



Photo provided

Senior Andrew Rugg, a four-sport athlete whose favorite sport is hockey, is the leader of a Willowbrook golf team that has won its first two duals this fall. Rugg also has a 4.65 GPA.

BOYS GOLF NOTES

Four-sport athlete Andrew Rugg leads Willowbrook to strong start

By BOB NARANG

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Willowbrook senior Andrew Rugg is a busy person.

That's stating it mildly.

Resides excelling in the classroom with a 4.65 GPA, Rugg is a rare four-sport athlete. He starts off the high school calendar by dabbling in golf and then directs his attention to his favorite sport, hockey.

After spending several months trying to stop pucks from hitting the net from his goalie position, Rugg transitions to a two-sport spring in which he roams center field in baseball and hits the track to run the 800 and 1,600 meters in track and field for the Warriors.

Rest, for Rugg, is often rare.

"I'm definitely very busy, especially with all the schoolwork mixed in there," Rugg said.

These days, Rugg is spending time on the links. He was one of the factors in the Warriors winning their first two duals. Rugg shot a 36 against Morton in a match at Sugar Creek.

Rugg said he started playing golf when he was 6 years old but rarely has the opportunity to practice his craft in the offseason because of all his other sports.

"I try and play when I can, but normally I can't play too much in the summer with baseball and all the other sports," he said. "When golf season comes around, I put it into gear for three months and go all in."

Rugg definitely is "all in" for this golf season, coach Gary Walker said.

"Andrew is doing great this year," Walker said. "He's very coachable and very athletic. He's just a very good athlete, can hit the ball a mile and his swing speed is really fast. He's improved his swing throughout the years."

Rugg, who applied for the Naval Academy, calls golf "a good escape from the world" compared with his other sports. He likes the individual aspects of golf, but hockey will always be his No. 1 sport.

Rugg said he draws some odd stares when he mentions to other golfers that

he plays goalie.

"I've been skating since I was 3 years old," he said. "I always loved it. I'm tall and pride myself on being a fast and athletic goalie, not that muscular bound kid. I'm able to cover a lot of ground quickly."

Rugg said his main goal in golf is to lead the Warriors to the West Suburban Gold Conference title this season.

"We won sophomore conference two years ago and I placed second," he said. "It would be great to win conference again."

Riverside-Brookfield update

Six matches into the season, Riverside-Brookfield is having one of its best showings in several years. At 2-4 in duals, the Bulldogs might not have a sparkling record, but there have been several positive signs in a building-block season.

"We've had four players shoot 40 or better so far this season," Riverside-Brookfield coach Jim Festle said. "This is by far the strongest team that I've coached in five years."

Festle pointed to strong starts by his captains, seniors James Berger and Jackson Fields and junior Jack Jones, and added that juniors Stephen Berger, Dan Schwankerlik and Matt Decosola also are playing well.

"All of our top players have great swings and are playing close to their potential," he said. "As a team, when their short games get better, our scores will definitely be lower."

Glenbard West rolling

Glenbard West won its first three West Suburban Conference matches, relying on strong performances from several individuals, including junior Caden Pierce and freshman Grant Roscich. Both golfers shot 36s to share medalist honors against Downers Grove North on Sept. 10.

Two days later, Glenbard West's John Wild shot a 74 to achieve medalist honors in a four-team meet.

The Hilltoppers won the quad with a score of 309, beating Lyons Township (312), Hinsdale Central (314) and York (326).