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VOL. 17 • NO. 40

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 23, 2021



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Willowbrook High School honored its 2013 football team during halftime of Friday night's varsity game against Downers Grove South. Members of the school's 2013 football team are pictured moments after they stood on the middle of the field for their recognition. Public address announcer Pete Makrinski noted that a commemorative banner honoring the 2013 squad now hangs at the north end of the Willowbrook stadium's John A. Fischer Field. The 2013 team, which posted a 7-3 record and advanced

to the IHSA Class 7A playoffs, was honored for its crucial role in developing and maintaining the culture of the Willowbrook football program. The Warriors won a pair of IHSA post-season games in 1990. The program didn't win another playoff contest until 2016. The Warriors won two post-season battles in 2016. The program added two more playoff wins in 2017, and two more in 2018. Willowbrook won three post-season games in 2019 to advance to the IHSA Class 7A semifinals.

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Warriors' perfect season continues with three more wins

Trio of victories pushes Willowbrook's record to 16-0

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team continued its undefeated season by reeling off three victories last week to improve its overall record to 16-0.

The Warriors began their week with a 25-8, 25-9 West Suburban Gold Conference win over Morton in Villa Park on Sept. 14. One day later, Willowbrook pounded Proviso West 25-6, 25-10 in a non-conference contest. The Warriors completed their week with a 25-18, 25-7 win at Riverside Brookfield in a non-conference battle on Sept. 16.

Willowbrook freshman Hannah Kenny contributed 10 assists, seven kills, four digs and two aces in last week's win over Morton. Senior Elizabeth Bruschk provided nine digs, three aces and two assists against the Mustangs. Sophomore Calli Kenny provided five digs, four aces and three kills, while senior Katie Linnig supplied eight assists, three kills, three digs and two aces. Junior Hope Reckamp had four kills and an ace. Senior Kyla Ostrowski and junior Natalie Cipriano both connected for three kills.

Linnig handed out 16 assists in last week's victory over Proviso West. Calli Kenny hit nine kills in



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team ran its overall season record to 16-0 with three victories last week. The Warriors began the week with a West Suburban Gold Conference win over Morton on Sept. 14 in Villa Park. One day later, Willowbrook beat Proviso West. The Warriors picked up their third victory in as many days when they beat Riverside Brookfield on Sept. 16. One photo (above) from last week's win over Morton shows freshman Hannah Kenny (No. 10). Another photo (right) from the same match shows Willowbrook senior Elizabeth Bruschk (No. 8). The Warriors improved their conference record to 2-0 with their win over Morton. The matches against Proviso West and Riverside Brookfield were non-conference contests.

the win against the Panthers. Hannah Kenny had seven kills, seven assists and four digs. Bruschk made seven

digs and added three assists and two aces. Junior Kennedy Vannoy had three kills, one dig and one ace.



Bruschk piled up 14 digs and had five assists and four aces in the victory over Riverside Brookfield. Hannah Kenny had 10 assists, nine kills, seven aces and five digs, while Linnig provided seven assists and three digs. Calli Kenny bashed six kills

and delivered five digs and two aces. Cipriano had four kills and two digs.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a non-conference match at Streamwood and a home battle against conference rival Downers Grove South.

Warriors even record at 2-2 with convincing win over the Mustangs

Three third-quarter touchdowns help Willowbrook to a 34-7 triumph

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook football team moved to 2-2 overall and 2-0 in West Suburban Gold Conference play with Friday's 34-7 victory over Downers Grove South in Villa Park.

The Warriors, who have won two straight conference home games after starting their season with a pair of non-conference road losses, will play at West Suburban Gold rival Leyden (1-3 overall, 0-2 in the conference) this Friday.

The Warriors and Mustangs didn't begin Friday's game until approx-



imately 9 p.m. A line of thunderstorms that moved through the area earlier in the evening caused the delay. Downers Grove South, which didn't score in any of its first three games, scored its first points of the season in the middle of the opening quarter of Friday's contest. The

Mustangs (who fell to 0-4 overall and 0-1 in the conference) found the end zone on a 5-yard touchdown run; they added the extra-point kick to take a 7-0 lead.

A long pass play from sophomore quarterback A.J. Palicki to junior Joey Tumilty on the final play of

See **WARRIORS**, Page 12



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's football team earned a 34-7 West Suburban Gold Conference victory over Downers Grove South on Friday night in Villa Park. The Warriors improved to 2-2 overall and 2-0 in conference play. Willowbrook, which held a 14-7 halftime lead over the Mustangs, scored three touchdowns during the third quarter. One photo from Friday's game shows Willowbrook senior Josh Brown (left - No. 31), who rushed for three touchdowns. Another photo shows junior Joey Tumilty (above) during his reception for a long gain on the last play of the first quarter. Junior Adrian Guerrero is pictured (top left) while unloading a 50-yard punt. Guerrero made four extra-point kicks during the game.





Speak Out

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So, people are up in arms that our president is ordering vaccinations. It's not the first time our government has had to step in and do what's right for the people. Nixon ordered that all federal employees must be vaccinated in the 1970s. All children were ordered to receive vaccinations in the 1950s and 1960s. LBJ, who signed the 1964 Civil Rights Act, ordered all schools and federal agencies to be integrated, and then two years later ordered all hospitals must be integrated to receive Medicare funds. No questions, just requirements that saved, and were fair to, millions of people in our great country. Presidential orders are not Republican or Democratic. They are good for all of us. Any refusal to get the shots is costing all of us!

Am I the only one who is sick of hearing schools report their various numbers of COVID-positive cases? Do schools constantly report how many of their students have the flu? I don't think so. And why don't the schools ever report the number of students who are hospitalized with complications from the coronavirus? Maybe because there aren't any such students. COVID-19 has a recovery rate of over 99 percent for most people. For younger people, getting the vaccine seems riskier than getting COVID-19. Why are so many people so afraid of a virus that's caused exactly zero deaths among people under 20 in DuPage County in the last 18 months?

I read the story about the energy bill that was just passed (*Lombardian*, Sept. 16 issue). Pritzker said, quote, "After years of debate and discussion, science has prevailed." I beg to differ. Climate change hysteria has prevailed. Those of us who are on fixed incomes or don't make a lot of money, and anyone who works in energy industries that will eventually be phased out, will be hit the hardest by this bill. But who

cares, right? As long as the climate change skills get their way. Good luck with getting one million electric cars on the road by 2030. Who can afford an electric car when the average price for one is around \$50,000? I know! JB Pritzker can because he's a billionaire. This energy bill is terrible.

It's been about one month since the school year started. Most states don't have a mask mandate for students. If you believe some of the hysterical parents in our area, students in those states should be dropping left and right. Has there been a rash of COVID-19 related hospitalizations or deaths in those states? Of course not. Yet Pritzker and other fools will claim that Illinois' mask mandate is useful. Wake up, people.

With COVID, we keep hearing about how we must listen to the science and the data. Here's some data for you from the CDC. There have been over 643,000 deaths from COVID in the U.S. between January 2020 and Sept. 8, 2021. Guess how many kids ages birth to 17 have died from COVID over that span. A grand total of 412 out of over 643,000. Want to know how many kids in this age group died from pneumonia from January 2020 to Sept. 8? More than double that—924. Shouldn't we be taking measures in our schools to reduce the risks of these kids getting pneumonia?

Thousands of illegal immigrants have been pouring into our country. What is Biden's administration doing about it? Banning the use of drones to record the thousands of people overwhelming the border. Not that most media outlets would even show any footage of the scene. Thanks a lot, Biden voters.

Here is a good example of "capitalism" at its best, and how it trickles

down to the everyday Joe: I just read that the CEO of Metra is getting a raise of just over 21 percent, bringing his salary to over \$300,000 a year, plus other perks, like a contribution to his retirement account. We all know where this will lead: higher ticket prices for public transportation that fall on us working stiffs. He may be a great employee, but especially in these times, don't we all have to make sacrifices? Who can't live on \$285,000 a year?

Someone who commented in the Sept. 16 *Speak Out* claimed it's the law to wear masks in places like grocery stores. No, it's not the law. It's a decree by one man—the governor. The Illinois Legislature hasn't made any laws related to masking. Where has our state's legislature been in the last 18 months?

The last of a retail icon is about to bite the dust, when Sears closes at Woodfield Mall. I was a in junior high school when the Oak Brook mall opened, and Sears was a staple; tools, paint, clothes, shoes, housewares, you name it. It was a treat to go with my dad on a Saturday morning, with the smell of different popcorn wafting through the store, knowing I would soon get to have some! I don't totally blame online shopping, although I know it was a factor. When you think about it, though, Sears was in a sense a precursor to not having to shop in a store, when you could order from the catalogue! It will be missed.

Someone complained in *Speak Out* about another commenter who refers to our governor as Pope Pritzker. I am Catholic, and I approve of the reference. Pritzker deserves to be mocked.

It's obvious from recent calls that there is a lot of frustration in this coun-

try and Lombard/Villa Park regarding COVID-19 mandates and the current presidential administration. That's why being educated on candidates and issues is so important. Pritzker is up for re-election and he will win because he has more money than anyone else. Please know that his mask mandate is not a law. Governors cannot make laws; only the legislature can. Please know what you talk about. If the government wants to follow the science, please know what the science is. I can find a report to say anything I want. Masks work, masks don't work, get vaccines, social distance, etc. The government overreach is getting ridiculous. After opening weekends for the NFL and NCAA football games, where are the massive COVID-19 outbreaks? Biden is not what the people who voted for him thought he was. For those voters, please explain why you voted for Biden without using the name Trump. Biden has done nothing in 50 years in political office. You were all duped.

How can anyone take Biden's vaccination order seriously when he does nothing to stop the surge of illegal migrants entering this country?

For 14 consecutive presidential elections, from 1964 to 2016, the candidate who won Ohio won the election. The Republican candidate won Ohio eight times during that period, while the Democratic candidate won the state six times. Look it up if you like. Ohio is a bellwether state. What happened in Ohio in the 2020 election? Trump beat Biden by eight points, or about 475,000 votes. That doesn't necessarily mean Biden did not win key states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia. But did any so-called journalists wonder why Trump clearly won Ohio, yet

Biden, with a flood of mail-in support pulled ahead in those other states day after the election?

Just a reminder that the entire Russia hoax story was cooked up by Clinton campaign to smear Trump. The leftist media peddled the story years. How much airtime and newspaper space has been devoted to a completely bogus story? A lot, if you liberals lapped it up and parroting the nonsense in places like this *Speak Out* section. I don't know if the lat indictment will do any good, but it will help convince a few people that the story was garbage.

Since the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are both over 90 percent effective and the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is 85 percent effective, I have to a If you have been vaccinated, then you are you afraid of getting the virus for someone who isn't vaccinated? If you are, then you must not have much confidence in the protection these vacci-



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Public

Low scorer

Willowbrook's boys golf team played in last week's West Chicago Wildcat Invite at St. Andre Golf and Country Club in W Chicago. The Warriors placed fifth out of 13 teams in the \$13 invite with their team score 351. Junior Brett Vandergriff (retired earlier this season) proved Willowbrook's lowest score the event with his 18-hole total 82 on the par-72 course. Junior Vince Guajardo shot an 87, the Warriors. Senior Dom Farced a 90, while Junior N Chivlo posted a 92 to complete Willowbrook's scoring lineup the invite. Two days after playing in the invite, the Warriors 164-174 to Downers Grove South in a West Suburban Gold Conference dual meet at Village Green of Woodridge. Faillio and Vandergriff both fired 9-hole rounds 42 on a par-36 layout. Guajardo and senior Max Hirsch both posted scores of 45. The Warriors' conference dual-meet record dropped to 4-1 following the loss to Downers Grove South. Willowbrook is competing this week's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Prairie Golf Course in Lockport.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

A busy week for the Warriors

The Willowbrook girls tennis team played four dual meets in four days last week. The Warriors earned 7-0 victories in three of those meets. Willowbrook began the week with a 7-0 sweep of Fenton on Sept. 13. One day later, the Warriors beat Proviso East 7-0 in a West Suburban Gold Conference contest in Villa Park. Willowbrook played another conference home meet on Sept. 15, when it faced Hinsdale South. The visiting Hornets beat the Warriors 5-2. Willowbrook's two winners in the dual meet were juniors Molly Brennan and Grace Van Dyke. Brennan is pictured during her victory in the No. 2 singles match. Van Dyke prevailed in the No. 3 singles battle. The Warriors finished their week with a 7-0 conference win at Morton on Sept. 16. Willowbrook's scheduled this week includes conference dual meets against Downers Grove South and Leyden.

Warriors (Continued from page 5)

The first quarter set up the Warriors' first touchdown of Friday's game. Tumilty weaved his way to the 9-yard line on the last play of the period. Senior Evan Stubblefield broke a 9-yard touchdown run on the first play of the second quarter. Junior Adrian Guerrero kicked the extra point to even the score at 7-7 with 11:52 remaining in the first half. Senior Josh Brown delivered a 3-yard touchdown run that gave the Warriors a 13-7 lead with 6:10 left in the second quarter. Guerrero added the extra-point kick to increase the lead to 14-7;

Willowbrook maintained that advantage until halftime. The Warriors scored three touchdowns during the third quarter. Brown delivered a 14-yard scoring run with six minutes left in the period. Willowbrook recovered the ensuing kickoff, which set up Brown's 2-yard touchdown run with 5:24 to play in the quarter. Tumilty scored the Warriors' last touchdown of the game when he recovered a Downers Grove South fumble at one end of the field and raced 99 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the third period.

FOOTBALL: WILLOWBROOK 34, DOWNERS GROVE SOUTH 7

Josh Brown, dominant Willowbrook O-line run past Downers Grove South for 24th straight WSC Gold win

By SCOTT SCHMID
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VILLA PARK – After a slow start to the season, the Willowbrook football team is back to where it is accustomed to – dominating the West Suburban Gold.

Behind a physical offensive line and four rushing scores, the Warriors captured their 24th consecutive league victory, defeating Downers Grove South 34-7 Sept. 17 in Villa Park.

With Samuel Williams, I'Zerick Yates, Declan Miller, Max Manning and Lucas Kusmierz dominating the line of scrimmage for Willowbrook, Josh Brown rushed for 154 yards and three touchdowns on 23 carries.

"We knew we wanted to get the ground game going," said Kusmierz, who plays right tackle for the Warriors. "That's been a focus, fixing our run game. That's where the identity of our team is – we are a ground and pound team."

Brown's first touchdown gave the home team the lead for good at 14-7 midway through the second quarter. The senior added scoring runs of 14 and 2 yards on back-to-back possessions in the third quarter.

Evan Stubblefield contributed a 9-yard touchdown run for the Warriors (2-2, 2-0).

"We've come together as a team," said Yates, who plays left guard, "and we are communicating more. Now we just have to keep working and keep improving. We have a young group and a lot of guys who hadn't played varsity football before. We just have to stay by their side and keep helping each other."

Willowbrook's defense got into the scoring act with Joseph Tumilty returning a fumble 99 yards for a touchdown. That was the last play of the third quarter and accounted for the final margin.

The Warriors' defense also tallied four sacks, with Cristian Lager, Brown, Daniel Dowling and Patrick Michael all getting to the quarterback.

"I thought our guys were physical," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth, whose program has won four conference titles in a row. "Our guys were flying around, and I thought they did that during practice as well."

"I feel like earlier in the year, we were a little behind where we normally would be at the time. It was a weird transition from the spring season to the summer. We are just trying to find our groove, and I thought we had more opportunistic plays and big



Photos by Karen Naess for Shaw Media

Willowbrook celebrates a touchdown against Downers Grove South on Sept. 17 in Villa Park.



Downers Grove South's Deon Davis carries the ball against Willowbrook.



Willowbrook's Josh Brown runs against Downers Grove South.

plays from our guys."

The Mustangs (0-4, 0-1) scored their first points of the season on a 5-yard run by Deon Davis to take a 7-0 lead in

the first quarter.

Jacob Diamantos had an interception for Downers South.

"We got outthit tonight," Downers

South coach Mark Molinari said. "Willowbrook has been the conference champs and they outthit us. That's the bottom line."

Warriors' a 15-7 lead with 6:10 left in the second quarter. Guerrero added the extra-point kick to increase the lead to 14-7; recovered a Downers Grove South fumble at one end of the field and raced 99 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the third period.

Willowbrook is competing this week's West Suburban C Conference Meet at Prairie E Golf Course in Lockport. Willowbrook is competing this week's West Suburban C Conference Meet at Prairie E Golf Course in Lockport. Willowbrook is competing this week's West Suburban C Conference Meet at Prairie E Golf Course in Lockport.

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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Sisters Calli and Hannah Kenny the driving force behind Willowbrook's unbeaten season

By MATT LE CREN
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Willowbrook volleyball coach Irene Mason remembers the first time she saw Calli and Hannah Kenny in action. She could tell the sisters were talented, but she had no idea of how good they would become.

"I've actually known the girls from when they were really young because we would have them in camps," Mason said. "I coach basketball, too, so they would come mainly to basketball camp when they were in second or third grade."

"So I got to see their athleticism early on. But it wasn't until a few years ago I got word that they had picked up volleyball and, especially for Calli, it was becoming their thing."

Winning has become a thing for the Warriors (16-0) lately, and the Kenny sisters are the driving force. Since losing the first two matches of last spring's truncated season, the Warriors have won 26 consecutive matches.

Calli Kenny, a 5-foot-9 sophomore, led Willowbrook in kills as a freshman and is doing so again this fall. She has racked up 128 kills, 39 aces and 86 digs while playing outside hitter.

Hannah Kenny, a 5-foot-7 freshman, runs Willowbrook's 6-2 offense along with fellow setter Katie Linnig. Hannah Kenny has 94 kills, 146 assists, 95 digs and 26 aces.

"Hannah's done a great job coming in freshman year," Mason said. "I always tell the setters it's like being a quarterback or a point guard to lead the team out there."

"Most freshmen are trying to figure out whether they can step up and do it, and she hasn't missed a beat for us. It's been great."

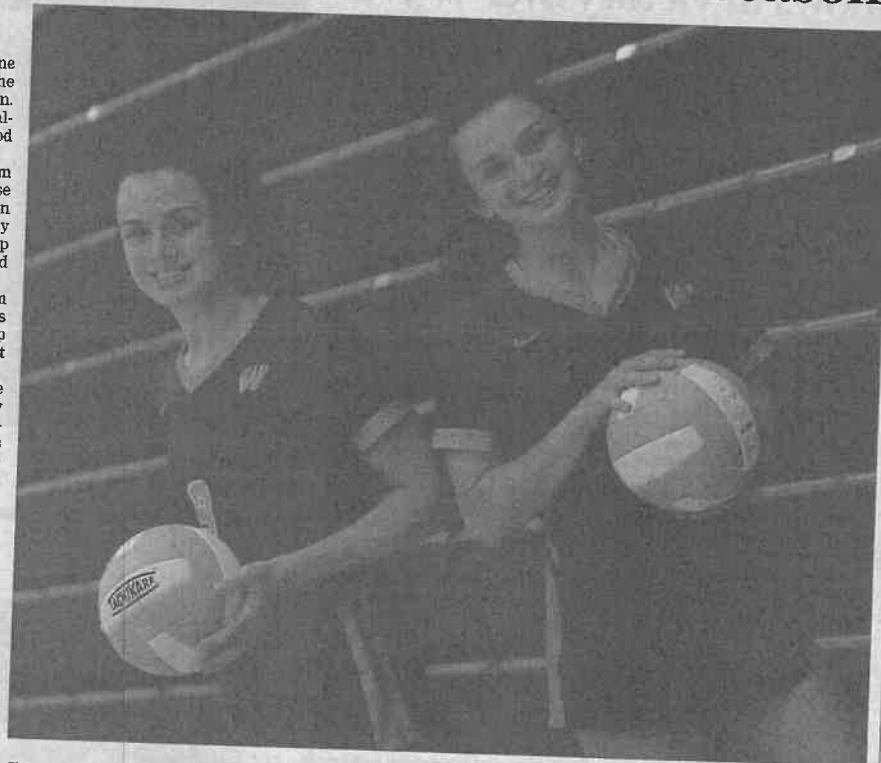
Both sisters are natural setters who also are excellent hitters. Calli, a top setter in club, is playing out of position so her younger sister can set.

"That's what I love about her," Mason said. "Calli's skill set in volleyball is impressive."

"She's a setter but she can step in and play all the way around for us and pass the ball and lead us in kills almost every night, which is awesome."

The Kenny sisters' versatility isn't limited to volleyball. They also play basketball and softball, the same sports their mother, Andrea Miller, played at Willowbrook in the early 1990s.

Miller, arguably the best female athlete in school history, went on to star in all three sports at Austin Peay, where



Sisters Calli Kenny and Hannah Kenny are standout volleyball players for Willowbrook.

Mark Welch - Daily Herald Media Group

she also was a third-team academic All-American. Her husband, Seth, played baseball at Eastern Michigan.

Following in those big footsteps while playing at your mother's alma mater might be daunting for some girls. That's not true of the Kennys.

"I think it's just fun knowing what she did and trying to be just like her," Calli said. "She's my biggest role model and I'm just trying to be like her and do everything that she did."

Hannah relishes the challenge, too.

"It's kind of fun doing what she did," Hannah said. "I know she got all-state and stuff, so I definitely feel some pressure to keep playing all three."

Of the three sports, Calli said she is best at volleyball. Hannah said it is between volleyball and basketball, where she is a guard but willing to play

any position.

Hannah also is willing to be a leader on the court even though she's a freshman.

"Her leadership and energy is awesome," Mason said. "She's not one to be shy at all."

"It's good to have that personality coming in to kind of take over in that setting role and she is also very talented. She can also swing, but overall, Calli has a little more volleyball experience than Hannah, so it worked out having her be the one to take the swings outside and let Hannah set."

The Kennys enjoy winning, of course, but they are relishing this season because this is the first time they have been teammates.

"It is really special," Calli said. "We've never been on the same team

our whole lives, so seeing our skill level together on the court is really cool."

While Hannah handles the offense with aplomb, she's just as comfortable taking cues from her sister.

"She's definitely helped me get to know everybody," Hannah said. "I fill in the spot that needs to be filled."

The best part for Mason is that she will have two more years of coaching the sisters.

"It's been great to see them grow up over the years and to see their personalities have stayed exactly the same," Mason said. "Calli is the more cool, calm and collected one, and Hannah is the goofy, hyper one."

"They match well together. It's great to have that freshman-sophomore combination on the court leading us night after night."