

Warriors prepare for post-season

The Willowbrook baseball team finished its West Suburban Gold Conference season with two games against Leyden last week. The Warriors lost a 1-0 decision at Leyden on May 19. Three days later, Willowbrook defeated Leyden 5-0 in Villa Park. The Warriors finished second in the conference standings with their 15-3 record. Downers Grove South won the conference title with its 16-2 conference mark. Junior Noah Edison delivered an excellent pitching performance for the Warriors in last week's 1-0 loss at Leyden. Edison allowed one unearned run in six innings on the mound. He gave up four hits and didn't issue any walks while recording seven strikeouts. The Eagles scored the game's only run in the bottom of the first inning. Willowbrook junior Bobby Biggs earned the win in his team's May 22 victory in Villa Park. Biggs fired six scoreless innings, allowing three hits and one walk. He piled up eight strikeouts. Junior Luke Ranieri (below) pitched a scoreless seventh inning, allowing one hit. While the May 22 game was played in Villa Park, Leyden was technically the home team. Willowbrook scored one run in the top of the fourth inning and added four runs in the top of the seventh inning. Senior Sam Marrese went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs for the Warriors in last week's victory over Leyden. Willowbrook sophomore shortstop Ben Swanson is pictured (bottom) while firing to first base for the final out of the May 22 contest. After losing 15-0 to Lincoln-Way West in Friday's four-inning game in Villa Park, Willowbrook earned a 3-1 home win over Glenbard West on Saturday. Senior Ryan Adamczyk fired a complete game for the Warriors to earn a win against the Hilltoppers. Adamczyk allowed one run, five hits and four walks in seven innings on the mound. He



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struck out seven batters. Willowbrook scored all three of its runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 3-1 lead. Senior Vinny Ippolito of the Warriors hit a double in the bottom of the fifth inning to drive in a run that tied the score at 1-1. Junior Jory Crocker hit a two-run single later in the inning to give the Warriors their 3-1 lead. Willowbrook finished its regular season with Monday's 2-0 home win over Riverside Brookfield. The Warriors completed their regular season with an overall record of 25-9. Edison pitched the first two innings of the game for the Warriors. Edison didn't allow any hits or walks. He struck out three batters. Junior Jacob Bylsma pitched the next five innings for the Warriors in their shutout win over the Bulldogs. Bylsma, who earned the win, allowed two hits and one walk while striking out three batters in the shutout win. Crocker went 2-for-3 with two doubles. He drove in one run and scored one run. Willowbrook is hosting IHSA Class 4A regional and sectional events this year. Earlier this week, the Warriors played a regional semifinal on their home field. If Willowbrook won that battle, it advanced to this Saturday's regional final against Bartlett or Wheaton Warrenville South. The winner of the regional will join three other teams at the Willowbrook Sectional.



Three Warriors qualify for boys Class 3A state track and field meet

Powell wins sectional championship in high jump

Three members of Willowbrook's boys track and field team will compete in this week's IHSA Class 3A state meet at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

The three Warriors earned their state-meet berths in field events at Friday's Lake Park Sectional in Roselle.

Willowbrook junior Otis Powell earned his spot in the state meet by winning the sectional title in the high jump. Powell cleared 6 feet, 9 3/4 inches in his best effort at the sectional.

The top two finishers in each sectional event qualified

for the state meet. Sectional competitors who met qualifying standards also earned state-meet berths.

Senior Jaden Royal of the Warriors secured a berth in the state-meet with his second-place sectional effort in the triple jump. Royal covered 44 feet, 1 1/2 inches in his best sectional attempt.

Willowbrook senior Jake Koterba qualified for the state meet after he finished sixth in the shot put at the Lake Park Sectional.

Koterba's best effort at the sectional covered 53 feet, 7 3/4 inches. That attempt met the

state-qualifying standard of 51 feet, 11 inches.

Rams' relay team earns a trip to the state meet

Glenbard East's 4 x 100-meter relay team of senior Josh Roimicher, senior Amonte Cook, junior Michael Orive and junior Mustafa Usmani qualified for the IHSA Class 3A state meet with its fifth-place finish at the Lake Park Sectional. The foursome of Rams completed the relay in 42.31 seconds, meeting the state-qualifying standard of 42.62 seconds.

Warriors finish regular season



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Senior Sonia Ruchala (foreground) and sophomore Liz Pettlinger (background) of the Willowbrook softball team are pictured while playing third base and shortstop, respectively, during Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference home game against Leyden. The Eagles of Leyden defeated the Warriors 14-11 in the contest. Willowbrook finished its regular season one day later, losing 11-4 to Downers Grove South in another conference game in Villa Park. The Warriors completed their regular season with an overall record of 15-14 and a

conference mark of 6-6. The Warriors opened last week with a 17-1 conference win at Proviso East. Ruchala went 3-for-5 and drove in one run during Friday's loss to Leyden. Willowbrook junior Gianna Dugo went 2-for-4 and drove in four runs in Friday's game, while sophomore Aleena McNamara went 2-for-4 with one RBI. The Warriors are hosting an IHSA Class 4A regional this week. Earlier this week, Willowbrook faced Mother McAuley in a regional semifinal. The winner of that contest will face Downers Grove North or Eisenhower in this Friday's regional final.

All-State performance

Senior Amelle Ojeda of Willowbrook High School's girls track and field team ran to a ninth-place finish in the 3,200-meter run at the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which concluded on Saturday at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. Ojeda completed Saturday's Class 3A 3,200-meter final in a ninth-place time of 10 minutes, 45.15 seconds. She earned All-State recognition for her ninth-place finish. Ojeda also qualified to compete in the 1,600-meter run at the state meet, but she did not participate in Friday's preliminary heats in that event. Ojeda delivered her second All-State performance of the 2024-25 school year with Saturday's effort in the 3,200-meter run. On Nov. 9, 2024, she secured All-State honors with her fifth-place finish in the IHSA Class 3A girls state cross-country meet in Peoria. Willowbrook senior Olivia Gwaltney competed in a preliminary heat of the 400-meter run on Friday in Charleston. Gwaltney competed the race in 60.37 seconds. She did not advance to Saturday's final in the 400-meter run, which featured nine competitors. Glenbard East senior Mackenzie Fodrey competed in two field events—the triple jump and the pole vault—at the IHSA Class 3A state meet. Fodrey finished ninth in the triple jump after covering 37 feet, 5 inches in one attempt in Charleston. Fodrey cleared 10 feet in the pole vault at the state meet and did not advance to the final in that event.



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Sports

Rams end their regular season with three straight wins Glenbard East finishes its Upstate Eight Conference season with a 1-0 win over West Aurora; Rams post a conference record of 17-1

Glenbard East's baseball team finished its regular season with three straight victories last week to raise its overall record to 23-8.

The Rams opened the week with a 6-3 Upstate Eight Conference win at Ridgewood on May 19. Three days later, Glenbard East edged West Aurora, 1-0 in a conference battle in Lombard to complete its Upstate Eight season with a 17-1 record. The Rams went 11-0 against their fellow teams in the conference's East Division and turned in a 6-1 mark in conference crossover games against West Division teams.

Glenbard East suffered its only conference loss of the season to South Elgin. The Storm of South Elgin defeated the Rams 3-2 in an eight-inning contest in Lombard on April 24.

South Elgin also posted an overall conference record of 17-1.

The Rams closed out their regular season with Friday's 8-2 non-conference home win over Metea Valley.

Junior Josh Ziemer went 2-for-4 with two doubles and drove in two runs for the Rams in last week's victory at Ridgewood. Senior Ryan Frano pitched the first five innings of the game and earned the win for Glenbard East. Frano allowed one earned run, two hits and five walks

while recording six strikeouts. Junior Nile Anderson pitched the game's final two innings for the Rams. Anderson did not allow any runs. He gave up one hit and didn't issue any walks. Anderson struck out three batters.

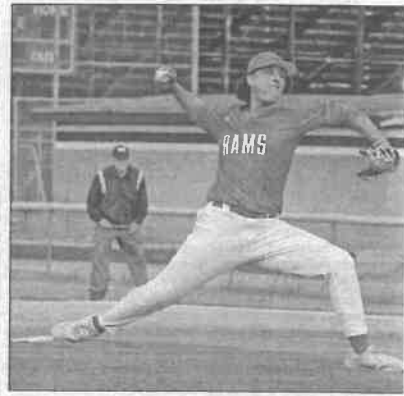
Junior Lucas Calderin and senior Konrad Toth combined to pitch a shutout for Glenbard East in last week's 1-0 triumph over West Aurora. Calderin pitched the game's first four innings and allowed one hit and one walk while striking out four batters. Toth worked the final three innings and piled up nine strikeouts by striking out the side in each of his three innings on the mound. Like Calderin, Toth allowed one hit and one walk.

The Rams scored the game's only run in the bottom of the second inning. Senior John Murphy delivered an RBI single after a walk to Calderin and a single by senior Paulie Steiskal.

The Rams scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning of Friday's home game against Metea Valley. Glenbard East added four more runs in the bottom of the third inning to take a 7-0 lead.

Frano went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles and drove in three runs during Friday's victory. Senior Devin Kraft went 2-for-3 and scored three runs for the Rams.

Senior Mike Ruzycki



Glenbard East's baseball team closed out its Upstate Eight Conference season with last week's 1-0 home victory over West Aurora. Junior Lucas Calderin (above left) and senior Konrad Toth (above right) combined to pitch a shutout for the Rams in the May 22 conference game in Lombard. Calderin pitched the first four innings of that contest and recorded four strikeouts. Toth pitched the final three innings, striking out the side in each inning to pitch up nine strikeouts. Glenbard East posted a 17-1 conference record during the 2025 season. The Rams went 11 against their fellow Upstate Eight Conference East Division teams and turned in a 6-1 record in crossover games against West Division opponents, including West Aurora. The Rams suffered their only conference loss of the season on April 24, when they dropped a 3-2 decision to South Elgin in an eight-inning game in Lombard. South Elgin—a member of the conference's West Division, also went 17-1 in conference play. The Storm suffered its own conference setback on April 28, when it lost 5-4 to West Aurora. Glenbard East completed its regular season with Friday's 8-2 non-conference victory over Metea Valley in Lombard. That win pushed the Rams' overall season record to 23-8. Glenbard East opened the IHSA Class 4A post-season earlier this week, facing Wheaton North in semifinal game at the Glenbard West Regional. The winner of that matchup advanced to this Saturday's regional final against Geneva or Glenbard West.

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pitched the first three innings of Friday's game for the Rams. He worked three scoreless innings, allowing two hits and one walk while striking out four batters.

Senior Brian Kud relieved Ruzycki and pitched another three scoreless innings. Kud gave up three hits and didn't issue any walks. He struck out five Metea Valley batters. The

visiting Mustangs scored their only two runs of the game in the top of the seventh inning.

Glenbard East opened post-season play earlier this week with a game against

Wheaton North at the IHSA Class 4A Glenbard West Regional. The winner of that contest will face Geneva Glenbard West in this Saturday's regional final.

Sectional champion

Junior Finn Talbot of the Glenbard East boys tennis team won the singles title at the IHSA Class 2A Willowbrook Sectional, which took place on Friday and Saturday. The top four singles finishers and the top four doubles finishers at the sectional qualified for the IHSA Class 2A state meet, which begins today. Talbot had a bye in the sectional's first round. He posted a 6-0, 6-0 victory in Friday's second-round match. He earned a 6-0, 6-3 win in his next match to advance to the semifinal round. Talbot delivered a 6-0, 6-2 win in Saturday's semifinal contest to secure a berth in the sectional's singles final. Talbot scored a decisive 6-2, 6-0 win over Glenbard West senior Garrett French in Saturday's singles final. He is pictured (right) while hitting a volley during that match. Another photo (below) shows Talbot with his first-place medal. Talbot also qualified for the IHSA Class 2A state singles meet during his freshman and sophomore seasons. Glenbard East's doubles team of juniors Evan Fine and Alek Jovanovic qualified for the Class 2A state meet with a fourth-place finish at the Willowbrook Sectional. The two Rams won a three-set battle in their first sectional match on Friday. In their second match on Friday, Fine and Jovanovic outlasted Willowbrook's duo of senior Cole Williams and junior Brogan Byrne to clinch a spot in the state meet. Fine and Jovanovic defeated Williams and Byrne 7-5, 3-6, 7-5. After losing in the semifinal round on Saturday, the two Rams lost the third-place match to end up placing fourth in the sectional. (Right) Fine (left) and Jovanovic (right) are pictured with their fourth-place medals at the end of the event. Glenbard East and York finished in a tie in the Willowbrook Sectional's team results with 14 points each. York won the sectional title in a tiebreaker. Palatine High School is the host of this year's IHSA Class 2A state meet, which begins today. The meet features 64 singles players and 64 doubles teams.



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