

# Villa Park REVIEW

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*Holiday concert*

CHRIS FOX PHOTO VILLOPARKS.COM

Last week's holiday concert at Willowbrook High School featured a performance by the school's CenterStage show choir. Several members of the show choir are pictured during their rendition of "Think," written by Aretha Franklin and Ted White. The Dec. 5 concert also included Willowbrook's rock band and jazz band. The CenterStage choir traveled to Chicago earlier this week to perform live

on Steve Cochran's morning show on WGN Radio. Willowbrook's music department will present another concert this evening, Thursday, Dec. 12, in the school's Doris E. White Auditorium. Tonight's concert, which begins at 7 p.m., will feature several of the school's bands. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, seniors and children.

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## SPORTS

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## Willowbrook girls gymnastics team competes against Downers Grove co-op

### Warriors girls basketball team wins two games

By Mike Miazga  
RESPONDENT

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team dropped last week's 136.0-8.6 West Suburban Conference Old Division meet to the Downers Grove co-op team.

At the varsity level of the Dec. 4 meet, sophomore Tess Placek took third on vault with an 8.95 score. Junior Riley Wieringa was seventh at 7.10.

Placek took third on bars at 8.20, while Wieringa was sixth at 7.75. Placek was fifth on beam at 8.00, while junior Alexis Fitzgerald was seventh at 7.10.

Placek took second on floor at 5.5, while Fitzgerald was sixth at 5.5. Placek finished third in the all-around scoring at 33.4, while junior Eve Costello was fourth at 28.8.

At the JV 1 level, Willowbrook freshman Molly Morris won the all-around competition at 8.40. Freshman Anna Mitrick was second at 8.00.

Freshman Sarah Ball won the bars competition with a score of 7.70. Ball also was fifth in the all-around at 28.6.

At the JV 2 meet, Willowbrook sophomore Alyssa Lorann was third on vault at 7.20.

### In basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team concluded a busy week going 2-1 in their first three West Suburban Conference Gold Division meets of the season. The Warriors' trail season record stood at 5-4 at the end of the week.

In a 60-42 loss to Proviso East on Friday, Willowbrook trailed 19-10 at the first quarter and 37-18 at the time.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team opened the West Suburban Gold Conference season with three home games last week. The Warriors lost 60-42 to Proviso East on Dec. 3. Willowbrook defeated Addison Trail 48-19 on Friday. The Warriors then beat Leyden 68-41 on Saturday to move to 5-4 overall and 2-1 in the conference. Senior K'Allyha Herron (No. 15-above) poured in 23 points in Saturday's win over Leyden. Junior Abbey Spada (No. 4-right) scored 10 points against Proviso East. Spada tallied nine points against Addison Trail and five points against Leyden.

Junior Stephanie Dasbach recorded a double-double with 14 points and 15 rebounds to pace the Warriors. Junior Abbey Spada, who made all four of her free-throw attempts, added 10 points. Junior Annemarie Knudtson provided six points, three assists and four steals. Senior K'Allyha Herron scored six points, grabbed six rebounds and made five steals.

Willowbrook was a 48-19 WSC Gold winner over Addison Trail on Friday in Villa Park. The Warriors led the Blazers 10-6 after one quarter and 29-10 at halftime.

Herron totaled 11 points, eight rebounds and four steals, while Dasbach had another double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Spada contributed nine points and seven re-



bounds. She made a pair of 3-point shots.

Junior Olivia Sobieszczyk finished with seven points and six rebounds.

In a 68-41 WSC Gold victory over Leyden on Saturday in Villa Park, Willowbrook registered 20 points in each of the first two quarters. The Warriors held a 20-10 lead over the Eagles at the end of the first quarter. Willowbrook's lead grew to 40-27 by

halftime.

Herron provided 23 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals. She scored 10 of Willowbrook's 14 third-period points.

Dasbach finished with 12 points, 15 rebounds and four blocked shots. Sobieszczyk, who made two 3-point shots, supplied 10 points and nine rebounds. Knudtson had eight points, five assists and five steals.

## Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming team loaded with returnees

By Mike Miazga  
RESPONDENT

Addison Trail-Willowbrook boys swimming coach Neil Wahlgren is what he sees on his roster.

His roster is filled with returnees, particularly in the stroke events, from an AT-Willowbrook team that took third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division last season.

Back for AT-Willowbrook are senior Aidan Nichols (breaststroke), junior Willoughby (freestyle, Willowbrook), sophomore Hoda (freestyle, backstroke, Willowbrook), Marco Chaidze (freestyle, Addison Trail) and Raymond Brisbois (sprint freestyle, Willowbrook), along with

juniors Sean Pienkos (200, 500, Willowbrook) and Cole McGinnis (freestyle, Willowbrook), and sophomores Michal Niemirski (freestyle, Addison Trail) and Matthew Burrow (individual medley and diving).

From that large group, returnees Aidan Nichols, Niemirski, Pienkos, Hoda and Chaidze were all-WSC Gold performers last year.

Freshman Connor Craddock (Addison Trail) is new to the squad. He will compete in the backstroke and freestyle events.

"Connor has looked real strong," said Wahlgren. "We're excited to see what he will do."

Wahlgren noted AT-Willow-

brook swept the 50 freestyle at conference at all three levels with the varsity finishing first and second last year.

"Our team is a lot of sprinter guys," he noted. "I'm excited to see what this year holds with that, especially seeing the frosh-soph took first place in that overall in the whole conference. It will be fun seeing a bunch of young guys grow throughout the year."

Wahlgren said depth throughout the lineup will be another strong suit.

"We cover all the strokes," he said. "We are able to use each of the strokes. We have no real blanks. We have distance guys and sprint-

ers and then each of the strokes. I also think our medley relay team will be fun to watch."

That medley team includes Craddock in the backstroke, Nichols in the breaststroke, Chaidze in the butterfly and Niemirski in the freestyle. Hoda could figure into the relay as well, Wahlgren pointed out.

Nichols continues to improve in the breaststroke.

"I look forward to seeing what Aidan does in the breaststroke," Wahlgren said. "He's probably the strongest guy on the team. We're hoping Aidan has a chance to go to state in the breaststroke. He worked hard in the offseason. He looks good."

Wahlgren said the WSC Gold again will be competitive with Downers Grove South and Hinsdale South sporting younger talent.

"Hinsdale South is going to be pretty dominant," he said. "We want to beat those teams. Our goal is to do better than last year's third-place finish. This team has shocked me in the past. Three years ago we won the conference. It would be awesome to get that same feeling again. Together, I think we have guys who will lead this team to do some good things. Overall, it's a fun group. This year is going to be fun."

AT-Willowbrook opens conference action Friday at Morton.

## Hard work pays off for Warriors' Dasbach

### Junior putting up big numbers

By Mike Miazga  
CORRESPONDENT

Putting up double-digit numbers in points and rebounds is no easy feat in the game of basketball.

For Willowbrook junior Stephanie Dasbach, that feat is starting to become commonplace—her active nature around the basket helping make her a key cog for coach Terry Harrell's Warriors squad.

In a three-game stretch last week, Dasbach totaled 14 points and 15 rebounds in a game against Proviso East. She then provided 11 points and 11 rebounds in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference win over Addison Trail. Dasbach completed the week with 12 points and 15 rebounds in Saturday's conference win over Leyden.

Those double-doubles came on the heels of some impressive outings at the Warriors' own Thanksgiving tournament, including an impressive 34-point, 22-rebound performance in a win over Plainfield Central.

Dasbach scored 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds against East Aurora, 17 points and 12 rebounds against Lockport, 11 points and nine rebounds vs. Stevenson, and 10 points and 11 rebounds in the Warriors' season-opening non-conference win against Glenbard North.

"I worked a lot in the offseason in practice and during the summer with my coaches," Dasbach said. "They really helped me develop new skills and work on old ones."

Dasbach also played this summer with the Illinois Rockets AAU team that practices out of Glenbard South.

"That helped me, too," she said.

When asked to assess the strongest part of her game, Dasbach replied: "My rebounding and my put-backs," she said. "My teammates shoot a lot, and I get the rebound and put it back up so we can get the points. I box out and jump toward the rebound. I try and get the ball as many times as I can. I try and get a body on someone and make sure I box out and go for the ball."

Dasbach said the crazy numbers she put up against Plainfield Central weren't completely her own doing.

"Against Plainfield Central my teammates helped me out with great passes and took good shots, which helped me get some rebounds and put-backs," she said. "We all played well that game. We played good defense and that helped us win, not just our offense. Defense matters."

Dasbach, who used to play three sports at Willowbrook but now concentrates on volleyball and basketball, likes basketball for a variety of reasons.

"I think I have more of a future with basketball," she said. "I like it so much because I started at a younger age. I've been playing it all my life. It's fun and such a great feeling when you win a game or when you get a basket with your teammates."

Speaking of her teammates, Dasbach, who would like to play basketball in college, is having a blast this season.

"We all are really close on and off the court and that helps give us good chemistry," she said. "We work well together, we are close and we love each other. It's going to be a good year."

"We need to keep practicing hard, keep working on our skills and our communication on the court. We know if we work together, we can be really strong and win a lot of games. We have a lot of great talent on the team."



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook junior Stephanie Dasbach provided double-digit outputs in scoring and rebounding in all three of the Warriors' West Suburban Gold conference games last week.

## Warriors open conference season by crushing Addison Trail

### Balanced scoring attack in decisive 65-42 victory

The Willowbrook boys basketball team began the West Suburban Gold Conference season with Friday's 65-42 win over Addison Trail in Villa Park.

The Warriors, who improved their overall season record to 3-2, held a 20-7 advantage after one quarter. Willowbrook led the Blazers 32-20 at halftime. The lead grew to 52-30 by the end of the third quarter. The Warriors built a 65-34 lead by the middle of the fourth quarter. Addison Trail scored eight straight points to finish the game.

Senior Isaac Gaines scored Willowbrook's first eight points of the night with four driving baskets. His fourth field goal gave the Warriors an 8-4 lead about three minutes into the game. Senior Everett Stubblefield's layup gave the Warriors a 10-4 lead.

Senior Sam Tumilty's offensive rebound and basket pushed the lead to 12-5. Senior Deandre Holliday sank a jump shot to extend the lead to 16-7. Senior Mike Hay's inside basket gave the Warriors a 20-7 lead and closed out the first-quarter scoring.

Holliday's 3-point shot early in the second quarter gave the Warriors a 23-7 lead, but Addison Trail responded with a 10-0 burst to cut the lead to 23-17. Senior Sam Bruns of the Warriors ended the Blazers' scoring run by connecting on a 3-point shot that gave his team a 26-17 lead.

Tumilty's steal and basket in the closing seconds of the quarter gave Willowbrook its 32-20 halftime lead.

"I think we came out pretty fast on defense," said Tumilty. "We've got a lot of quick guys out there, playing aggressive man-to-man half-court defense. I think that definitely helps get our offense going."

Tumilty finished the game with a team-leading 14 points. Stubblefield scored 13 points on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, while Bruns delivered nine points by making three of five attempts from



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys basketball team defeated Addison Trail 42 in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference opener in Villa Park. The Warriors, who improved their overall record to 3-2, held a 32 halftime lead. Willowbrook's lead grew to 65-34 by the middle of fourth quarter. Senior Isaac Gaines scored Willowbrook's first eight points of the game. He is pictured above while driving toward baskets for one of his four field goals. Senior Sam Tumilty score team-leading 14 points for the Warriors. Senior Everett Stubblefield (No. 3-bottom left), who celebrated his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, scored 13 points. Another photo shows Willowbrook sophomore Sean Paige (No. 35-bottom right) boxing out Addison Trail sophomore Jar Daniels on a Blazers' free-throw attempt.

3-point range. Gaines and Holliday added eight and seven points, respectively. Sophomore Sean Paige scored six points, while Hay contributed four points.

Tumilty, Stubblefield and Holliday are three of the Warriors who wasted no time moving from the football field to the basketball court. The Willowbrook football team's season ended with a loss in the IHSA Class 7A semifinal round on Nov. 23. Three days later, the Warriors' basketball season began.

Willowbrook opened the season by going 2-2 at St. Charles East's Thanksgiving tournament. The Warriors lost to Proviso East in the championship game. Stubblefield scored 24 points per game in the four contests at St. Charles East. Tumilty also played in all four tournament games. Holliday did not play in St. Charles; he played his first game of the basketball season on Friday.

"We only had one practice together," said Stubblefield of the preparation for the season-opening tournament. "We were a little rusty. We came out kind of slow and were getting gassed pretty fast. Now that we've had a full week of practice, we're able to play full games and play up to our potential."

Willowbrook's schedule this week



includes a non-conference home game against Metea Valley, as well as Saturday's conference contest Hinsdale South.

"We did a good job," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins of the win over the Blazers. "We need more time together. It's early in the season. Just like everybody else, we've still got a lot of flaws. We just got to continue to get better work together."