

SPORTS

Aug. 26, 2021 • 15

Warriors begin season with a win over Downers Grove South

Program's first win over the Mustangs during coach's 17-year tenure

The Willowbrook girls golf team opened its 2021 season with a milestone victory. The Warriors defeated Downers Grove South 155-168 in a West Suburban Conference dual meet at Willowbrook's home venue—Twin Lakes Golf Club in Westmont—on Wednesday, Aug. 18.

Willowbrook head coach Jim White, who is beginning his 17th season as the program's coach, noted that last week's victory marked the Warriors' first conference win over the Mustangs during his tenure.

Senior Emma Rattana of Willowbrook delivered the top individual score in the meet against Downers Grove South. Rattana shot a 9-hole score of 33 on the par-28 course. Senior Franki Giacalone shot a 38 for

the Warriors. Junior Mickey Martens (40) and senior Grace Hayes (44) also contributed to the team score of 155 (33+38+40+44).

Juniors Maddie Aderholt and Judy Roelle rounded out Willowbrook's varsity lineup by shooting scores of 47 and 52, respectively.

Two Mustangs led their team with individual 9-hole scores of 40.

One day after beating Downers Grove South, the Warriors played a non-conference dual meet against Glenbard East at the Rams' home course—Glendale Lakes Golf Club in Glendale Heights. Willowbrook defeated the Rams 209-215.

Rattana shot the meet's best score—firing a 9-hole total of 46 on the par-35 course. Martens (52), Gi-

acalone (53) and Hayes (58) contributed to the team's total score.

The Warriors concluded the opening week of their season by hosting Saturday morning's seven-team Rachel Gibson Invite at Twin Lakes Golf Club. The event featured a nine-hole scramble, followed by nine holes of individual play.

Willowbrook's five-player lineup in the scramble included Rattana, Hayes, Aderholt, senior Claire Harr and senior Molly Williams. Those five Warriors posted a 9-hole score of 26 in the best-ball scramble. Rattana turned in the team's best score (34) during individual play.

Willowbrook placed third in the event's seven-team standings, while Rattana won the third-place medal in

the individual standings. St. Ignatius won the invite's team title with its total score of 132. Nazareth Academy (135) claimed second place. The Warriors posted a total of 141 in their third-place performance in the team standings.

Saturday's event is named after Rachel Gibson, a 2011 Willowbrook graduate who played for the school's girls golf team. She passed away in 2013 after battling leukemia.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes West Suburban Conference dual meets against Addison Trail and Hinsdale South. The conference's Gold and Silver teams join to form one 10-team conference in girls golf. Four of the conference's 14 teams do not have girls golf programs.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Winning Warrior

Senior Emma Rattana led the Willowbrook girls golf team to a pair of dual-meet victories during the team's opening week of its 2021 season. On Aug. 18, the Warriors defeated Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Conference Meet at Willowbrook's home course—Twin Lakes Golf Club in Westmont. One day later, the Warriors beat Glenbard East in a non-conference meet at Glendale Lakes Golf Club in Glendale Heights. Rattana shot the best individual score in both meets. She is pictured during the meet against Glenbard East on Aug. 19. Willowbrook completed the week by hosting Saturday morning's seven-team Rachel Gibson Invite at Twin Lakes Golf Club. The Warriors placed third in the invite's team standings. Rattana won the third-place medal in the event's individual competition.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls golf team finished third in the team standings of its seven-team Rachel Gibson Invite, which took place on Saturday morning at Twin Lakes Golf Club in Westmont. The invite began with a nine-hole scramble, followed by nine holes of individual play. The five Warriors who played in Saturday's invite (pictured left to right) were: junior Maddie Aderholt, senior Grace Hayes, senior Emma Rattana, senior Claire Harr and senior Molly Williams. The five Warriors posted a 9-hole score of 26 on the par-28 course during the scramble format. St. Ignatius won the team title at the invite, while Nazareth Academy placed second. Rattana won the third-place medal in the event's individual competition.

Warriors suffer narrow loss to Elmwood Park

The Willowbrook boys golf team lost a razor-thin decision to Elmwood Park during last week's dual meet at Sugar Creek Golf Course. Elmwood Park edged the Warriors 154-155 to claim a one-stroke win in the Aug. 19

competition.

Junior Brett Vandergrift of Willowbrook earned co-medalist honors in the dual meet with his 9-hole score of 36 on the par-32 course. Senior Max Hirsch shot a 38 for the Warriors. Se-

nior Tommy Doyle (40) and junior Nick Chivilo (41) also contributed to Willowbrook's team score of 155.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes today's home meet against Hinsdale South.

Introducing the Warriors

Friday's Silver and Blue Community Night event at Willowbrook High School's stadium included introductions of the school's fall athletes. Sophomore Elle Bruschuk (No. 12, far left) is pictured while waving to the crowd when her name was announced during the introductions of the Warriors' girls volleyball players. Pictured with Bruschuk (left to right) are: sophomore Calli Kenny (No. 9), junior Lily Lowe (No. 14), senior Kyla Ostrowski (No. 13) and junior Natalie Cipriano (No. 1). Willowbrook's girls volleyball team opened its 2021 fall season with this week's non-conference matches against Bartlett and East Aurora. The Warriors' 2020 fall season was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Willowbrook's girls volleyball team played an abbreviated spring season earlier this year. The Warriors opened that season with two losses, but won their remaining 10 matches to finish the campaign with a record of 10-2. Willowbrook went 6-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference matches to win the conference title. The Warriors completed their championship season with an exciting three-game conference victory over Hinsdale South in Villa Park on April 21. There was no IHSA post-season in girls volleyball this spring.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

A reason to cheer

Willowbrook High School held its Silver and Blue Community Night event on Friday in the school's stadium. The evening featured introductions of the school's fall athletic teams. The members of one of those teams—the junior varsity cheerleading squad—are pictured at the celebration. Pictured (left to right) are: (front row) sophomore Lena Wachholz, sophomore Samantha Arroyo and freshman Cassie Yepez; (back row) junior Yavilin Garcia-Gutierrez, junior Jaylynn MacIntyre, sophomore Ivana Stevanovic, freshman Shantiya Lawson, freshman Allani Gusman and freshman Olivia Else. Last year's Silver and Blue Community Night gathering was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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State's attorney finds Villa Park officer justified in deadly shooting

Officer fired four shots after responding to subject's 9-1-1 call in May; subject who placed call had reportedly discussed 'suicide by cop'

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announced last week that a Villa Park Police officer was justified in shooting a subject during an incident earlier this year.

The officer, Sgt. Jose Pagan, reportedly shot Haven Bailey, 25, after responding to a 9-1-1 call in the 200 block of East Kenilworth Avenue shortly after 2 a.m. on May 24. Bailey, who reportedly made the 9-1-1 call to report "somebody walking around with a gun," was transported to Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital and pronounced dead at 4:29 a.m.

"Every case involving the use of deadly force by a police officer must be carefully and thoroughly investigated," said Berlin in a statement his office issued last week.

"Such scrutiny is required to ensure the protection of the civil rights of those involved and to maintain the public's confidence in law enforcement."

Berlin's statement included de-

tails about Bailey's 9-1-1 call and subsequent comments to a Du-Comm operator. Multiple Villa Park police units, including Sgt. Pagan, responded to the call.

"After a thorough and extensive investigation surrounding the shooting of Haven Bailey by a Villa Park police officer, it is my determination that the officer, Sergeant Jose Pagan, who discharged his weapon four times, striking Haven Bailey four times, once in the right chest and three times in the abdomen, was legally justified in his actions and that no criminal charges will be filed against Sergeant Pagan," stated Berlin. The investigation of the incident included reviews of Bailey's 9-1-1 call, cellular phone data, squad car videos, photographs, witness accounts and physical evidence.

According to last week's announcement from Berlin, a person, later determined to be Bailey, called 9-1-1 and reported somebody

walking around with a gun. Bailey reportedly described the gun as a pistol. Bailey then left the conversation but did not hang up.

Pagan and another officer were reportedly the first officers to arrive at the scene.

"As the other officer started to walk toward the house, he heard what he believed was a fence or door swing open near the front of the residence and observed a person, later determined to be Haven Bailey, standing to the east side of the front of the residence," noted last week's statement from Berlin. "Both Sergeant Pagan and the other officer observed a black handgun, later determined to be a CO2 pellet-style gun, in Bailey's right hand. Both Sergeant Pagan and the other officer gave loud and clear commands to Bailey to put the gun down including "drop the gun," "please put the gun down, please put the gun down," and "drop the gun please." Despite their commands, Bailey did not drop the gun."

According to Berlin's statement, Pagan attempted to de-escalate the situation, but Bailey approached Pagan with gun in hand. Pagan then fired his gun four times.

While processing the scene, authorities recovered a black CO2 pellet-style gun with "Sig Sauer 1911" written on it. According to Berlin's statement, a DNA sample taken from the CO2 pellet-style gun matched Bailey's DNA profile.

"It is important to remember that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the appropriate amount of force

necessary to bring a tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving situation under control," noted Berlin, whose statement referred to an investigation of the shooting conducted by the DuPage Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team (MERIT).

Berlin's statement included quotes from Pagan, who said that Bailey walked straight toward him while holding the gun.

"If I had not fired my weapon at that point, I thought I was going to get shot," Pagan stated.

After the shooting, Pagan attended to the subject and asked why Bailey didn't drop the gun. Bailey reportedly responded, "I wanna die."

The investigation also revealed text messages Bailey sent three minutes before the 9-1-1 call. One message read, in part, "I'm sorry in advance."

The investigation of the shooting indicated that about one month before the incident, Bailey had conversations with a trusted family member. During that conversation, Bailey reportedly talked about "suicide by cop."

"It is indeed heartbreaking when a loved one meets an untimely death," said Berlin at the end of his statement. "The sad truth in the tragic death of Haven Bailey however, is that Haven saw suicide as the only way to find true peace. On behalf of the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, I offer our sincerest sympathies to the family and friends of Haven Bailey as they grieve the loss of a loved one."

Cullerton supports bill to help loved ones stay connected

State Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) spearheaded a measure that was signed on Monday, Aug. 16, to help connect residents of long-term care facilities to loved ones during disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've learned from this pandemic how social isolation can have such a negative effect on mental health, especially for older adults in our state," Cullerton said. "It's so important that if anything like this pandemic happens again, long-term care facilities have a plan of action to make sure their residents have the opportunity to call their loved ones frequently."

According to a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, more than one-third of adults aged 45 and older

report feeling lonely, and nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are considered to be socially isolated. COVID-19 has only exacerbated these statistics.

The measure would require long-term care facilities to make every reasonable effort to facilitate at least one phone or video call between a resident and a family member each day during a disaster declared by the governor. It also requires hospitals to develop a policy to encourage patients to engage with family members during a public health emergency.

House Bill 3147 goes into effect immediately.

Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of State Sen. Tom Cullerton.

Villa Park Police will conduct increased traffic safety patrols during Labor Day weekend

Safety campaign began on Aug. 20, and runs through the morning of Sept. 7

The Villa Park Police Department is conducting a traffic safety campaign through Labor Day weekend. The campaign, which began on Aug. 20, is focusing on impaired driving and other dangerous behavior, such as distracted driving and the failure to buckle up.

The current Labor Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" safety campaign, which features increased traffic patrols in Villa Park, is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The Villa Park Police Department is partnering with the Illinois State Police and local law enforcement agencies around the state to conduct increased patrols during the cam-

paign, which continues through the early morning hours of Tuesday, Sept. 7.

"We need our community to understand that it's up to each of us to make the smart decision to drive sober on Labor Day and every day," said Villa Park Police Sgt. James Cihak. "Motorists in Villa Park should expect stepped-up impaired driving patrols and seat-belt enforcement, particularly at night, when seat-belt usage rates are at their lowest."

The Villa Park Police Department urges residents to remember to designate a sober driver this Labor Day weekend. Don't let friends or family drive while drunk or impaired by drugs. Even a small amount of alcohol or another drug can impair judgment and reaction times, making driving unsafe.

Warriors kick off season with a loss

Willowbrook fails to score in a 10-0 setback at Providence Catholic

The Willowbrook football team opened its season with Friday night's 10-0 loss to Providence Catholic in New Lenox.

The Celtics scored all 10 of their points during the second quarter of the non-conference contest.

Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's game at Downers Grove North (1-0) of the West Suburban Silver Conference. The Trojans opened their season with a 17-13 win over Hoffman Estates.

The Warriors will play their first home game of the season on Sept. 10, when they will meet Proviso East in a West Suburban Gold Conference battle.

All seven West Suburban Gold Conference teams opened the season with losses on Friday evening.

Willowbrook senior Josh Brown fielded the opening kickoff of Friday's game against the Celtics and delivered a 42-yard return to the Warriors' 45-yard line. Willowbrook's opening offensive drive advanced the ball to Providence Catholic's 5-yard line.

A 10-yard loss pushed the Warriors back to their own 15-yard line. Willowbrook turned the ball over on a fumble on the following play. The Celtics recovered the ball at their own 16-yard line.

Providence Catholic scored its only touchdown of the night on a 5-yard run in the second quarter. The Celtics increased their lead to 10-0 by kicking a 32-yard field goal on the final play of the first half.

Senior Nick Mabutas provided a defensive highlight for the Warriors when he intercepted a tipped pass in the end zone to stop a Providence Catholic scoring drive in the third quarter.

Sports



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors vs. Rams

The Willowbrook girls tennis team faced Glenbard East in last week's non-conference dual meet in Lombard. Glenbard East edged the Warriors 4-3 in the Aug. 26 clash, which featured three singles matches and four doubles contests. Willowbrook senior Penelope DelValle (left) earned a 6-2, 7-6 win in the No. 1 singles match. Sophomore Lauren Carson (above) provided the Warriors with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph at No. 3 singles. Willowbrook's senior duo of Brooke Vandergrift (right) and Mackenzie Parente (far right) rolled to a 6-0, 6-0 victory in the No. 1 doubles match. The Warriors opened their season with a 7-0 dual-meet win at Elmwood Park on Aug. 23. Willowbrook will begin its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a home meet against Hinsdale South on Sept. 7.



Warriors start 2021 season with a victory at Bartlett

Willowbrook will host an invitational this Friday and Saturday

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team opened its season with a 25-19, 25-13 win at Bartlett on Aug. 23.

Sophomore Calli Kenny provided nine kills, eight digs and three aces in the non-conference victory over the Hawks. Senior Elizabeth Bruschuk contributed 13 digs, four assists and one ace. Senior Kyla Ostrowski supplied three kills and three digs, while senior Katie Linnig handed out eight assists and made four digs.

Freshman Hannah Kenny delivered 12 assists, 10 digs, six kills, two blocks and two aces in her first match as a Warrior. Junior Natalie Cipriano recorded five kills and one dig, while junior Hope Reckamp had two kills, one block and one dig.

The Warriors were supposed to play a home match against East Aurora on Aug. 25, but that contest was canceled. Willowbrook will host an invitational this Friday and Saturday. The Warriors will open their West Suburban Gold Conference season with a Sept. 7 match at Addison Trail.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

A win for the Warriors

The Willowbrook boys golf team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's 151-156 victory over Hinsdale South at Sugar Creek Golf Course in Villa Park. The Warriors improved their overall dual-meet record to 1-1 with the Aug. 26 win at the home venue. Willowbrook junior Nick Chivilo earned medalist honors by shooting a 9-hole score of 34 on the par-32 course. Senior Mike Hirsch fired a 36 for the Warriors, while junior Brett Vandergrift provided a 40. Senior Tommy Doyle, senior Dom Fallo and junior Jal Vandergrift each shot a 9-hole score of 41 for Willowbrook. One photo from the meet shows Brett Vandergrift (above right) hitting his tee shot on the par-3 ninth hole. Another photo (above left) shows Fallo (foreground) and Chivilo (background) walking off the ninth green after completing their rounds. Willowbrook's conference schedule this week includes meets against Proviso East and Leyde. The Warriors will host an Invitational at Sugar Creek Golf Course this Saturday.