



Elleen T. Meslar for Shaw Media

Willowbrook players celebrate their win over Lyons Township on March 13.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL: WILLOWBROOK 52, LYONS TOWNSHIP 46 Freshman Calli Kenny helps rally Warriors to WSC championship

By JOSHUA WELGE  
jwelge@shawmedia.com

**BERWYN** - Calli Kenny looked like the freshest girl on the court March 13, natural given her age but surprising when considering her busy weekend.

Kenny is a freshman on a Willowbrook team full of older girls. She's also a volleyball standout. On March 12, she played three matches at a tournament in Indianapolis with her club team - and three more the morning of March 13.

She then drove back to play in two basketball games for Willowbrook.

"I don't think I was my freshest, but I knew I had to play as hard as I could," Kenny said.

She was more than good enough. Kenny scored a game-high 21 points and had 10 rebounds. Her efforts were critical in rallying the Warriors to a 52-46 win over Lyons in the championship game of the West Suburban Conference Tournament at Morton West.

Senior Tarris Thornton, an Eastern Illinois recruit, added 10 points and 11 rebounds, and junior Sophie Sullivan, who, like Thornton, transferred from Montini this school year, added nine points and five assists for Willowbrook (14-2), which won its last eight games and on March 13 avenged its only two losses.

Thornton and Sullivan each scored 20 points in Willowbrook's 56-50 win over York in the tournament semifinals. The finals took place 30 minutes after the conclusion of that game.

Not a bad weekend and season for a Willowbrook program with not much hardware. The Warriors last won a regional title in 1996.

"We're going to say this was a sectional right there," Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell said with a laugh.

Harrell anticipated that this could be a special, albeit short season, with Thornton and Sullivan aboard and two dynamite freshmen in Kenny and Elle Bruschuk, who had a key block in the last minute March 13.

Kenny, a 5-foot-9 freshman whose mom, Andrea, was a three-sport star at Willowbrook, didn't make many spectacular plays or long-range shots March 13. But she always seemed to be in the right place at the right time.

Kenny scored nine points in the second quarter, helping Willowbrook rally from an early eight-point deficit to get to within 26-21 by the half. She scored nine more in the third quarter, shooting 7 for 11 from the field and 6 for 10 on free throws. Sullivan's driving layup in the final seconds of the third quarter gave the Warriors their first lead at 34-33.

"She's been great all year," Harrell said of Kenny. "I'm telling you, she doesn't look that big, she doesn't look that fast, she doesn't look like she'll outrun you, but at the end of the day she's making plays."

Plays such as ripping a defensive rebound away from a Lyons girl with 2:24 left and drawing the foul after senior Stephanie Dasbach had given the Warriors the lead for good at 44-41 on a three-point play off a lob from Sullivan.

Hailey Markworth scored 15 points and had 11 rebounds and Lindsey Hahn added 10 points for Lyons (14-3), all 10 of her points coming in the first half.

The Lions lost their eight-point lead, but seemed to gather themselves late when Ellie Kosanovich and Markworth hit 3-pointers for a 41-37 lead with 5:46 left in the fourth quarter. But Willowbrook went to a full-court press down the stretch, and the Lions went scoreless for two minutes during a 10-0 Warriors run.

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and yard signs were delivered to the award winners to recognize them as Golden Apple recipients.

### Addison Trail 2021 Golden Apple recipients

1. Jessica Clark, English teacher (nominated by junior Sara Bojczuk)

more Stephanie Ortiz)

9. Amy Murphy, Family and consumer education teacher (nominated by sophomore Mia Dravilas)

10. Jeff Nellessen, Choir Director (nominated by senior Emily Stevenson)

11. Mark Olson, Social studies

Campbell)

The late District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, who passed away in December 2020, was named as an honorary Golden Apple Award recipient in recognition of his valuable contributions and outstanding support of students and staff.

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## Did you know? A look at Addison's former public schools

We are all aware of the term "home-schooling" these days. Did you know that the village of Addison was using the "school-home" concept in its early years?

The first public school in Addison was built on the southwest corner of Lake Street and Addison Road in 1858. This remained in use until about 1880 when a new school was constructed on Oak Street just east of Addison Road, named Oak School #1.

The original 1858 school became the beginning structure for the house that has been added onto many times that still stands on that property today.

Oak School #1 became too small and a second school was built alongside it on Oak Street in 1938, known appropriately as Oak School #2.

In the late 1940's, it was decided to build a multi-room schoolhouse on that site and both of the existing schools were sold.

Oak School #1 was moved a few blocks north to Nugent Street and converted to a family residence that is still in use today.

Oak School #2 was moved to the west edge of town on Lake Street and also converted to a family residence. The building is also still in use today.

This article was provided by the Addison Historical Society, a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving and presenting Addison history. For more information, contact the Society at (630) 628-1433 or email museum@addison-il.org.



Built in 1880 and 1938 respectively, Oak Schools #1 and #2 served Addison until a new brick school was built in 1949. That building now houses the offices and facilities of Addison Township building.

## Park District plans Easter Egg 'drive-thru'

On Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Addison Park District is hosting an Easter event featuring everybody's favorite Bunny who hops into town at this time of year.

Rather than the usual wild dash of the Easter Egg Hunt, this year the Park District is offering an Easter Egg drive-through event at the Community Rec Center at 120 E. Oak St.

It will still be a safe afternoon of Easter goodies as well as pictures with the Bunny. The Bunny will hop to you for photos and will hand-deliver a goodie bag for each child in the car.

To register, please go to AddisonParks.org and use code 602806-01.

Park officials advise that there can be walk-ins, so feel free to "hop on in."

Masks will be required when interacting with staff. The Addison Park District adheres strictly to the guidelines of the IDPH and CDC.

## Many Addison Trail teachers, staff receive 'Golden Apple'

Every school year, Addison Trail students have the opportunity to recognize a teacher or a staff member through the school's Golden Apple program for going above and beyond and making a difference in their life.

Addison Trail's Golden Apple award is given to teachers and staff members who have made a positive impact on students inside the classroom and beyond and is a reminder that their hard work and continuous effort matter each and every day.

The 17 staff members listed below were recently honored with the 2021 Golden Apple. Although the school was unable to celebrate the honorees in person because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a virtual presentation took place, and yard signs were delivered to the award winners to recognize them as Golden Apple recipients.

### Addison Trail 2021 Golden Apple recipients

1. Jessica Clark, English teacher (nominated by junior Sara Bojczuk)

2. Sheri D'Ambrose, Physical education teacher (nominated by sophomore Clarita Gaytan Vazquez)

3. Carolyn Erwin, Science teacher (nominated by junior Trinity Micu-ura)

4. Amy Ferraro, English Department Head (nominated by junior Alicia Lloveras)

5. Michael Galfi, Math teacher (nominated by senior Samantha Zarembo)

6. Andrea Grossart, Science teacher (nominated by junior Mateo Gomez)

7. Justin Hegner, Math teacher (nominated by senior Blessy Rodriguez)

8. Laura Magnavite, Social studies teacher (nominated by sophomore Stephanie Ortiz)

9. Amy Murphy, Family and consumer education teacher (nominated by sophomore Mia Dravilas)

10. Jeff Nellessen, Choir Director (nominated by senior Emily Stevenson)

11. Mark Olson, Social studies

teacher (nominated by fres Michelle Vuong and Suzette cilla)

12. Ryan Peronto, Social s teacher (nominated by senior Ahmed)

13. Portia Ransom, English er (nominated by junior Kyle er)

14. Alexander Stombres, O tra Director (nominated by Madelyn Ford)

15. Claire Sycta, Social : teacher (nominated by fre Siany Garcia Lara)

16. Sheila Wojcik, Math : (nominated by freshman : Almodovar)

17. James Ziebka, Reading er (nominated by junior Campbell)

The late District 88 Superintendent Dr. Scott Helton, who away in December 2020, was as an honorary Golden Apple recipient in recognition of h able contributions and out support of students and staff

# District 88 salutes National Merit Scholars

During the March 8 District 88 Board of Education meeting, Addison Trail Principal Michael Bolden recognized the following students for their national-level academic accomplishments, thanks to the 2021

National Merit Scholarship Program. Addison Trail senior Fawzan Ali has been named as a Finalist in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. According to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

(NMSC), Ali now has the opportunity to earn National Merit Scholarship awards. To become a Finalist, Ali had to submit a detailed application that provided information about his academic record, participation in

school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. The NMSC will begin notifying scholarship winners in March. Four other Addison Trail seniors

Khayr Ahmed, Cynthia Bruntz, Justine Bugante and Jina Patel have been named as Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program, conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured are (from left): Natalia Dabrowska, Nalysa Garcia, Amalia Panos, Yana Patel and Lindsay Stevenson, all of whom qualified to participate in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference. Dabrowska took first place at the State Leadership Conference.



(from left): Khayr Ahmed, Cynthia Bruntz, Justine Bugante, Jina Patel and Fawzan Ali

## Nine upperclassmen qualify for SkillsUSA state conference

Nine Addison Trail students have qualified to compete in the SkillsUSA Illinois State Leadership & Skills Conference.

Those students are:  
Automotive Service  
Technology  
Junior Morris Bernardo  
Senior Javier Castillo  
Senior Ivan James  
Junior Daniel Zichinski  
Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair

Junior Giovanni Sanchez  
Senior Wei Wha Dan  
Junior Michael Godesius  
Junior Felix Martinez  
Senior Konrad Novak  
This year's event will take place from Apr. 12 to May 1, and competitions will be hosted virtually because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

## Addison Trail students qualify for Business Professionals of America Leadership Conference

Five Addison Trail students have qualified to compete in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference.

Those students are:  
• Junior Natalia Dabrowska: Legal Office Procedures (1st place at the State Leadership Conference)  
• Senior Nalysa Garcia: Legal Office Procedures (2nd place at the State Leadership Conference) and Business Law & Ethics (4th

place at the State Leadership Conference)

• Junior Amalia Panos: ICD-10-CM Medical Diagnostic Coding (5th place at the State Leadership Conference)  
• Junior Yana Patel: Health Insurance & Medical Billing (4th place at the State Leadership Conference)  
• Junior Lindsay Stevenson: Health Insurance & Medical Billing (3rd place at the State Leadership Conference), Parliamentary Procedure Concepts (2nd place at the State

Leadership Conference); Information Technology Concepts (5th place at the State Leadership Conference) and Management, Marketing and Human Resources Concepts (5th place at the State Leadership Conference)

This year's event will take place from May 4 to 9, and the theme is "Envision, Empower, Ignite." Competitions will be hosted virtually because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

## Former teacher found guilty of reckless conduct that injured student

On Wednesday, March 10, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announced that late Tuesday evening, a six-person jury found a former Bartlett High School chemistry teacher guilty of Reckless Conduct for injuring a student during a science demonstration. Additionally, the jury also found Garry Brodersen, 66, of Carpentersville, guilty of one count of

Endangering the Health or Life of a Child. Both charges are Class A Misdemeanors. In reaching their verdict, the jury deliberated for approximately four hours following a two-day-long trial in front of Judge Paul Marchese.

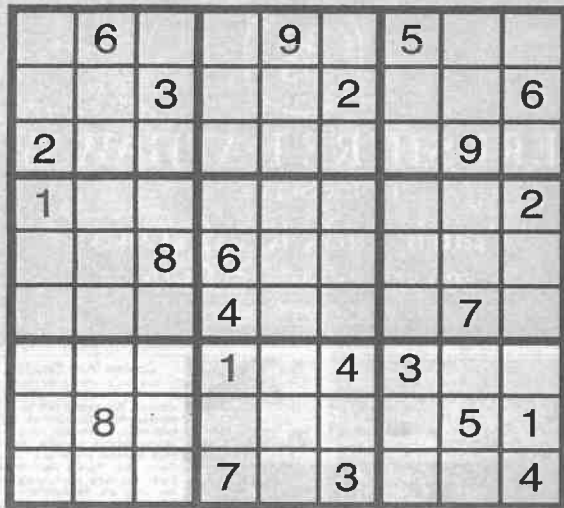
On May 15, 2018, Brodersen was performing a science demonstration for his class. During the demonstration, he poured liquid nitrogen on

a student's chest and groin area. The chemical caused burn injuries to the student's groin and to a finger. Bond for the offense was set at \$15,000. Brodersen posted \$1,500, the necessary 10% of his bond, and was released from custody.

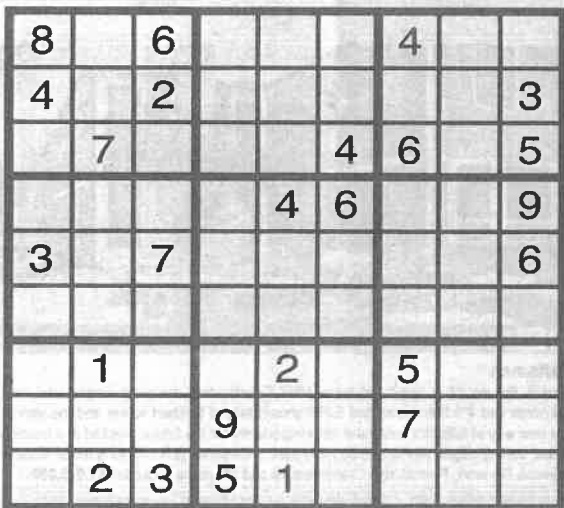
"Mr. Brodersen displayed extremely poor judgement when he doused a student with a dangerous chemical during a science demon-

stration," Berlin said. "I would like to thank Judge Marchese for ensuring a fair trial for both sides as we as the jury for their service, particularly while the pandemic, which is less severe than before, is still fact of life."

Brodersen's next court appearance is scheduled for March 1, 2021 for filing of post-trial motion or sentencing.



Level: Intermediate



Level: Advanced

## SUDOKU

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Answers on page 18



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Warriors beat the Mustangs

The Willowbrook badminton team improved its dual-meet record to 6-4 with last week's 12-3 victory at Downers Grove South. The Warriors won seven of 10 singles matches and delivered victories in all five doubles contests during their March 9 triumph over the Mustangs. Junior Becca Lopez Egan of Willowbrook prevailed 22-20, 21-18 in the No. 1 singles match. Senior Katy Abbott of the Warriors claimed a 21-17, 21-17 victory at No. 2 singles. The duo of Lopez Egan (foreground) and Abbott (background) teamed up to post a 21-17, 21-14 win in the No. 1 doubles match. Willowbrook's other singles winners in the meet at Downers Grove South included freshman Lily Caron (No. 4), junior Amella Gesicki (No. 5), junior Allison Harr (No. 7), junior Kall Becker (No. 8) and junior Izabelle Manning (No. 10). Willowbrook's No. 2 doubles team of Junior Emma Rattana and Gesicki battled to a 17-21, 21-9, 24-22 victory. Senior Lana Gallagher joined Allison Harr to earn a 21-11, 13-21, 21-14 win at No. 3 doubles. Caron and junior Annabelle Romero earned another three-game doubles victory for the Warriors by defeating their opponents 22-20, 16-21, 21-19 in the No. 4 doubles match. Willowbrook's No. 5 doubles team of juniors Claire Harr and Mary Whiting contributed a 21-16, 21-15 victory.

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## SPORTS

MARCH 18, 2021 •

# Warriors wrap up season with a victory over Leyden

## 36-point third-quarter explosion highlights Saturday's win over the Eagles

## STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys basketball team concluded its season with a pair of home games on Saturday. In their first game, the Warriors lost 74-66 to Downers Grove South. Willowbrook ended the day on a winning note by defeating Leyden 84-68.

The Warriors finished their abbreviated season with an overall record of 3-11.

Saturday's pair of games were part of the 14-team West Suburban Conference Tournament. The Warriors played their first two games of that event on March 6 at Addison Trail. Willowbrook began the tournament with a loss to Lyons Township. The Warriors won their second game on March 6, beating Addison Trail.

Saturday's game against Downers Grove South was the Warriors' second matchup against the Mustangs in less than 24 hours. The two teams met in Friday's regular-season game in Villa Park. Downers Grove South earned a narrow 66-63 win in that contest.

The Mustangs led the Warriors 53-43 with 6:45 to play in Friday's game. Willowbrook rallied to take a 57-56 lead with 3:35 remaining. Downers Grove South regained the

lead and held on to earn the victory. Willowbrook sophomore Noah Campbell, who made two 3-point shots during the fourth quarter, missed a shot from 3-point range at the buzzer.

Campbell connected on five 3-point shots during the game and scored a team-high 23 points in Friday's loss. Senior Amaris Hughes and junior Marquel Saleek both scored 13 points, while junior Terrell Walker provided 10 points.

"Our kids could have very easily packed it in," said Willowbrook coach Ryan Tyszkiewicz after Friday's game. "They didn't. They came out and turned up the pressure. I'm very proud of the kids. They battled. They gave it 110 percent."

Saleek's three-point play cut Downers Grove South's lead to 53-46 with 6:20 left in Friday's game. Campbell's first 3-point shot of the quarter cut the lead to 55-49 with about 5:20 remaining. His next 3-pointer sliced the lead to 55-52 with 4:30 to play.

A driving basket from Hughes cut the Mustangs' advantage to 55-54. Saleek's 3-point shot gave the Warriors a 57-56 lead with 3:35 remain-

ing. Downers Grove South regained the lead about 10 seconds later.

The Mustangs pushed their lead to 62-57, but Campbell's running basket pulled the Warriors to within 62-59 with 1:30 left.

Hughes scored to cut Downers Grove South's lead to 64-61 with one minute to play. Saleek's basket dropped the lead to 65-63 with 35 seconds left.

Downers Grove South scored the game's final point on a free throw with 7.4 seconds remaining. Hughes tried and missed a last-second 3-point shot. The ball went out of bounds, with possession to the Warriors with eight-tenths of a second on the clock. Campbell caught the inbounds pass and missed a desperation 3-point attempt that could have sent the game into overtime.

Downers Grove South held a 23-7 lead after one quarter of Saturday's rematch. The Warriors cut the Mustangs' lead to 32-23 by halftime.

Willowbrook junior Alexander Simmons scored a team-leading 17

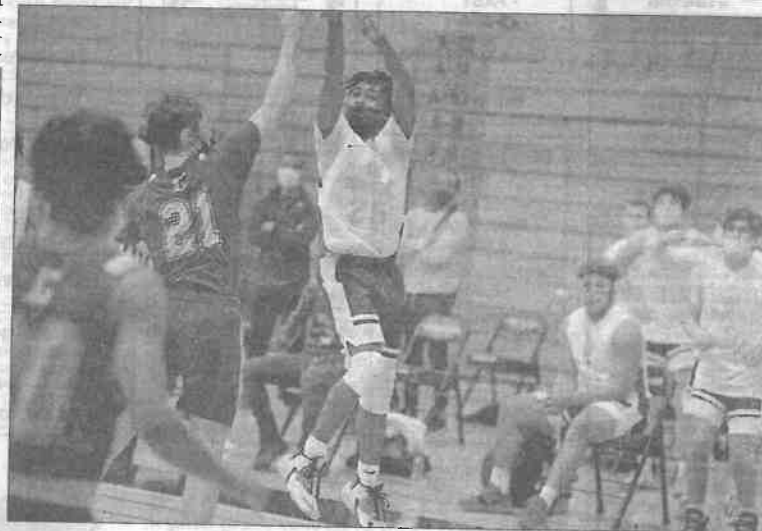
points in Saturday's loss to Downers Grove South. Saleek and Walker scored 13 and 12 points, respectively.

The Warriors erupted during the third quarter of their season finale against Leyden. The Eagles led Willowbrook 38-26 at halftime. The Warriors outscored Leyden 36-8 in the third period to grab a 62-46 advantage.

Walker scored 19 points in the win over the Eagles. Campbell added 17 points, while Saleek supplied 14 points.

While the Warriors struggled to win games during the abbreviated season, Tyszkiewicz noted the joy and gratitude they felt for having an opportunity to play. A couple of months ago, it looked like the entire season might be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"You can just see with the guys on the floor in practice, in the game, just being around each other, being together, being a team, it really does show how much they appreciate it," Tyszkiewicz said.

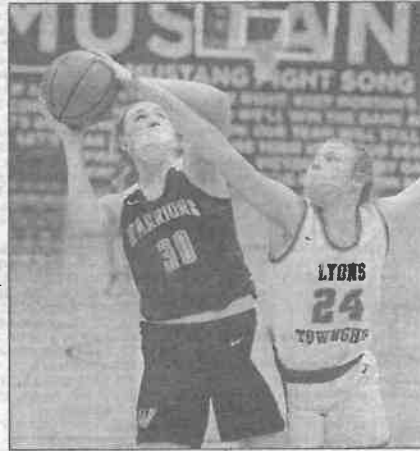


Willowbrook's boys basketball team finished its season by playing three home games in two days. The Warriors faced Downers Grove South on Friday night in Villa Park. Willowbrook trailed by 10 points early in the fourth quarter before rallying to take the lead. The Mustangs regained the lead and held on for a 66-63 win. Sophomore Noah Campbell (No. 25-above) scored a team-high 23 points for the Warriors. Campbell made five 3-point shots, including a pair of long-range baskets during the fourth quarter. He is pictured while launching and missing a last-second 3-point attempt. Also pictured are senior Amaris Hughes (No. 10-left) and junior Marquel Saleek (No. 00-top right). Hughes and Saleek both scored 13 points in Friday's loss. The Warriors lost another battle against Downers Grove South on Saturday afternoon. The Mustangs earned a 74-66 win in that contest. In its second game on Saturday, Willowbrook defeated Leyden 84-68. The Warriors trailed the Eagles 38-26 at halftime. Willowbrook outscored Leyden 36-8 during the third quarter. The Warriors finished the season with a record of 3-11.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Willowbrook's girls basketball team wins conference title

Willowbrook's girls basketball team ended its season by winning the title in the 14-team West Suburban Conference Tournament. The Warriors won two games on Saturday at Morton High School's west campus. They beat York 56-50 in a semifinal game. They then defeated Lyons Township 52-46 in the tournament's championship game. Freshman Calli Kenny (No. 35-left) scored a team-high 22 points in the title contest. Senior Taris Thornton (No. 25-bottom left) added 10 points. Senior Stephanie Dasbach (No. 30-right), provided five points, including a three-point play that gave the Warriors a 44-41 lead with less than three minutes to play. Dasbach is pictured while making the basket that broke the 41-41 tie. She then sank a free throw to complete the three-point play. Willowbrook won the last nine games of its season to finish the campaign with a 13-2 record. The Warriors' only two losses came against the two teams they beat on Saturday—York and Lyons Township. Willowbrook went 6-0 in its games against each of its six rivals in the West Suburban Conference's Gold Division.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/ Rock Valley Publishing

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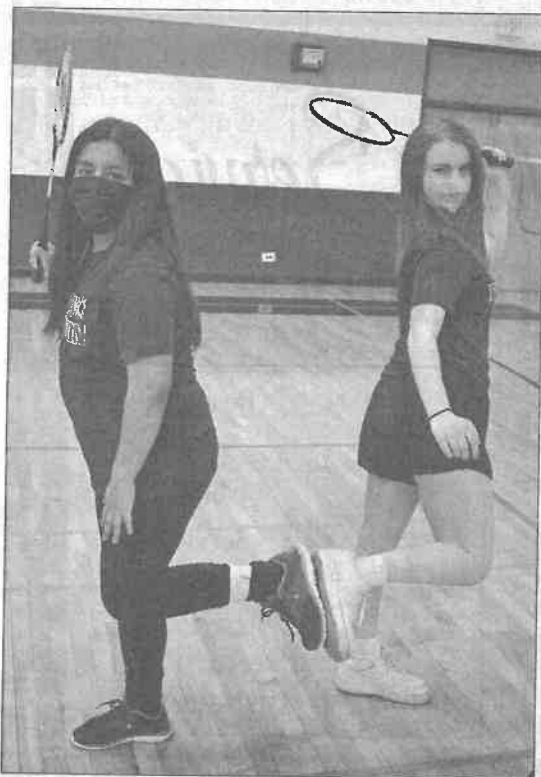
SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Lady Bison gear up for final run

Fenton junior Marissa Warden gets under the shuttlecock to return a volley during a recent Friday evening practice.



Kina Patel, a junior, makes a stretch to return a volley during recent girls badminton practice at Fenton.



Above: Julia Rihani, Lesly Mendoza, Hailey Esposito, and Lisette Hernandez pose in a socially-distant manner before a match against Larkin on Monday, March 1.

Left: Seniors Lesly Mendoza and Hailey Esposito "have each other's backs" in a fun pose prior to Fenton's match against Larkin on Monday, March 1.

## • VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page 25

**Lemont**

**Coach:** Chris Zogata (20th season)  
**Last season:** 30-8, 13-0 South Suburban Blue, first place

**Top returners:** Amanda Rice, sr., OH; Mary Kate Arundel, sr., MH; Hannah Niklewicz, sr., OH; Paige Connolly, sr., S

**Worth noting:** Lemont last season won conference and regional titles before losing to eventual Class 3A runner-up Joliet Catholic in sectionals. Rice, a North Carolina State recruit, had 248 kills, 19 digs and 40 blocks last season. Zogata said Rice has come back much stronger after a good club season and the "sky is the limit" as she matures into a leader and with setters able to get her the ball. Arundel, a three-year varsity starter who had 90 kills, 82 blocks and 14 digs last season, brings steadiness in the middle. Niklewicz, who had 154 kills, 37 digs and 12 aces last season, will be taking on many of the outside hitting responsibilities and has improved her passing and defense. Connolly takes over the setting duties from graduated standout Amy Schwem. Connolly had 57 aces and 25 digs last season as a server and defender.

"With our normal good defense, tough serving and improved maturity on offense, I believe Lemont is in a great position to do great things this season," Zogata said.

**Lyons Township**

**Coach:** Jill Kieve  
**Last season:** 23-13, 5-1 West Suburban Silver, first place

**Top returners:** Tia Kostic, jr., MB; Adriana Vassek, jr., OH; Molly Corrough, sr., OH; Lydia Vulich, sr., DS

**Key newcomers:** Kamryn Lee-Caracci, so., OH/MB; Alana Palter, jr., DS

**Worth noting:** The Lions last season won the West Suburban Silver and reached a regional final. Kostic averaged 4.8 kills and 2 blocks per match. Vassek averaged 5.5 kills and 5 digs per match.

"With our positive senior leadership, LT is looking to gain momentum this spring by incorporating our new varsity athletes with strong varsity returners," Kieve said.

**Montini**

**Coach:** Trish Samolinski (first season)

**Last season:** 27-12

**Top returners:** Paige Pickering, jr., OH; Maddie Kasallis, jr., MB; Reaghan Boyer, jr., L; Nora Sypkens, sr., OH

**Key newcomer:** Jordan Heatherly, so., S

**Worth noting:** Samolinski, who also coaches the 1st Alliance 16 Silver club team, takes over a well-balanced, physical Montini team with depth at each position. The 2019 team won the

program's third straight regional title and advanced to a sectional final. "Most of them have been playing together on varsity for the last couple years, so we are hoping to continue the team chemistry," Samolinski said. Heatherly will be a key component in running the Broncos' offense and attacking. Samolinski is counting on senior leadership from Sypkens and high-level play from Kasallis, Pickering and Boyer.

"Returning our two primary passers in Pickering and Boyer, we look forward to running a quick-tempo offense with our consistent ball control," Samolinski said.

**Nazareth**

**Coach:** Melissa Vandrey (fifth season)

**Last season:** 29-8, 4-3 East Suburban Conference, fourth place

**Top returners:** Izzy Decker, sr., OH; Katie Hurta, jr., S/RS; Gillian Grimes, jr., Ivy Schoditsch, jr., MB

**Key newcomers:** Paige Barnes, sr., OH; Lauren Salata, fr., S/RS

**Worth noting:** The Roadrunners have emerged as a top volleyball program with 60 wins over the past two seasons and the program's first state appearance in 2019 with a third-place finish in Class 3A. Decker, a Davidson recruit, had 301 kills and 239 digs last season and will again carry the offense with Indiana commit Hurta, who had 383 kills and 200 digs. Grimes, returning for her third varsity season as one of the state's better liberos, had 428 digs last season.

"We are dominated by upperclassman, so it will be a very high-IQ team, especially with senior star and leader Izzy Decker. The team will have very good ball control," Vandrey said. "Naz will be a very high-energy team that will be able to compete with just about anyone in 3A and the state of Illinois."

**Riverside-Brookfield**

**Coach:** Mary Pakosta (second season)

**Last season:** 11-25, 1-6 Metro Suburban Blue, eighth place

**Top returners:** Colette Barnes, jr., OH; McKenna Sloan, sr., L; Annalisa Cinkay, sr., OH; Emeli Romo, jr., S

**Key newcomer:** Sophia Cuzzone, so., OH

**Worth noting:** The Bulldogs are moving to the Metro Suburban Red this season. Pakosta, in her 12th season in the program, noted that R-B's young team last season played quite a difficult schedule with five opponents reaching supersectionals, Mother McAuley making a sectional final and two more winning regionals. Barnes was the Bulldogs' offensive MVP last season and an all-conference pick with 190 kills, a team-high 43 aces and 142 digs, second on R-B. Sloan was the defensive MVP with a team-high 244 digs. Cinkay, the team's leading blocker last season, is moving from middle to outside. Romo, second on R-B in

aces last season, will run a 5-1 offense this season.

**St. Francis**

**Coach:** Lisa Ston (fifth season)

**Last season:** 27-12, 9-1 Metro Suburban, second place

**Top returners:** Katlyn Sipes, sr., L; Claire Connelly, sr., DS; Olivia Hojnicki, sr., MB/RS; Jessica Schmidt, so., MB; Nora Los, jr., MB

**Key newcomers:** Shay McMillen, fr., OH; Anna Paquette, fr., OH; KK Dumpit, fr., S

**Worth noting:** The Spartans last season won their second straight sectional title, losing the supersectional match to Nazareth. Ston is in her 21st season as a coach at St. Francis. The Spartans are missing three potential starters because of injuries. Ston expects the team to be solid defensively. Sipes, committed to Division I Seattle, and Connelly are explosive and get a great read on the ball. St. Francis has young talent at the pins with freshmen McMillen and Paquette.

"I am excited to see this group compete and grow," Stone said. "They have put in the work in the offseason and it is showing."

**Wheaton North**

**Coach:** Carole Kristensen (24th season)

**Last season:** 8-27, 2-5 DuKane Conference

**Top returners:** Isabella Zinkus, jr., S; Zoe Morano, sr., L/DS

**Key newcomers:** Caitlyn Johnson, jr., MH; Ella Brend, jr., L; Paige Syswerda, so., S; Isabel Phillips, jr., MH/OH

**Worth noting:** Kristensen, who has won six regional titles in a head coaching career that started in 1997, is in her last year coaching. Returning setter Zinkus comes back stronger and more decisive. Morano's strength is her leadership and court sense. Kristensen said Johnson's court awareness and volleyball IQ is "phenomenal," and Brendt "passes the ball on a dime and is the leader of defense and strategy."

"Hope it's a good last season for me and the team," Kristensen said. "I know no matter what the results are, it's been a fabulous run and I've had a great career as a Falcon."

**Wheaton Warrenville South**

**Coach:** Bill Schreier (20th season)

**Last season:** 33-9

**Top returners:** Lizzie Chiesa, sr., OH; Darby Harris, jr., S

**Key newcomers:** Lilly King; Rebecca Bellows

**Worth noting:** The Tigers last season made quite a memorable run, taking second place in the state in Class 4A and matching a program record for wins. Chiesa will look to pick up where she left off after a sensational 10-kill performance in last season's state semifinals. Harris, a two-year starting libero who owns the WW South record for career digs, is switching to her normal position of setter. Schreier said "she will be

the engine that gets us going." Zayna Meyer, who led the Tigers in kills last season, is playing club this spring.

"We will go through some growing pains early as we will be younger than we were last year, but the talent in the gym cannot be denied," Schreier said.

**Willowbrook**

**Coach:** Irene Mason (fourth season)

**Last season:** 20-16, 3-3 West Suburban Gold, fourth place

**Top returners:** Grace Reckamp, sr., S/OPP; Katie Linnig, jr., S; Stephanie Dasbach, sr., MB; Elizabeth Bruschuk, jr., L; Natalie Cipriano, so., OH/OPP

**Key newcomer:** Cali Kenny, fr., S/OPP

**Worth noting:** Because of club volleyball practices and basketball season, the Warriors haven't been able to have a full team practice yet, but Mason is looking forward to having the whole team together working hard this week. She said that a team strength should be experience, with a core group of players who have played a significant amount of high-level volleyball. Reckamp is committed to play in college at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

"Our team will work hard defensively and compete every time we step out on the court," Mason said.

**York**

**Coach:** Patty Iverson

**Last season:** 29-8, 4-2 West Suburban Silver, second place

**Top returners:** Gigi Barr, sr., OH; Emily Fleckenstein, sr., S/OPP; Grace Meadows, sr., S/OPP; Katie Norgle, sr., OH/L; Elise Pedote, sr., L/DS

**Key newcomers:** Ella Contant, jr., MB; Lexie Sidoryk, jr., MB; Madeline Mountcastle, jr., S; Ella Lawton, jr., OH; Olivia Holubowicz, jr.

**Worth noting:** The Ducks return 10 seniors from a team that in 2019 won the program's 10th regional title since 2007, so there's a ton of experience. Barr, who will play in college at Yale, had 478 kills last season and is over 1,000 for her career. She also had 268 digs and 46 blocks last season. Fleckenstein, committed to Maryland-Baltimore County, had 679 assists and 232 digs. Meadows, a William Jewell recruit, had 152 assists and 102 digs. Norgle had 292 digs and 186 kills. Pedote had 314 digs. Seniors Kayla Rask, Sophia Hohman and Olivia Shorter will step in to provide some attacking, and seniors Bryce Bukowski and Raeba Pradhan will provide defensive support.

"We have a lot of experience, and the girls work very well together with a lot of mutual respect," Iverson said. "This season is very special to them. I am hoping to provide a safe and healthy place for our volleyball players to celebrate the chance to play volleyball together and compete in a limited season against WSC teams. They really need this and right now they are incredibly happy to be playing together each day."



# Football teams ready for first snap

23

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Football season starts this week. Here are previews of teams in the Suburban Life coverage area.

## Benet

2019 record: 6-4

Coach: Patrick New

**Worth noting:** Quarterback/free safety Nick Bafia, a Butler commit, is an experienced player for the Redwings. He slides into the starting quarterback spot and will play in the secondary on defense. Wide receiver Auggie Mazza was a "big-play player" for Benet last season, New said. He should be a top target for Bafia. Sophomore wide receiver/defense end Pierce Walsh is likely to attract college interest at his size (6-foot-4, 205 pounds). He and sophomore linebacker John Weidenbach are two "outstanding" sophomores, New said. Senior cornerback Graham Cooney and safety Will Benish will hold things down in the secondary. Offensive lineman Alex DuFour and offensive lineman/defensive lineman Dylan McGivney bring experience on the offensive line. Varsity newcomers Joe Infante (OL/DL) and Braden Carrier (OL) are expected to contribute.

## Downers Grove North

2019 record: 6-5

Coach: Joe Horeni

**Worth noting:** Last season, a senior-Jaden group led by two-way starter Drew Cassens (now at NTU) led the Trojans to their most wins since 2013. Drew Bielawski, a three-year starter and all-conference linebacker who was Downers Grove North's leading tackler as a junior, leads the returning players. He'll contribute on both sides of the ball, as will senior defensive end Brendan Truett, a two-year starter who had four sacks as a junior. Danny Bancoro is a two-year starter at defensive back. Junior Will Janka is a returning starter on the offensive line.

## Downers Grove South

2019 record: 5-5

Coach: Mark Molinari

**Worth noting:** The Mustangs in 2019 took a step in the right direction with their first playoff appearance since 2014, and their 5-5 record was perhaps deceiving, as Downers Grove South lost two games at the end and led at halftime in two other losses. Junior receiver Eli Reed, who runs a 4.4 40 and has offers from Northern Illinois and Western Michigan, leads seven returning starters on offense. Senior Max Molinari and 6-foot-4 sophomore

Ryan Dawson will vie for the quarterback job after incumbent starter Cole Warehime chose to focus this spring on baseball. Rashon Murff had his junior season cut short with nagging leg issues but with his 215-pound frame runs hard. Molinari thinks sophomore tight end/linebacker Mack O'Halloran has a chance to be a big-time recruit and will play a huge role in the offense that also returns junior receivers Patrick O'Neil and Jerry Eaton. Nick Schmidt and Jaylen Welch are back on the offensive line. The defense is less experienced after graduating eight seniors but returns Nathan Gustafson on the defensive line, Ethan Monaco at linebacker and Drey McGrew in the defensive backfield.

## Fenwick

2019 record: 6-5

Coach: Matt Battaglia

**Worth noting:** The Friars have four juniors ranked among the top 25 recruits in the state in the Class of 2022, according to 247Sports.com. Quarterback Kaden Cobb is a dual threat with offers from Vanderbilt, West Virginia and much of the Mid-American Conference. Wide receiver Eian Pugh is committed to Cincinnati. Wide receiver Max Reese has offers from Arizona State and Kansas. Offensive lineman Jimmy Liston holds offers from Ole Miss, Penn State, Texas Tech and Arizona State. Senior Isaac Novak and junior Danny Kent will spearhead the running game. Linemen Rasheed Anderson and Cullen McTigue are returning starters on the interior, along with Liston. Linebacker Declan Donnelly, defensive back Nick Polston and defensive end Quin Wietles will provide experience for the defense. Fenwick introduced Battaglia as head coach on Dec. 9, 2019. The Marist grad will finally coach his first game after the extended layoff.

## Glenbard East

2019 record: 8-2

Coach: John Walters

**Worth noting:** The Rams have experienced a renaissance the past two seasons, making their first playoff appearance since 1999 in 2018 and making it two straight postseasons last season — a first in Glenbard East program history. There are six returning starters on offense, four of them along the line, and seven back on defense. Matt Schager, Sean Banks and Danny Quirk are returning linebackers. Also back is all-conference quarterback Connor Cerkas and all-league wide receiver LaDonus Rogers. Other top players are offensive/defensive tackle Marc Koumoundouros, defensive end Gabe Jamieson and defensive back Dan Schager.

## Glenbard South

Coach: Ryan Crissy

2019 record: 6-4

**Worth noting:** The Raiders have been a consistently solid program with nine straight playoff appearances, reaching the postseason all but once since 2007. Graduated all-state quarterback Nick Plaso, who set program records for passing yards and touchdown passes in 2019, leaves a significant void. Junior running back Trevor Burnett, who had over 1,000 all-purpose yards and 25 tackles and two interceptions as a sophomore, holds offers from Army, Air Force, Eastern Illinois, Kent State and South Dakota State. Senior linebacker Jeremy Gelino, an Eastern Illinois recruit, is an anchor defensively. Junior defensive end Connor Murphy is another player to watch.

## Glenbard West

2019 record: 10-1

Coach: Chad Hetlet

**Worth noting:** Hetlet said this could be one of his best teams in the past 10 years, and that's saying something. Glenbard West has double-digit wins in 10 of Hetlet's 12 seasons, eight or more wins in every season. In a normal season, the Hilltoppers would be well-equipped to clear the playoff's second round, where they've been tripped up the past three seasons. Running back Jalen Moore, committed to St. Thomas, and running back Samson Zander, committed to Indiana Wesleyan, combined for more than 2,700 rushing yards as juniors in a deep backfield and, along with Syracuse-bound tackle Wes Hoch, are among seven starters back on offense. Tight end Denin Limouris is committed to Iowa as a preferred walk-on. Linebacker Caleb Moorhead, a Brown recruit, leads five starters back on defense.

## Hinsdale Central

2019 record: 8-2

Coach: Brian Griffin

**Worth noting:** Griffin, in his first season as head coach, kept Hinsdale Central's sustained excellence going in 2019, a fourth straight year with eight or more wins. A good senior class left holes to fill on both sides of the ball, but there's plenty of talent returning. Senior Michael Brescia, last year's conference MVP and a Colgate recruit, is one of the area's better quarterbacks and mobile at 6-foot-3 and 205 pounds. Miami (Ohio) commit Ryan Orput is his favorite target. Jaylon Laws returns in the backfield, and Chris Robinson and Luke Gatewood are on the line. Five starters return on defense, led by Division III Washington University recruit Jack Costello at outside linebacker and Rochester University commit Nyme Hussain at defensive

For conference schedules, players to watch this season and Steve Soucie's predictions, check out FridayNightDrive.com.

back. Charlie Sessa, a 6-foot-5 receiver committed to Columbia, is among others to watch. Junior linebacker JT Pyle comes from a stellar three-generation family tradition at Hinsdale Central.

## Hinsdale South

2019 record: 3-6

Coach: Mike Barry

**Worth noting:** The Hornets hope for a rebound. Hinsdale South last season dropped its last four games, the three wins the program's fewest since 2010. Dual-threat quarterback Marquese Garrett graduated, but Barry said there's plenty of speed and big-play potential in the program. Senior Jaylon Smith was Hinsdale South's leading receiver with 29 catches for 518 yards and six touchdowns. Tight end Lucas Kozak and receiver Juke Terrell also return. Also back are linebacker/running back Jesse Villegas, two-way lineman OJ Jackson, linebacker Logan Bryant, defensive end Brandon Landfair, two-way lineman Michael Houlton and linebacker Emmanuel Williams. Senior Donny Lowdermilk, who threw for 322 yards as a junior playing behind Garrett, is at quarterback.

## IC Catholic Prep

2019 record: 10-2

Coach: Bill Krefft

**Worth noting:** The Knights, three-time state champs from 2016 to 2018 and a state runner-up in 2015, had their run of championship game appearances end with last season's quarterfinal loss to eventual Class 4A champion Richmond-Burton. But IC Catholic remains one of the state's elite programs. Senior running back Kyle Franklin, who committed to Indiana State earlier this year, has run for nearly 5,000 yards and 74 touchdowns over the past three seasons. The Knights are strong at the skill positions with Franklin and returning receivers Chauncey Lee, an Eastern Illinois recruit, Justin Hall and Anthony Parille. ICCP is young up front and defensively. Seniors Anthony Niesikowski and Alonzo Howard return on the line, and Jadon Mims is back at linebacker. Three starting defensive backs, led by Lee, also return. Krefft has never been shy about throwing underclassmen into the varsity fire, and that won't change this spring. Sophomores Quinn Colbert, Jayden Sutton and Isaiah Gonzalez and freshman receiver KJ Parker will contribute.

See FOOTBALL, page 24