

Five days after losing to the Warriors, Broncos win the rematch

Montini prevails 58-54 in an overtime battle in Villa Park

The Willowbrook and Montini Catholic boys basketball teams didn't need to wait long for a rematch.

The Warriors and Broncos faced off in the fifth-place game at Fenton High School's Chuck Mitchell Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 30. Willowbrook edged Montini 50-48 in that contest to place fifth in Fenton's eight-team tournament.

Five days later, the Broncos faced Willowbrook on the Warriors' home court in Villa Park. Montini won the rematch, beating Willowbrook 58-54 in overtime.

The Broncos improved to 2-4 with their Dec. 5 win over the Warriors. Willowbrook dropped to 2-3 with the loss.

The Warriors led Montini 18-7 after one quarter of last week's contest in Villa Park, which featured vocal student support for both teams. The Broncos scored the first 12 points of the second quarter to take a 19-18 lead. The Warriors regrouped and took a 28-22 lead by halftime. Willowbrook held a 37-36 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Montini senior Drew Church gave his team a 43-39 lead with his 3-point play with less than four minutes to play in the fourth quarter. Seconds later, Willowbrook junior Jaylen Griffin drained a 3-point shot to reduce the Broncos' lead to 43-42. Senior Feim Alka gave the Warriors a 45-43 lead when he sank



a 3-point shot with 2:40 remaining in regulation.



Montini junior Robert Sansone made a 3-point shot to give the Broncos a 46-45 lead in the back-and-forth clash. Senior Jaden Royal put the Warriors back in the lead with a 3-point play. Royal's driving basket and ensuing free throw gave Willowbrook a 48-46 lead with 1:28 to play in the fourth quarter. Church's steal and basket evened the score at 48-48 with 1:03 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Church, who was fouled on the play, made the free throw to give the Broncos a 49-48 lead.

Montini held a 50-48 lead in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter. Royal's driving basket tied the score at 50-50 with 5.5 seconds left in the quarter. After a time out, the Broncos missed a long-range shot at the buzzer, and the game continued with a four-minute overtime period.

Willowbrook junior Otis Powell scored the first four points of the overtime period with a pair of free throws and an inside basket. Powell's four overtime points gave the Warriors a 54-50 lead, but Montini closed the game with an 8-0 run. Senior Dillon Bagley scored the Broncos' first basket of the overtime period. Sansone then scored to tie the score at 54-54. Bagley added another basket to give Montini a 56-54 lead with 34 seconds to play. Junior Henry Herold made two free throws with 15.4 seconds remaining to give the Broncos their 58-54 advantage.

Sansone scored a team-leading 15 points for the Broncos in their win over the Warriors. Bagley provided 13 points for Montini, Church and senior Jack Barrett contributed eight and seven points, respectively, for the Broncos.

Powell scored a team-high 18 points for the Warriors in their overtime loss to the Broncos. Senior Filip Palutkiewicz, who sank a pair of 3-point shots during the first half, supplied 12 points for the Warriors. Griffin added nine points.

Montini raised its overall season record to 3-4 following Saturday's 73-31 victory over Bishop Chatard High School of Indianapolis in a game played at the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, Indiana. The Hoosier Gym was a filming location for the 1986 film "Hoosiers."



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Montini Catholic's boys basketball team squared off against Willowbrook in last week's spirited game in Villa Park. The visiting Broncos beat the Warriors 58-54 in overtime in the Dec. 5 battle. The same two teams met five days earlier, when they played in the fifth-place game at Fenton's Chuck Mitchell Thanksgiving Tournament. Willowbrook scored a last-second basket to earn a 50-48 win in that meeting. Junior Otis Powell (No. 2 - top left) scored a team-leading 18 points for the Warriors in their Dec. 5 overtime loss to Montini. Senior Jack Barrett (No. 13 - top right) contributed seven points for the Broncos in their win over Willowbrook. One more photo (above) from last week's game shows (left to right) senior Filip Palutkiewicz (No. 23), who scored 12 points for the Warriors, and Montini junior Henry Herold, who scored the game's last two points when he sank a pair of free throws with 15.4 seconds remaining in the overtime period. Herold scored four points in the game.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat Morton, lose to Hinsdale South

Willowbrook's girls basketball team opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with last week's 63-49 home victory over Morton. The Warriors led the visiting Mustangs 17-1 after one quarter of the Dec. 3 game in Villa Park. Willowbrook held a 37-26 lead at halftime. The Warriors owned a 47-38 lead at the end of the third quarter. Willowbrook senior Kendall Medinger (No. 14 - above left) made six shots from 3-point range and scored a team-leading 22 points in her team's win over Morton. Medinger sank a pair of 3-point attempts in the first quarter. She poured in three 3-point baskets in the second quarter and drained one 3-point attempt in the fourth quarter. She also made a 2-point field goal and sank two free throws during the fourth quarter. Senior Ayaanl Gusman, who made seven of eight free throws in the fourth quarter, added 18 points for the Warriors. Senior Kristin Woods provided nine points in Willowbrook's win over Morton. Sophomore Jada Langston and junior Joely Maciejewski contributed six and five points, respectively. Seno Lorlai McIntyre netted three points. The Warriors fell to 1-1 in conference action following Saturday's 59-50 loss to Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The visiting Hornets led the Warriors 40-31 at the end of the third quarter. The teams were deadlocked a 47-47 during the fourth quarter. Hinsdale South then scored nine straight points to jump to a 56-47 lead. Gusman (No. 10 above right) led the Warriors in scoring in Saturday's game with her 17-point output. Medinger made four 3-point shots to supply 12 points. Woods, who made four field goals and sank four free throws, also tallied 12 points. Willowbrook's overall season record fell to 2-4 after Saturday's loss to Hinsdale South. The Warriors' schedule this week includes non-conference games against Metea Valley and Lake Park, along with a conference battle at Addison Trail.

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Glenbard East junior bowls a perfect game

Justin Kay of the Glenbard East/Glenbard South boys bowling team fired a perfect game during the team's Nov. 21 meet against Bartlett at Streamwood Bowl. Kay, a junior at Glenbard East, fired the 300 game during the second game of his three-game series. After posting a 223 in his first game of the meet, Kay rolled 12 consecutive strikes in his second game to achieve the magic 300 score.

"By the tenth frame, everybody stopped," said Kay in describing the tension as he closed in on the perfect game. "I was really nervous. Everybody stopped to watch."

Needing one more strike to notch the perfect game, Kay delivered a shot, which he thought was slightly off-target. "I thought I missed, but I got a little lucky," he said of his final shot of the game. When all 10 pins fell, Kay's excited teammates surrounded him to celebrate his perfect game. Before Nov. 21, Kay's best-ever game score was 288, which he rolled in a practice round. His best game score in a competitive meet was a 279. Kay, who has been bowling since he was in eighth grade, noted that while he had competed at Streamwood Bowl before, he had not enjoyed a lot of success here. "I usually don't do too well there," he said. Kay bowled a 194 in his third game of the Nov. 21 meet to turn in a three-game series score of 717 that led the team, known as the Ramders, to a win over Bartlett. He is pictured before the team's Dec. 2 home meet against Riverside Brookfield. The Ramders defeated the Bulldogs in that meet. At the end of last week, the Ramders held an 11-0 season record in match play and an 8-0 mark in Upstate Eight Conference matches. Sophomore Geo Clayton fired a three-game series score of 691 in the team's win over Riverside Brookfield, while Kay delivered a three-game total of 687.



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Senior cheer

Willowbrook High School honored the seniors on its cheerleading team before last week's boys basketball game against Montini Catholic in Villa Park. The Warriors' senior cheerleaders, pictured left to right after the game, are: Mariah Green, ShaiNiya Lawson, Kinsey Crawford, Trinity Smith, Myra Ngourou Bve and Maria Musni. The cheerleading team's competition season begins this month.

• Elections (Continued from page 2)

Further down the ballot, results certified Dec. 2 finalized many close races in the Illinois House. The chamber's balance is unchanged by the election and Democrats will hold a 78-member supermajority when lawmakers are sworn in on Jan. 8.

"Democrats won every seat in the General Assembly that I already had, and we won in races that I think people didn't expect—county board races, taking control of the McLean County Board, for example, coroner races," Gov. JB Pritzker said last month reacting to the election results. "People clearly bifurcated and

made decisions different down the ballot than they did at the top of the ballot, so I'm proud of that. I think that's a result of the policies Democrats have had in Illinois."

Rep. Martin McLaughlin, R-Barrington Hills, officially eked out a 47-vote victory in the 52nd House District in the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago in a race House Democrats spent millions hoping to flip. Rep. Amy Grant, R-Wheaton, won a fourth term in the 47th House District in DuPage County by 292 votes.

And Rep. Brandon Schweizer, R-Danville, was reelected by 269 votes in the 104th House District in

Champaign and Vermillion counties.

U.S. Rep. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline, defeated former Winnebago County Republican judge Joe McGraw by 8.86 points in the 17th Congressional District, which was considered to be the state's most competitive federal race.

A majority of voters also supported three statewide advisory questions which asked about potential penalties for interfering with an election judge, a tax on millionaires to cover property tax relief and requiring insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization.

Montini's Broncos pick up two wins to move to 5-2

Kerstein pours in 36 points in Montini's victory at the Hoosier Gym in Indiana

The Montini Catholic girls basketball team won two straight games last week to raise its overall season record to 2-1.

The Broncos opened their Girls Athletic Conference (GCAC) season with a 47-41 victory at DePaul Prep in Chicago on Dec. 3. Saturday, Montini defeated Bishop Cardinal High School of Indianapolis 2 in a contest at the Hoosier Gym in Muncie, Indiana. The Hoosier is a basketball gym, museum and community center that was a filming location for the 1986 film "Hoosiers."

Senior Nikki Kerstein scored a leading 19 points for the Broncos in their Dec. 3 victory over DePaul Prep. Senior Peyton Farrell had 14 points. Senior Lily Spanos had five points, while seniors Kate Gartlan and Lauren Mellish had four points each.

Kerstein erupted for 36 points in Saturday's victory over Bishop Cardinal High School. She made 13 field goals, including five shots from 3-point range during the game. Kerstein sank 10 point shots and scored 10 points

in the first quarter to help the Broncos to a 22-17 lead after eight minutes of action. She scored eight points in the second quarter, helping Montini to a 38-24 halftime lead. Kerstein made three 3-point shots and scored 12 points during the third quarter to lift the Broncos to a 62-40 advantage with eight minutes to play.

Spanos connected on a pair of 3-point shots and scored 12 points in Saturday's win. Gartlan added eight points, while senior Audrey Kinney contributed seven points.

Three days before facing DePaul College Prep, the Broncos suffered a 56-37 loss at Glenbrook South in Glenview. Kerstein scored 12 points in the Nov. 30 loss. She swished a 3-point shot from just inside the half-court line at the end of the first quarter to cut the Titans' lead to 12-11.

Farrell made two shots from 3-point range and scored 10 points in Montini's loss at Glenbrook South.

The Broncos will play their first home game of the 2024-25 season tonight, Dec. 12, when they will face Trinity in a GCAC contest.



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Montini Catholic celebrates 2024-25 Legacy Students

Montini Catholic recently gathered a unique group of students for what has become an annual photo celebration. The group represents what Montini Catholic endearingly defines as its "Legacy Students" — students of alumni parents who once walked the halls of Montini. This year, 52 students of alumni are carrying on their parents' legacies. The number represents close to 10% of Montini's total student body. This year's Legacy Students are, front row: (left to right) Noah Paprockas, Ava Neustadt (Lombard), Nora Fitzpatrick, Zoe Gangas, Charlotte Payne Zabojnik (Lombard), Avery Herold, Joseph Neustadt (Lombard), Annalee DeFeo (Lombard), Teagan O'Connor, Maryfaith Considine, Giuliana Karnick, Mary Grace Hubeny and Brianna Konopacz. Second row: Owen Ferris, Orla O'Flaherty, Margaret Nielsen (Lombard), Juliana Neustadt (Lombard), Audrey Ruddy, Jamie Loftus, Nolan Ferris, Jackson Bell, Katelyn Bell, Madilyn McGady, Marlan Ogan, Leah Piper (Lombard) and Courtney Canty. Third row: Ava Sebben, Mathew McGivern, Sean Hubeny, Nick Irion (Lombard), Johnathan Neustadt (Lombard), Myles Monis (Lombard), Vince Irion (Lombard), Quin Paprockas, Chase Langert and Lily Spanos. Back row: James Kavanagh, Louis Corpora, Henry Herold, Vincent Knudtson (Lombard), Peter Conroy, Jimmy Fitzpatrick (Lombard), Alexander Tack (Lombard), Bryce Ryan (Lombard), Patrick Thomas, Finnegan Grimes (Lombard). Not pictured are: Collins Whitfield, Michael Kavanagh, Lillian (Lombard), Malin McGivern, Gianna Langert and Jack Spanos.