

SPORTS

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Volleyball camp

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department recently held a summer volleyball camp for students entering grades 6-8. Camp directors Jack Weaver and Grace Reckamp, who are about to start their senior year at Willowbrook High School, directed the four-day camp at the Iowa Community Center. Weaver is a member of Willowbrook's

boys volleyball team, while Reckamp plays for the Warriors' girls volleyball team. The camp members (pictured left to right) included: (front row) Matea Mockler, McKenzie Edlson and Bethany Yurich; (back row) Avery Tazelaar, Grace Plasman, Elisabeth Vandenberg and Leah Friend.

A season delayed

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team was supposed to hold its first official practice of the 2020 season on Aug. 10. The Warriors were scheduled to play their first match of the season with an Aug. 24 home contest against Bartlett. The Warriors' season, however, has been moved to the spring of 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IHSA recently announced that three sports traditionally held in the fall—football, boys soccer and girls volleyball—would move to the spring during the upcoming 2020-21 school year. Instead of beginning their season this month, the Warriors will have to wait approximately six months to play a match. The IHSA has ruled that the 2021 spring seasons will take place from Feb. 15 to May 1. "I was not that surprised that volleyball was moved," said Willowbrook coach Irene Mason of the IHSA's decision to shift the girls volleyball season to the spring of 2021. "Once I saw that it was being classified as a sport that required physical contact, I anticipated that our season may not run at its traditional time." Following the IHSA's announcement of the schedule change, Mason messaged the program's players and encouraged them to remain optimistic and keep working hard. "I told them we have to continue to stay focused on the things we can control, and explained to them that this is a big opportunity, as it allows us even more time to get stronger and prepare to reach our goals." Grace Reckamp (right, No. 14, pictured last season), who is about to begin her senior year, is one of the Warriors' key returning players from last season. "We still get a season; I'm just happy that it's not canceled altogether," said Reckamp after the IHSA's announcement. She noted that she wasn't surprised by the schedule change. "Some other schools in our area were having summer camps, but they were wearing masks the entire time. That's kind of hard. Maybe it will be a little safer by the spring. Maybe there won't be as many restrictions." Another key returner to this year's Willowbrook team is junior Katie Linnig (far right No. 4, also pictured last season).



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