

# SPORTS

MAY 20, 2021 • 17

## Warriors reel off five straight victories

*Strong pitching and potent hitting push team to winning record*

**STAFF REPORT**

The Willowbrook softball team extended its winning streak to five games with Saturday's 5-2 home victory over Oak Park/River Forest. The win over the Huskies gave the Warriors an overall season record of 6-4.

Willowbrook's winning streak began with an 11-2 victory at Hinsdale Central on May 8. The Warriors began last week's action with a 9-4 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Morton on May 10. Two days later, Willowbrook earned an 8-1 conference win over Leyden in Villa Park. The Warriors pushed their winning streak to four games with Friday's 7-1 conference victory at Addison Trail.

"This is kind of the season I imagined for us," said Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos after Saturday's crossover win over Oak Park/River Forest of the West Suburban Silver Conference. "This is the type of stuff I knew we could do. We're stringing it together and believing that we can do it. Our pitchers are throwing with more confidence, and they're trusting our defense."

Senior Caroline Dooley pitched a complete game for the Warriors on Saturday and earned her fourth victory of the season.

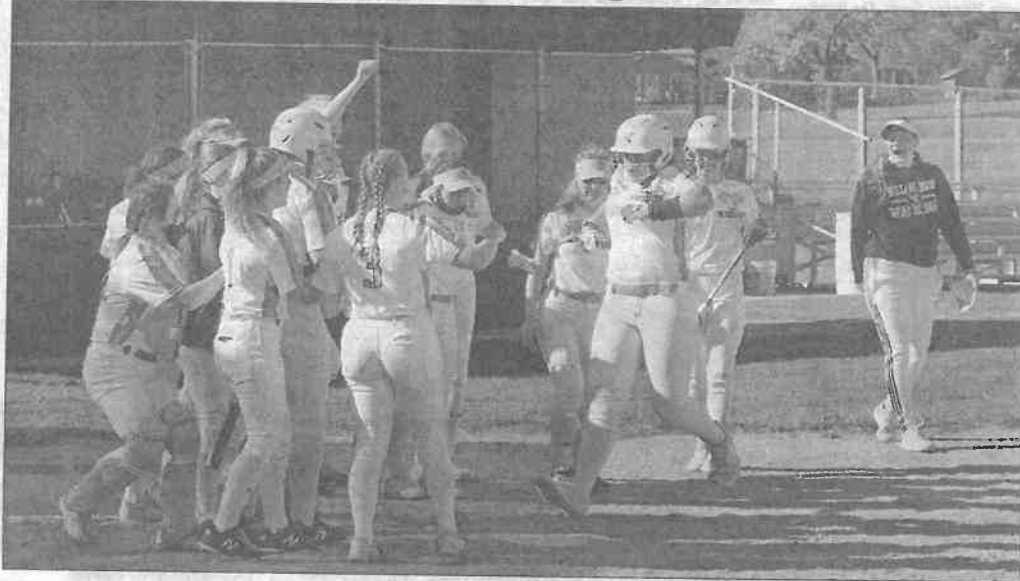
Dooley fired 108 pitches over seven innings against Oak Park/River Forest. She gave up six hits and didn't allow any earned runs. She recorded seven strikeouts and walked one batter.

Junior Caitlyn Kulczynski ignited Willowbrook's offense in Saturday's game by hitting a home run to lead off the bottom of the first inning. Senior Annemarie Knudson and Dooley both singled later in the inning. Moments later, sophomore Kayleigh Dennison lashed a two-out, two-run double to give the Warriors a 3-0 first-inning lead.

Willowbrook's lead stood at 3-2 in the bottom of the fifth inning when junior Grace Hayes stepped to the plate. Hayes launched a two-run home run over the left-field fence to push the Warriors' lead to 5-2. Dooley reached base on a single just before Hayes connected for the home run.

Kulczynski fired a complete game for Willowbrook in Friday's win at Addison Trail. She piled up 14 strikeouts and allowed two hits, two walks and no earned runs.

The Warriors gained some revenge with Friday's win over the Blazers. Addison Trail beat a depleted Wil-



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook softball team ran its winning streak to five games with last week's victories over Morton, Leyden, Addison Trail and Oak Park/River Forest. The Warriors improved their overall season record to 6-4 with Saturday's 5-2 home win over Oak Park/River Forest. Senior Caroline Dooley is pictured below while pitching during last week's 8-1 home victory over Leyden. Dooley fired a complete game and earned the win against the Eagles. She delivered another complete-game performance to pick up a victory—her fourth of the season—on Saturday. Junior Grace Hayes launched a solo home run to provide Willowbrook's first run in the May 12 game against Leyden. She is pictured above as she arrives at home plate. Hayes went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs in Friday's 7-1 win at Addison Trail. She belted a two-run homer in Saturday's victory over Oak Park/River Forest.

lowbrook squad 14-4 on April 28 in Villa Park.

The Warriors scored three runs in the first inning of Friday's rematch against their District 88 rival. Willowbrook scored one run in the third inning and added three more runs in the fifth inning.

Hayes went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs in Friday's victory over the Blazers. She also scored two runs. Hayes gave the Warriors an early 2-0 lead when she hit a two-run double in the first inning. Hayes added another RBI in the third inning; moments after Dooley doubled, Hayes drove her in with a run-scoring single.

Junior Kayla Neff went 1-for-4 and drove in two runs with a fifth-inning double.

Dooley turned in a complete-game effort to earn a victory in the Warriors' win over Leyden on May 12. Dooley threw 100 pitches over seven innings. She struck out 10 batters while allowing one walk and one earned run.

Hayes hit a home run over the right-field fence to lead off the second inning of the May 12 game against Leyden. Her homer gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead.

Dennison's two-run double in the bottom of the fourth inning increased Willowbrook's lead to 3-0. The Warriors piled on five runs in the fifth inning to take an 8-0 lead. Dooley's double drove in the first run of that inning. Freshman Calli Kenny added a two-run single later in the inning. Shortly after Hayes scored on a wild pitch, senior Grace Chambers singled to drive in Kenny.

Neff and Kulczynski handled Willowbrook's pitching duties in the team's 9-4 conference win at Morton on May 10. Neff pitched the first three innings, while Kulczynski worked the next four innings. Neff struck out five batters, while Kulczynski, who didn't allow any earned runs, recorded eight strikeouts.

Hayes went 3-for-5 and drove in three runs against Morton. She singled, doubled and tripled during the game. Kenny went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs. Dooley, who went 1-for-4, also drove in two runs.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes games against Glenbard West, Hinsdale South, Downers Grove South, York and Downers Grove North.



# Warriors return to action to win a series against Hinsdale South

## Willowbrook takes two of three from Hornets to improve to 9-3 in the conference

**STAFF REPORT**

The Willowbrook baseball team, which was sidelined for several days, enjoyed a busy week of action last week. The Warriors won three of four games last week, finishing the week with an overall record of 10-4 and a West Suburban Gold Conference mark of 9-3.

Willowbrook won two of three games in last week's conference series against Hinsdale South. The Warriors defeated the Hornets 9-6 on May 10 in Villa Park. Three days later, Willowbrook earned a 7-2 victory at Hinsdale South.

The Hornets won the final game of the series, beating Willowbrook 11-9 on Saturday in Villa Park.

In addition to playing three games against Hinsdale South last week, the Warriors played a crossover game against Lyons Township of the West Suburban Silver Conference on May 12. Playing on its home field, Willowbrook beat the Lions 8-5.

"We had a 14-day COVID break,"

stated Willowbrook head coach Vic Wisner after the victory over Lyons Township. Many of the team's players reportedly had to quarantine for several days after having some contact with a student who tested positive for the coronavirus. Wisner said that seven of Willowbrook's players were able to practice during the break.

"It's taken us awhile to figure out who we are," Wisner added after last week's win over the Lions. "But I think we know our identity now. We play hard. We run the bases hard, and we put pressure on you all the time. We're a team that battles. We're right on the edge of being really, really good."

The Warriors swept a conference doubleheader against Leyden on May 8. The two wins completed a three-game series sweep of the Eagles. Willowbrook earned a 9-2 victory in the first game of the doubleheader. The Warriors edged Leyden 5-4 in the second game.

Junior Jacob Skinner pitched six

innings and didn't allow any earned runs while earning the victory in the first game of the May 8 doubleheader. Senior Jacob Cieslak joined juniors Owen Pierce and Jacob Kutella to handle the team's pitching duties in the second game. Pierce recorded two outs to end the fifth inning. Kutella then pitched two scoreless innings to finish the game.

The Warriors trailed Hinsdale South 6-3 through three innings of the May 10 series opener between the two teams. Willowbrook overtook the Hornets by scoring two runs in the fourth inning, three runs in the fifth inning and one run in the sixth inning.

Senior Hayden Kingsbury went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs for Willowbrook in its series opener against Hinsdale South: Sophomore Alex Chaltin went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs. Senior Drew Flaskamp went 1-for-4 with a double and drove in three runs.

Pierce pitched three scoreless in-

nings in relief. Kutella pitched a scoreless seventh inning to close out the victory.

Senior David Rojo pitched six innings and earned the win in the Warriors' May 12 game against Lyons Township. Rojo struck out 10 batters. He allowed five hits, two earned runs and two walks. Sophomore Joe Braden pitched the seventh inning. After giving up two hits and one run to start the inning, Braden struck out three batters to end the game.

Rojo went 2-for-4 at the plate, driving in two runs. Isaac Sobieszcyk, a sophomore, went 2-for-2 with a pair of walks. He scored three runs. Kutella went 2-for-3 with a pair of runs batted in for the Warriors, who broke a 3-3 tie by scoring three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Lyons Township scored one run in the top of the sixth inning. Willowbrook responded with two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to build an 8-4 lead.

The Warriors scored three runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 3-0 lead in their May 13 game at Hinsdale South. The Hornets scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Willowbrook then scored four runs in the top

of the sixth inning.

Sobieszcyk and Kingsbury contributed two hits in the May win. Chaltin went 1-for-3 and drove two runs.

Skinner and sophomore E Munson shared the Warriors' pitching duties in the 7-2 win at Hinsdale South. Skinner worked into the inning and earned the victory. Munson pitched two and one-third scoreless innings and picked up a save.

Hinsdale South scored five in the top of the first inning of Saturday's series finale in Villa Park. Hornets' lead stood at 9-3 after two innings. The Warriors trailed Hinsdale South 11-4 going into the bottom of the seventh inning. The Warriors tied for five runs in the bottom of seventh inning before the game ended on a fly out.

Junior Zach Clements went 3-4 and drove in two runs in Saturday's loss. Junior Bennett Fleming went 2-for-4 and drove in one run.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes a three-game conference series against Morton, as well as a crossover game at Downers Grove North in the West Suburban Silver Conference.



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The Willowbrook baseball team won three of four games last week to improve its overall season record to 10-4. The Warriors won two of three games in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference series against Hinsdale South. Willowbrook completed the week with a conference record of 9-3. The Warriors also beat Lyons Township 8-5 last week's crossover game against a West Suburban Silver Conference team. Senior David Rojo (above - No. 22) pitched six innings and earned the victory against the Lions. Rojo also went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs in the May 12 contest. Sophomore Isaac Sobieszcyk (9) went 2-for-2 and scored three runs against Lyons Township. He is pictured below after scoring his third run of the game.



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## Extrication drill

Students at Technology Center of DuPage (TCD) in Addison participated in an extrication drill held Wednesday, April 28, which featured instruction and assistance from members of the Addison Fire District and the Wood Dale Fire Department. One photo (above) shows Addison Fire District Lt. Giulio Lobello speaking with students during the drill. EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) students drilled in triage, assessing and treating patients. Fire science students utilized extrication techniques from two vehicles. TCD is a career technical center for high school students studying any of 17 different career program elective offerings. TCD provides instruction to juniors and seniors from high schools in DuPage County and surrounding counties. Those students attend TCD for half of their school day.



## Addison Trail's McSweeney to perform at state theater festival

Addison Trail Theatre Director and English teacher Anna McSweeney recently stepped onto the other side of the stage by performing in the Illinois High School Theatre Festival (IHSTF) production of "The Fan" performed May 14 to 16. This is a benefit performance featuring Illinois teachers to raise funds in support of the IHSTF.

"The Fan" tells the story of a famous actress (Sally Ross), who is pursued by a violent and deranged male fan with dangerous impulses (Douglas Breen). McSweeney will portray Ross' assistant, Belle Goldman, as part of the majestic cast. The show is written by Bob Randall and adapted by John Muszynski and Kathy Phillips.