

SPORTS

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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

Chris Fox
A 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 defeated 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 0-0 records.

The Warriors haven't played in a semifinal round of the IHSA playoffs in 44 years. The 1974 and 75 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 Boyds Catholic of Rockford. In 1974, the Warriors lost 26-7 to Glenbrook North in the semifinals.

Willowbrook held a 14-10 halftime 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 picked 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 mind, I knew I had to bring it home to 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 Stubblefield, 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.

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

Blazers/Warriors co-op finishes ninth at York sectional

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Addison Trail-Willowbrook girls swimmer Ellie Hassler is headed to the 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 Pocięcha (Addison Trail) took 15th in the 200 in 2:07.21. Sophomore teammate Suzzane 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. Pocięcha 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 with Tate, Cara Burns (Willowbrook), Zaprzal and Obrzut.

Tate, Burns, Gayon and Pocięcha went 1:33.23 in the 400 freestyle relay, while Gayon, Obrzut and Pocięcha went 1:33.23 in the medley relay and finished

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 pro teams are geared around the guard," he said. "We are going to put the in the point guard's hands. B point guards are up to the challenge. Little likes the potential for progress with this group."

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

Addison Trail opened the earlier this week in the Hinsdale tournament against Metea Val tournament runs throughout the "Hinsdale will be a challenge," said Little. "We used to host a tournament with Fenton. Now jumping into another division we're up for the challenge and going into it with a positive attitude that we can compete with anybody in as a team night in and night out."

Addison Trail opens WSI 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 the Bears' 35-yard line. Lake Zurich then mounted a drive into Willowbrook territory. The Bears' quarterback suffered a wrist or arm injury during that drive. He exited the game with 4:26 left in the third quarter and did 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 and 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 into the middle of the fourth quarter and ended with a punt with about six minutes to play in the game. Willowbrook then punted the ball away with about 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 dejected 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 9-1 during the regular season) and the 1975 Clint Evans-coached team that lost 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 plays 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 6-0 on the road at Marquette.

Up next: The winner heads to the Class 7A state title game on Saturday, Nov. 30, at Northern Illinois University's Huskie Stadium in DeKalb. Mount Carmel or Willowbrook will face the winner of the other 7A semifinal, which features No. 2 seed Nazareth Academy (12-0) at No. 3 seed Rolling Meadows (12-0).



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley

Winning Warriors

Willowbrook's football team earned a 28-10 victory at Lake Zurich in Saturday's IHSA Class 7A semifinal playoff game. Willowbrook's cheerleaders formed a gauntlet for the players during the game celebration. Senior Carlos Hernandez (No. 62) is pictured running toward the Willowbrook Warriors, who improved to 11-1 with their win over Lake Zurich, will face Mount Carmel (12-0) 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 Knudtson. 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 Knudtson'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 Raue-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), sophomores Elizabeth Aguirre (wing), Aneta Lula (post) and Alexa Herrera (post/trailer), along with freshmen Kaitlyn Hoffing (ball handler), Adriana Rocha (ball handler) and Melina 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-octane 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 new 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 UEC 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 UEC," 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 Orizaba 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.

Deandre Holliday's huge pick-six propels Willowbrook

Warriors reach state semifinals for the first time since 1975

By JOSHUA WELGE
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LAKE ZURICH — Deandre Holliday had many emotions spill out as he spoke of his big play.

He talked about personal redemption.

And Willowbrook history.

Holliday, though, also pondered his own place in that history. A Willowbrook senior, he recalled running on the grass field of youth leagues in Villa Park when he was 9 years old.

Holliday was on the first youth team when Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth came aboard as varsity coach in 2011.

"Now I'm here, senior year, 18 years old, making plays for the varsity team on our way to the semifinals," Holliday said. "It's just a great feeling. I know this is big for coach Hildreth, and I know he means the world to me. Without him I wouldn't be here."

Good thing Holliday is here.

Holliday's 65-yard interception return for a touchdown in the final two minutes was the pivotal play in the Warriors' victory over Lake Zurich.

Haven Pryor added his own pick-six on the next play from scrimmage, and Willowbrook went on to a 28-10 win in the Class 7A quarterfinal Nov. 16.

Willowbrook (11-1), in the quarterfinals for the fourth straight year, finally broke through to the semifinals for the first time since 1975.

"It feels great. It's great to know that it's for Willowbrook," said Willowbrook senior Sam Tumilty, who ran for a touchdown, threw a TD and also had one of the Warriors' five interceptions. "These past few years, what we've done, this is for all those guys that came before us."

Holliday last year broke up a pass on a play similar to his interception in the waning mo-



Gregory Shawer for Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Sam Tumilty (right) congratulates teammate Deandre Holliday after Holliday intercepted a pass and ran for a touchdown during a victory over Lake Zurich in a Class 7A state quarterfinal Nov. 16.

ments of a quarterfinal game at Batavia.

It was a game Willowbrook eventually lost in overtime.

This time, with Lake Zurich (8-4) driving for a go-ahead score, Holliday didn't hesitate. He jumped a short out route, picked off backup quarterback Jack Robertson, and went untouched down the right sideline for a TD and 21-10 lead with 1:37 left.

"That same pass last year, I was more hesitant, a junior. I broke it up, but it should have been a pick," Holliday said. "I'm happy that I had a chance to make up for it. I'm a senior now. I need to make big plays."

It was Holliday's second pick of the game, and he anticipated this one beautifully.

"I felt like they were going to do something short. They were trying to get little yards here and there," Holliday said. "So I anticipated them doing short toward the sidelines, read it and took it to the house."

Hildreth, himself a Willowbrook grad, couldn't be happier.

Willowbrook went 0-9 in Hildreth's first year in 2011, at the time the program's fourth straight losing season. But the Warriors got back to the playoffs the next year, broke through to the quarterfinals in 2016, and now this.

Willowbrook hosts Mount Carmel this week.

"I got this job — my very first youth summer camp. Deandre is in that camp and it makes me feel old," Hildreth said. "But me being a Willowbrook guy and growing up here and living here and then getting those kids from the neighborhood out to those youth camps and seeing them improve and seeing them in big spots make big plays, that's as good as it gets."

The game looked to be a high-scoring affair early, with scores on the first four possessions.

Lake Zurich had a 13-play drive on its first possession,

capped by a 31-yard Jack Rigby field goal. Willowbrook promptly answered with Tumilty's 24-yard TD pass to Everett Stubblefield for a 7-3 lead with 1:11 left in the first quarter.

Three plays later, Lake Zurich's James Piggott made a spectacular one-handed grab over double coverage and raced in for a 55-yard TD on the last play of the first quarter.

Back came Willowbrook on its next possession. Tumilty's 5-yard TD run on a keeper gave Willowbrook a 14-10 lead with 9:08 left in the half.

With Lake Zurich just rushing three in the early going, Tumilty took advantage with his legs. He ran for 91 of his 117 yards in the first half, weaving through the defense like he was on skates.

"Early on I think we found some nice windows," said Tumilty, who also threw for 98 yards. "The run was open a little bit, I'm going to scramble."

Lake Zurich's Jack Moses matched Tumilty for much of the first half. Moses was 13-for-20 at the half for 158 yards.

On Lake Zurich's first drive of the second half, though, Moses was dropped for a loss by Willowbrook's Elijah Brockie, left the game with a dislocated shoulder and didn't return.

Two plays later, Tumilty intercepted Robertson inside the Willowbrook 10.

Lake Zurich's defense had allowed a combined 21 points the previous four weeks, and stiffened after Willowbrook's first two drives.

But Willowbrook's defense rose to the occasion. Sophomore linebacker Josh Brown had a huge sack of Robertson to turn away a Lake Zurich fourth-quarter drive. Neither team's offense scored for nearly the last three quarters.

"There were times that they wore us down, but our kids just hung and hung and hung," Hildreth said. "These kids, they don't quit. It's never pretty, and not perfect. But they just keep bouncing back every single time."

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Girls basketball: Courts are back in session

By JOSHUA WELGE
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The girls basketball season tips off this week with many teams playing in tournaments to start the year. Here's the outlook for area teams.

Glenbard South Raiders

COACH: Morgan Eufrazio
2018-19 RECORD: 27-8

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Lauren Cohen	jr.	G
Rocky LaPente	sr.	G
Iman Sellers	jr.	F
Alex Wilham	jr.	F
Kelly Anderson	jr.	G/F
Akayla Dixon	sr.	G

Outlook: The Raiders have enjoyed a two-year run, taking second place in Class 3A last year and finishing third in 2017-18. Glenbard South returns four of its five starters, but the one they lost is a big one – 6-foot-3 All-Stater Maggie Bair, now at Drake. How the Raiders will learn to play without her is a central question. Cohen averaged 8.9 points and 4.1 rebounds as a sophomore and is a tenacious perimeter defender. LaPente averaged 4.1 points and 3.2 rebounds, Sellers three points and two rebounds and Wilham two points and 2.4 rebounds. Dixon is a transfer from Bishop McNamara.

Glenbard West Hilltoppers

COACH: Kristi Faulkner
2018-19 RECORD: 22-7

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Taylor Huff	sr.	F
Maggie Stutzelberg	jr.	G
Emma Hall	sr.	G
Addison Yeager	sr.	G
Renee Seaney	jr.	G

Outlook: The Hilltoppers have enjoyed a banner last two seasons, with back-to-back outright West Suburban Silver titles for the first time in program history. Gone is Glenbard West's catalyst, point guard Katelyn Heller, but the pieces are in place for continued success. Huff, committed to play collegiately at New York University, is a load in the post and averaged 12 points and 7.2 rebounds as a junior. Stutzelberg, with Division I offers from Western Michigan and Purdue-Fort Wayne, averaged 12.4 points and 4.1 rebounds and is a perimeter threat.

IC Catholic Prep Knights

COACH: Todd Fisher
2018-19 RECORD: 11-18

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Hannah Johnson	sr.	G
Alia Johnson	jr.	F
Claire Wagner	so.	F
Grace Grady	jr.	F
Frankie Chaidze	jr.	G

Outlook: Fisher, who coached at Walther Christian for 20 seasons, comes aboard in Elmhurst. He led what was previously Walther Lutheran to three state appearances, taking fourth in Class A in 2007 and fourth in Class 2A in 2013 and went to a sectional final last year. He takes over a Knights team that took fourth in the Metro Suburban Blue last year and lost in a regional final. Hannah Johnson, Alia Johnson and Wagner are returning starters.

Montini Lady Broncos

COACH: Jason Nichols
2018-19 RECORD: 30-5

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Sophie Sullivan	so.	G
Tehana Thomas	so.	F
Sydney Prochaska	sr.	G
Taris Thornton	jr.	F
Angelina Giordano	so.	G
Taylor Charles	sr.	F
Shannon Blacher	fr.	G
Madelyn Saracco	fr.	G
Alexa Salazar	fr.	G

Outlook: Five sophomores will be in the mix for playing time, along with three freshmen. Sullivan, who was a Suburban Life All-Area selection and third team IBCA All-State as a freshman, averaged 10.4 points, dished out 121 assists and made 85 3-pointers. Thomas is a ferocious rebounder and aggressive player. Prochaska, a Southern Illinois recruit, is Montini's most experienced player. Giordano started as a freshman.

St. Francis Spartans

COACH: Sandy De Craene
2018-19 RECORD: 12-20

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Kate Chaparro	jr.	G
Ashley Sullivan	sr.	G
Madeleine Fasana	sr.	G
Maggie Culver	jr.	G
Ella McDonald	so.	F
Katie Anne De Craene	so.	F
Lauren Bruce	so.	F

Outlook: Chaparro, a 5-foot-4 all-conference point guard who averaged 12 points, matured last year and should lead the Spartans again. Sullivan averaged six points and Fasana led St. Francis in rebounds with three per game. Culver, a transfer from West Chicago who sat out last year, will provide a burst of energy.

Timothy Christian Trojans

COACH: Jill Groenwold
2018-19 RECORD: 22-6

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Sureya Alex	jr.	G
Sarah Carstensen	jr.	F
Hannah Schuringa	jr.	F

Outlook: The Trojans tied for first in the Metro Suburban Red last year and lost to Regina Dominican in a regional final. Schuringa was Timothy Christian's leading scorer as a sophomore. Alex is a talented point guard and Carstensen is a versatile senior. Seniors Bethany Griffin, Elise Terpstra and Rebekah Yurshack are among those complementing that core.

Wheaton North Falcons

COACH: David Eaton
2018-19 RECORD: 23-9

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Claire Hyde	so.	G
Caroline Gaither	so.	G
Julia Simon	jr.	G
Elle Hubbard	jr.	G
Rachel Brady	sr.	G
Caroline Garner	sr.	G
Ella Kocher	jr.	G
Courtney Craig	jr.	F
Kayla Shebar	jr.	G
Ally Brown	so.	G
Eden Pearson	fr.	G

Outlook: Four starters return off a team that took second in the DuKane Conference. Leading that group is Hyde, who showed plenty of moxie as a freshman point guard on varsity. Also back is Hubbard, Simon and Gaither, all underclassmen. Pearson is a 5-foot-9 freshman and top newcomer.

Wheaton Warrenville South Tigers

COACH: Rob Kroehnke
2018-19 RECORD: 23-9

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Lily Huntzinger	so.	G/F
Katie Kroehnke	jr.	F
Carly Briggs	sr.	G

Outlook: Chaparro, a 5-foot-4 all-conference point guard who averaged 12 points, matured last year and should lead the Spartans again. Sullivan averaged six points and Fasana led St. Francis in rebounds with three per game. Culver, a transfer from West Chicago who sat out last year, will provide a burst of energy.

Outlook: The Tigers graduated all five starters from last year's team that won the DuKane Conference and a sectional championship. Huntzinger averaged seven points as a freshman and Katie Kroehnke averaged three points.

Willowbrook Warriors

COACH: Terry Harrell
2018-19 RECORD: 20-10

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Stephanie Dasbach	jr.	F
K'alyha Herron	sr.	G
Angmarie Knudtson	jr.	G
Olivia Sobieszczyk	jr.	F

Outlook: The Warriors graduated leading scorer Katelynn McCann from a team that won the West Suburban Gold championship, but Dasbach and Herron return to the starting lineup. Dasbach averaged a near double-double, nine points and 12 rebounds, for the season, while Herron averaged 14 points the last quarter of the season and 3.1 steals. Knudtson is one of three juniors stepping into a starting role and will play heavy minutes at point guard with Grace Tumilty out for the season. Sobieszczyk and Abby Spada round out the starting lineup and will provide additional perimeter shooting.

York Dukes

COACH: Brandon Collings
2018-19 RECORD: 18-13

TOP PLAYERS

NAME	YEAR	POS
Sara Krissinger	sr.	G
Sydney Molis	jr.	G/F
Kaitlyn Khome	jr.	G/F
Carley Schwartz	sr.	G
Bridget Los	sr.	G
Sydney Fugelsang	sr.	G
Megan Juneman	jr.	F
Amya Rufus	jr.	G

Outlook: The Dukes return their top seven players in minutes played from last season's team that took third in the West Suburban Silver. Krissinger is an all-conference guard who led York in scoring (10.5 points) and rebounds (6.5) as a junior. Khome, who averaged 6.5 points and 5.5 rebounds, is an athletic 6-foot wing who can dominate down low and step out. Schwartz, who hit 54 3-pointers last year, is one of the area's top shooters. Molis was all-conference as a sophomore, Fugelsang returns at point guard and Rufus is a tremendous on-ball defender who can push tempo.

Art community honors best and brightest at Addison Art Guild Members' Show

On the evening of Thursday, Nov. 14, the Addison Center for the Arts was the venue for the 2019 Addison Art Guild Members' Show awards ceremony and reception. In addition to the art exhibit and awards, attendees enjoyed food, a silent auction, and rock and blues guitar by the ACA's resident performer Joe Eddy Brown and his guitar student Carla.

At 7:30 p.m., judge Jacques

France, presented ribbons to paintings in the show. Terry Johnson's "View from Thesus" won Best in Show. Angelo Campagnolo's "Special Delivery" and Melodee McCormick's "Spirit Warrior" shared First Place. In Second Place were John Keeley's "Lake Street at Night" and Annette Leiber's "A Vein Runs Through It." Judge France bestowed Honorable Mentions on paintings by Tania Blanco,

Judy Sullivan, Jan Dunteman, Margaret Bucholz, and Irma Pocius.

The Addison Art Guild Members' Show exhibition continues through December 14, 2019 at the Addison Center for the Arts gallery at 213 N. Lombard Road, Door #4.

For Addison Art Guild gallery information, call 630-458-4500. For information on membership and other involvement, email julie@addisoncenterforthearts.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Those taking part in the 2019 Addison Art Guild Members' Show awards ceremony held Thursday, Nov. 14, included exhibit judge Jacques France, the Addison Center for the Arts' resident rock star Joe Eddy Brown, and Addison Art Guild vice-president Margaret Bucholz.

Addison Trail hosts blood drive for Vitalant

By Naydelin Muñoz
ADDISON TRAIL JUNIOR

On Nov. 7, Addison Trail students, staff and community members participated in a blood drive at the school to donate blood for Vitalant.

Each unit of blood collected supports up to three lives. One hundred students and staff participated in the drive, which means this event could potentially save up to 300 lives. Many students were eager for the event, hoping their donation could be of great help to those in need.

"I thought it would be a fun experience and actually thought I would be doing something good," said Addison Trail junior Rachel De Haro. "I would definitely do this again for next year, and I'm also looking forward to doing it in March."

The blood drive was open to those who are 17 years old and older, or those who are 16 years old with parental consent. Participants have to go through a series of questions be-

fore donating blood to ensure they meet certain requirements. The event takes place not only for students and staff to donate blood to help save lives, but also to educate students to become blood donors early on. The blood donated is used for people who are going through cancer treatment, an organ transplant or an accident. The event takes place twice a year, once in November and once in March.

"I enjoy seeing the students helping to run the blood drive," said Tracy Marzullo, Addison Trail Medical Careers teacher. "It's fulfilling to see students try and help by donating blood."

Students, staff and community members are welcome to continue giving toward Addison Trail's total. Call 630-530-3989 for details. For participating in blood drives, Vitalant presents District 88 with a check that goes toward scholarships for students at Addison Trail and Willowbrook.



NAYDELIN MUÑOZ PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Addison Trail juniors Thomas Nguyen and Rachel De Haro enjoy snacks after donating blood during Addison Trail's blood drive on Nov. 7 for Vitalant.



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Willowbrook wrestling team looks to take next step

Coach Ortiz excited about quality of lineup

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Willowbrook's wrestling team finished uncharacteristically low in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division last season.

But with a host of returning starters back, including five sectional qualifiers, coach Tim Ortiz sees a different outcome this season.

"We were toward the bottom of the conference, second to last," he said. "We're looking to improve on that. We have a lot of guys back with experience. We're climbing our way up and rebuilding the program."

Ortiz noted Willowbrook has upwards of 10 returning starters, including five returning sectional qualifiers and three folks who were a match away from getting a sectional ticket.

"We have the experience," he said. "We're excited about these guys. We have a good, solid foundation to build off, and younger guys to fill in the blanks. They are learning from the leadership of the older guys. We're going to pick up from there and run with it. The guys did a lot of offseason stuff and they are continuing to work hard."

The list of returners for Ortiz is long. Senior Zach Seymore (132 pounds) won 33 matches and made the sectional. Senior Gabriel Yu (113 pounds) rattled off 23 wins and also qualified for the sectional.

Senior Wyatt Borri also qualified for the sectional and won 22 contests. He'll be at either 160 or 170. Junior Elijah Brockie (195-

220) and senior John Peterson (113 pounds) round out the returning sectional qualifiers. Brockie won 33 matches, while Peterson won 22 wins.

Junior David Kapica is back after winning more than 20 matches last season. Sophomore Nick Mabutas will go at 160 in the over-20-win club last year. Luke Borri returns at heavyweight.

Brockie and Peterson are returning a Gold selections. "Elijah has improved a bit," said Ortiz. "He was a sophomore last year and he won a couple, two-three matches on the varsity as a freshman. He won last year and 2-2 in sectionals, missing by a match."

Ortiz noted Brockie took third in the 160-pound state meet. He lost his first match, won seven matches in a row to end in the consolation.

"Elijah has been doing all the right things," the coach said. "He's made a lot of progress caught our eye. The same is true with Kapica and Nick Mabutas. Nick has started both ways on the football field — wide receiver and safety. He's played football and hopefully that success will carry over. He went to the Wabash wrestling camp over the summer and showed good growth. Watching him play varsity wrestling both ways speaks a lot about him and plays and who he is. He's a guy who can do it on the occasion."

"David was very solid in his first year as a sophomore. He spent time going to camps. He'll be one of our best wrestlers."

See WRESTLING, P. 17

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Wrestling (Continued from page 16)

ers. Zach Seymore and Gabe Yu also are going to have good years after putting in a lot of time in the off-season."

On the newcomer front, Ortiz believes Christopher Drew will contribute at 106 pounds as a freshman.

"It won't be right away," he said. "He'll find his feet in the room. He has a wrestling background. He's looking to get down to 106 and make some noise, fill in that spot and hopefully have a pretty good year at '6.' It would be great for him to get that varsity experience under his belt and carry it into the next three years and keep building each year."

Ortiz said another possible freshman contributor is Adrian Giroux in the 160 weight range.

To say the least, Ortiz has high hopes for 2019-2020.

"We are pretty excited," said Ortiz. "We have such a good foundation. The key is these younger guys stepping in and filling in the other pieces we are missing. Some guys we have coming back have a year or two of experience. Our lower levels also put in the time over the summer and hopefully they fill and solidify spots. It's exciting to have all these wins coming back. We are looking forward to having an exciting year and making some noise."

Like the boys basketball program, Ortiz has not had a full contingent in the wrestling room due to the football team's long run in the Class 7A state playoffs.

"We have some guys out with football," he said. "The football team is having a great year. We're hoping those guys bring that success and positive attitude in the wrestling room and hit the ground running as

it relates to wrestling. We might be short-handed a bit at first, but we preach that our backup guys need to step up. When the time comes to step up, your team needs you."

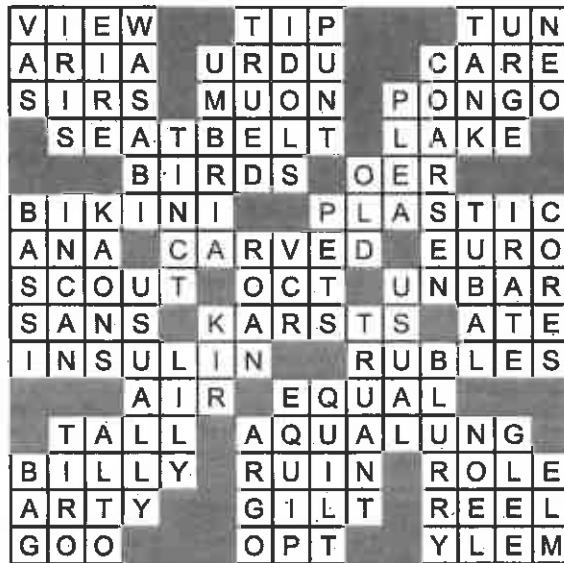
Ortiz said the goals for the group are to improve upon its WSC Gold finish and compete for the conference title.

"We are going to try and get as many guys as we can to state," he said. "Last year was the first time

in 11 years that we didn't have anybody down wrestling in Champaign. Our goal is to have a couple guys down there and competing for some hardware."

Willowbrook started its season earlier this week against Reavis. The Warriors host a 9 a.m. quad on Friday and open WSC Gold dual action Friday, Dec. 6 with the annual District 88 meeting against Addison Trail in Addison.

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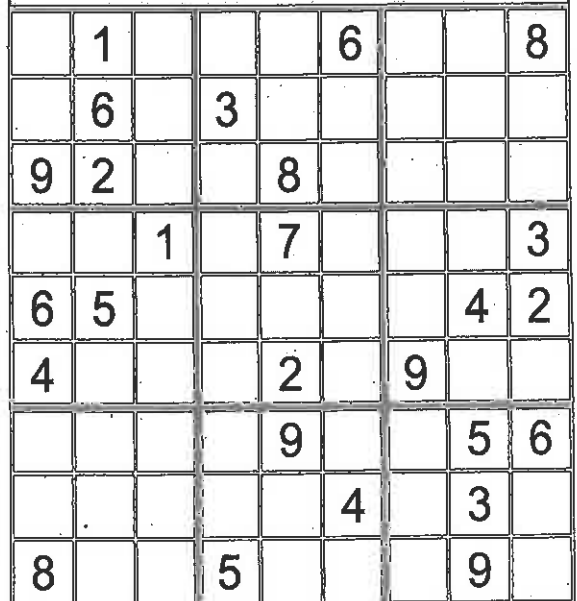
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(Published in Addison, Bensenville, Villa	
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SPORTS

Nov. 28, 2019 • 12

Warriors' hopes for a state title end with semifinal loss

Early 99-yard TD pass helps Caravan to 27-6 win

By Chris Fox

VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook football team's post-season run ended with Saturday's 27-6 loss to undefeated Mount Carmel in an IHSA Class 7A semifinal game in Villa Park.

The loss snapped Willowbrook's 11-game winning streak, which featured three playoff victories that propelled the program to its first semifinal contest since 1975. The Warriors have made the playoffs in each of the last four seasons. They advanced to the quarterfinal round in 2016, 2017 and 2018 before pushing through to the semifinals this season.

Mount Carmel, a perennial football power that's won 12 IHSA state titles, will face Nazareth Academy in this Saturday's Class 7A state championship game in DeKalb. Both teams head into the contest with perfect 13-0 records.

Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth, who has led the program to four straight playoff appearances, praised the team's seniors in his post-game remarks to the media.

"We didn't meet the expectation, and that's playing a state-championship game," said Hildreth. "That's different from what it was when they [the seniors] came in here as freshmen. The thing you can't measure is what expectations are. They've managed to change that."

The energized Warriors marched the ball down the field on the opening drive of the game, which was played in front of a packed audience that filled the stadium's bleachers and lined the fenced-off area near

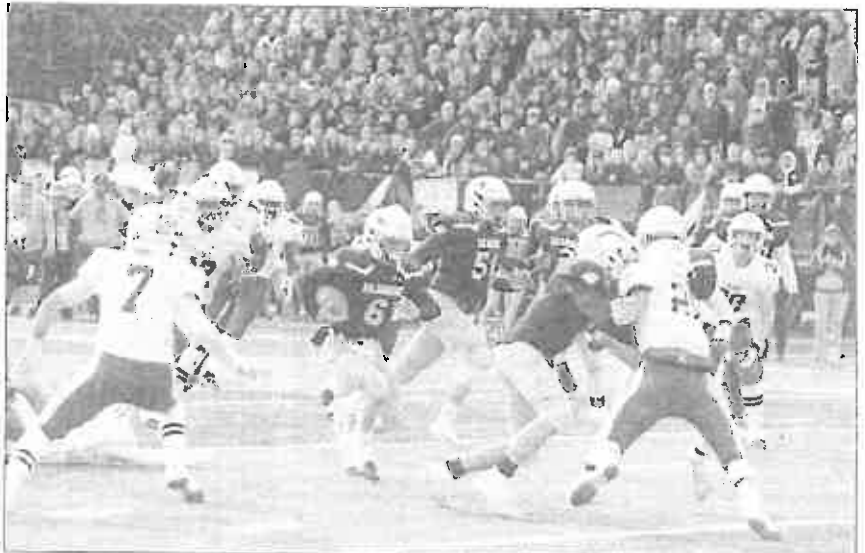
the south end zone. Willowbrook's long opening drive didn't produce any points. Mount Carmel, however, needed just one offensive play to find the end zone.

Willowbrook started its first drive at its own 21-yard line and advanced under the direction of senior quarterback Sam Tumilty, who connected with senior Alessio Battaglia on a third-down pass to earn a first down. Moments later, Tumilty and sophomore Nick Mabutas hooked up on a pass play that picked up another first down. Tumilty then ran into the open field to secure another first down and put the Warriors at the Caravan's 20-yard line. Tumilty later completed a pass to senior Everett Stubblefield, who was tackled near the goal line.

The Caravan stopped Tumilty's third-and-goal run from the 1-yard line. The Warriors lined up for a fourth-and-goal attempt. The Caravan committed two offside penalties before the fourth-and-goal attempt from the goal line. The half-the-distance to the goal infractions barely cost Mount Carmel, as the ball was already at the goal line. When the Warriors eventually tried the fourth-down play, Mount Carmel stopped Tumilty's run and took over at the 1-yard line.

The Caravan completed a 99-yard touchdown pass on the next play. The Mount Carmel receiver caught the long pass around his own 40-yard line, broke a tackle and raced into the north end zone.

"It definitely flipped from us going into a score, to trying to chase and come back," said Tumilty.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook football team's season ended with Saturday's 27-6 loss to undefeated Mount Carmel in an IHSA Class 7A semifinal game in Villa Park. The Warriors finished the season with an overall record of 11-2. Senior Sam Tumilty (No. 6-above) is pictured while running for Willowbrook's only score of the game—a 7-yard touchdown run that cut the Caravan's lead to 13-6 in the second quarter. Another photo shows sophomore Nick Mabutas (bottom left) running with the ball after making a reception. Also pictured is Junior Mohammad Ayesh (No. 9-below). Ayesh intercepted a Mount Carmel pass and made a long return down the field during the fourth quarter.

The extra-point kick sailed wide to the right, leaving the Caravan with a 6-0 lead with 6:59 left in the first

quarter. Willowbrook's next drive ended with a punt, Mount Carmel then

drove 63 yards for another score—a 3-yard touchdown run on a fourth-and-one play. The extra-point kick gave the Caravan a 13-0 lead with 11:55 to play in the half.

The Warriors responded with a touchdown on their next drive. Tumilty connected with Stubblefield on a 51-yard pass play; the long gain advanced the ball to Mount Carmel's 10-yard line. Moments later, Tumilty ran to his right and found the end zone on a 7-yard touchdown run. The extra-point kick sailed wide to the right, leaving Mount Carmel's lead at 13-6 with 10:05 left in the first half.

The Caravan all but sealed its victory with a pair of touchdowns in the third quarter. The Warriors barely had the ball in the third period. Their first two drives of the quarter both resulted in punts after three plays.

The Caravan's first scoring drive of the third quarter covered 53 yards and ended with a 1-yard quarterback run with 2:21 left in the period. Mount Carmel scored less than two minutes later. An 18-yard touchdown capped off a 33-yard drive that began after a good punt return from mid-field.

Junior Mohammad Ayesh provided one of Willowbrook's few second-half highlights when he intercepted a Mount Carmel pass on a



See **WARRIORS**, Page 17



My family attended this past Saturday's (Nov. 16) performance of "Mamma Mia" by the Willowbrook High School Theatre, and it was amazing! The singing, acting and exuberance of these young performers was a joy to see. The two-hour show just flew by with everyone wanting more ... and we were not disappointed with the most animated closing I have ever seen. I never wrote in to Speak Out before, but this performance needed to be praised. Keep up the good work Willowbrook High School Theatre!

To Lombard and Villa Park. Kudos to Jackson Middle School and to organizer, history teacher David Clot, who put together a totally impressive Veterans Day assembly for the students. It was a whole-school effort, with the chorus, band, and orchestra performing the national anthem, and the marching songs of each branch of the military. The keynote speaker, E-5 Petty Officer 3rd Class US Navy, Luis Diaz, made military life real to students far removed from that life, and the question-and-answer period provided both information and humor. Thanks for the veterans who participated. They represented WWII and every war since.

Some people seem to have nothing to do than find things to complain about, like goose droppings, people's dogs stepping onto your lawn, traffic signals, etc. If you see a problem, like a broken traffic signal, report it to the village. If there is a heap of garbage in the park, call the park district. If you see a pothole, call public works. It's that simple.

Hi ya all! So, we're back to AOC's

Obituary

Marlene M. Tust, 88

Marlene M. Tust, nee McCarthy, of Villa Park, passed away recently at the age of 88. Beloved wife of the late John C. Tust married for 64 years. Loving mother of Linda (Raymond) Haack, Donna (James) Wilhoit and Susan (Al) Mickus. Dear grandmother of Megan (Robert) Conquest, Katherine Haack, Andrew Wilhoit and Aleks Mickus. Fond sister of the late James (Dolores) McCarthy. Aunt and great aunt of several nieces and nephews. Memorial visitation was held Friday Nov. 22, from 3-8 p.m. at Steuerele Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park. Cremation private. Arrangements by Steuerele Funeral Home. Info: 630-832-4161.

cow gas. Hmm, consider this little science lesson. Those gases are produced as the food, grasses, hay, etc., that the cow ate are broken down by bacteria in the cow's gut. Whether a cow eats it, you and I eat it, or it just falls to the ground, the decomposition and oxidation of all that organic material produces gases like carbon dioxide and methane. Some is released slowly, like a log on the forest floor. Some is released faster like 20 gallons on premium unleaded in a Hummer or a trainload of coal at a power plant. Sooner or later, it is all broken down. (In the case of fossil fuels, those gases were in the ancient atmosphere and are just now being returned to it as we burn it.) How to stop it, how to stop it, hmmm. Well, we could pave the whole planet over so that stuff wouldn't grow in the first place! Until then, whether the cow eats the grass and then we eat the cow, or whether we grow something else on that pasture and eat it, leaving the middle cow out, it's all the same. Think about it. If you can, snowflake. Don't say renewable energy, it takes a lot of energy just to put that stuff in place, though it does help.

Dear Smithsonian. You seem nice. While the hole you dig may be deeper than the depth of the research you better conduct, it doesn't take a crack detective to sniff out a racist apologist. You can cite all the past examples you want, but progressive cultures, with or without you, realize their mistakes and collectively recognize them when they see them elsewhere (i.e. other things that remind them of blackface). Maybe it's pumpkins, what do you care? Why does your offense supercede theirs? Adding an ad hominem like "snowflake" only serves to perpetuate the difficulty those of us, who are trying to enrich culture with education and historical values, have these days. Regardless, maybe the Speak Out section isn't the right forum for you; perhaps the local White Nationalist chapter would be more helpful? Good day.

I know you have to be concerned about money, but at what point do you draw the line? Villa Park has those silly red-light cameras, which are in place to collect revenue, not improve safety. Villa Park will also welcome a recreational cannabis dispensary in the name of money. Video gaming is already in place, again, to rake in money. What's next in Villa Park—legalized prostitution? If it will generate revenue, I can imagine some people being for it.

On Nov. 20 there was a fire in my seventh story, 90-unit condo building. Fortunately it was confined to my unit, but the smoke was just horrendous. The fire departments that responded were Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, York Center, Elmhurst, Villa Park, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace and Addison, plus we had Lombard police. It was just a tremendous response from the fire departments and law enforcement. And then, the building was evacuated and the residents went into the clubhouse, and the neighbor from across the way and another building, Lorraine, came over with coffee and tea because a lot of us were very, very cold from being outside. All together, a tremendous thank you to everyone involved for helping all the residents at St. Regis Condo. Thank you again.

Good afternoon. Just hope that everyone has a blessed and happy Thanksgiving, and I'd like to address the caller who was not hopeful for our Bears. Keep the faith. Eventually we will have an '85 Bears team. I mean, heck, just look at what the Cubs overcame. Thanks, bye bye.

On Monday, Nov. 11, Veterans

Day, I was privileged to attend a ceremony at North School in Villa Park honoring military personnel. The students met and greeted us as we entered the school; from the teachers lounge we were escorted to the gym area. As we entered we were applauded by the entire student body. Thank you, North School. One of the little ones wrote me a note on a card saying thank you for everything you did.

To all these partisan, biased, political hacks who have been brainwashed to hate Trump, our current president, because of the mainstream media and mocked the idea of a wall being built on the Mexican border, all I can say is, open your eyes. As you drive around the major roads and highways in the Chicago area, more and more walls as silent obstructions are being put up and pretty soon you won't be able to drive on any main road and see a house anymore. These walls are being built and it is not just going to be along the southern border.

This for the retired Chicago teacher. I'm reading Speak Out of Nov. 14 that says we had our children's best

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interests at hand, it wasn't about the raise or the money. Well, how's this? Give back the raise. Save taxpayers the money. If you say no, then it's not about the children. It's all about the money. Get it straight. We've already had Preckwinkle say it's about the children, everybody said it's about the children. No, it's about the greedy Chicago Teachers Union, that's all. I also agree with the call right under it that city employees should not be able to strike and they should not get paid when they strike. Thank you.

Villa Park. I can't say I'm surprised to read that the village board voted to enact a maximum purchaser excise tax of 3 percent on sales of recreational cannabis, and then two-thirds of the funds generated from that tax will go towards village pension funds. Funding pension payments is going to eat up more and more of a lot of village budgets going forward, not just Villa Park's. A day of reckoning with these pensions is coming in Illinois unless public sector employees and teachers eventually adopt a retirement system similar to what private sector employees have. The current pension system is simply unsustainable.

Community calendar

Saturday, Nov. 30
Pioneer Garden to host Small Business Saturday Open House

Pioneer Garden will be hosting its annual Small Business Saturday Open House from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. It has become a tradition for shoppers to shop local on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. All day, there will be free cookies and cider, food samples and giveaways. The annual bird-feeder sale begins that day, so you can feed your feathered friends for less. From 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the rescue group Catvando will hold a cat adoption. Come visit these cats and learn more about how one of these could complete your family. Whether you're a long-time customer of this 101-year-old store, or have never been there, come visit Pioneer Garden—and all of your local shops—on Small Business Saturday.

Tuesday, Dec. 3 and Wednesday, Dec. 4
Friends of the Library dine-out fundraiser

The Friends of the Villa Park Library will hold its next dine-out fundraiser at Anyway's Pub (5 E. Roosevelt) in Oakbrook Terrace on both days from 11:30 a.m. until 1 a.m. If customers bring in a printed flyer or show the flyer on their smartphones, the restaurant will donate 15 percent of the proceeds from these dates and times to the Friends.

Money received from this dine-out will help the Friends support various programs and services at the Villa Park Public Library. Flyers are available at the library's service desks or on its website. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Friday, Dec. 6
Community Presbyterian Church's annual Living Nativity

The sixth annual Lombard Com-

munity Presbyterian Church's Living Nativity will take place from 5:30-8 p.m. at the church, 1111 E. Madison. Be greeted by shepherds, view Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus in the stable, pet the live animals, watch the Wise Men who travel afar bearing gifts for the newborn king. See little angels fitting around the church giving sweet candy canes to children, enjoy the hot chocolate, hot cider and homemade cookies. Settle in the sanctuary to listen to carolers, hand bells, ukuleles, guitarists and more. There will be a children's craft room, as well. For more information, email: connect@cpclombard.org or call 630-627-0306.

Saturday, Dec. 7
Holiday train ride

Villa Park Recreation still has tickets available for a Holiday Train Ride from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Iowa Community Center, 228 N. Iowa. All ages can register to ride the train in their PJs from Villa Park to the "North Pole" (Elburn train station). On-board activities will be highlighted by caroling and a visit from Santa. Pre-departure activities at the train station include a reading of a special holiday tale. The Holiday Train Ride will depart from the Villa Park Metra station at 11:15 a.m. Pre-registration is required. The fee is \$25 per person resident/\$28 non-resident. Children under age 1 are free. Call 630-834-8970 with any questions.

Friends of the Library hosting St. Nick's Mart

The Friends of the Villa Park Library will hold its St. Nick's Mart featuring local businesses from 5-8 p.m. at the Library. Attendees can purchase a variety of merchandise from vendors, enjoy light refreshments and participate in drawings. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Friday, Dec. 13; Saturday, Dec. 14
Library hosting Winter Craft Open House

The Villa Park Public Library will hold a Winter Holiday Craft Open House from 2-4 p.m. both days. Children of all ages can celebrate the holiday season with a fun craft. Young children will need some adult help. Registration is not required, but supplies are limited. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Saturday, Dec. 14; Tuesday, Dec. 17
Practice SAT test, SAT results follow-up session at the Library

The Villa Park Public Library will host a practice SAT test on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., proctored by Huntington Learning Center. High school students can practice taking the SAT test under the same conditions they will experience during a real exam. Registrants must live in or attend a high school in Villa Park or Oakbrook Terrace. Students are asked to arrive promptly at 9 a.m. and bring a calculator and pencils.

Students and their parents or guardians are then invited to attend the SAT results follow-up session Dec. 17 from 6:30-7 p.m. for their results, to hear a clear interpretation of the numbers and to ask questions. Diane Kilcommons, director of Huntington Learning Center Elmhurst, will explain categories of questions and the structure of the SAT and even suggest a few strategies. Registration and a \$5 deposit are required. Test-takers will be automatically signed up for the follow-up session when they sign up for the practice test.

The deposit will be fully refunded upon completion of the exam. For more information, visit the library's website at vppl.info or call 630-834-1164.

Starting over

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The canvas is just about blank for the Addison Trail boys basketball team as it heads into the 2019-2020 season.

Longtime coach Brendan Lyons, beginning his 13th season, noted the Blazers lost more than 90 percent of

the team's scoring and rebounding from last season's squad that went 14-16 overall and 1-11 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division action.

Those key losses to graduation include point guard Sheldon Allgood, who averaged 12 points a contest; three-year varsity player Adam Meh-

meti, who averaged 11 points a game; and J.T. Daniels, a power forward who earned all-WSC Gold accolades after also averaging 11 points a game.

Addison Trail's only returning starter is 6-0 junior point guard A.J. Carlson, who averaged 8.0 points per game and sank 33 three-pointers a year ago. Carlson is a three-year var-

sity player.

"This year's team will start the season with a true blank slate," said Lyons.

Junior 6-6 small forward Robert Roskiewicz also will be counted on.

"Robert played up on the varsity as a sophomore last year and earned some value experience," said Lyons. "He has a high ceiling and really started to come on in the summer. He added more balance to his game in the off-season and we hope he provides and inside and outside threat for us."

A key newcomer to the team is 5-10 senior point guard Alex Conrad, who led the Addison Trail junior-varsity team in scoring last year.

"The competition for playing time will be wide open," said Lyons. "With a small number of seniors on the roster there will plenty of opportunities for younger players to contribute. There could be as many as four sophomores on the varsity roster this year."

Lyons said to keep an eye on sophomore point guard Sammy Renc. He noted on the offensive end of the floor that Addison Trail will have to

commit to playing an unselfish style of basketball.

"Extending possessions and taking care of the basketball," he added. "I think we will be able to shoot the ball well from the perimeter, especially with A.J. Carlson, but shot selection will be extremely important for us."

Defensively, Lyons pointed out that the Blazers will continue to use a combination of man-to-man and zone approaches "to try and give our opponents a variety of looks throughout the course of a game," he said. "We will be undersized, so rebounding the basketball will be critical each night."

Lyons said Hinsdale South, Willowbrook and Proviso East will be top-tier contenders in the West Suburban Conference Gold.

From a scheduling standpoint, the Blazers have added Elgin, Hoffman Estates and Elk Grove to the non-conference portion of its schedule. Addison Trail is changing it up at Christmas where it will head to the Maine East Holiday Tournament in Park Ridge for the first time.

The Blazers are in the midst of playing in the Elmwood Park Thanksgiving tournament.

Youthful Addison Trail boys basketball team looks to gain experience

Depth a strong point for Willowbrook boys basketball team

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

Depth won't be a problem for the Willowbrook boys basketball team.

Coach Chris Perkins is thrilled with the talent he has top to bottom on this year's squad.

"I feel like we have a well-balanced group," he said. "We have depth. We have height, and we have quick and explosive guards. It will all kind of depend on the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents."

"We could slow down the game and drop it in or we could speed the game up and play small and fast. We're much different. We have a 6-8 kid and a 6-6 kid. Our leading returning scorers are guards. We can play both styles. We don't quite know what style we are better at yet."

Back for Willowbrook this season are leading scorer Everett Stubblefield III (senior, guard) and Sam Tumilty (senior, guard). Stubblefield averaged more than 19 points a contest on a Warriors team that went 17-14 overall last year and took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division. Tumilty averaged about six points a contest.

Perkins noted Stubblefield III is ranked as one of the top 50 players in the Chicagoland area by one service.

Also back are seniors Isaac Gaines (guard, averaged about five points a game last season), Sam Bruns (guard),

Brenton Jones, Deandre Holliday (forward) and Jeremiah Robinson (guard). Willowbrook graduated four senior starters. Stubblefield is the only returning starter. Tumilty played a key role coming off the Warriors' bench.

One quandary Perkins has out of the gates is establishing a starting lineup due to multiple players on the roster having been on active duty with the Willowbrook football team that advanced into the Class 7A semifinals. The football team's season ended on Saturday.

"It's hard to say with a number of guys still in football," said Perkins. "We haven't had our full team yet to get a complete look. It's been hard to gauge where we are at, but that is a great problem to have. It's great for the football team. It's great for Willowbrook and it's great for our community. Most teams have had their full groups for two weeks. We haven't had a full team yet."

Perkins said Gaines' role will expand this year "and he will chip in more for us," he said. "We have seen tremendous improvement from Isaac so far."

The coach also is excited by the improvement he's seeing from the likes of Bruns, Robinson, senior Jalen Flowers and Holliday. He also lauded the progress of 6-6 sophomore post player Sean Paige, Bruns' improvement with his shooting and the improvements 6-8

senior forward Mike Hay is making. "We have a lot of good players," he said.

On the defensive side of the ball, Perkins noted the team's strength a year ago was playing up and down with full-court pressure using man-to-man to traps. "We will play an aggressive style again this year, but I haven't seen the press as a group yet," he said. "The goal is to simulate the style from last year."

Perkins said one intangible Willowbrook has in its back pocket is the general makeup of the senior class. "This senior class is made up of winners," he said. "They win across the board, whether it's basketball, baseball or football or wrestling. This group has what it takes to get the job done."

On the WSC Gold front, Perkins sees a wide-open field this season. "There is a lot of parity in the league," he said. "Proviso East will be difficult. Morton will be challenging and Hinsdale South and Downers Grove South are there as well. It's kind of even across the board. Nobody has separated themselves. It could go either way and I think we definitely are in the mix."

Willowbrook last won the WSC Gold in 2017. The Warriors won it previously in 2015.

The Warriors opened play in the St. Charles East Thanksgiving tournament earlier this week.

Four years of domination

How dominant has the Willowbrook football team been the last four seasons? Willowbrook advanced to the state quarterfinals in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and to the state semifinals this year.

Team	Overall	Conference	Playoff
Willowbrook	40-9	22-2	4
Leyden	20-17	17-7	1
Hinsdale South	19-20	15-9	2
Downers South	16-21	15-9	1
Addison Trail	12-24	9-15	0
Morton	5-31	4-20	0
Proviso East	4-32	2-22	0

Notes

****Willowbrook has made the state semifinals and the state quarterfinals (3 times) in the last four years.**

****The only other WSC Gold team to advance out of the first round of the playoffs during this stretch was Hinsdale South in 2017 (second round).**

****Willowbrook has won the last three WSC Gold titles, going unbeaten each season. Leyden won the 2016 title, also going 6-0.**

"It's been a huge honor," added senior Deandre Holliday, who delivered a late 65-yard interception return for a touchdown to help the Warriors to their quarterfinal victory at Lake Zurich on Nov. 16.

"We're big on maintaining the culture. I feel like this team changed the culture. We had a reputation of just getting to the quarterfinals but not winning. This team went past that, and we competed in a tight game in the semifinals with Mount Carmel."

Warrior history makers

The 2019 Willowbrook football team technically tied the school record for furthest advancement in the state playoffs. The 2019 team, along with the 1974 and 1975 teams reached the state semifinals. However, the 1974 and 1975 teams played in a 16-team bracket, while this year's team navigated a 32-team bracket, meaning it won one more playoff game.

Year	Record	Playoff record	Finish
1974	10-2	2-1	5A Semifinals
1975	11-1	2-1	5A Semifinals
2019	11-2	3-1	7A Semifinals

Note: The 2019 team tied the school record for most wins in a season, joining the 1975 and 2018 teams with 11 wins each. Both the 1975 and 2018 teams went into what would be their last games of the season with 11-0 records.

Warriors (Continued from page 12)

fourth-down play in the final quarter. Ayesh returned the ball about 75 yards to inside the Caravan 10-yard line with about five minutes to play. Moments later, Mount Carmel regained possession by intercepting a pass near its own goal line.

The Caravan intercepted a long pass with about one minute left in the game and proceeded to run out the clock.

The elusive Tumilty was able to break a few of his customary long gains on improvised runs. But the Mount Carmel defense also put some serious pressure on Tumilty and tackled him in the backfield on several plays.

"They [the Caravan] did a really good job up front," said Hildreth. "After that first drive we were never kind of clean in our tempo and our efficiency offensively."

After shaking hands with the Mount Carmel players, the Warriors assembled to hear post-game comments from Hildreth and the team's assistant coaches.

For the first time since the season-opening loss to Providence Catholic on Aug. 30, the Warriors had to deal with defeat.

Hildreth, a 2000 Willowbrook graduate, served as the program's interim

head coach in 2011, when the Warriors went 0-9. In 2012, Hildreth guided Willowbrook to a 6-3 regular-season record and a playoff berth. Willowbrook lost in the opening round of the playoffs to finish the season with a 6-4 mark.

The Warriors have qualified for the playoffs in each of the last four seasons. They haven't been content with just making it to the playoffs; they've won nine post-season games since 2016. Willowbrook advanced to the quarterfinal round in 2016, 2017 and 2018. The Warriors won three playoff games this season to advance to the semifinals.

In addition to their post-season success, the Warriors have dominated their West Suburban Gold Conference competition in recent years. Willowbrook posted perfect 6-0 conference records in each of the last three seasons.

Following the speeches, the seniors lined up on the field to meet with the coaches and underclass players for some emotional moments.

"I think we accomplished a lot," said Tumilty. "Getting past the quarterfinals, and being able to have a home semifinal game—it's the best game you can get. Words can't describe the brotherhood we had at Willowbrook."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Pub

Willowbrook names November recipient of 88's Best recognition

Willowbrook senior Christopher Vazquez (right) has been named as the school's November recipient of 88's Best recognition. He's pictured with Willowbrook Principal Dr. Daniel Kraus. Throughout his high school career, Vazquez has enrolled in a variety of courses, including those that provide assistance with his learning needs. While his first semesters presented challenges, he has embraced each one and continuously improved his academic performance while participating in school activities. This improvement has culminated in Vazquez earning Honor Roll status both semesters of his junior year, and he is on track to do the same this year. He also serves as a mentor for students at Willowbrook, is a lead practicum teacher in the Little Warrior Preschool program, has earned multiple peer certificates and credentials, and is a member of the varsity football team.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Blood drive at Willowbrook

Willowbrook High School students joined staff and community members to participate in a recent blood drive at the school. Willowbrook's student council hosted the blood drive, which collected 104 units for Vitalant. The top left photo shows (left to right) juniors Ernesto Ortiz and Julia Soto enjoying snacks after donating blood. Also pictured are junior Collin Kirby (above left right), senior Allison Butler (top right) and junior Theodore Doyle (above right). For participating in blood drives, District 88 receives a check from Vitalant that goes toward scholarships for Willowbrook and Addison Trail students.

Villa Park police: Before you hit the road this Thanksgiving holiday, buckle up and designate a sober driver

As Illinoisans gear up for one of the busiest travel times of the year, the Villa Park Police Department announced its plans for a traffic safety campaign focusing on impaired and unbuckled drivers.

"Holiday traffic brings with it an increased risk for accidents," said Sgt. James Cihak. "To ensure your family makes it to and from your

Thanksgiving feast without incident, make a conscious choice to buckle up and plan ahead for a sober ride home."

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, 15 motor vehicle crash fatalities occurred in Illinois over the 2018 Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Five of the 15 deaths occurred in

crashes involving at least one driver who had been drinking.

The Villa Park Police Department is partnering with the Illinois State Police and local law enforcement across Illinois for the increased statewide effort.

The high-visibility crackdown will run through the holiday weekend into the early morning hours of Dec. 2.

The "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaigns are funded by federal traffic safety funds administered by IDOT. The crackdown runs concurrently with a media campaign reminding motorists that impaired driving has "Life or Death" consequences.

Visit LifeOrDeathIllinois.com for more information.



Warriors win season opener against Glenbard North

Willowbrook then wins two of first three games at its own tournament

The Willowbrook girls basketball team opened its 2019-20 season with a 51-37 home victory over Glenbard North on Nov. 19.

The Warriors then began play at their own six-team, round-robin Thanksgiving event. Willowbrook won two of its first three games in the tournament, beating East Aurora and Plainfield Central while losing to Montini. Saturday's victory over Plainfield Central gave the Warriors an overall 3-1 record. Willowbrook completed its tournament with this week's games against Lockport and Stevenson.

Senior K'Aliyha Herron scored a team-high 16 points for the Warriors in the win over Glenbard North. Junior Annemarie Knudtson scored 11 points, while junior Stephanie Dasbach provided 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Willowbrook held a 24-20 half-time lead over the Panthers. The Warriors expanded their lead to 38-28 by the end of the third quarter. Herron scored eight points during the third period. She added four more points in the final period.

Willowbrook began its Thanksgiving tournament with a 46-45 win over East Aurora on Nov. 21. The Warriors held a 46-34 lead late in the game. East Aurora closed out the contest with a 11-0 surge that included a 3-point basket at the buzzer.

Dasbach supplied 22 points and nine rebounds. Herron contributed 10 points and seven rebounds.

Junior Olivia Sobieszczyk added eight points, while junior Abbey Spada handed out five assists.

The Warriors had a rough night in Friday's tournament game against Montini. The talented Broncos beat Willowbrook 69-15. Montini held a 16-3 lead after one quarter and a 36-9 advantage at halftime. The Broncos' lead stood at 59-13 by the end of the third quarter.

The Warriors bounced back from Friday's loss to beat Plainfield Central 64-46 on Saturday evening. Willowbrook held a 47-38 lead at the end of the third quarter. A surge early in the fourth quarter gave the Warriors a 56-41 lead.

Dasbach enjoyed a spectacular game, pouring in 34 points and grabbing 22 rebounds. She scored her last points of the night by sinking a 3-point shot from the top of the key with less than two minutes to play.

Dasbach made 13 of 18 shots from the field and converted seven of 12 free throws. She had 14 offensive rebounds and eight defensive rebounds.

Spada scored nine points, while Knudtson finished with eight

points. Sobieszczyk and Herron added six and five points, respectively.



Junior Stephanie Dasbach (No. 30-above) of the Willowbrook girls basketball team launches a 3-point shot during the fourth quarter of Saturday's game against Plainfield Central. Dasbach made the shot to account for her last three points of the game. Dasbach finished the night with 34 points and 22 rebounds to lead the Warriors to a 64-46 victory in Villa Park. The win gave Willowbrook an overall record of 3-1, and a 2-1 mark in the team's round-robin Thanksgiving tournament. The Warriors completed the event with two more games this week. Another photo from Saturday's game shows senior K'Aliyha Herron (right) driving to the basket. Herron scored a team-leading 16 points in the Warriors' season opener—a 51-37 victory over Glenbard North on Nov. 19.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS / Rock Valley Publishing

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ComEd, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus award public safety grants to 25 northern Illinois communities

Villa Park one of the 25 communities

To enhance public safety and quality of life in communities across northern Illinois, ComEd and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus recently announced grants of up to \$10,000 each to 25 public agencies through the ComEd Powering Safe Communities Program.

From digital messaging and speed notification signage to cameras that

help locate victims in danger, the projects address critical safety needs in the communities ComEd serves.

In Villa Park, the grant will support the purchase of six flashing LED stop signs and a radar speed display to be installed at intersections that experience high volumes of traffic, including those next to schools.

"The safety of the public and our employees is our highest priority," said Melissa Washington, vice president of governmental and external affairs at ComEd. "That's why we partner with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus each year through the

ComEd Powering Safe Communities Program to promote a culture of safety and wellness in our communities. By providing local agencies with the resources required to help address public safety needs, we're powering a brighter, more resilient future for the residents they serve."

Since 2015, ComEd has supported critical safety needs of local municipalities through Powering Safe Communities, bringing essential public safety programs and services to people and populations throughout the energy company's service territory.

For the past four grant cycles,

ComEd has collaborated with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, a council for Chicagoland's chief elected officials, on public policy issues and to fund \$670,000 worth of public safety projects throughout northern Illinois.

Through this collaboration, ComEd provides the program funding, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus administers the grants to local communities, and grant recipients match ComEd's contribution with their own funding of equal or greater value.

Earlier this year, public agencies from across communities that ComEd serves submitted grant applications, which were then reviewed by an advisory committee comprised of public safety, local government, and allied professionals.

Additional information on the ComEd Powering Safe Communities Program can be found at: <http://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/environment/pscl>.

Pioneer Garden and Feed holds its annual Small Business Saturday Open House this Saturday

Villa Park's Pioneer Garden Feed, 118 S. Villa Ave., invites residents to its annual Small Business Saturday Open House this Saturday, Nov. 30. The open house will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will feature free cookies and cider, as well as food samples and giveaways.

The open house will also include a cat adoption event (from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) held by the rescue group Catvando.

Pioneer Garden and Feed, which has been open for 101 years, invites its long-time customers, as well as those who have never been to the store, to stop in on Small Business Saturday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lions make fall donations

The Villa Park Lions Club recently made its fall donations by presenting checks to the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry, the York Township Food Pantry and Disciples Food Pantry of Villa Park. Pictured left to right are York Township Supervisor John W. Valle, York Township Food Pantry Director Angela Tanner, Lion Sean Birmingham, Disciples Food Pantry Director Joan Fuller and Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry Director Steve Anderson.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

State meet qualifier

Willowbrook sophomore Ellie Hassler competed in three events at the IHSA girls state swimming and diving meet at New Trier High School in Winnetka. Competing in the AWD (athletes with disabilities) division at the state meet, Hassler swam in three events during Saturday's finals. She earned a sixth-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle, which she completed in 41.67 seconds. Hassler turned in another sixth-place performance in the 100-yard freestyle, which she swam in 1 minute, 36.73 seconds. In her final event of the meet, Hassler placed fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke, which she finished in 2:19.68. Hassler is a member of the Addison Trail/Willowbrook girls swimming team, which is coached by head coach Tara Murphy and assistant coach Amy Martello. She qualified for the state meet in two events (the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle) as a freshman. Her 50-yard freestyle time in this year's state meet produced an improvement of more than two seconds over last year. She dropped more than six seconds off her 2018 state-meet time in the 100-yard freestyle.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook students honored

Eleven Willowbrook High School students were recognized as Outstanding Students for the first quarter of the 2019-20 school year during a recent breakfast in their honor. To be chosen for the Outstanding Student Award, students must demonstrate extraordinary achievement, outstanding effort and commendable attitude and motivation. Additionally, students who receive the award must show the ability to overcome obstacles and maintain a continuous exemplary performance. A member of the school's various departments nominated the students for the award. The honored students (pictured left to right) included: senior Sara Fitzgibbon (science), senior Chloe Harr (world languages), junior Stefany Jaimes (social studies), junior Valeria Garay (English), freshman Jovanny Diaz (physical education), senior Ashley Mayweather (career and technical education), senior Kaitlyn Walker (art), senior Liam Riesen (music) and senior Vincenzo Ledonne II (math). Not pictured are sophomores Liberty Haxton (learning services) and Tania Rebollo Panlagua (literacy).

Dual-threat Willowbrook QB Sam Tumilty was indispensable

Three-year starter led Warriors to first state semifinal since 1975

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

Sam Tumilty received an early education on what elite football looked like.

Tumilty, Willowbrook's senior quarterback, spent football Fridays in Park Ridge as a kid. His dad, Scott, is a longtime assistant at Maine South. Sam remembers roughhousing on the field with Scotty, his older brother by a year.

He recalled watching the 2010 state championship game, when Maine South beat Mount Carmel.

"I remember going to their games on Friday nights and getting the chills. I couldn't wait to be playing under the lights," Tumilty said. "Watching those playoff games, how much fun they were having, it inspired me."

He took it, and ran with it.

Over two seasons with Tumilty at quarterback, Willowbrook went 22-3. Tumilty this year led Willowbrook to its third straight West Suburban Gold title, and fourth straight state quarterfinal. And, finally, the Warriors cleared a significant hurdle, reaching the state semifinals for the first time since 1975.

"It's a blessing. I don't think a lot of people believed in us," Tumilty said.

Tumilty, all of 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds, made believers with simply out-of-this-world numbers. He threw for 2,516 yards and 23 touchdowns, and ran for 1,536 yards and 18 more TDs. He finished with more than 8,000 total yards for his career. A three-year starter at defensive back, he also led Willowbrook in tackles with 89 going into the state semifinal.

Simply put, Willowbrook couldn't let Tumilty leave the field. The last punt of Willowbrook's second-round win over Yorkville, Tumilty was on the field at gunner.

"He's too good of a football player not to have him on the field in certain spots," Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth said. "He's a kid that you can put him in any position on the football field and he'd be our best one there. If you want to throw him at guard or at wideout, that's just what he is. His instincts are as good as any that I've seen on the football field."

Indispensable to his team and skilled as any in the area, Sam Tumilty is the Suburban Life Player of the Year.

Athletic ability is clearly in the bloodlines. Scott Tumilty starred at Naperville Central and was a Division III All-American at Augustana as the school's all-time leading rusher.

Sam started at a young age, around third or fourth grade. A competitive streak was born out of one-on-one basketball battles at home with Scotty. The two put on plastic football shoulder pads and went at it in the backyard.



Jeff Krage for Shaw Media

Willowbrook quarterback Sam Tumilty, the Suburban Life Football Player of the Year, keeps the football during a Class 7A state semifinal against Mount Carmel on Nov. 23 in Villa Park.

"My brother is one of my biggest role models," said Sam Tumilty, a three-sport athlete who also plays basketball and baseball. "He pushed me to be who I am. I try to emulate him."

Tumilty took over at quarterback as a junior and established himself as one of the state's best dual threats. He accounted for close to 3,800 total yards -- and topped that this year. With an ability to freelance and cut on a dime, while still throwing with accuracy on the run, it looks like Tumilty is wearing skates on the field.

Tumilty was as good as ever in a second-round playoff win over Yorkville, with 450 yards of offense and a key interception late.

"He kind of tore up our defense, which nobody else was able to do," Yorkville All-State safety Cale Reeder said. "He is a crazy athlete. He can make plays with his arm and his feet."

A three-year starter in baseball, Tumilty is focusing on football for college. He's talked to a few Division III schools such as North Central and Augustana, as well as Drake.

Fourth in his class at Willowbrook with a 4.5 grade-point average, Tumilty won't think of his individual stats when he reflects on his career.

"I know they're there, but I don't take a great look at them," Tumilty said. "Stats come and go, wins and losses, too. Playing for your coaches, your school and your town, that is the best. That's what it's all about."

Suburban Life All-Area Football Team

- **DEONTAY BELL, MONTINI, SENIOR, QUARTERBACK:** CCL/ESCC Green Division Offensive Player of the Year and Class 5A All-State pick. Bell threw for 1,417 yards and 20 TDs, and rushed for 1,038 yards and nine TDs.
- **DREW CASSENS, DOWNERS GROVE NORTH, SENIOR, QUARTERBACK:** West Suburban Silver MVP and Class 7A All-State pick. Cassens ran for 1,513 yards and 18 TDs, and threw for 620 yards and four TDs.
- **DEON COOK, GLENBARD EAST, SENIOR, RECEIVER:** The leading receiver in DuPage County and an all-conference pick. Cook had 59 catches for 969 yards and 10 TDs. Ran for 179 yards and three TDs.
- **KEVIN COOKE, IC CATHOLIC PREP, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** Three-year starter and Class 4A All-State selection. Cooke led Knights with 153 tackles, 11 for loss, with three sacks and five interceptions.
- **KYLE FRANKLIN, IC CATHOLIC PREP, JUNIOR, RUNNING BACK:** Repeat all-area pick followed record sophomore season by rushing for 1,504 yards and 26 TDs.
- **MARCUS GRIFFIN JR., NAZARETH, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** Three-year starter has 61 tackles, 35 of them solos, 12 tackles for loss and four sacks. Grand Valley State recruit was named 7A honorable mention All-State.
- **ANDREW JOHNSON, GLENBARD WEST, SENIOR, OFFENSIVE LINE:** All-Stater has close to double-digit college offers. The 6-foot-3, 280-pounder anchored line for team that averaged more than 44 points per game.
- **JAYDEN LAMBERT, DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH, SENIOR, RECEIVER:** Co-Most Outstanding Offensive Player in West Suburban Gold committed to Northern Illinois as preferred walk-on. Had 434 rushing yards, 307 receiving yards and seven TDs.
- **JOSH MATTHESEN, YORK, SENIOR, OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE LINE:** Two-way starter and a three-year starter was co-Lineman of the Year in the West Suburban Silver. Olivet Nazarene recruit had 58 tackles, four for loss, and two sacks. Offensively had close to 100 pancakes.
- **J.J. MCCARTHY, NAZARETH, JUNIOR, QUARTERBACK:** Michigan recruit, five-star prospect and Class 7A All-State. McCarthy has completed 62.4% of his passes for 2,704 yards and 33 TDs.
- **GREYSON METZ, GLENBARD WEST, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** Honorable mention All-Stater led defense that gave up just 8.8 points per game. Iowa and Northern Illinois among double-digit offers.
- **TYLER MORRIS, NAZARETH, SOPHOMORE, WIDE RECEIVER/DEFENSIVE BACK:** The No. 1 recruit in Illinois in his class has double-digit offers, including Notre Dame and Michigan. For the season, has 68 catches for 1,237 yards and 17 TDs, three rushing TDs, three return TDs and an interception.
- **XANDER MUELLER, WHEATON NORTH, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** Northwestern recruit was named Class 7A All-State. Had 64 solo tackles, 38 assists, six tackles for loss and two sacks.
- **NATE MUERSCH, MONTINI, SENIOR, RECEIVER:** Miami (Ohio) recruit and honorable mention All-State pick. Muersch had 40 catches for 770 yards and 11 TDs.
- **JACK OLSEN, WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH, SENIOR, KICKER/PUNTER/RECEIVER:** Michigan State recruit is All-State pick. Set record for field goals in a game, and in a season, as a junior.
- **LUKE PYLE, HINSDALE CENTRAL, SENIOR, LINEBACKER:** Pyle had 83 tackles, 12 for loss, four sacks and an interception for 8-2 Red Devils.
- **TOMMY RITTENHOUSE, ST. FRANCIS, JUNIOR, QUARTERBACK:** Two-year starter completed 73.8% of his passes for 1,451 yards and 20 TDs with just one interception in nine games for Class 4A quarterfinalist.
- **ANTHONY SAMBUCCI, LEWISTON, SENIOR, RECEIVER:** Western Michigan recruit and Class 6A All-State pick. Sambucci had 57 catches for 881 yards and 13 TDs, with four return TDs.
- **EVERETT STUBBLEFIELD III, WILLOWBROOK, SENIOR, RECEIVER:** Stubblefield was Warriors' leading receiver with 53 catches going into state semifinals for 1,074 yards and 13 TDs. Honorable mention All-State.
- **SAM TUMILTY, WILLOWBROOK, SENIOR, QUARTERBACK/DEFENSIVE BACK:** Three-year starter and All-State pick led Warriors to state semifinals for first time since 1975. Tumilty threw for 2,516 yards and 23 TDs, and ran for 1,536 yards and 18 TDs. Also led team in tackles.

PREP ROUNDUP

Diallo Phillips, Glenbard West edge Glenbard South in season opener

SUBURBAN LIFE MEDIA

Diallo Phillips scored 12 points, Caden Pierce added 11 and Braden Huff had 10 to lead Glenbard West past Glenbard South 45-42 on Nov. 25.

York

Nate Shockey scored 19 points to pace the Dukes past Hersey 41-40 on Nov. 25.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Glenbard West

Taylor Huff scored 23 points and Maggie Stutelberg added 15 for the Hilltoppers in a 52-42 win over Glenbard North on Nov. 25.

Montini

Taylor Charles had 21 points and six rebounds and Maddie Saracco had 11 points for the Lady Broncos in a 65-9 win over East Aurora.

Sophie Sullivan scored 14 points and Tatiana Thomas and Sydney Prochaska scored 10 points each for the Lady Broncos in a 58-23 win over Lockport. Tavis Thornton added nine points.

Charles scored 12 points and Sarac-

co added 11 to lead the Lady Broncos past Willowbrook 69-15 at the Willowbrook Tournament.

Willowbrook

Stephanie Dasbach had 17 points and 12 rebounds and K'aliya Herron had 11 points for the Warriors in a 56-50 loss to Lockport on Nov. 25.

Dasbach scored 34 points and grabbed 22 rebounds, her huge game powering the Warriors past Plainfield Central 65-46 on Nov. 23 at the Willowbrook Thanksgiving Tournament. Abba Spada added nine points and Annemarie Knudtson had eight points and four assists for Willowbrook.

IC Catholic Prep

Claire Wagner scored 18 points and Allia Johnson added nine for the Knights in a 49-29 win over Bremen.

York

Sara Krissinger scored 20 points, leading the Dukes (4-0) past Prospect 62-44 to the championship of the York Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 22. Sydney Fuglsang added 10 points and Carley Schwartz had nine.



Sandy Bressner - sbressner@shawmedia.com

Glenbard West's Diallo Phillips tries to get past Glenbard South defender Yazan Bian during a District 87 Thanksgiving Tournament game Nov. 25 at Glenbard West.

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- WASHINGTON @ CAROLINA
- SAN FRANCISCO @ BALTIMORE
- TAMPA BAY @ JACKSONVILLE
- PHILADELPHIA @ MIAMI
- GREEN BAY @ NY GIANTS
- CLEVELAND @ PITTSBURGH
- LA RAMS @ ARIZONA
- LA CHARGERS @ DENVER
- OAKLAND @ KANSAS CITY
- MINNESOTA @ SEATTLE
- NEW ENGLAND @ HOUSTON

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SPORTS

Have a question or comment? Contact Weekly Group Sports Editor Josh Welge, jwelge@shawmedia.com or 630-385-4412

Mount Carmel ends Willowbrook's historic playoff run

By JACOB BARTELSON
jbartelson@shawmedia.com

VILLA PARK — Kenenna Odeluga didn't forget last season's game-changing fumble.

Odeluga, Mount Carmel's junior running back, had a crucial fumble in overtime last year in a semifinal loss to St. Charles North.

So he planned to have no regrets this time.

"I was going to do everything I can to help this team win," Odeluga said. And indeed he did.

Odeluga scampered for 161 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries to help carry the Caravan past Willowbrook 27-6 in a Class 7A state semifinal Nov. 24 in Villa Park.

Mount Carmel (13-0), which broke a six-year championship game drought with the win, will play Nazareth on Nov. 30 in DeKalb. Mount Carmel will try to win the program's first state title since going back-to-back in 2012 and 2013.

"The kids have worked hard," second-year Mount Carmel coach Jordan Lynch said. "I don't want to downplay anything, but we've got one more game to go. We're up against a tough team [Nazareth]. All the credit goes to Willowbrook. They fought hard. They're tough kids. [Willowbrook quarterback Sam Tumilty] is a hell of a player."

The game began with fireworks, as Willowbrook (11-2) took its opening possession down to the Caravan 1-yard-line. After a pair of Caravan off-side penalties, Tumilty was stuffed by Benjamin Perry on fourth-and-goal.

Mount Carmel's first play from scrimmage ended up being a 99-yard touchdown from quarterback Justin Lynch to wideout Jaali Parker for a stunning 6-0 lead with 6:59 left in the first quarter. The extra-point attempt was missed.

"I saw Jaali Parker make a [heck] of a play," Odeluga said. "He makes it in practice all the time. Just to see him do it in the game just means so much to me. He's been working hard this whole year. ... Kudos to him."

After Willowbrook punted on the ensuing possession, Odeluga capped an 11-play drive with a 3-yard touchdown run for a 13-0 advantage.

Tumilty responded with a 7-yard touchdown run to make it 13-6, a score set up by Tumilty's 61-yard pass to Everett Stubblefield.

Mount Carmel went ahead 20-6 on



Willowbrook linebacker Sergio Ayaia looks to tackle Mount Carmel quarterback Justin Lynch during the Class 7A state semifinal. Jeff Kruga for Shaw Media

Lynch's 1-yard TD run with 2:21 left in the third quarter.

The Caravan forced a three-and-out on the ensuing possession, which ended with Lance Swain's sack of Tumilty.

Odeluga scored his second touchdown on an 18-yard run two plays later for a 27-6 lead.

Lynch and Tumilty, both dual-threat quarterbacks, did not disappoint in the matchup. Lynch finished with 13 completions for 208 yards and a touchdown.

Tumilty, entering the game with more than 2,000 yards passing and 1,400

yards rushing, finished with 13 completions for 152 passing yards, 113 rushing yards and a pair of interceptions.

The Warriors, making their first state semifinal appearance since 1975, showed some life late in the fourth quarter. Mohammad Ayesh intercepted Lynch and returned it 67 yards to the Caravan 9, but Tumilty was promptly intercepted by David Wright.

"I know in the second half [Mount Carmel] came out with a few different blitz packages," Tumilty said. "My line did a great job. They had some good blocks, the receivers [ran] good routes.

Sometimes, you get caught in blitzes like that ... that's how it is. You've got to take the wins with the losses."

Willowbrook left a number of plays on the field. The Caravan racked up five sacks in the game.

"Playing [against] a team like Mount Carmel, you have the ball on the 1 and you don't score," Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth began. "Then, you flip that over. Give up a 99-yard touchdown from there. And we had three other opportunities inside the 20 and don't score. You're not going to beat a good football team."

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Pub

A Thanksgiving tradition

Members of Villa Park's St. Alexander Parish maintained a Thanksgiving-morning tradition this year by playing a spirited game of touch football. A team of players age 23 and older squared off against players 22 and younger in the 14th annual "Turkey Bowl" near the Rugaard Gazebo. Several of the players began competing in the hol-

iday event when they were children. Those players are now in their early 20s. The photo shows 2014 Willowbrook graduate Will Unseth (below left) firing a long downfield pass. Nick Turek (wearing the No. 7 jersey-below right), who also graduated from Willowbrook in 2014, caught Unseth's pass for a touchdown.



Three holiday concerts at Willowbrook in December

Tonight's concert features the jazz band, rock band and CenterStage show choir

The Willowbrook High School music department will hold three holiday concerts in December.

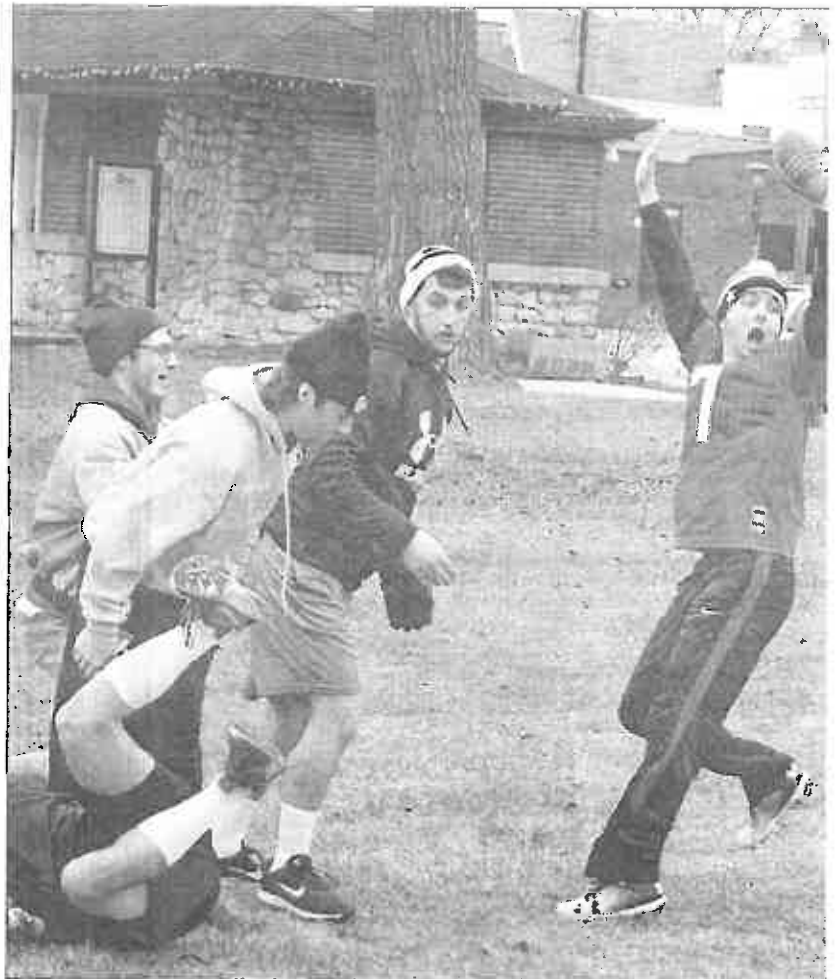
Each of the three concerts will begin at 7 p.m. in the Doris E. White Auditorium. Tickets for each concert cost \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, seniors and children.

The first of the three holiday concerts will take place tonight, Dec. 5. Tonight's concert will include per-

formances from the jazz band, the rock band and the CenterStage show choir.

The concert on Tuesday, Dec. 10, will feature Willowbrook's orchestra, as well as its choirs and guitar ensembles.

The concert on Thursday, Dec. 12, offers performances from several of the music department's bands.



Sectional qualifiers Wilson, Placek headline list of returnees for Willowbrook girls gymnastics team

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team has a good place from which to start this season.

Coach Deanna Zuchowski has four returners from last year's squad that took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division and scored a 124.1 at regionals, including sectional qualifiers in Karli Wilson (senior) and Tess Placek (sophomore).

Both are all-around performers. Also back are junior all-arounders Riley Wieringa and Maeve Costello.

Placek qualified at-large for the sectional on vault (9.0 at regionals). Placek (32.250) and Wilson (31.900) were at-large sectional qualifiers in the all-around competition. Zuchowski tabbed Wieringa as the team's most improved performer in remarks at the end of last season.

"Tess Placek already is kicking it into high gear," Zuchowski noted. "She knows what it feels like to

make it far into the state series and already is looking forward to it again this year. She has upped her skills on each event and always is looking for ways to add bonus into her routines."

Zuchowski also is expecting big things from Wilson, Willowbrook's other returning sectional qualifier.

"Karli always is exciting to watch," she said. "Her leadership with the newest members of the team is helping mold the team to what it is."

Key newcomers to the team include freshmen all-arounders Sarah Ball, Hanna Mitrick and Molly Morris.

"Hanna and Sarah will be pushing the rest of the team to perform at a higher level because of their perseverance they already are showing," said Zuchowski.

In addition to Wilson, Zuchowski is looking to fellow senior Dominique Crowe for leadership.

"Karli and Dominique have some

big leadership roles to fill after losing two key seniors last year," she noted. "I am excited to see what the girls have in store for us."

Zuchowski also is, encouraged by the team's willingness to learn.

"We have another great team to start the season," said Zuchowski, who is assisted by longtime Willowbrook gymnastics coach Andy Isaacson, along with 2019 Willowbrook graduate Caitlyn Owen. "We are expecting this team to push each other, not only from our top returning gymnasts, but from our newcomers."

"The girls are taking the excitement from the football team's push to the state series into the gym and working to fulfill their goals of making their own run."

Zuchowski added Willowbrook's strengths in the early going look to be on floor and beam.

"We have a lot of great routines this year that the girls are not only

excited to watch, but to work through their own routines," she said. "The keys for us to have a successful season will be to push to our limits. Each of these girls comes with a unique set of skills. They have the power to complete these, but we will see how they put them together to make their routines whole."

In terms of the West Suburban Conference Gold Division, Zuchowski noted Downers Grove South now has entered into a co-op agreement with town neighbor Downers Grove North.

"Now that Downers Grove South has a co-op with North they will be the team to beat," she said. "We are excited to add to the competition and see what Downers Grove South has in store for everyone this year."

"We are very excited about our outcome for this year's season. We have a great group of returning upperclassmen and a few newcomers

who will round out our team. They push each other and help each other overcome obstacles that are in the way."

"This is such a nice, down to earth group that we have in the gym. They all are excited that the season has started and they are ready to push their limits."

Willowbrook opened the 2019-2020 season at the Hilltopper Quad Meet hosted by Glenbard West. The Warriors took third at the varsity level with a score of 119.150. Willowbrook third as a team in all events: vault (32.400), bars (28.900), beam (28.800) and floor (29.050).

Placek led the way for the Warriors. She won the vault competition and ended in fifth in the all-around scoring.

At the junior-varsity level, Willowbrook was second at 107.100, punctuated by a 30.700 on vault and a 29.700 score on floor exercise.

Willowbrook girls bowling team has high hopes once again

Warriors out to defend WSC crown; Sights set on another state berth

By Mike Miazga
CORRESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls bowling team has built itself quite the body of work in recent times.

The Warriors have qualified for the state bowling meet in each of the last two years, while a year ago they also won the West Suburban Conference title with an 8-0 mark and went 12-1 overall in dual meets.

And coach Kevin Allen's squad would like to see the good times keep rolling.

The Warriors return standout senior Makaylah Jones, an all-WSC bowler the last three seasons. Jones won an individual regional title last year (her second individual regional crown) and averaged 180 in conference play.

"Makaylah has been working very hard in the offseason on her game," Allen said.

Senior Ashley DeLeon also is back.

"Ashley had a very impressive day at year with her high game of 210 in state competition," Allen said. "She has been working on her game throughout the offseason and it has been the first week of practice. She is bowling the ball very well and winning that she is going to have a season ahead of her."

Allen also is high on sophomore former Taylor Balslew. "Taylor has shown some great talent and making ability during practice,"

"The team this year is a great mix of seasoned veterans and young bowlers."

- Coach Kevin Allen

he said. "I am excited to see what the season has in store for her."

Allen likes the roster balance he has going into the 2019-2020 season.

"The team this year is a great mix of seasoned veterans and young bowlers," he said. "Our varsity team will be made up of seniors and sophomores. As the season progresses, we will be able to learn from each other."

A key to the season, Allen noted, is the team working hard on staying excited throughout the entirety of invitational meets. "We will work hard on holding each other up for each game," he said. "Staying upbeat and confident will be a must this season."

As far as goals, Allen and his crew want to keep things rolling at the high level they have been. "Our goal is to be competing for the conference championship and advancing to state for the third year in a row."

Willowbrook opened the season over the weekend at Plainfield Central and hosted a quad earlier this week at Stardust in Addison. The Warriors open WSC play today (Thursday, Dec. 5) at 4 p.m., at Leyden, in another contest at Stardust Bowl.



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SPORTS

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Warriors come together quickly to start the season

Boys team wins two of four games, takes second at tournament in St. Charles

By Chris Fox
VILLA PARK REVIEW STAFF REPORTER

The Willowbrook boys basketball team didn't have much time to prepare for its season-opening games at St. Charles East's Ron Johnson Thanksgiving Tournament.

Several of the team's top players were members of the football team's playoff push into the IHSA Class 7A semifinals. The Willowbrook football team's season ended on Nov. 23. Three days later, the boys basketball team played its season opener.

The Warriors won two of four games at the eight-team tournament in St. Charles. Willowbrook went 2-1 in pool play and claimed first place in the Orange Pool. The Warriors faced a familiar foe—West Suburban Gold Conference rival Proviso East—in Saturday night's championship game. The Pirates, who earned three narrow wins to win the Black Pool title, defeated Willowbrook 69-57 in the title contest.

Willowbrook will begin its conference season with this Friday's home game against Addison Trail.

The football standouts who joined

the basketball team at the beginning of last week included seniors Everett Stubblefield and Sam Tumilty and junior Haven Pryor. Senior Deandre Holliday, another football standout, did not play in the tournament in St. Charles, but he should be available to play this week.

The Warriors played three competitive games in pool play at St. Charles East. Willowbrook opened the event by rallying for a 57-55 victory over East Aurora on Nov. 26. One day later, the Warriors dropped a 75-65 decision to Plainfield East. On Nov. 29—the day after Thanksgiving—Willowbrook edged St. Joseph 56-51 to earn a berth in the championship game.

"I like what I saw," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins after the completion of the tournament. "I like our chances going forward. This was a great experience for us. We got some close-game situations. There was a lot of parity here."

While several other teams had a couple of weeks of practice to get ready for the basketball season, the full Willowbrook team had only a Nov. 25 shoot-around session to prepare for its season opener one day later.

"We technically had one practice together as a team," said Perkins. "For those guys to come in and play four games in five nights, and give ourselves an opportunity to win a cham-

pionship, I'm proud of them."

Willowbrook and East Aurora both went 2-1 in pool play, while St. Joseph and Plainfield East each went 1-2. The Warriors won the tiebreaker over East Aurora by prevailing in the head-to-head battle between the two teams.

Proviso East won the Black Pool title with victories by margins of one, two and three points. The Pirates began the tournament by beating South Elgin 55-54. They then defeated Hampshire 62-60. Proviso East closed out pool play with an 82-79 win over the host school—St. Charles East.

Proviso East enjoyed a fast start to the championship game, taking a 22-10 lead over the Warriors by the end of the first quarter. The lead grew to 26-10 through the opening minute of the second quarter. The Warriors trimmed the Pirates' lead to 36-25 by halftime.

A baseline basket by Tumilty reduced the Pirates' lead to 42-36 with four minutes left in the third quarter. The Pirates scored four points in the next 30 seconds to raise their lead to 46-36. Baskets from Tumilty and Stubblefield cut the margin to 46-40 with a little more than two minutes to play in the quarter.

A free throw from Pryor sliced Proviso East's advantage to 47-41 with 1:29 left in the period. The Pirates responded with a 5-0 run to take a 52-41 lead. Proviso East's lead stood at

54-44 at the end of the third quarter.

The Pirates maintained a double-digit lead throughout the final period. Proviso East held a 67-51 cushion with three minutes to play. Willowbrook then scored six straight points to cut the deficit to 10 points.

Willowbrook made only one of nine attempts from 3-point range. The Warriors connected on 20 of 35 free-throw attempts in the championship game.

"We just had a lot of missed opportunities," said Perkins after the title contest. "We really should have won tonight's game. We had great looks. We won the turnover battle. We attempted more free throws."

Perkins noted that the Warriors will face Proviso East twice during the conference season. The teams will square off in Villa Park on Jan. 21. The Warriors and Pirates will play at Proviso East on Feb. 18.

Stubblefield, who was named to the all-tournament team, scored 15 points in Saturday's title game. Pryor added 13 points, while Tumilty scored 12 points. Sophomore Sean Paige added eight points and 15 rebounds.

Stubblefield scored 25 points in the tournament opener against East Aurora. He poured in 22 of his 25 points during the second half. Paige added 12 points.

The Warriors trailed the Tomcats 15-4 after one quarter and 27-

19 at halftime. East Aurora held a 40-35 lead after three quarters, but a 3-pointer from Stubblefield and two free throws from Pryor tied the game at 40-40. Stubblefield sank another 3-pointer to give the Warriors a 43-40 lead.

East Aurora took a 53-52 lead with about one minute to play, but Stubblefield scored a few seconds later to give the Warriors a 54-53 advantage. A steal and basket by senior Brenton Jones pushed the lead to 56-53.

Stubblefield turned in another 25-point output in the loss to Plainfield East. Paige and senior Mike Hay both contributed 12 points. Willowbrook held a 34-30 halftime lead, but the Bengals went on a 26-15 run during the third quarter to seize a 56-49 lead.

Stubblefield made seven of 12 shots from 3-point range and poured in 31 points in Friday's win over St. Joseph. Tumilty added nine points. The Warriors held a 27-14 halftime lead. Their lead stood at 47-38 at the end of the third quarter.

St. Joseph battled back in the fourth quarter and grabbed a 51-50 lead with about 30 seconds to play. Stubblefield made two free throws with 24.3 seconds to play to give Willowbrook a 52-51 lead.

Senior Isaac Gaines and Stubblefield added two free throws each in the closing eight seconds.

Former Willowbrook boys hoops standout Masys making contributions at MIT

Warriors girls basketball team 3-3 after first 6 games

by Mike Miazga

CORRESPONDENT

Former Willowbrook boys basketball standout Masys is a freshman on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) men's basketball team.

Masys, who graduated from Willowbrook earlier this year, played in the team's first seven contests and was averaging 6.4 points per game while playing an average of 25 minutes a night.

In those first seven games, the Oakbrook Terrace native shot 15-for-37 from the field and was 12-for-9 from the 3-point line (41.4 percent). He had 13 rebounds, nine assists and five steals in those first seven games.

Masys, whose major at MIT is currently undecided, had 17 points in the team's 95-49 win against the Manor College out of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. He also had eight points in a victory against Lasell University out of Newton, Massachusetts.

Wrestling

The Willowbrook wrestling team hosted its own bid on Saturday and went 2-1 against the likes of Chicago Noble/Gary Comer, IC Catholic Prep and Hinsdale Central.

The Warriors were 62-16 winners over Chicago Noble and downed IC Catholic Prep 51-30. Willowbrook lost 41-27 to Hinsdale Central.

Willowbrook had five wrestlers go 3-0 at the

quad. Vinny Suehiro, David Kapica, Wyatt Borri, John Peterson and Elijah Brockie each won all their matches.

Girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team came out of its first six games of the season with a 3-3 mark.

After opening its season with a win over Glenbard North, the Warriors went 2-3 at their own six-team, round-robin Thanksgiving tournament. Willowbrook completed the event with last week's losses to Lockport and Stevenson. Lockport beat the Warriors 56-50 on Nov. 25. Stevenson defeated Willowbrook 66-53 on Nov. 26.

Junior Stephanie Dasbach scored 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Warriors in the loss to Lockport. Senior K'Aliyha Herron added 11 points. Junior Abbey Spada provided seven points.

Herron poured in 23 points and snared nine rebounds in the loss to Stevenson. Dasbach contributed 11 points and nine rebounds. The Warriors trailed Stevenson 37-17 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored the Patriots in both the third and fourth quarters.

Dasbach was named to the event's all-tournament first team. Herron was selected to the all-tournament second team.

Willowbrook jumps into West Suburban Conference Gold Division play this week with games against Proviso East, Addison Trail and Leyden.

The Warriors host Addison Trail this Friday at 6 p.m. for a Pack the Gym night. Leyden comes to town Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. start.

Chris Fox contributed to this report.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls basketball team won two of five games at its own six-team, round-robin Thanksgiving tournament. The Warriors finished the event with two games last week. They lost 56-50 to Lockport on Nov. 25. One day later, Willowbrook dropped a 66-53 decision to Stevenson. The Warriors' overall season record stood at 3-3 at the end of the tournament. Junior Stephanie Dasbach (No. 30-above left) of Willowbrook was named to the event's all-tournament first team. Dasbach poured in 34 points and grabbed 22 rebounds in the Warriors' third game of the tournament—a 64-46 win over Plainfield Central on Nov. 23. Senior K'Aliyha Herron (also pictured above right) was named to the all-tournament second team. Herron scored a team-leading 23 points in the Warriors' loss to Stevenson. Dasbach and Herron are both pictured in the contest against Stevenson. Montini went 5-0 to win the tournament title. Stevenson went 4-1. Willowbrook begins West Suburban Gold Conference play with this week's home games against Proviso East, Addison Trail and Leyden.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



Thanksgiving tournament action

The Willowbrook boys basketball team began its season by playing four games in five days at St. Charles East's eight-team Thanksgiving tournament. The Warriors won two of three games in pool play to advance to Saturday's championship game against Proviso East. The Pirates defeated Willowbrook 69-57 in the title game. Senior Everett Stubblefield (No. 3-above left) scored 24 points per game in the tournament and was named to the all-tournament team. Junior Haven Pryor (No. 25-above middle) scored

13 points in Saturday's game, while senior Sam Tumilty (No. 5-above right) added 10 points. All three players are members of Willowbrook's football team, which completed its season with a loss to Mount Carmel in the IHSA Class 7A semifinals on Nov. 29. Three days later, Stubblefield, Pryor and Tumilty were on the court for first game of the basketball season.

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