



2025-26 SOCCER TRYOUTS APRIL - MAY
BOYS & GIRLS AGES 6-18
- LOCATED IN ELMHURST -

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS Villa Park Review



Relay For Life of District 88 Youth raises nearly \$25,000

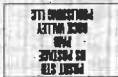
The 14th annual Relay For Life of District 88 Youth took place at Willowbrook High School earlier this month. More than 200 students and community members attended the event, which raised over \$24,700 for the American Cancer Society. The Relay For Life of District 88 Youth has collected more than \$750,000 during the last 14 years. This year's event, which took place March 8-9, featured a variety of activities and games for participants. There was also a luncheon to honor 80 people who are fighting cancer, or who have lost their battle with cancer. The relay began by celebrating cancer survivors, who walked the first lap around the track in Willowbrook's field house. In Relay For Life events, participants take turns walking around a track or path, with the goal of having someone on the track at all times to symbolize the ongoing fight against cancer.

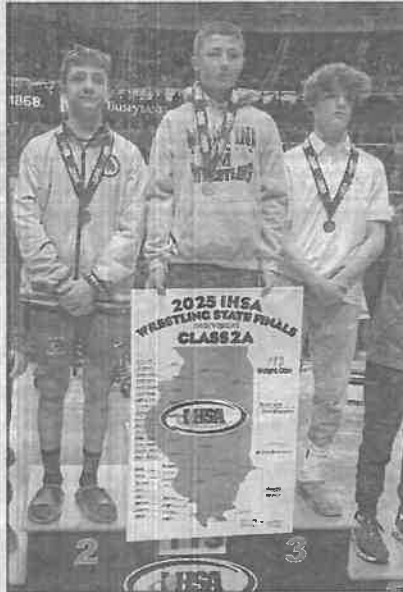


INSIDE:

Opinion 4 Police Reports 8
 Speak out 5 Sports 18-20

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Standout Broncos

Nine Montini Catholic wrestlers were place-winners during the recent IHSA Individual state meets. Pictured left to right are: (front row) sophomore Isaac Mayora, senior Kat Bell, sophomore Mikey Maltzlo and sophomore Allen Woo; (back row) junior Santino Tenuta, senior Jaxon Lane, sophomore Gavin Ericson-Staton, junior Kam Luif and freshman Erik Kilchurov. Woo and Luif won individual titles at the IHSA Class 2A individual state meet, which took place Feb. 20-22 in Champaign. Woo won the 113-pound championship this year to claim his second straight title. He won the Class 2A 106-pound championship during his freshman season. Woo is pictured on top of the medal stand after this year's triumph. Luif captured the title in the 138-pound level at this year's Class 2A individual state meet. He is pictured with Montini coach Mike Bukovsky after his championship effort. Maltzlo delivered a second-place finish in the meet's 120-pound weight class. Tenuta placed second in the 165-pound level. Kilchurov landed in third place in the 106-pound division. Mayora finished fourth in the 132-pound weight class. Ericson-Staton placed fifth in the 285-pound level. Lane battled to a sixth-place finish in the 190-pound division. Bell competed in the IHSA girls wrestling individual state tournament, which took place Feb. 28-March 1 in Bloomington. Competing in the 100-pound level, she won three straight matches in Bloomington to advance to the championship match. Bell lost the title contest and completed her season with a 39-6 record. The Montini boys team captured the third-place trophy at the IHSA Class 2A dual team state finals, which concluded on March 1 in Bloomington. The Broncos finished their season with a 27-4 record in dual meets.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Talented Warriors

The Willowbrook/Addison Trail co-op boys gymnastics team competed in Saturday's 12-team John Burkel/John Cress Invite at Niles West High School in Skokie. The Warriors/Blazers finished second in the invite's team standings with their total of 141.40. Glenbard West won the event's team championship with its score of 143.35. Willowbrook senior Daniel Javier won the first-place medal on the parallel bars at Saturday's meet with a performance that received a score of 9.55. Javier is pictured during his parallel bars routine at his team's season-opening meet at Glenbard East earlier this month. In addition to winning the title on the parallel bars at Saturday's meet, Javier delivered another first-place finish on the vault (9.5). He placed second in floor exercises (9.3) and claimed fifth on the horizontal bar (8.25). Javier finished 10th on both the still rings (7.8) and the pommel horse (7.3). He placed fourth in the invite's all-around standings with his total of 51.7. Willowbrook junior Jae Newman finished sixth in the all-around competition with his score of 48.0. Newman finished third on both the vault (9.0) and the horizontal bar (8.5). He tied for fourth in floor exercises (9.1) and finished seventh on the still rings (8.1). Newman is shown during his performance on the horizontal bar at the Willowbrook/Addison Trail team's recent meet at Glenbard East. Willowbrook senior Jacob Seremak earned a fifth-place score of 7.9 on the pommel horse at Saturday's invite.



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• BASEBALL

Continued from page 24

St. Francis

Coach: Tom Ciombor, fifth season
Last year's record: 21-13, 7-6 in the Chicago Catholic League

Top returning players: Joey Gainer, sr., C; Zack Maduzia, sr., SS; Colt Armbrust, sr., P/1B; Ian Bagaconza, sr., 2B; James McGrath, so., OF

Top new players: Nolan Galla, sr., 3B; Peter Solloway, jr., P; Brayden Hobein, jr., P/IF

Worth noting: The Spartans figure to be strong up the middle with the return of catcher Gainer, shortstop Maduzia and second baseman Bagaconza. Gainer, who hit .383 with three home runs and 28 RBIs last year, and Maduzia, who batted .356 with 20 RBIs last spring, both earned all-conference status as juniors. Armbrust, who hit .366 last season, finished 4-2 on the mound with a 1.67 ERA. Bagaconza batted .304 with 16 RBIs. McGrath batted .300 with a pair of home runs and 18 RBIs as a freshman on varsity last spring. Galla was a two-year starter at Providence before transferring to St. Francis. Ciombor expects big things from his squad. "We've had 90 wins the last four seasons and this might be the best lineup in that time frame," he said. "We should contend for a Chicago Catholic League title."

Timothy Christian

Coach: Frank Romano, third season
Last year's record: 13-13, 7-7 in the Chicagoland Christian

Top returning players: Peter Buikema, sr., C; Luke Canada, sr., SS/OF; Nolan Montella, sr., P; Gavin Bullard, sr., P

Top new players: Eli Colegrove, sr., OF/C; Evan Colegrove, sr., IF; Alex Miller, sr., OF; Matthew Gritters, sr., 1B; Johnny Tragos, so., P; Jonah Roemmich, so., IF

Worth noting: Buikema returns as one of the Trojans' top hitters after batting .323 with 21 RBIs a year ago. He's flanked by returning shortstop Canada. Gritters, Miller and the Colegrove brothers are seniors expecting to receive opportunities to become full-time starters. Tragos and Roemmich are sophomores expected to play big roles. "We are expecting to have a strong season and aim for a conference championship," Romano said.

Westmont

Coach: D.J. Cocks
Last year's record: 24-10-1

Top returning players: Rocco Damato, sr., C; Briggs Templeton, sr., P/1B/CF; Jerry Vasek, sr., P/DH/1B; Andy

Pecard, sr., P/OF; Nathaniel Ollier, sr., P/1B/OF; Nikolai Baldwin, jr., P/IF; Ricky Yenkin, so., P/OF; Jaxson Chinaea, so., OF

Top new players: Alex Meyer, fr., P/IF; C.J. Balcer, so., P/IF

Worth noting: The Sentinels are coming off a Class 2A regional championship, so expectations are high for another solid season. Led by Metro Suburban All-Conference players Damato, a College of DuPage recruit, and Templeton, Westmont has plenty of talent. Damato hit .495 last season with 45 hits and 40 RBIs. Templeton scored 45 runs while driving in 27 and had a .375 average. On the mound, Vasek, a Milwaukee Tech recruit, had a 4-3 record with 3.76 ERA. Yenkin finished with a 4-1 record and a solid 1.24 ERA last season. "A solid core group of players will see a lot of depth on the roster this season with 15 key contributors on a team that will try and win a Chicago Prep conference championship in its first season in the new conference," Cocks said. "The team also looks to take a regional and advance to a sectional championship this season. Jaxson Chinaea, Andy Pecard and Nikolai Baldwin are all staples in the Sentinels' lineup as well. C.J. Balcer looks to dominate on the mound and contribute at the plate. Freshman Alex Meyer is a talented player who made the varsity squad. Jaime Murphy led the JV in batting average last year and Nathaniel Ollier was 3-1 on the mound last season. Landon Hicks, Hank Barrett, Alex De La Garza and Peter Papadopoulos also will be key contributors."

Wheaton Academy

Coach: Justin Swider, seventh season
Last year's record: 31-6, 12-2 in the Chicagoland Christian Conference (first place)

Top returning players: Brandon Kiebles, sr., OF; Gino Spinelli, sr., OF/P; Dominic Murrell, jr., CF; Jackson From, jr., IF/P; Bryce Legel, sr., P/IF; Eli Tate, jr., C; Gunnar Fitzpatrick, sr., C

Top new players: Charlie Scherer, jr., P; Dallas Johnston, jr., 3B

Worth noting: The Warriors have won back-to-back regional titles (3A and 2A) and are coming off their first conference championship. They have enjoyed their two winningest seasons in program history - 29-7-1 in 2023 and 31-6 in 2024. "There is a lot of momentum to continue the standard that has been set the last few seasons," Swider said. Kiebles, a starting outfielder the past two seasons, hit .280 with five doubles and 13 stolen bases last season. Spinelli, also an outfield starter as a sophomore and junior, batted .242 with five doubles and eight

stolen bases in 2024. Murrell set the tone in the leadoff spot, hitting .408 with 44 runs scored and 14 stolen bases. Legel went 5-0 with 39 strikeouts and a 2.33 ERA last spring. Tate (.312, 126 innings) and Fitzpatrick (.229, 111 1/3 innings) shared time behind the plate last season.

Wheaton North

Coach: Dan Schoessling
Last year's record: 8-23, 3-17-1 DuKane Conference

Top returning players: Carter Johnson, sr., 1B/P; Cale Zoeller, sr., P/OF; Max Burke, sr., P/OF; JR Wilson, sr., OF; Alex Karlovitz, sr., C/2B; Blake Cesarone, sr., C; Reagan Barnes, sr., 3B/P; Luke Bellini, sr., 2B; Jacob Johnson, jr., IF; Jake Williams, sr., P/IF

Top new players: Nic Pisciotta, jr., 3B/CF; Alex Popham, jr., P/IF; Kyle Eddy, jr., P/1B

Worth noting: The Falcons bring back significant firepower this season and are looking to be in the mix for the conference title. "We're confident our lineup will produce as we return a number of hitters that saw at-bats last season," Schoessling said. "The pitching rotation is still to be determined with several pitchers competing for time on the mound. Zoeller returns the most experience on the mound. Carter Johnson is in his third year on the varsity level and will be a key at the top of the lineup. We will need to be better defensively this year in order to compete."

Wheaton Warrenville South

Coach: John Scherrman
Last year's record: 19-15; 11-10 DuKane Conference

Top returning players: Nico Olszewski, sr., OF; Drew Eger, sr., LHP; Mason Monce, sr., C; Ryne Adler, sr., 1B/P; Aiden Quartz, sr., OF; Luke Mantell, sr., IF/P; Jacob Conover, jr., IF/P

Top new players: Reese Franks, jr., IF/P; Yiannis Bozonelos, jr., C; Blake Snyder, so., IF/P; Clark Jensen, so., OF/P; Josh Manriquez, so., OF/P

Worth noting: The Tigers just missed the 20-win mark last season, but thanks to numerous talented players, they could break past that barrier this spring. "We lost a great group of seniors from last year's team on the mound and in the field," Scherrman said. "We do however return some vital pieces in Olszewski (Northeast Iowa commit), Monce (Wartburg College commit), Quartz (Alma commit), Adler (Northeast Iowa commit), Eger (Parkland commit) and Conover. All of them gained valuable experience last year at the varsity level. It's a wonderful group of guys who have put in a ton of hard work in the offseason. We have three quality starters coming back

on the mound in Eger, Conover and Adler. Offensively, Monce, a three-year starter, and Olszewski a two-year starter, will give us a nice start at the top of our lineup. We have a hungry group of sophomores who are quality baseball players and have the ability to be successful at the varsity level. The key to our season is will our returning players continue to be high-level high school players and can our newcomers step in and compete in the very tough DuKane Conference."

Willowbrook

Coach: Vic Wisner
Last year's record: 24-10-2, 12-6 West Suburban Gold

Top returning players: Ryan Bannon, sr., 3B; Vinny Ippolito, sr., C; Sam Marrese, sr., OF; Troy Wisner, sr., C; Noah Martinez, sr., C/OF; Charlie Siegler, sr., OF; Nathan Mulholland, sr., IF; Jory Crocker, jr., P; Jake Bonino, jr., OF; Noah Edison, jr., P; Bobby Biggs, jr., P

Top new player: Alec Ramey, jr.
Worth noting: The Warriors have a ton of experience, especially at catcher. Willowbrook has eight-plus starters back from last season's 24-win team. "The entire pitching staff returns as well, so we should be very competitive," Wisner said.

York

Coach: River Pitlock
Last year's record: 31-11, 11-7 West Suburban Silver

Top returning players: Josh Fleming, IF; Drew Gami, OF; Owen Chael, C; Austin Grzywa, OF; Jack Bodach P

Top new player: Matt Young so., P

Worth noting: The Dukes will have a different look this season with a new coach and not having superstar pitcher Ryan Sloan headlining the rotation and drawing Major League scouts to games. York is coming off another great season, finishing fourth at state for the second year in a row. The 2025 Dukes will return 14 seniors, including six hitters with 25-plus game appearances and four pitchers with 17-plus innings. "We have had some great success and our players are excited to be out on the diamond again," Pitlock said. The Dukes have six seniors who have signed to play baseball in college: Josh Fleming (Grand Valley State), Luke Pieczynski (Missouri S&T), Ben Dizillo (Concordia Wisconsin), Jacob Perry (St. John's, Minnesota), Ryan Lisowski (Wisconsin Oshkosh) and Austin Grzywa (Concordia Wisconsin). "Solid defense, quality at-bats and competitive pitches will put us in a place to be successful," Pitlock said. "We look forward to building on the recent success of the program."