria and Detweiller Park this past weekend wasn't on the proverbial whiteboard until recently.

"My main goal wasn't to make the state meet until about a week before

when the coaches started talking about it," he said. "When I did it, I was surprised I was able to make it. My biggest goal was to break the school record at the sectional. With how the course was that day, I was not able to do it. Making state gave me another race and another opportunity to break the record."

Moran was able to achieve his goal

and then some at the Class 3A state meet in Peoria where he ran 15:39.20 for three miles, and took 136th place. He averaged 5:13 per mile.

The school record for three miles was 15:52 and had stood since 2013, Moran noted. According to IHSA records, in the history of the school, Addison Trail has had two state meet medalists in John Schafer (10th place in 1966) and Dave Dickow (11th place in 1968).

Moran ran 16:04.3 at the sectional at Lake Park's East Campus. He initially did not make the state-qualifying cut due to the influx of court-ordered Chicago Public League runners into the sectional round of the postseason coming on the heels of the CPS teachers' strike (Because of the strike, those runners had not participated in the regional round and the IHSA had initially ruled them ineligible for the remainder of the postseason once the strike concluded.).

The IHSA later ruled a handful of individual runners (including Moran) and one team that would have originally qualified, now were able to run in the state meet.

"At the sectional, the previous weather issues made it slippery and muddy, especially with the girls having run the course before us," he explained.

In terms of improvement, Moran said he has made some adjustments to his mental game. "I think my mental habits have changed," he said. "I used to have anxiety before races. I

understand running more now and am doing my best to get even better."

Moran has an interesting way of describing how he came to like running. "I am physically better at running cross country than any other sport based on aerobics and based on endurance," he said. "It's easier to run than playing basketball or soccer. I used to play soccer and I would run there and it didn't work out. So, I decided to take the actual ball out of it and run. It has seemed to work out well for me."

Moran, who also runs distance events for Addison Trail's track and field team, would like to run at the next level and is thinking about pursuing a physical therapy major.

"I figure I have learned a bunch about the body through running, and I have been able to help my friends and myself with physical problems. Why not make it my job and make it what I study in college?" he said. "One of my friends started having shin splints. Because I had shin splints before, I was able to guide him on how he could run and sort of recover after each session, and make it better while still running on it during the track season."

One could call Moran a student of the running game.

"I like to watch a lot of running videos," he said. "I like to learn about running and try to understand it as best as possible," he said. "I have a lot of motivation to learn and improve."

Willowbrook away at college report

Haake an immediate contributor to Purdue women's swim team; Fox swimming at Monmouth College

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Former Addison Trail-Willowbrook girls swimming standout Elissa Haake is making an impact during her freshman season with the Purdue University women's team.



Elissa Haake

Haake is a 2019 Willowbrook graduate and Lombard resident who qualified for four straight IHSA state meets and was a seven-time West Suburban Conference Gold Division champion. She helped Purdue claim the team title at the Indiana Intercollegiate meet on Oct. 21. Purdue piled up 802 team points in the event at its home venue in West Lafayette, Indiana. The Boilermakers outscored nine other teams from Indiana schools.

Haake finished third in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 53.63 seconds. She also placed fourth in the 100-yard freestyle, which she completed in 52.84 seconds.

In an Oct. 25 home meet against Notre Dame, Haake finished fifth in the 200-yard freestyle, which she swam in 1:52.96.

Haake, who had three career top 10 finishes at the IHSA state meet while at Willowbrook, is studying actuarial science at Purdue. **Fox at Monmouth:** Another former AT-Willowbrook girls swimmer carrying on at the collegiate level is 2019 Willowbrook graduate Kaitlyn Fox, who is a freshman on the Monmouth (Illinois) College women's team.

In an Oct. 19 triangular meet against Knox College and North Central, Fox finished second in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:22.76, and took second in the 500-yard freestyle, which she finished in 6:27.36.

Fox also was eighth in the 50-yard freestyle, which she finished in 30.21 seconds.

Additionally, Fox was part of the Monmouth mixed 200-yard freestyle relay team that placed fourth. Fox's efforts helped Monmouth's women sweep the meet.

At the recent Halloween Invitational, hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University on Oct. 26, Fox placed fifth in the 100-yard freestyle (1:05.88). She took eighth in the 200-yard freestyle in 2:19.99, and was part of Monmouth's 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Halloran at St. Olaf: Willowbrook product John Halloran is a junior offensive lineman on the St.

Olaf (Northfield, Minnesota) College football team.

Halloran, who graduated from Willowbrook in 2015, has played in two games this season after playing in seven contests last year in an offense that posted its highest points-per-game mark (23.4) since the 2012 season and most rushing yards in a season since 2011.

Halloran was the 2016 West Suburban Conference Gold Division lineman of the year in 2016 and was the Warriors' offensive MVP, in addition to being named academic all-state.

He is an economic major at St. Olaf with a concentration in statistics.

Taylor at Carroll College: John Taylor, a 2018 Willowbrook graduate, is a member of the Carroll College (Waukesha, Wisconsin) football team.

Now a sophomore quarterback, Taylor has appeared in one game this season. He completed three of five passes for 62 yards and ran the ball seven times for 23 yards and one touchdown in an Oct. 26 victory at North Park University.

Chris Fox contributed to this report.

Away at College wants your help: Send information and/or statistics on Willowbrook graduates and Villa Park residents playing collegiately to Mike Miazga at mjm890@gmail.com.

Fall sports submissions are encouraged.

• Warriors (Continued from page 23)

27-24.

The Warriors faced a fourth-and-one play from their own 29-line on their subsequent drive. Willowbrook lined up to punt the ball, but instead tried a pass on a fake punt play. The pass was incomplete, and the Foxes took over at the Warrior's 29-yard line with 5:17 to play.

Yorkville was in range for a game-tying field goal when it tried a pass on a third-and-13 play from Willowbrook's 21-yard line. Holliday made the deflection of the pass. The ball sailed straight up into the air and came down into Tumilty's hands. The interception gave the Warriors the ball at their own 4-yard line with less than four minutes to play.

Tumilty raced 17 yards on the Warriors' first play of their sub-

ball to midfield and drained the clock.

Yorkville called its final timeout with the Warriors facing a third-and-long situation with 1:18 to play. Willowbrook ran the ball after the timeout, and the clock wound down to less than 30 seconds to play before the Warriors punted the ball. Yorkville took over near its own 30-yard line with just 17.4 seconds left. After two incompletions, the Foxes made a short completion to set up a fourth-down play with just 4.5 seconds to play.

Yorkville completed a pass on the final play; the Foxes tried a few desperation laterals on the last play. One of those laterals hit the turf, and Willowbrook junior Haven Pryor picked up the loose ball

through it the whole time. There was some adversity but we fought well. That's our mentality. We keep trusting and keep grinding it out."

The Warriors lost in the quarterfinal round of the Class 7A playoffs in 2016 and 2018. The lost in the Class 6A quarterfinals in 2017. Could this be the year that Willowbrook breaks through and advances to the semifinal round?

"I feel like this is a different team," said Holliday, who's in his third season with the varsity team. "We want it a lot. We've got to get past the quarterfinals. I think this is the team to do it. We'll always play for one another."

The Warriors suffered their only loss of 2019 during their season opener against Providence Catho-

Willowbrook football playoff preview Willowbrook (10-1) at Lake Zurich (8-3)

What: Quarterfinals of the Class 7A state football playoffs

When: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Where: Lake Zurich High School, Lake Zurich

Seeds: Willowbrook is the No. 5 seed in the 32-team Class 7A

bracket. Lake Zurich is the No. 20 seed.

Last week: Willowbrook defeated Yorkville 33-24. Lake Zurich defeated Hersey 14-7.

Outlook: Will the fourth time be the charm? Willowbrook is in the state quarterfinals for the fourth year in a row, an extremely impressive feat for any high school football program. The Warriors now look to take the next step forward and get to next weekend's state semifinal after losses in the previous three quarterfinal contests.

Willowbrook encounters a Lake Zurich team that beat No. 4 seed Hersey at home in Saturday's second-round game. Lake Zurich, which won its playoff opener on the road 14-7 at Andrew, plays out of the North Suburban Conference where it finished second with a 6-1 record.

The Bears' three losses have come to Palatine Fremd, Chicago Marist and NSC champion Ounce Warren, all with winning records. Marist (7-4) and Warren (11-0) are both in the Class 8A state quarterfinals this weekend, while Fremd lost in the second round to Warren in 5A. Lake Zurich has held its last four opponents to a total of 21 points.

No team has scored more than 24 points on the Bears this season, while Willowbrook hasn't scored fewer than 32 points since the second week of the season. The Warriors have scored 383 points in 11 games. Yorkville's 24 points against Willowbrook were the most the Warriors have given up this season.

Up next: The winner of this game heads to the Class 7A state semifinals next weekend against No. 1 seed Chicago Mount Carmel (11-0) or No. 8 seed Chicago Phillips (9-1).

If Willowbrook wins Saturday, it will host the state semifinal game. The other upcoming quarterfinal games in the Class 7A playoffs

A young man of many interests

Fenton's Palumbo enjoys riches on cross country course this fall

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Fenton senior Jimmy Palumbo has no trouble keeping himself busy throughout the year.

Palumbo was part of the Fenton boys cross country team this season and ran in the Class 2A state meet in Peoria this past weekend along with teammate Sam Elizondo. Palumbo finished 161st in the 2A meet, running 16:47.99 for three miles. Elizondo finished 76th at 16:07.80.

Palumbo also is captain of the Fenton chess team. When asked if he was any good at chess, Palumbo responded: "I'd say so. In terms of high school and the IHSA, I'm probably in the top 50. I've been playing since he eighth grade."

He also bowls for the Fenton boys bowling team where he also is a team captain.

"I started bowling in eighth grade," Palumbo said. "When we moved into our new house, there was an alley lose by (Wood Dale Bowl). That's how I picked it up. It was something liked and ended up making a lot of trips to the bowling alley."

Palumbo said he averages around 190 in bowling and hopes to make the state meet.

But there's more. He's also ping-pong to write a novel. "It's a work in progress because I'm busy with high school," he said with a laugh. "There's a lot of moving pieces with it. It's not of in the realm of fantasy. The book is its own world, but is fantasy lated."

Writing isn't anything new to Palumbo.

"I have written a lot of short stories and a lot of more casual stuff," said Palumbo, who enjoys listening to 1990s rap music. "I'm kind of a back, I guess."

Palumbo just completed his first all cross country season. He ran it year, but competed in three of 11

meets due to injury.

"This year was real big," he said. "I improved my base and I got used to the volume of running. That helped me improve as a cross country runner. I had a good track season in the spring. I was the team's top miler. And then I had a pretty good summer training with the cross country team. That was fun and it prepared me well."

Palumbo is glad he listened to friends' advice freshman year.

"I had never really run before and didn't have a lot of training," he said. "My friends encouraged me to do it and to tap into that talent. I accepted the message. I enjoy it. When I'm around something I enjoy a lot and am interested in something, I will naturally elevate and put in the hard work."

Palumbo did not originally qualify for the state meet out of the Class 2A Fenton sectional that was run on the Bison's home course at the school due to the situation with the influx of runners from the Chicago Public League after the CPS teacher's strike ended.

A judge ruled CPS runners could compete in the sectional despite not running at the regional level due to the strike. The IHSA later ruled that a handful of individual runners (including Palumbo) and one boys team that would have qualified under normal circumstances, were eligible to compete in Peoria.

"I was pretty excited about it," he said earlier this week. "It definitely was a nice surprise. At the sectionals I knew our course and what to anticipate. It was an incredibly difficult course this time because we were racing in the mud. All in all, you can't let yourself get beat by the elements. I knew the course and knew what to expect and was better prepared."

Palumbo ran 17:20 at the sectional and his low time this year was 17:06.

"This season has been a lot of fun," he said. "I didn't think I would enjoy cross country as much as I have. It's been an exciting experience and, all in all, has been a good year."

Sanfillippo makes history this season Becomes first Addison Trail girls cross country runner to qualify for state meet

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail junior Viviana Sanfillippo put herself in elite company this season.

Sanfillippo became the first runner in the history of the school's girls cross country program to qualify for the state meet. Sanfillippo ran in the Class 3A meet in Peoria at Deerfield Park this past weekend where she finished 100th with a new personal-record time of 18:20.83 for three miles. She just missed the school record of 18:18, which has stood for 12 years.

"It feels really good to be the first one, especially after all the work I have put in for this," she said earlier last week.

Sanfillippo's state qualification path was no walk in the park. She had to endure less-than-ideal course conditions at the Class 3A Lake Park sectional where she finished 12th overall with a then personal-record time of 18:30.

"The course was pretty tough with all the mud and the puddles," she said. "I stayed focused on the race, tried to keep pace and pass people. I was able to keep pace pretty well considering the circumstances on the course were not great."

Sanfillippo said she had an inkling Peoria could be in her future toward the end of the sectional race.

"I started to get the feeling that maybe I would make it about the last 800 meters of the race," she said. "There was a lot of yelling at the girls behind me. That's when I realized I was farther up. That motivated me to pick it up."

"I also noticed a lot of the girls in front of me were on teams that were definitely going to qualify for state (which was a good sign for individual qualification). It was unreal in a way. It all happened

really fast. I was happy because my friends, coaches and family were there."

Sanfillippo said her improvement this year boiled down to one key factor: "I feel I basically tried to push myself more this year," she said.

She also had a tad of a change in race strategy. "This year, I tried to stay at a consistent pace," she said. "Last year, I went out really fast and that could affect me in the race later because I was losing more energy. The way I am doing things now, I had more energy for the kick at the end."

Sanfillippo started running in sixth grade.

"I joined because a friend was doing it and she said I should do it, too," she recalled. "I didn't notice how much I enjoyed running until I joined cross country in sixth grade. Back then, my coaches and my family noticed I was pretty decent at it."

Sanfillippo said running has two components to it that she greatly enjoys.

"I like how it brings me together with so many amazing people," she said. "I also like how I am able to use the running part of cross country to get out my emotions. Running is very therapeutic. If my mood is sad or happy, running helps me out. It helps me with my emotions."

Sanfillippo, who also runs track for Addison Trail, plays the violin in the school orchestra (she's played since sixth grade) and enjoys reading in her spare time.

"I will read basically any book except history and science," she said. "I like mystery books. I'm interested in any book that has an intricate storyline."

For Sanfillippo, this year's cross country season goes against her literary edict.

She made history.

Jaramillo, Madej earn all-conference honors for Fenton boys soccer team

Bison reach Class 2A regional title game

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

A pair of Fenton boys soccer players were rewarded for their fine play on the field this season.

Team captains Konrad Madej and Ivan Jaramillo were named to the all-Update Eight Conference team.

This was Fenton's first year in the UEC where it went 3-5-1 overall and finished in eighth place in the 10-team loop.

"Konrad and Ivan, they both really pushed the boys to work hard and work together," Fenton coach Victor Ruiz said.

Jaramillo led the team with 22 goals to go with 14 assists. He also earned an all-area selection.

Madej was second on the squad with seven goals and also tallied two assists.

Fenton finished the season with an 11-11-2 overall mark and reached the championship game of the Class 2A Glenbard South regional. Fenton, which defeated Glenbard South 2-1 in the opening round of the playoffs, also won its bracket of the prestigious Pepsico Showdown tournament this season.

"The boys became champions," said Ruiz.

Ruiz saw his team take key

That chemistry is what Ruiz liked the most about the squad. "They all got along and helped and picked each other up on the field," he said.

Ruiz said the team was bolstered by many more players beyond Jaramillo and Madej, with individuals such as Chris Hernandez, Ethan Rojas, Alex Lamb and Josh Rutkowski making key contributions throughout the campaign.

Ruiz also had strong praise for goalkeepers Daniel Villanueva (23 saves) and Victor Carmona (37 saves, 1.50 goals-against average, 3 shutouts).

"Daniel and Victor split time in net and both did very well," he said.

Valentin Motta De Castro, Denilson Garcia and Melvin Salas each added three goals for Fenton, while Hernandez had two goals and four assists.

In terms of the future, Ruiz labels it as quite bright. "I am excited for next year," he said.

"We have a good core returning and they all are hungry to continue their success."

The Don of A New Day in Sports

One of the most exciting and enjoyable shows I ever did was on Ron Modas and I organized Bobby Hull Day in Addison. Bobby is a Canadian former ice hockey player who played from 1970-80 and is regarded as one of the greatest players of all time. His legendary skating speed, hit-to-end rushes, and ability to



in 70 games each season, he only scored a total of 31 goals. In 2017, he was named one of the "100 Greatest NHL Players" in history.

The list was created by the NHL on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The Village of Addison renamed Byron Avenue "Bobby Hull Lane" because he lived on Byron for about 10 years.

After the ceremony, Bobby signed autographs for well over 200 people at the Pyramid Pizza and Sports

Addison Trail hosts 'Go Pink or Go Home' event

For the 12th year in a row, Addison Trail supported Breast Cancer Awareness Month by hosting "Go Pink or Go Home" events throughout the month of October to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Quality of Life Surveillance Program with Elmhurst Hospital and the Nancy W. Knowles Center for Cancer Care. Go Pink activities are coordinated by Addison Trail's Blazettes Team, Cheerleading Team, Girls Volleyball Team, Orchestis Team,

L.A.D.I.E.S., Marching Band and Color Guard.

This year's highlights included:

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, the Addison Trail Girls Volleyball Team hosted the District 88 annual Go Pink match against Willowbrook, and the team took home the win.

Names of survivors in attendance were announced before the varsity game, and the student-athletes presented them with a pink rose. Raffle items, pink clothing and other

merchandise was available for purchase, raising \$537 for the cause.

To recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Addison Trail students and staff wore pink every Friday throughout the month.

This year was the 8th annual Go Pink Walk, which took place on Monday, Oct. 21.

Participants donated \$5 and had fun walking around the football stadium track with friends and family. Go Pink goodies also were

available to buy.

The Go Pink Football Game took place on Friday, Oct. 25 and featured a "Pink" routine from the Cheerleading, Poms and Orchestis teams. The Marching Band also wore pink plumes.

Funds raised from the Go Pink or Go Home events and activities will benefit the Breast Cancer Quality of Life Surveillance Program with Elmhurst Hospital and the Nancy W. Knowles Center for Cancer

Care. This year's final proceeds are still being calculated but last year, Addison Trail raised \$6,500.

Funds also will go toward the 4th Annual Go Pink or Go Home Breast Cancer Awareness Scholarship in Memory of Elizabeth Clifford, which is a \$1,000 student scholarship. Clifford was a special education teacher at Addison Trail and passed away in May 2016 after battling breast cancer for several years.



On Monday, Oct. 21, Addison Trail held the 8th annual Go Pink Walk as part of "Go Pink or Go Home" Week. Participants like those pictured here donated \$5 and had fun walking around the football stadium track with friends and family. "Go Pink" goodies also were available for purchase.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

On Sept. 10, the Addison Trail Girls Volleyball Team, pictured here playing Willowbrook, hosted the District 88 annual Go Pink match. AT managed to bring home the win. Prior to the varsity game, names of survivors in attendance were announced by presented with a pink rose by the student-athletes with a pink rose.

Community calendar

Thursday, Nov. 14

Understanding trusts, wills and power of attorney at the Library

From 7-8:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, you may have heard the terms "will," "trust," and "powers of attorney," but do you understand the appropriate uses for each document? Pankau Law attorneys will explain and lead a discussion to better understand the terms and provisions of these legal documents. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Friday, Nov. 15

ARTventures at the Library

From 10-10:45 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, stop by for an art-based story time full of stories, creativity, and fun. For ages 18 months-5 years with caregiver. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

Free lunch for students on early dismissal at the Library

District 4 lets out early, so students are welcome to come by the library from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. for lunch and stick around for games and crafts. Thank you to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for providing meals to our students. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

Saturday, Nov. 16-Sunday, Nov. 17

Giving crafts at the Library

From 2-4 p.m. both days at the Addison Public Library, stop by and create a project hat will be donated to a local organization. All ages are welcome. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

and what they can be used to do. Basic Excel skills are required. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Monday, Nov. 18-Thursday, Nov. 22

Hive Lab: Disaster Week at the Library

From 3:15-4:30 each day at the Addison Public Library, earn credit in your Indian Trail science class with these STEM events. Deliver emergency supplies, build a flood barrier, and survive in the wilderness with our daily natural disaster challenges. Each project takes about an hour and we'll have something new each day of the week. Drop in for one day or all four. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Monday, Nov. 18

Between the lines book discussion at Addison Park District

From 10-11 a.m. at the Addison Park District, 120 E. Oak St., the Addison Public Library's between the lines book discussion will take place. We'll discuss "The Dinner" by Herman Koch. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Holiday technology gifts at the Library

From 7-8:30 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, Mike Gershbein from VerySmartPeople will tell us about this holiday season's hottest gadget gifts that everyone in the family (including you) will want on their wish list—from smart home gadgets to smart phones to other fun tech toys. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Book a trip at the Library

From 4-5 p.m. for grades K-5 at the Addison Public Library, explore the world with us. We'll learn about traditions, songs, and foods from faraway places. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

Laughter Yoga at the Library

From 7-8 p.m. at the Adult Programming Room of the Addison Public Library, this can be a stressful time of the year, but laughter can help clear our minds, help us focus, and reduce stress. Laughter Yoga is an open, welcoming space to learn practical ways to use laughter in your daily life. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

Interviewing skills workshop at the Library

ACE your next interview. In this training from 6-8 p.m. in the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, we'll cover employer expectations, interview preparation basics, and appropriate questions to ask of the person interviewing you.

You will also get to practice answering interview questions.

Autumn craft at the Library

Make a splendid autumn craft for the season with local Polish artist Krystyna Jaro from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library. For all ages. Registration is now open. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

Thursday, Nov. 21

sonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Game night at the Library

From 6-8 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, connect with your family, friends, and neighbors over board games. We'll supply the board games and snacks. Game on! Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3320.

Graphic novel book club at the Library

From 6-7 p.m. for grades 2-5 at the Addison Public Library, join your friends to chat about the graphic novel All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson, author of Roller Girl. Ask for a copy of the book at the Children's Services desk. Snacks will be provided at the discussion. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

Saturday, Nov. 23

DIY mini garden: Succulents at the Library

From 2-3 p.m. for all ages (under 6 with caregiver) at the Addison Public Library, plants can be fun pals for any age! We'll show you how to plant your very own mini garden. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-458-3338.

Saturday, Nov. 30

LEGO get-together: 'Where we work' at the Library

From 2-4 p.m. for all ages at the Addison Public Library, drop in and make amazing LEGO creations. Participants will work in groups to put together an awesome masterpiece. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-

Army Trail welcomes VFW members

Army Trail School's 4th and 5th graders enjoyed a visit from members of Addison's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7446 last week in honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11. In what has become an annual tradition at the school, Addison veterans demonstrated a flag folding ceremony, where visitors fold an American flag while describing the symbolism attached to each fold of the flag. The students learned about the "Buddy" poppies, which became a symbol of Veterans Day after the flowers grew in Flanders Field, the site of a World War I battle. Proceeds from the sale of Buddy poppies benefit VFS veterans assistance programs.

Students took advantage of the opportunity to ask the veterans a variety of questions about their time in the military and to thank them for their service.

The visiting veterans had all served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War.



Visitors from the Addison VFW Post #7446 demonstrate folding the U.S. flag while one person described the symbolism attached to each fold of the flag. It was a valuable lesson for the 4th and 5th graders at Army Trail School.



The 4th and 5th graders at Army Trail School each shook hands with the veterans who visited the school from the Addison VFW Post #7446 in honor of Veterans Day. All were veterans of the Vietnam War.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail students named State Scholars

Pictured are Addison Trail students who have been named 2020-21 State Scholars, recently announced by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). They include (listed alphabetically not as pictured): Stephanie Avila, Nicole Bartosik, Bryssa Chaide Rocco Ciarlaglia, Alex Conrad, Kate Diego, Andreja Duncevic, Al Gamino, Hesse Gonzalez, Quincy Gunnerson, Jonathan Lollin Johan Lora, Lyndsey Mihal, Jenny Muka, Parvathy Nair, Elizabeth O'Brien, Aidan O'Donnell, Aesha Patel, Dhruv Patel, Kevin Perale Cindy Pham, Monika Poniatowski, Amy Reyes, Paulina Stachur John Stathopoulos, Katerina Vassos, Teagan Whitaker, James Zait and Stephen Zhao.

• Sew (Continued from page 4)

project in mind. Then, she received an invitation to a party.

"My friend was having a theme party in New York where she wanted everyone to wear something with African print," she said. "I knew I could either spend a lot of money and buy something, or be adventurous and make something for less money."

Assan opted for the latter and promptly booked an appointment in the Creative Studio to learn how to use the library's Janome® computerized sewing machine, meeting with Digital Services Coordinator Angelica Elias-Magadan in August 2019.

"I don't have a sewing machine, and [the library] is the only place that had enough space [to sew]," said Assan. "I live in an apartment, and I just felt like in the Creative Studio I could clear my head and not be distracted by all the other things I want to do at home."

After learning the basics of the machine, Assan turned to the library's books to teach herself the other essential skills she'd need to complete her project.

"I didn't know how to take measurements for something like a skirt, or how to sew it closed when it was done, so I went to the catalog online and looked up books that teach you how to sew," she said. "I went to get one book and ended up taking five or six, so I had a stack of books. It was really helpful—I was between YouTube University and looking at the books

Assan got to work in the library's Creative Studio.

"[Elias-Magadan] got this awesome beginner sewing kit that had all the tools you'd need to make any project: things like extra needles for the sewing machine, the roller cutter, pins, scissors, the stuff you use to mark your materials, that kind of thing," Assan said. "It saved my life! I was using chalk and rulers and it just wasn't what I needed. Besides buying spools of thread the machine and the fabric, I didn't have to purchase anything extra."

Before long, the skirt was completed. Assan shows off the zipper with pride—it's expertly hidden within the skirt's fabric, a technique that Elias-Magadan says most beginners are too intimidated to try.

"I had the chance to see the finished product and was amazed at her work," said Elias-Magadan. "I was so impressed by [Assan's] eagerness to learn and teach herself all the sewing tricks she needed for her project."

For a lifelong library lover like Assan, having the Creative Studio available to her for this project affirmed what she already knew about libraries—that she would be able to find everything she needed.

"I tell everybody to go to the library. When I was a kid, we used to go to the library all the time," Assan said. "My mom would take us with no plan or agenda, but we always found something to do, whether it was reading

this community."

After debuting her skirt at the party in New York and posting photos on social media, Assan received a huge amount of praise from friends and family, as well as a few skirt requests.

"If I get better [at sewing], I might take orders," she said.

But for now, Assan is planning to make another appointment to learn how to use the Creative Studio's vinyl cutter to make T-shirt designs. She got the idea while she sewed her skirt, chatting with another patron in the Creative Studio, who was making T-shirts of their own.

"We were joking that we could start a whole business at the library—and we totally could, just because of all the resources it provide[s]," said Assan. "That's why I think it's so important to go to the library. They might have what you don't have."

Elias-Magadan offers occasional sewing classes, among other crafting programs, in the Creative Studio but she always welcomes a one-on-one appointment to teach patrons how to use the sewing machines like she did for Assan.

"I was really inspired by working with [Assan]. She took a lot of initiative," Elias-Magadan said. "I hope we have more people like her who want to come in and use our machines. I know we have so much talent in our community and I hope we can provide the space and the tools for more people to



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Illinois State Representative Kathleen Willis, who is a member of Addison Trail's class of 1980.

Willis honored by Addison Trail High School

State Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Northlake, received the Addison Trail High School Tradition of Excellence Award today. The Tradition of Excellence award is the highest honor presented by Addison Trail to its graduates. Initiated in 1999, this annual award recognizes Addison Trail alumni's outstanding achievements in professional fields such as medicine, engineering, science, education, art, music and law.

"As a lifelong member of our community, I feel honored to receive this recognition," Willis said. "I have dedicated my life to building a brighter future for families in our area and I look forward to continuing my efforts to create positive change for the Addison Trail community."

Sew Inspired Addison resident discovers talent for sewing in Library's Creative Studio

The Addison Public Library is one of the many libraries across the country that has its own maker's space or studio, where patrons can explore their crafty side and pick up a new hobby.

For Addison resident Efua Assan, the library's Creative Studio was the perfect space for her to explore sewing, where she quickly breezed past the basics to design and sew her first custom skirt.

Assan lives close to the library and regularly borrows books and movies. She knew about the library's Creative Studio, but didn't know it had sewing machines until she happened to see someone sewing during one of her library visits more than a year ago.

When she asked about the machines, Assan learned that first she would need to make an appointment to learn how to use the sewing machines but would be welcome to

Violinist offers clinic to ITJH music students

Violinist Diana Brodick visited orchestra classes at Indian Trail Junior High School on Wednesday, Oct. 16 to work with students on bowing and string playing techniques. Brodick is one of a number of professional musicians that is holding clinics for instrumental music classes at the junior high school thanks to a Young People's Music Initiative Grant provided by the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation. This is the third year of a seven-year grant that is bringing musical opportunities to Addison School District 4 students. This year, Indian Trail received \$2970 for music education projects.

About the JCS Fund

The JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation supports instrumental music, cultural, health, education, artistic and other charitable organizations serving the need of residents of DuPage County. For more information, visit dupagefoundation.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Students at Indian Trail Junior High participate in a clinic led by professional violinist Diana Brodick, who visited orchestra classes on Wednesday, Oct. 16 to work with the young musicians on bowing and string playing techniques.



Thanks to a Young People's Music Initiative Grant provided by the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation, these Indian Trail students had the opportunity attend a clinic led by violinist Diana Brodick.

College news

Resident partners with law enforcement

As a pharmacy student at Cedarville University in Ohio, Leno Abraham of Addison recently partnered with local police for the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



Leno Abraham

Brian Melchi of the County Sheriff's Office.

"As a pharmacy student, we rarely get the chance to work with the community outside the pharmacy and it is exciting to have the opportunity to work with local detectives on this important matter," said Abraham. "We as students have a unique position to serve the members of our community by educating them on proper medication disposal and the positive impact it has on the people around us and the environment."

Iowa Startup Games, an activity of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.

The Iowa Startup Games is a three-day event at which students from all areas of study pitch their entrepreneurial ideas to a group of panelists for a chance to win cash prizes.

The top three teams selected by the judges received top prizes. Teams were also honored as the "Judge's Choice" (selected by the judges) and the "People's Choice" (selected by the audience). Anthony and his

Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 2019



Musical at Willowbrook

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook High School presented three performances of its fall musical—"Mamma Mia!"—last week in the school auditorium. The musical features the music of ABBA. Pictured (left to right) near the end of Friday's presentation are: (front row)

Junior Anna Tymozzenko, Junior Michael Poirier, senior Emma Clemesie, senior Vincenzo Ledonna II and senior Emily O'Brochta; (back row) Junior Gabi Caruso, senior Erin Rosario, senior Pearl Hosman, senior Jordan Rust and Junior Jack Cullerton.

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District 88 honors veterans, first responders

(Top left photo) On Nov. 8, Addison Trail welcomed veterans and first responders in honor of Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11. They are pictured with Addison Trail students who plan to serve in the military. (Top right photo) Mike Masello shows Addison Trail senior Isabella India, who plans to join the National Guard, photos from his years of service in the U.S. Army. (Bottom left photo) American flags line the entryway to Willowbrook on Monday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

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ATHS, WBHS honor veterans in recognition of Veterans Day

Addison Trail and Willowbrook recently honored those who have served in the U.S. military in remembrance of Veterans Day.

On Nov. 8, Addison Trail invited members of the Addison Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7446 and other veterans, as well as the Addison Police Department and the Addison Fire Protection District, to a luncheon. Participants watched a video and saw a display in the media center that featured photos and items of veterans with a connection to Addison Trail or the Village of Addison. The school also recognized current students who plan to serve in the military.

At Willowbrook, American flags lined the entryway to the school on Nov. 11. Willowbrook staff members

who have served also read announcements at the start of each period that day to share information about the

branches of the military and the history of Veterans Day. See photos on page 16.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

S	H	A	L	T		A	D	D		W	O	O	L	
T	A	B	O	O		G	E	E		M	A	D	L	Y
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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Trustees of the Bensenville Community Public Library District, Cook and DuPage Counties, Illinois, that the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees has been changed from Monday, December 23, 2019 at 7:30 pm to Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

Tina Lux

Secretary, Board of Trustees
(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review Nov. 21, 2019)

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SPORTS

Nov. 21, 2019 • 21

Warriors take it to another level, advance to state semifinals

Holliday's interception return for a TD seals victory; Warriors will face Mount Carmel this Saturday in Villa Park

By Chris Fox
VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook football program earned a breakthrough post-season victory on Saturday.

The Warriors, who lost in the quarterfinal round of the IHSA playoffs in each of the last three seasons, secured an exciting 28-10 win at Lake Zurich in Saturday's Class 7A quarterfinal contest.

Willowbrook advanced to this Saturday's semifinal clash against undefeated Mount Carmel in Villa Park. The semifinal battle between the Warriors and the Caravan will begin at 1 p.m.

The winner will meet either Nazareth Academy or Rolling Meadows in the Class 7A state championship game at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb on Nov. 30. Both Nazareth Academy and Rolling Meadows enter the semifinal round with unblemished 12-0 records.

The Warriors haven't played in the semifinal round of the IHSA playoffs in 44 years. The 1974 and 1975 Willowbrook teams advanced to the semifinal round of the 5A level; at that time, the 5A level featured the state's largest schools. There are now eight football classes in the state, with the 8A level including the largest schools.

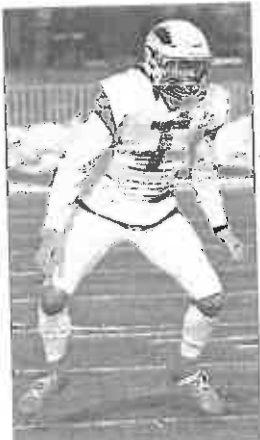
The 1975 Willowbrook team suffered a 21-13 semifinal loss to Boylan Catholic of Rockford. In 1974, the Warriors lost 26-7 to Glenbrook North in the semifinals.

Willowbrook held a 14-10 half-time lead over Lake Zurich in Saturday's quarterfinal, which was played in cool and bright conditions. The second half remained scoreless until the final two minutes of the game, when Willowbrook delivered a pair of interception returns for touchdowns.

Senior Deandre Holliday all but locked up the Warriors' victory when he picked off a short Lake Zurich pass and raced 65 yards to the end zone with 1:37 left in the game. Holliday's touchdown and the subsequent extra-point kick lifted Willowbrook to a 21-10 lead.

"I read the coverage; he ran a short route and I was just right there to pick it off," said Holliday of his explosive play. "Once I saw it in my hands, I knew I had to bring it home for the boys. It was a great play."

On the next play from scrimmage, Willowbrook junior Haven Pryor picked off a Lake Zurich throw and ran 68 yards for a touchdown. The



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

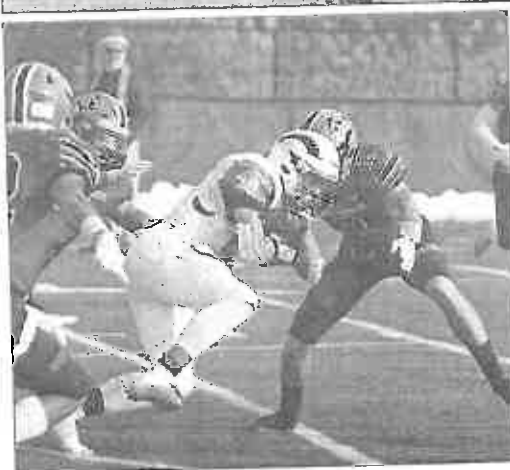
The Willowbrook football team advanced to the IHSA Class 7A semifinals with Saturday's 28-10 quarterfinal victory at Lake Zurich. The Warriors lost in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs in each of the previous three seasons. Willowbrook senior Deandre Holliday (No. 1-above) sealed his team's win with a 65-yard interception return for a touchdown with less than two minutes left in the game. Senior Sam Tumilty (No. 6-top right) provided one touchdown pass and one touchdown run. Tumilty also intercepted a Lake Zurich pass. Senior Anthony Yannotti (also pictured-right) is shown making a reception that helped the Warriors to their second touchdown. Willowbrook (11-1) will face Mount Carmel (12-0) in this Saturday's Class 7A semifinal game in Villa Park.

Warriors and their large contingent of fans who traveled to Lake Zurich barely had time to curb their celebration of Holliday's touchdown before erupting to watch Pryor race into the end zone.

Willowbrook intercepted five Lake Zurich passes during the game. Holliday provided two of the interceptions.

"We're just excited to go another week with each other," said senior Sam Tumilty after the victory. Tumilty made one of the Warriors' five interceptions while playing defense. Offensively, the standout quarterback supplied one touchdown pass and one TD run.

"I think our defense played big today," added Tumilty. "Our defense definitely stepped up. I think we just battled throughout the whole game."



The Warriors improved their 2019 record to 11-1 and picked up their 11th straight victory with Saturday's win. Lake Zurich finished the season with an 8-4 record.

"You just keep putting yourself in that position, and you continue to believe and work," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after the win over the Bears. "These guys don't flinch. They don't hesitate. They keep going and going. They got down early in this game twice, and they still kept battling back."

Lake Zurich received the game's opening kickoff and ran more than eight minutes off the clock on its first

offensive drive. The drive concluded with a 31-yard field goal that gave the Bears a 3-0 lead with 3:56 left in the opening quarter.

Willowbrook responded by driving 72 yards for a touchdown on its opening offensive series. The Warriors' scoring drive took less than three minutes off the clock. Tumilty threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to senior Everett Shubblefield, who was wide open in the end zone. Sophomore Izzy Manning added the first of her four extra-point kicks of the game to give the Warriors a 7-3 lead with 1:11 left in the first quarter.

Lake Zurich regained the lead

with a 55-yard touchdown pass on the final play of the first quarter. The extra-point kick gave the Bears a 10-7 lead. The kick also accounted for Lake Zurich's final point of the game.

Willowbrook's second offensive drive of the game produced another touchdown. The Warriors marched 77 yards for a score early in the second quarter. The drive ended moments after Tumilty completed a pass to senior Anthony Yannotti, who advanced the ball to Lake Zurich's 5-yard line. Tumilty ran the ball across the goal line on the next play. Manning's extra-point kick gave the Warriors a 14-10 lead with 9:03 left in the second quarter.

The Bears pushed the ball inside the Warriors' 20-yard line later in the second quarter. The drive ended when Lake Zurich turned the ball over on downs; the Bears threw an incomplete pass into the end zone on a fourth-and-eight play from the 19-yard line with about three minutes remaining in the first half.

The Bears regained possession after a Willowbrook punt. Lake Zurich's ensuing drive ended when Holliday made his first interception of the day. He picked off the pass at Willowbrook's 23-yard line with 1:08 to play in the half.

The Warriors quickly punted the ball away, giving the Bears one more scoring opportunity before halftime. Willowbrook sophomore Nick Mabutas intercepted a Lake Zurich pass near the Warriors' 20-yard line on the final play of the first half.

See **WARRIORS**, Page 22

Addison Trail-Willowbrook's Hassler qualifies for state swimming meet

Blazers/Warriors top finishes ninth at York sectional

Mike Miazga
RESPONDENT
Addison Trail-Willowbrook girls swimmer Ellie Hassler is headed to state meet.
Hassler, a sophomore at Willowbrook, qualified for state in three events in the athletes with disabilities division at the Saturday's York Sectional in Elmhurst.
She finished first in the 50 freestyle with a time of 41.94, took first in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:36.92 and was first in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 2:18.38.

Hassler will compete in Friday's state finals meet at New Trier in Winnetka.
AT-Willowbrook finished ninth at the York sectional with 64 points.
Another highlight was Addison Trail sophomore Carly Zaprzal finishing fifth in the breaststroke with a time of 1:11.46.
Junior Nancy Obrzut (Addison Trail) took ninth in the 50 with a time of 26.14, while DeAnna Tate, a junior at Willowbrook, was 15th at 26.86.
Tate placed 18th in the 100 with a time of 58.57. Freshman Jessica Pociacha (Addison Trail) took 15th in the 200 in 2:07.21. Sophomore teammate Suzanne Ramirez (Addison Trail) was right behind her in 16th place at 2:08.10.

Sophomore Delaney Gayon (Addison Trail) was 11th in the 500 with a time of 5:39.86. Pociacha placed 12th at 5:51.30.
Gayon took 13th in the backstroke at 1:05.36, while Willowbrook freshman Kaitlyn Jaskier was 19th at 1:10.75.
Junior Nell Pawlowski (Addison

Trail) took 19th in the event with a time of 1:21.28.
Zaprzal was 10th in the butterfly (1:04.34), while Obrzut was 14th (1:05.51). Addison Trail freshman Sofia Angiulo was 19th in the 200 IM at 2:43.26, while junior Caitlin Brennan (Willowbrook) was 20th (2:46.73).

AT-Willowbrook was seventh in the 200 freestyle relay at 1:46.16 with Tate, Cara Burns (Willowbrook), Zaprzal and Obrzut.
Tate, Burns, Gayon and Pociacha swam 3:53.23 in the 400 relay and took eighth, while Gayon, Zaprzal, Obrzut and Pociacha went 1:55.84 in the medley relay and finished fifth.

Cory Little era under way for Addison Trail girls basketball team

New coach encouraged by early signs

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT
New Addison Trail girls basketball coach Cory Little likes what he has seen so far from his group during fall practice.

"They play well together," said Little. "They share the ball well and they encourage each other. They are pushing each other in practice and they believe in everything we are teaching them."

The Blazers are coming off a 2018-2019 year where they went 11-18 overall and 1-11 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

Little takes over a team that returns some contributors from last season and features some promising new faces.

Back from last year are sophomore guard Quiana Birmingham, junior forward-center Mia Johnson and senior guard Demi Koulogeorgas.

Key newcomers include junior guard-forward Ally Severino, sophomore forward-center Maria Velez and sophomore guard Juliana Nasti.

"We have a lot of girls who do not have varsity experience," said Little. "Q, Demi and Mia will lead the pack."

When we're in practice and in games everybody should have that mentality that they are ready to go out and compete, but those three returning girls will lead the pack for us starting out."

Little said education has been key on the offensive side of the ball. "We are teaching them to read and react off screens," he said. "They are focused and gaining confidence. The offense is looking a lot better than when we started because we are learning these concepts and they are believing in themselves."

Little added that Addison Trail will be active on the defensive front.

"Defensively we will be all over the floor," he said.

"We will play a little man-to-man and then we could play 1-3-1 or 2-3. We'll switch it up and throw off our opponents. We could be in a 1-3-1 and then go to a 2-3 or 3-2. Our team is geared toward every aspect of that. We want to throw our opponent off so they have to think every time they come down the floor."

This past Saturday Little saw plenty he liked on the practice floor. "We are progressing very well," he said. "(Last Saturday) was one of our best days we've had."

Little said point guard play will be a

key factor for the Blazers.

"Most college and professional teams are geared around the point guard," he said. "We are going to make them more responsible out on the floor. If they see something, they are going to run with it. We are going to support them. We are going to put the offense in the point guard's hands. Both our point guards are up to the challenge."

Little likes the potential for forward progress with this group.

"The sky is the limit for this group," he said. "We are here to build something special. I love watching them have a good time and smile coming out of practice. That's what you strive for as a program. I see a lot of upside with this group."

Addison Trail opened the season earlier this week in the Hinsdale South tournament against Metea Valley. The tournament runs throughout this week.

"Hinsdale will be challenging," said Little. "We used to host our own tournament with Fenton. Now, we're jumping into another dimension. We're up for the challenge and we are going into it with a positive mindset that we can compete with anybody. We go in as a team night in and night out."

Addison Trail opens WSC Gold play Dec. 3 at Morton.

Warriors (Continued from page 21)

Willowbrook's first drive of the second half ended with the Warriors turning the ball over on downs at Bears' 35-yard line. Lake Zurich mounted a drive into Willowbrook territory. The Bears' quarterback suffered a wrist or arm injury during that drive. He exited the game at 4:26 left in the third quarter and not return.
Lake Zurich's new quarterback threw his first pass of the day a few plays later; Tumilty intercepted the pass inside the Warriors' 20-yard line returned the ball to near midfield. Willowbrook's subsequent drive ended when the Bears made an interception of a Tumilty pass at Lake Zurich's 25-yard line with about one minute left in the third quarter.
The Bears' next drive extended to the middle of the fourth quarter ended with a punt with about six minutes to play in the game. Willowbrook then punted the ball away with four minutes remaining. The

Bears took possession at their own 40-yard line.

Needing a touchdown to take the lead, Lake Zurich picked up a few first downs on its ensuing drive. The Bears advanced the ball to the Warriors' 37-yard line before Holliday delivered the game-sealing interception and touchdown return.

"It feels amazing," stated Holliday in celebrating the team's push into the semifinals. "It's just like last week I was nine years old, running on their (the Warriors') grass field in their youth league. Now I'm here—senior year—18 years old, making plays for the varsity team, on our way to the semifinal round. It's just a great feeling."

Moments after Pryor's interception and touchdown return, the de-flated Bears fumbled the ensuing kickoff. Junior Rajee Bey-Moore of the Warriors recovered the fumble with 1:09 to play. The Warriors then ran out the clock.

Willowbrook football playoff preview Mount Carmel (12-0) at Willowbrook (11-1)

What: Semifinals of the Class 7A state football playoffs.
When: Saturday, 1 p.m.
Where: Willowbrook High School, Villa Park.
Seeds: Mount Carmel is the No. 1 seed in the 32-team 7A bracket. Willowbrook is the No. 5 seed.
Last week: Willowbrook defeated Lake Zurich 28-10. Mount Carmel beat Chicago Phillips 24-8.
Outlook: Outlook: The fourth time was indeed the charm for Willowbrook, which finds itself in the state semifinals. The Warriors made it to the state quarterfinals in each of the previous three seasons. Willowbrook's 11-1 record puts this year's team in a tie for the best record in program history along with last year's squad (which went 9-0 during the regular season) and the 1975 Chris Evans coached team that sat in the Class 5A semifinals.
Staring across the line of scrimmage will be one of the state's most storied high school football programs. Mount Carmel of Chicago ranks second all-time in state history for most state football trophies with 17. The Caravan has won 12 state championships (only Joliet Catholic has won more with 14) and has taken second five other times.
The Caravan has not won a state title since 2013. Mount Carmel lays out of the Chicago Catholic League/East Suburban Catholic Conference Blue Division. The Caravan has played nine teams this season that have won seven or more games. Mount Carmel has had a couple close calls this season, winning 17-14 at home against Loyola and 6-9 on the road at Marquette.
Up next: The winner heads to the Class 7A state title game on Sunday Nov. 30, at Northern Illinois University's Huskie Stadium. DeKalb Mount Carmel or Willowbrook will face the winner of the Class 7A semifinal, which features No. 2 seed Knoch Academy (12-0) at No. 3 seed Rolling Meadows (12-0).



CHRIS FOX PHOTO/Rock Valley Publishing

Winning Warriors

Willowbrook's football team earned a 28-10 victory at Lake Zurich in Saturday's IHSA Class 7A quarterfinal playoff game. Willowbrook's cheerleaders formed a gauntlet for the players during the post-game celebration. Senior Carlos Hernandez (No. 62) is pictured running toward the Willowbrook crowd. The Warriors, who improved to 11-1 with their win over Lake Zurich, will face Mount Carmel (12-0) in this Saturday's Class 7A semifinal game in Villa Park.

Trio of returners to lead way for Willowbrook girls basketball team

Warriors out to defend share of West Suburban Conference Gold crown

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team is in good shape when it comes to experience.

Coach Terry Harrell's squad returns numerous key cogs off a 2018-2019 team that went 20-11 and earned a share of the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title with a 10-2 mark. Willowbrook shared the title with Proviso East, despite beating the Pirates twice last season.

Leading that list of returners are junior post player Stephanie Dasbach, senior guard K'Aliyha Herron and ju-

nior guard Annemarie Knudsen. Junior point guard Gracie Tumilty also is back, but she is sidelined for the season after suffering a knee injury earlier in the fall.

"Gracie Tumilty is a painful loss for us," said Harrell, "but we feel good about what we have coming back. Stephanie Dasbach has really improved over the summer. She had a heck of a year last year averaging nine points and 12 rebounds. We expect more than that this year. We're looking at a double-double this year. K'Aliyha Herron worked very hard to develop her jump shot in the offseason and she has done that. I would say she can take just about anybody to the basket."

Harrell said Knudsen's role will be even greater this season.

"Annemarie was fantastic off the bench last year," he said. "She could

have been a starter, no matter what. She moves to point guard now and she is a very good point guard. Last year Gracie was our mainstay and never came off the court. We won't lose anything with Annemarie in there."

Harrell added juniors Olivia Sobieszczyk (guard-forward) and Abbey Spada (guard) both had good years at the sophomore level, and now will move into the Warriors' starting lineup. "Olivia should be a very consistent three-point shooter and will help us spread the floor," he said. "Abbey will be very solid for us as a two-guard. I am very comfortable with our starting lineup."

Harrell said the key to Willowbrook's season will be the development of its bench.

"The girls coming off the bench were good at the sophomore level,"

he said. "Varsity is a step up for anybody. We expect that they will continue to develop. We'll know what we have when we start playing games. Overall, we expect to be a pretty good team."

Willowbrook's schedule has been boosted this season. Harrell noted perennial state power and area neighbor Montini now is part of the annual Willowbrook Thanksgiving tournament, which starts this week. The event also includes Stevenson, Lockport, Plainfield Central and East Aurora.

"Almost everybody on that list has at least one Division I player," said Harrell. "It's going to be a good tournament."

On the non-conference side, the Warriors added Maine South and Argo. "Argo I believe won 24 games last season," Harrell pointed out. "We will be tested this year. We could be a

better team than last year and not win 20 games like we did last year.

"I think we are going to be a solid team and we can be more than a solid team, it just depends on the development of the young ladies off the bench," added Harrell. "In order for us to be really good, we need contributions off the bench."

Harrell said juniors Kayla Rauce-Lease and Kenya Lewis are leading the charge right now off the bench.

Willowbrook opened the season earlier this week with a non-conference game against Glenbard North. The Warriors open play in their tournament tonight at 6 p.m. against East Aurora.

"The girls have worked really hard up to this point," Harrell said. "We have seen some great development. And now when the lights come on, we'll figure it all out."

Young Fenton girls basketball team ready to roll

Bison begin first year of play in Upstate Eight Conference

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Fenton girls basketball team has youth on its side this season.

The Bison varsity roster features nine freshmen and sophomores. "The biggest strength we have right now is our eagerness to learn," said Fenton coach Dave Mello.

"We have nine freshmen and sophomores on the roster. It is easily the youngest varsity team we have worked with. The inexperience obviously will cause some problems for us, but it is also great to see how hard they are working and willing to learn."

Fenton went 16-16 last year and took fourth in the Metro Suburban Conference Red Division with an 8-6 mark. The Bison moved over to the Upstate Eight Conference this year.

Back for Fenton from last year are seniors Ashley Milano (shooter), Joni Lucas (trailer) and Becky Millard (post), along with sophomore Hailey Miller (point-wing) and sophomore Sophia Haska (post).

Milano averaged 6.4 points per game and made 59 three-pointers to go with 71 steals. Lucas averaged 3.8 points and made 34 threes and had 121 rebounds. Millard had 42

rebounds and 51 deflections. Miller contributed 122 points, 111 rebounds and 67 assists, while Haska had 93 points and 113 rebounds. Lucas also blocked 21 shots last year.

Key newcomers to the team include juniors Brianna Tellez (shooter) and Nikolina Maric (wing), Aneta Lula (post) and Alexa Herrera (post/trailer), along with freshmen Kaitlyn Haffling (ball handler), Adriana Rocha (ball handler) and Molina Lira (trailer).

Tellez and Lula, in particular, have made an impression since the summer.

"Brianna is a junior playing on varsity for the first time," said Mello. "She is one of the better shooters we have had, and also is gaining confidence attacking the basket. She also uses her length to help us on defense. Aneta is a sophomore who made the jump straight from the freshman team to varsity. She has improved her post moves, and also has extended her shooting range out to the 3-point line."

Mello said understanding the speed of the varsity game has been a key the past few weeks.

"We have improved the most at understanding the pace of play and what it takes to execute," he said. "Also, in the summer we have girls playing at all three levels of our program. Right now, we are working

with the varsity girls together, and it automatically increases the pace of all drills."

Offensively, Mello is excited about the prospects in his high-occurrence offense.

"The offense is really coming along," he said. "We feel we can play as fast as last year and that our 3-point shooting may actually be improved this year. We have spent a lot of time working on different offensive skills and feel like we have the opportunity to be explosive. That being said, we know there will be nights where we struggle to hit shots and it will be a very rough night."

The defensive side of the ball, Mello noted, will be a work in progress due to the youthful look of the roster.

"The defense is going to take some time," he said. "Having as many players as we have, it is not surpris-

ing that they will need a lot of time to get a complete feel for where to be on defense all the time."

Mello said a cure to the youth question will come once games start piling up.

"Just get game experience for a lot of our young girls," he said. "The more time the younger girls play earlier in the season, the better we will be later in the season. Also, we need each girl to get a little better at shooting, and we feel we will really take some big steps forward."

Fenton wastes no time jumping into UBC play. The Bison played Bartlett earlier in the week after opening the season at Chicago Lake View.

"We are very excited for the move to the UBC," Mello said. "We like the idea of being in a conference with the history of the Upstate Eight. That being said, we know we are going to

face a lot of very difficult challenges.

We jump right in with a trip to reigning conference champ Bartlett. We know Bartlett, South Elgin and, of course, two-time state qualifier Glenbard South are all really good. East Aurora has a chance to be right at or near the top this season. We don't shy away from playing anyone, so we are looking forward to the competition."

Fenton has its home opener Nov. 21 against Chicago Curie and will head to the city to play Chicago UIC College Prep on Monday.

"What we really like most about this group is its willingness to work," Mello said. "Now that we have completed two full weeks, the girls are really understanding what the expectations are in terms of work ethic. It also is really good to hear the three seniors we do have being vocal leaders and helping all of the younger girls."

The Don of A New Day in Sports

Here is a funny story about Bob Avellini, a quarterback for the Chicago Bears in the 1970s. I was asked to pick him up at his home so we could attend a golf outing at Old Orchard Golf Club.

When Bob got in my 2000 AstroVan, he asked, "Where is your GPS?" I said I don't have one. Then he asked to use my smartphone and I said I don't have one but you could use my flip phone. He laughed and said, "Boy, Don, you are really old school!"

Trivia questions to win a t-shirt:
What college did Tom Brady attend?
What high school did Dick Butkus attend?
Call 630-530-7061 with the answers.



DON
FIGARELLI
COLUMNIST



SUBMITTED PHOTO: Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook students earn awards

On Nov. 1, 19 Willowbrook students participated in Carthage College's 20th Annual Model United Nations Conference for high school students (pictured above). The Willowbrook students competed in General Assembly and Security Council simulations, as well as on the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the U.S. Senate Crisis Committee to discuss immigration issues. They debated a range of topics, including vaccination protocols, internment camps, the U.S. border, private corporations using space and the reconstruction of Syria. The participants passed resolutions for each of these issues. Willowbrook senior Sandy Ortiz earned third place representing Guatemala in General Assembly 1; sophomore Nathaniel Falco earned third place representing the U.S. in Security Council 2; and senior Zachary Noesen earned second place representing John Cornyn (U.S. Senator for Texas) in the U.S. Senate.