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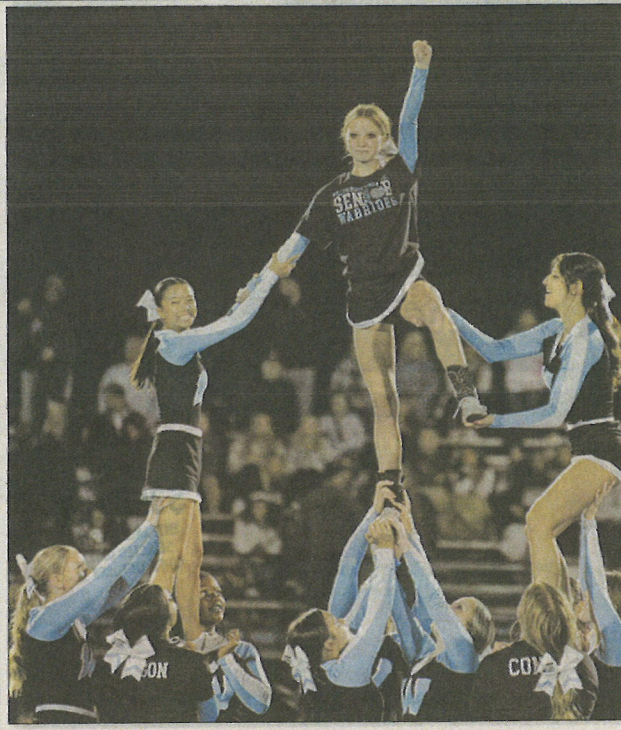
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VOL. 21 • NO. 39 WWW.THEINDEPENDENTNEWSPAPERS.COM THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 2025



Friday night in Villa Park

Willowbrook High School's football team played its first home game of the 2025 season on Friday night. The Warriors' marching band, cheerleaders and dance team, along with a boisterous student section, created a festive atmosphere in the school's stadium for the football team's home opener. Unfortunately for Willowbrook's fans, the Warriors lost 24-7 to Oswego East. The evening's football game completed a busy day at the school. Early on Friday morning, before the start of the school day, Willowbrook was featured on ABC7 Chicago's Friday Flyover series. Students and staff members showed their school spirit as Chopper 7 flew over the campus and ABC7's Val Warner showcased various aspects of the school.



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Warriors fall to 0-2 after losing home opener

Willowbrook kicks off conference season with this Friday's home game against Leyden

The Willowbrook football team dropped to 0-2 following Friday's 24-7 loss to Oswego East in Villa Park.

Playing their 2025 home opener, the Warriors received the game's opening kickoff and produced a lengthy drive that ended with a missed 24-yard field-goal attempt. The visiting Wolves converted a 26-yard field-goal kick in the final minute of the first quarter to take a 3-0 lead.

Oswego East, which improved to 2-0 with Friday's victory, added to its lead with a 66-yard scoring drive in the second quarter. The Wolves completed that drive with a 6-yard touchdown run and added the extra-point kick to extend their lead to 10-0 with about eight minutes left in the first half.

An Oswego East punt pinned the Warriors at their own 2-yard line with less than three minutes left in the first half. Willowbrook's offense proceeded to drive 98 yards for a touchdown. Senior quarterback Jahonise

Reed connected with senior Hayden Roscoe on a 32-yard pass on a third-down play to advance the ball inside the Wolves' 10-yard line. Moments later, Reed lofted a 6-yard touchdown pass to Roscoe, who caught the ball in the back of the end zone. Junior Ben Swanson made the extra-point kick to cut Oswego East's lead to 10-7 with about 30 seconds remaining in the first half.

Roscoe intercepted a Wolves' pass in the closing moments of the opening half, leaving Oswego East with a 10-7 halftime lead.

The Wolves quickly drove for a touchdown on their opening series of the second half. A 14-yard touchdown run and the extra-point kick gave Oswego East a 17-7 lead with 9:55 to play in the third quarter.

Willowbrook's first offensive drive of the second half ended with an interception in the back of the Wolves' end zone with about seven minutes to play in the third quarter. Late in the third quarter,

Willowbrook senior Aris Neal intercepted an Oswego East pass in the Warriors' end zone. Moments after taking possession on Neal's interception, Willowbrook's offense turned the ball over on a fumble. Oswego East recovered the fumble at the Warriors' 35-yard line with about 20 seconds left in the third quarter.

The Wolves scored the game's final touchdown on a 6-yard run with about three minutes to play in the fourth quarter.

"I feel like we left some stuff out there," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after Friday's loss. "We had some plays that we missed on, and we turned the ball over. The part for us is to go back and look at the film. I think we've got to figure out what our bread and butter is, and really establish things offensively."

The Warriors will open their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's home game against Leyden (1-1).



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's football team lost 24-7 to Oswego East on Friday night in Villa Park. The Warriors fell to 0-2 with the loss, while Oswego East improved to 2-0 with its win. Willowbrook scored its only touchdown of the game on a 6-yard pass from senior quarterback Jahonise Reed to senior Hayden Roscoe in the final minute of the second quarter. Roscoe (No. 5) is pictured (above) as he makes the touchdown reception in the back of the end zone. Junior Ben Swanson (No. 39 - below) of the Warriors added the extra-point kick to cut Oswego East's lead to 10-7. Junior Nate Jerkovic was the holder on Swanson's kick. The Wolves scored a touchdown early in the third quarter to boost their lead to 17-7. Oswego East added another touchdown with about three minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. Willowbrook will begin its West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's home game against Leyden.

Warriors and Rams run at Lyons Township

Popoca leads Willowbrook's girls team with her sixth-place finish; Branch delivers an 18th-place effort for the Warriors in the boys race

The girls and boys cross-country teams from Glenbard East and Willowbrook competed in Saturday morning's Mike Kuharic Invitational at Lyons Township High School's south campus in Western Springs.

Senior Mariangela Popoca of Willowbrook raced to a sixth-place finish in the invite's girls race. She completed the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race in 19 minutes, 23.73 seconds.

The Warriors' girls squad placed 10th in the 15-team invite's team standings. Downers Grove North won the team title in the girls competition with 44 points.

Sandburg placed second with 53 points.

Junior Bethany Yurich of Willowbrook completed Saturday's girls race in a 50th-place time of 21 minutes, 24.18 seconds. Junior Genevieve Kling of the Warriors negotiated the course in a 67th-place time of 21 minutes, 54.25 seconds. Senior Allyson Stefani (23:11.33; 85th) and senior Kenya Hernandez-Rodriguez (29:50.39; 110th) completed the Willowbrook girls team's varsity lineup in the invite.

Glenbard East sophomore Teigan O'Donnell delivered a 22nd-place finish in Saturday's girls race. She covered the 5-kilometer course in 20 minutes, 15.10 seconds.

Junior Evelynne Barry (22:21.92; 73rd) and freshman Ava Ihms (22:26.78) finished 73rd and 75th, respectively, for the Rams. Freshmen Gianna Zundell (24:02.43; 94th) and Ellie Pangilinan (24:24.34; 98th) completed Glenbard East's scoring lineup. Junior Sophia Demarchi (24:57.06; 101st) and freshman Cami Hageman (25:19.13; 104th) also represented the Rams in Saturday's varsity girls race.

Glenbard East's girls lineup finished 13th in the team standings of the invite.

Branch leads the Warriors' boys team with his 18th-place finish

Senior Miteku Branch provided the fastest finish for Willowbrook's boys team during Saturday's invite. He completed the 5-kilometer boys race in an 18th-place time of 15 minutes, 50.86 seconds.

Sophomore Legend Alka (16:48.79) and junior Ryan Quinney (16:59.02) placed 56th and 69th, respectively, for

the Warriors' boys team. Senior Angel Perez (17:22.07; 81st), junior Jacob Alexander (17:23.72; 82nd), junior Thomas Thimo (17:48.43; 96th) and junior Kole Johanson (18:09.45; 107th) completed Willowbrook's varsity lineup in Saturday's boys race.

The Warriors landed in 12th place in Saturday's boys competition, which included 23 teams.

Senior Mason Hephner led Glenbard East's boys team in Saturday's event with his 33rd-place time of 16 minutes, 18.43 seconds. Junior Alexander Hernandez (16:57.08) of the Rams ran to a 66th-place finish.

Freshman Ryker Tiltges (18:05.20; 106th), sophomore David Botero (18:45.02; 122nd), sophomore Jason Kelly (19:02.48; 133rd), sophomore Nathaniel Pangilinan (19:15.10; 134th) and senior Andrew Doucet (19:42.23; 145th) rounded out Glenbard East's boys lineup.

The Rams placed 17th out of 23 teams in Saturday's boys race. Downers Grove North's boys lineup won the team title with its 55-point output. Hersey placed second with 103 points.



Broncos move to 2-0 after overpowering Hillcrest 35-12

Abrams throws three touchdown passes and rushes for pair of touchdowns to lead

Broncos to decisive win; Montini plays Marist this Friday in Lombard

The Montini Catholic football team raised its 2025 record to 2-0 after Friday night's convincing 35-12 victory over Hillcrest in Country Club Hills.

The Broncos scored three first-quarter touchdowns against Hillcrest (0-2) and built a 21-0 lead after 12 minutes of play. Montini scored its fourth touchdown of the evening early in the second quarter to push its lead over the Hawks to 28-0.

Junior quarterback Israel Abrams fired a 63-yard touchdown pass to junior Luca Florio in the opening seconds of Friday's game to give the Broncos a 6-0 lead. Junior Johnny Louise added the extra-point kick to push the lead to 7-0 less than 20 seconds into the contest.

Abrams and Florio connected on a 30-yard touchdown pass in the middle of the first quarter. Louise tackled on the extra-point

kick to extend Montini's lead to 14-0 with about six minutes left in the opening quarter.

Abrams delivered a 3-yard touchdown run later in the first quarter to help the Broncos to a 21-0 advantage. Abrams hooked up with junior Damacio Ortegon on a 60-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter. The extra-point kick moved Montini's lead to 28-0.

The Broncos increased

their lead to 35-0 after Abrams found the end zone on a 7-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

Abrams, who exited the game in the third quarter, completed 13 of 22 passes for 255 yards and three touchdowns.

Ortegon provided three receptions for 119 yards and a touchdown. Florio provided two receptions—his two touchdown catches—for 93 yards.

Montini senior Charles Flowers gained a team-leading 77 rushing yards on eight carries. Senior Isaac Alexander carried the ball eight times for 69 yards.

Senior Santino Tenuita made a team-leading 14 tackles for the Broncos during Friday's win. Senior Laddie Asay made nine tackles. He also forced a fumble and an interception. Junior Ben Evenson, junior Orlando Greco, senior Brody Boy-

er and senior Andrew Sparke recorded nine tackles each. Louise blocked a Hillcrest punt. He also recovered a fumble during the game.

The Broncos will continue their season with this Friday's home game against Marist (0-2), which began its season with two losses against tough competition. The RedHawks lost 28-21 to St. Rita on Aug. 29. Marist dropped to 0-2 after Friday's 35-0 loss to Brother Rice.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors finish second in own invitational

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team finished second in its own eight-team Warrior Invitational, which took place on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors defeated Glenbard North, West Chicago, Glenbard South and Addison Trail during the event. Metea Valley beat Willowbrook 25-18, 25-20 in the invitational's championship match. Earlier last week, Willowbrook lost 25-11, 25-12 at Lyons Township. Senior Kendall Norton provided 12 assists for the Warriors in their Sept. 3 match against the Lions. Freshman Evelyn Lammers hit four kills for the Warriors. Senior Julia Amin contributed three kills. Junior Tess Doyle made six digs. Earlier this week, Willowbrook opened its West Suburban Gold Conference season with a match at Leyden.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Senior recognition

Willowbrook High School honored the seniors on the marching band, cheerleading team and dance team before Friday night's varsity football game in Villa Park. The seniors on Willowbrook's cheerleading team, pictured above, left to right, are: Lily Conboy, Aliah Ramirez, Mylie Benson and Avery Fitzgerald. The seniors on the school's dance team, pictured below, left to right, are: Gedvina Mickevicius, Ava Jovanovich, Kaia Capulong, Maddy McEllin and Cecilia Oddo.

The Warriors beat Morton

Willowbrook's boys golf team raised its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 3-0 with last week's 143-185 home victory over Morton at Sugar Creek Golf Course. Willowbrook senior Bobby Biggs (pictured) shot the team's low round during the Sept. 3 contest against Morton. Biggs fired a nine-hole score of 34 on the par-32 course. Junior Kyle Yopchick posted a score of 35 for the Warriors. Seniors Charlie Roelle and Jonnie Gosmire carded scores of 36 and 38, respectively, to account for Willowbrook's team score of 143 (34+35+36+38). The Warriors will face Addison Trail in this Saturday's dual meet at Prairie Bluff Public Golf Club in Crest Hill.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

