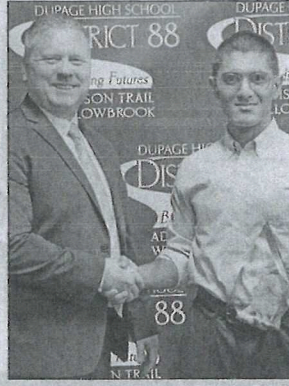


Siddiqi named 88's Best for August

Willowbrook High School senior Salman Siddiqi was recently honored as his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of August. Siddiqi, who is a Villa Park resident, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Aug. 25 meeting. He is pictured (right) at that meeting with



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Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). During the meeting, Krause read comments from several of the school's faculty members, who described Siddiqi as an exemplary student, a hard worker and a role model. Faculty members also praised Siddiqi as a modest, kind and detail-oriented student who is relentless in his attempts to understand a subject. An academic standout in Willowbrook's Class of 2026, Siddiqi is a member of multiple honor societies, including the National Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the Science Honor Society, and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Siddiqi is a key member of the school's math and Science Olympiad teams. He is also a member of the school's Student Council and Environmental Club. Siddiqi serves as a Student Ambassador to assist students who transfer to Willowbrook. Additionally, he is a New Beginnings mentor to help freshmen with the transition to high school. Siddiqi is a member of the 'Warriors' boys tennis and cross-country teams. Outside of school, he volunteers at the Villa Park Public Library. Siddiqi plans to apply to Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He intends to study biochemistry with a pre-med focus.

Obituary

GENEVIEVE 'JEANNE' ANN YOUNG, 77

Genevieve "Jeanne" Ann Young, nee McShane, age 77, of Villa Park, Illinois. Beloved wife of the late Everett "Rob" Harold Young, Jr., loving mother of Shane, Cary (Janet), and Mairin (Andrew Kouba); cherished grandmother of Bailey, Quinn, and Charlotte; dear daughter of the late Thomas and Elizabeth "Betty" McShane; fond sister of the late Thomas McShane; dear aunt and friend to many. Growing up in Glen Ellyn, IL, Jeanne attended St. Petronille Catholic Grade School and then later St. Francis High School. She met the love of her life, her "hunny" Rob, and got married in 1969. She was an avid volunteer all her life and taught CCD at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church for many years.

She was extremely thoughtful and generous, often mailing cards to friends and donating to multiple charities. A devoted fan, she loved cheering for her beloved Cubs and Sox, with Luis Aparicio being her hero. She found her truest calling as a grandmother, showering her grandchildren with unconditional love, wisdom, and endless hugs. She will be so missed! Ar dheis Dé go raibh sí.

Visitation was held Friday, August 29th from 2-4 p.m. at Steuerele Chapel, 15 W. Park Blvd, Villa Park. Funeral was held Saturday, August 30th in-state 9:45 a.m. until the time of funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Alexander Catholic Church, 300 S. Cornell Ave, Villa Park. Interment Assumption Catholic Cemetery.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Villa Park Chamber of Commerce hosts B3: BBQ Bags & Business

The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce's 2025 B3: BBQ, Bags & Business, held last week, was a success. Several teams competed in the bags tournament, which was won by "The Helton Brothers" consisting of Willowbrook High School Assistant Principal Joe Helton and Tommy Helton. In addition to the bags tournament, participants were treated a barbecue dinner, provided by Villa Park's very own Stout's Sausage & BBQ Co. Several sponsors and businesses donated to the raffle.



Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

Aug. 26
A complainant at a store in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles reported a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying. The subject was issued a citation.

Aug. 25
A complainant near N. Westmore and W. Plymouth reported their bag was stolen.

Aug. 24
Lisandro Ramirez Almaraz, 23, of Lombard, was charged with DUI, DUI over .08 and no insurance near W. Elm and N. 2nd at 1:16 a.m.

A complainant reported at 8:15 a.m. that an unknown subject damaged the front glass door at a restaurant in the 100 block of W. St. Charles.

A complainant at a store

in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

Aug. 23
Jeremy Gholston, 22, and Arianna R. Conrad, 21, both of Villa Park, were charged with aggravated assault on public property near W. Division and N. 3rd.

Aug. 22
Louis A. Bluford, 50, of Rockford, was charged with burglary/retail theft/possessing displayed merchandise at a store in the 100 block of W. Roosevelt at 9:40 a.m. Bluford was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

A complainant at Sugar Creek Golf Course, 500 E. Van Buren, reported that subjects damaged a fairway with a golf cart.

Aug. 21
Belen L. Martinez, 33, of Villa Park, was charged with retail theft at a store in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles at 11:03 a.m.

A complainant in the 200 block of N. 3rd reported at 2:50 p.m. and 7:44 p.m. that a subject was harassing them via text.

Police responded to a report at 5:32 p.m. of a subject arguing with a complainant in the 1-100 block of W. Vermont. The complainant advised that the subject alarmed them. The subject was issued a citation for disorderly conduct.

Aug. 20
Mauro A. Razcon-Beltran, 43, of Villa Park, was charged with DUI, driving too fast for conditions or failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and no insurance near E. Washington and S. Route 83 at 3:41 p.m.

Brandon T. Wilkinson, 42, of Chicago, was charged with DUI, DUI over .08, failure to signal and no insurance near S. Route 83 at W. St. Charles at 11:46 p.m.

A complainant in the 900 block of W. North reported at 3:51 p.m. that a subject battered them.

A complainant in the 300 block of N. Princeton reported they received a suspicious message regarding a post made online.

Identity theft, fraud
According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, police reported one incident of identity theft or fraud in the village between Aug. 20 and Aug. 26.



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Saluting VFW Post 2801

During its Aug. 25 meeting, the Villa Park Village Board proudly recognized Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 for its dedication and efforts in helping make the village's 2025 Independence Day Parade a successful and memorable event for the community. "Their continued commitment to service and civic pride exemplifies the very best of Villa Park," noted last week's announcement from the village honoring members of the post. "This recognition is not only a gesture of appreciation, but also a reflection of the strong and enduring partnership between the village and our local veterans." Pictured left to right during the Villa Park Village Board's Aug. 25 meeting are: Trustee Deepasriya Kumar, Trustee Cari Alfano, Trustee Tina Konstatos, Village President Kevin Patrick, VFW Post Senior Vice Commander Jim Urso, VFW Post Commander Jim Blankshain, VFW Post Quartermaster Dan Thomas, Trustee Jack Kozar, Trustee Jorge Cordova, Trustee Khalid Sabri and Village Clerk Rolf Laukant. The theme of the village's 2025 Independence Day Parade was "Forever United."

Villa Park REVIEW

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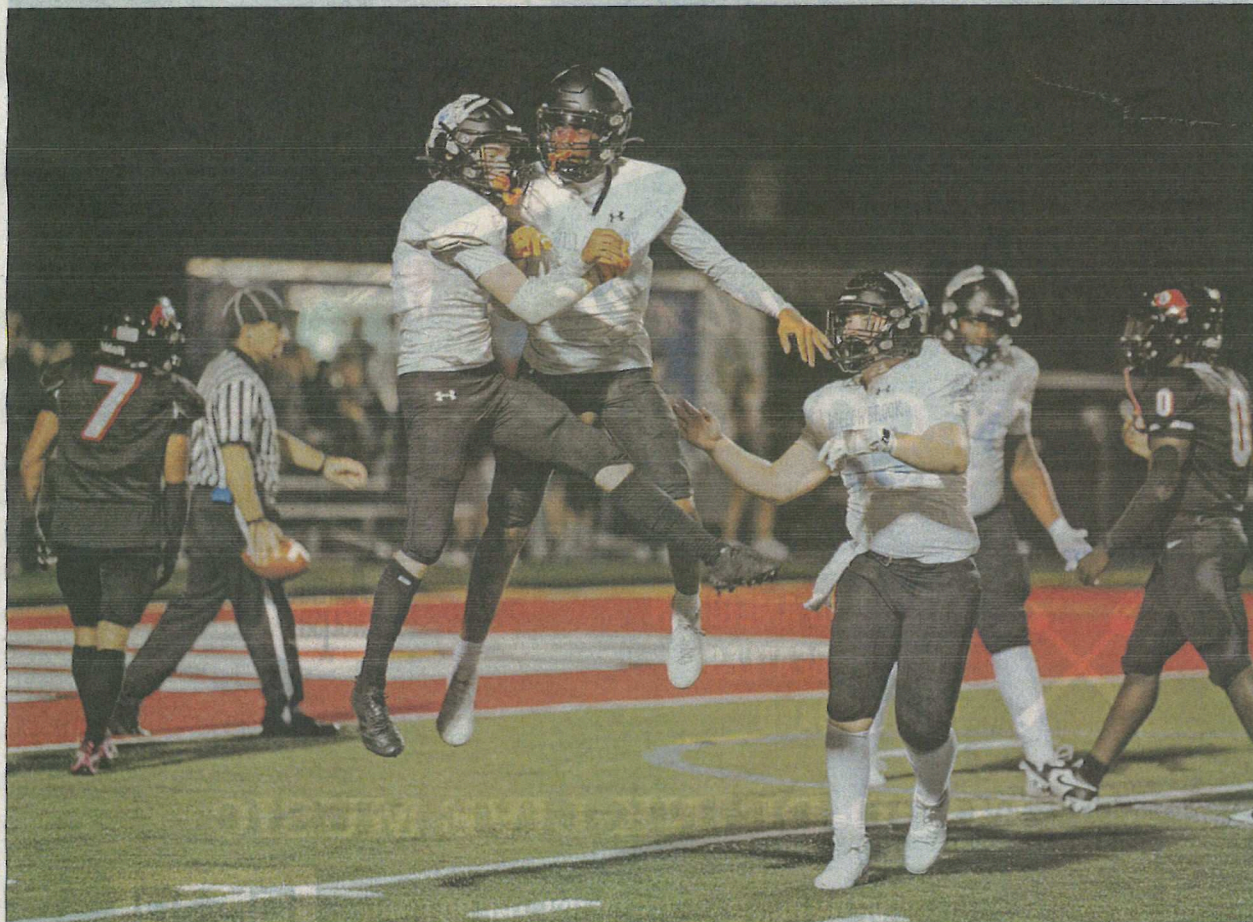
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THURSDAY, SEPT. 4, 2025



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Happy Warriors

Seniors Hayden Roscoe (left) and Jahonise Reed (right) of the Willowbrook football team celebrate after they connected on a touchdown pass during Friday night's season-opening game at Glenbard East in Lombard. The two Warriors are pictured jumping in the air after Roscoe caught a 64-yard touchdown pass from Reed late in the second quarter, as their teammate, junior Austin Necker (No. 55), looks on. The ensuing extra-point kick tied the score at 14-14. Willowbrook and the Rams were tied at 21-21 in the fourth quarter. Glenbard East scored a defensive touchdown to take the lead with about seven minutes to play. The Rams held on for a 28-21 victory. The Warriors will play their first home game of the season this Friday, when they will face Oswego East in Villa Park.

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Second-half surge lifts Warriors to homecoming game win

Willowbrook breaks free from 14-14 halftime tie to sail to 45-14 victory over Hornets

The Willowbrook football team won its homecoming game on Friday night in Villa Park, beating Hinsdale South 45-14 in a West Suburban Gold Conference contest. The Warriors moved to 2-3 overall and 2-1 in conference play with their victory over the Hornets.

Willowbrook and Hinsdale South were tied at 14-14 at halftime. The Warriors scored 10 points in the third quarter to take a 24-14 lead. Willowbrook piled on three touchdowns in the fourth quarter to earn a runaway win in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd of its supporters.

Hinsdale South, which fell to 1-4 overall and 1-2 in conference play, scored the first touchdown of Friday's game on a 28-yard run with less than two minutes left in the first quarter. Senior Otis Powell of Willowbrook blocked the extra-point kick.

Senior Anthony Leo of the Warriors crossed the goal line on a 2-yard touchdown run with five minutes remaining in the second quarter. Junior Ben Swanson made the extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 7-6 lead.

The Hornets regained the

lead with a 15-yard touchdown pass with about two minutes to play in the second quarter. Hinsdale South succeeded on a two-point conversion pass to raise its lead to 14-7.

Willowbrook tied the Hornets at 14-14 with 49 seconds left in the second quarter, when senior quarterback Jahonise Reed connected with junior Josiah Marlowe on an 11-yard touchdown pass. Swanson added the extra-point kick to even the score.

The Warriors received the kickoff to open the third quarter and delivered a five-play, 80-yard scoring drive. Reed completed a 27-yard pass to Marlowe on the third play of the drive. After a 2-yard run by Leo, Reed threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to Powell. Swanson then made the extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 21-14 lead with 10:02 left in the third quarter.

Swanson drilled a 42-yard field goal with 6:55 remaining in the third quarter to boost the Warriors' lead to 24-14.

The Hornets drove the ball inside Willowbrook's 25-yard line early in the fourth quarter. Powell then intercepted a Hinsdale South pass in the end zone

and rambled about 60 yards before fumbling the ball near the Hornets' 40-yard line. Senior Jack Drury of the Warriors recovered the loose ball near Hinsdale South's 35-yard line.

After a 9-yard run by Leo, Reed hooked up with Marlowe on a 26-yard touchdown pass. The extra-point kick by Swanson raised the Warriors' lead to 31-14 with 10:20 to play.

Willowbrook closed the game with a pair of long touchdowns. Reed threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to Powell with about five minutes to play. Powell caught Reed's pass in stride near the Hornets' 40-yard line and coasted into the end zone.

Senior Aris Neal scored the Warriors' final touchdown on a 75-yard run with about two minutes to play. Neal raced down the sideline and completed his lengthy run with a front flip over the goal line. Swanson then added his sixth extra-point kick of the game.

Willowbrook's season continues with this Friday's conference game at Morton (1-4 overall and 1-1 in the conference). Morton dropped to 1-4 after its 48-6 conference loss at Addison Trail.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's football team improved to 2-3 overall and 2-1 in West Suburban Gold Conference play following Friday's 45-14 homecoming victory over Hinsdale South in Villa Park. The Warriors and Hornets were tied at 14-14 at halftime. Willowbrook scored 10 points in the third quarter and added 21 points in the fourth quarter. Senior Otis Powell (No. 1) of the Warriors is pictured (above left) while heading to the end zone on his 65-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter. Powell delivered a huge defensive play earlier in the quarter, when he intercepted a Hinsdale South pass in the end zone and returned the ball about 60 yards. Another photo (above right) shows Willowbrook senior Aris Neal (No. 21) scoring his team's final touchdown of the game on a 75-yard run with about two minutes to play.



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Warriors improve to 15-0

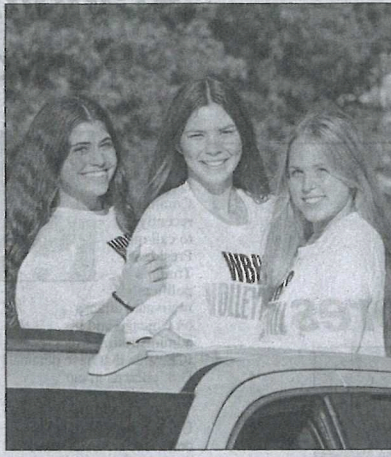
Willowbrook's flag football team ran its 2025 season record to a perfect 15-0 with Friday's 40-0 home win over Resurrection High School. The Warriors led the visiting Bandits 18-0 after one quarter and 32-0 at halftime. One photo (top right) from the game shows junior McKenzie Edison of the Warriors crossing the goal line on her first-quarter touchdown reception. Another photo (right) shows Willowbrook senior Leigh Bernardo (No. 2) pursuing Resurrection's quarterback. One more photo (above) shows senior Marli Smrz (No. 6) after she scored a defensive touchdown on an interception return. The Warriors' undefeated flag football team played Friday's game just before the varsity football team's homecoming contest against Hinsdale South.



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Warriors vs. Red Devils

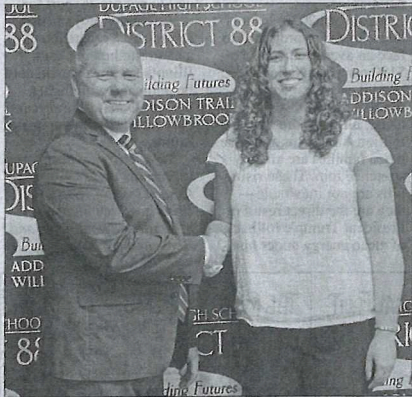
Willowbrook's girls volleyball team lost 25-17, 25-18 to Hinsdale Central in last week's non-conference match in Villa Park. The Warriors' overall season record fell to 11-7 after their Sept. 25 loss to the Red Devils. Junior Melanie Marinier (No. 1 - above) provided seven assists and five digs for Willowbrook. Junior Tess Doyle made 12 digs, while senior Joely Maciejewski and freshman Evelyn Lammers hit three kills each. Senior Julia Amin, junior Maggie Hurley and freshman Lucy Franz contributed two kills each. Senior Kendall Norton handed out five assists for the Warriors. Two days before facing Hinsdale Central, Willowbrook raised its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 3-0 with a 25-16, 25-12 home victory over Morton. Norton and Marinier supplied 13 and 12 assists, respectively, in the Warriors' Sept. 23 win. Amin bashed eight kills, while Hurley connected for six kills. Franz added five kills. Junior Lily Rich made seven digs. Doyle recorded five digs. Maciejewski contributed two kills and three digs.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

A great day for a parade

Willowbrook High School celebrated its homecoming last week. The highlights of the festive week included Friday afternoon's parade down Ardmore Avenue. The parade, which took place in warm and sunny conditions, began near the Illinois Prairie Path and proceeded south to the school. The parade participants included Willowbrook's marching band, as well as the cheerleading and dance teams. Some of the Warriors' other fall athletic teams also took part in the parade. One photo (above right) shows three seniors on Willowbrook's girls volleyball team. Pictured left to right are Joely Maciejewski, Julia Amin and Kendall Norton.



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Thompson receives 88's Best honor for September

Willowbrook High School senior Maisie Thompson was recently honored as her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of September. Thompson, who is a Villa Park resident, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Sept. 22 meeting. She is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). During the meeting, Krause read comments from several of Thompson's teachers. Those teachers praised Thompson, describing her as a hard worker, an astute thinker, and a standout student who is kind, respectful, and a joy to have in class. When she graduates from Willowbrook in 2026, Thompson will have completed 10 Advanced Placement (AP) college-level courses. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction, and she has been named to Willowbrook's Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her time in high school. Thompson is an inductee of multiple honor societies, including the National Honor Society, the Math Honor Society, the Science Honor Society, and Willowbrook's social studies honor society—Civitas. Thompson is the president of Willowbrook's Environmental Club. She is also a drum major in the school's marching band (she's pictured before the band's halftime performance at Friday's homecoming football game), and a New Beginnings mentor who helps freshmen with the transition into high school. A member of Willowbrook's badminton team, Thompson teamed with Hannah Daly (from the school's Class of 2025) to qualify for the 2025 IHSA state doubles meet in May. Outside of school, Thompson is a lifeguard, and a member of the Villa Park Mariners swim team. She has also played competitive ice hockey for several years. Thompson plans to apply to multiple schools, including Adrian College, the University of Notre Dame, Loyola University, Aquinas College and Lawrence University. She intends to study biochemistry, and to continue to play ice hockey.

Obituary

NANCY A. WICHSER, 70
Nancy A. Wichser nee Farrell, age 70, of Addison for 30 years, passed away on Sept. 19, 2025.

Visitation was held on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 4-8 p.m. at Brust Funeral Home, 135 S.

Main St., Lombard. A Funeral Service was held on Monday, Sept. 29 at 10 a.m., at the funeral home. Interment at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, IL.

Info www.brustfuneral-home.com or 888-629-0094.

Road Safety & Fairness

Act signed into law

Measure establishes procedures to report unsafe drivers; removes behind-the-wheel driving test barrier for safest drivers

Legislation championed by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas and AARP Illinois that makes roads safer and removes age barriers to align Illinois with the rest of the nation was signed into law recently by Gov. JB Pritzker.

The Road Safety & Fairness Act (HB 1226), introduced by state Sen. Ram Villivalam (8th District—Chicago) and state Rep. Jay Hoffman (113th District—Belleville), passed the Illinois House and Senate chambers unanimously during the General Assembly's Spring session earlier this year. The legislation, which passed with 70 percent of lawmakers signing on as co-sponsors, takes effect on July 1, 2026.

The legislation creates new procedures aimed at preventing unsafe motorists—regardless of age—from driving by enabling immediate relatives to report a decline in cognitive or medical issues to the state for review. Illinois is currently one of only five states that do not allow immediate family mem-

bers to report concerns about a relative's driving ability.

The measure also increases the age at which Illinois drivers must take a behind-the-wheel driving test from 79 to 87. Illinois is currently the only state in the nation that requires a behind-the-wheel driving test for seniors based on age. Meanwhile, the latest statistics from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) reveal that in 2023, the crash rate for drivers 75 and older is 24.61 per 1,000 drivers, which is lower than every age range of drivers between 16 and 74 years old.

"The Road Safety & Fairness Act is common-sense, bipartisan legislation that will make our roads safer for everyone and make the process more fair for seniors," Giannoulas said. "In signing this legislation, the governor has aligned Illinois' reporting and testing standards with other states that have long since made these changes to increase safety and fairness on our roads."

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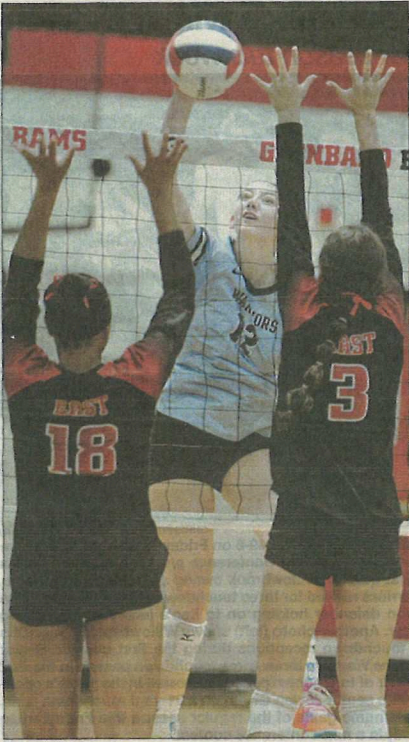
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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat the Rams

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team defeated Glenbard East 25-23, 25-20 in last week's match in Lombard. The Warriors improved their overall season record to 13-8 with their Oct. 2 victory over the Rams. Freshman Evelyn Lammers (No. 12 - above left) of Willowbrook provided six kills and three digs against Glenbard East. Senior Joely Maciejewski supplied two kills, six digs, two blocks and two aces for the Warriors. Junior Melanie Marinier contributed seven assists and three digs for Willowbrook. Junior Tess Doyle made 11 digs in the Warriors' win over the Rams. Willowbrook senior Kendall Norton handed out five assists and made four digs. Freshman Lucy Franz bashed three kills for the Warriors, while junior Matea Mockler made five digs. Glenbard East's overall season record fell to 8-18 following last week's loss to Willowbrook. Junior Belle McDermott (above right) piled up 10 kills, eight digs, three blocks and one ace for the Rams in their loss to the Warriors. Senior Natalie Slusher doled out 13 assists and made four digs, while junior Jess Larson and sophomore Abby Michelen provided eight digs each for Glenbard East.

•Golf (Continued from page 18)

Montini's boys team qualify for an IHSA Class 2A sectional

Montini Catholic High School's boys team hosted an IHSA Class 2A regional last week at Willow Crest Golf Club in Oak Brook. The Broncos earned a second-place finish in the regional's team standings to advance to this week's De La Salle Institute Sectional at White Pines Golf Club in Bensenville.

Wheaton Academy won the team title with its score of 285 at the Montini Catholic Regional on Oct. 1. The Broncos posted a second-place regional score of 303, while Saint Viator placed third with its score of 314. The regional's top three teams qualified for this week's De La Salle Institute Sectional.

Senior Charlie Paciga led

Montini's regional lineup with his 18-hole score of 70 on the par-70 course. Junior Johnathan Doering fired a 76 for the Broncos. Sophomore Joe Cipriano carded a 77, while senior Patrick Thompson shot an 80. Seniors Liam O'Dea (86) and Finnegan Grimes (88) rounded out Montini's regional lineup.

Montini girls advance to a sectional

Montini Catholic's girls golf team turned in a second-place finish in the team standings of last week's IHSA Class 1A Providence Catholic Regional at Woodruff Golf Course in Joliet. The Broncos earned a sectional berth with their second-place performance. The top three teams at the Sept. 30 regional in Joliet regional advanced to this

week's Rockford Lutheran Sectional at Forest Hills Country Club in Rockford.

Chicago's Francis W. Parker School won the team title at the Providence Catholic Regional with its score of 388. Montini compiled a second-place score of 393, while Winnetka's North Shore Country Day (399) claimed third in the 12-team regional. Joliet Catholic Academy (400) finished fourth, one stroke behind North Shore Country Day.

Senior Ava Mendez led Montini's regional lineup with her 18-hole score of 84. Senior Eleanor Neal shot a 101 for the Broncos, while freshman Anya Dhir carded a 103. Freshman Avery Paulis (105), sophomore Evvie Weiland (106) and senior Molly Bonino (117) rounded out the Broncos' regional lineup.

Glenbard East beats the Warriors

The Glenbard East boys soccer team earned a 2-1 victory at Willowbrook last week. Freshman Michael Szala scored a first-half goal to give the Rams a 1-0 lead in the Oct. 2 match in Villa Park. Junior Brayden Dotson (No. 19 - right) of Willowbrook drilled a shot into the net later in the first half to even the score at 1-1. Glenbard East senior Giuseppe Maltese scored what turned out to be the winning goal when he roamed into heavy traffic in front of the goal and put the ball into the back of the net with about 28 minutes left in the match. Maltese (No. 23) is pictured (bottom right) after his goal. Glenbard East raised its overall season record to 7-2-1 with its non-conference win over Willowbrook. The Warriors' overall record slipped to 5-8 with their loss to the Rams. Glenbard East dropped to 7-3-1 overall and 3-1 in Upstate Eight Conference East Division play following Saturday's 3-0 division loss at Elmwood Park. The Tigers scored two goals in the first half and added one goal in the second half of Saturday's match. Willowbrook fell to 5-9 overall after losing a 1-0 non-conference decision against Proviso West on Saturday in Villa Park. Two days before facing Glenbard East, the Warriors raised their West Suburban Gold Conference record to 3-0 with a 6-2 conference win over Proviso East in Villa Park. Freshman Hamza Abdoussi scored three of Willowbrook's goals in the team's Sept. 30 victory over the Pirates. Sophomore Mikolaj Sokolowski, Dotson and sophomore Vincent Prenant contributed one goal each.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors and Broncos run in Lombard

The Willowbrook girls and boys cross-country teams hosted last week's meet at Lombard Common. The Montini Catholic girls and boys teams participated in the Sept. 30 meet, as did runners from Fenton, Morton and Proviso East. Montini senior Sydney Gertsen (1986 - above left) won the 3-mile girls race, which she completed in 18 minutes, 29.6 seconds. Senior Ashlynn Lindt (1988 - above middle) of the Broncos finished the race in a third-place time of 19 minutes, 9.27 seconds. Senior Mariangela Popoca (3978 - above right) posted the Willowbrook girls team's best finish of the event, covering the course in a fourth-place time of 19:21.78. Freshman Kate Borho (19:42.69) of the Warriors placed fifth, while freshman Rachel Simek (19:52.43) and sophomore Juliet Oddo (20:27.30) finished sixth and seventh, respectively, for Willowbrook. Montini freshman Natalla Pesola (20:47.36) ran to a ninth-place finish. Junior Bethany Yurich (20:53.65) contributed a 10th-place finish for the Warriors. Willowbrook freshmen Paige Simek (20:56.53) and Vivian Little (21:05.47) placed 11th and 12th, respectively. Montini freshman Fiona Feiten (21:28.97) earned a 13th-place finish. Junior Rosie Callaghan (21:44.99) of the Broncos landed in 14th place. Willowbrook won the team title in the girls event with its team score of 32. Montini (40) placed second, while Fenton (61) and Morton (113) finished third and fourth, respectively.

Warriors score six first-half touchdowns in their 49-6 conference win at Morton

Willowbrook will play its final home game of the regular season this week

The Willowbrook football team moved to 3-3 overall and 3-1 in the West Suburban Gold Conference following Friday night's 49-6 conference victory over Morton in Berwyn.

The Warriors scored four first-quarter touchdowns to take a 28-0 lead over the Mustangs, who fell to 1-5 overall and 1-2 in the conference. Willowbrook added two more touchdowns in the second quarter to take a 42-0 halftime lead. That lead of at least 40 points led to a running clock throughout the second half.

The Warriors scored their first touchdown of Friday's game on a 40-yard pass from senior quarterback Jahonise Reed to senior Otis Powell. Junior Ben Swanson made the extra-point kick to give Willowbrook a 7-0 lead with

9:29 left in the first quarter.

Reed fired a 31-yard touchdown pass to senior Jaylen Griffin on the Warriors' next possession. Swanson's kick pushed Willowbrook's lead to 14-0 with 7:23 remaining in the opening quarter.

Morton fumbled the ensuing kickoff. Senior Asher Carson of the Warriors recovered the fumble at the Mustangs' 26-yard line.

On the next play, Reed threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Powell. Swanson's extra-point kick extended Willowbrook's lead to 21-0 with 7:12 to play in the first quarter.

Senior Anthony Leo ran 18 yards for a touchdown with 1:42 left in the first quarter. Swanson's extra-point kick pushed the lead to 28-0.

Leo scored his second touchdown of the evening on an 8-yard run with 4:53 left in the second quarter. Leo added his third touchdown of the game on a 1-yard run with

38 seconds remaining in the second quarter. Swanson then made his sixth extra-point kick of the night to push the Warriors' lead to 42-0.

Morton scored its only touchdown of the game on a 10-yard run with about two minutes left in the third quarter. Willowbrook closed out the scoring on a 13-yard touchdown pass from junior Alex Rodriguez to junior Niko Demos late in the fourth quarter. Senior Zach Boynton made the extra-point kick.

The Warriors' season continues with this Friday's non-conference home game against Proviso West (1-5 overall) of the West Suburban Silver Conference. This Friday's contest against the Panthers is Willowbrook's final home game of the regular season.

The Warriors will complete the regular season with conference road games at Proviso East (on Oct. 17) and Addison Trail (on Oct. 24).



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's football team defeated Morton 49-6 on Friday in Berwyn to improve to 3-3 overall and 3-1 in West Suburban Gold Conference play. The Warriors built a 28-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. Willowbrook owned a 42-0 lead at halftime. Senior Anthony Leo of the Warriors rushed for three touchdowns in the first half. One photo (above) shows a Morton defender holding on to Leo's jersey during a long running play in the first quarter. Another photo (left) shows Willowbrook senior Otis Powell, who made a pair of touchdown receptions during the first quarter. Senior quarterback Jahonise Reed of the Warriors threw three touchdown passes in the first quarter. In addition to firing a pair of touchdown passes to Powell in the game's opening quarter, Reed connected with senior Jaylen Griffin on a 31-yard touchdown pass. The Warriors will play their last home game of the regular season this Friday, when they will face Proviso West (1-5) in a non-conference contest.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Rams vs. Raiders

Glenbard East's flag football team faced Glenbard South in last week's game in Lombard. The visiting Raiders beat the Rams 20-8 in the Oct. 1 contest. Junior Sam Anderson (No. 12) scored Glenbard East's only touchdown of the game on a short run during the second quarter. Anderson's touchdown run cut the Raiders' lead to 7-6. Glenbard South held a 14-6 lead at the end of the third quarter. The Rams trimmed the Raiders' lead to 14-8 on a safety with about six minutes left in the game. Glenbard South scored a touchdown with a little more than one minute to play to close out the scoring. Earlier this week, Glenbard East faced St. Francis in an IHSA regional quarterfinal matchup at Willowbrook High School.



A pair of Warriors lead the pack

Willowbrook's boys cross-country duo of senior Miteku Branch and sophomore Legend Alka posted a 1-2 finish in last week's meet at Lombard Common Branch (2478) and Alka (2449) ran together throughout the 3-mile race. Branch won the race's individual title with his first-place finishing time of 15 minutes, 58.15 seconds. He finished a fraction of a second ahead of Alka, who turned in a second-place time of 15:58.75 in the Sept. 30 meet. Montini Catholic juniors Nino Pesola (16:33.48) and Adriel Garcia (16:49.46) finished fourth and fifth, respectively.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook junior Jacob Alexander (16:49.65) earned a sixth-place finish, while Montini's trio of senior Sean Buckley (16:54.40), junior Owen Ferris (16:57.74) and freshman Matthew Ferris (16:59.53) placed seventh, eighth and ninth, respectively. Senior Angel Perez (17:13.62) claimed an 11th-place finish for Willowbrook, while junior Ryan Quinney (17:14.21) of the Warriors placed 12th. Willowbrook finished first in the meet's team standings with its total of 32, just ahead of Montini's total of 33. Fenton (78) finished third, while Proviso East (105) landed in fourth place.

Sports

Montini beats Carmel 55-54! Broncos prevail in an epic contest

Abrams throws a pair of 90-yard touchdown passes during the fourth quarter; Montini improves to 6-0 after holding off the Corsairs in the closing seconds

The Montini Catholic football team ran its 2025 record to 6-0 with Friday's unforgettable 55-54 win at Carmel Catholic High School in Muncie.

The Broncos trailed the Corsairs 35-27 at halftime. Montini led Carmel 41-35 at the end of the third quarter. Carmel took a 42-41 lead with less than eight minutes to play. The Broncos delivered a 90-yard touchdown pass to move into a 47-42 lead with about six minutes remaining. Carmel regained the lead with about two minutes to play, grabbing a 48-47 advantage. Moments later, Montini's offense produced its second 90-yard touchdown pass of the quarter, and the Broncos took a 55-48 lead with a little more than one minute to play.

Carmel's offense marched down the field and scored a touchdown with less than 30 seconds left in the game. The

Corsairs attempted a two-point conversion to take the lead, but Montini's defense made the stop, which allowed the Broncos to maintain their 55-54 lead.

The Corsairs recovered their ensuing inside kick, but they were unable to overtake the Broncos in the closing seconds.

"We knew Carmel would be ready and throw everything they had at us," stated Montini coach Mike Bukovsky after the Broncos' thrilling victory. "I was very proud of how our guys responded coming out of halftime. Our defense shut them down the entire third quarter, while our offense was able to keep up their break-neck pace and keep lighting the scoreboard up. It was a great team win."

While every score in a one-point win is critical, Montini's touchdown at the end of the first half was especially

important. Carmel scored its fifth touchdown of the opening half with 39 seconds to play in the second quarter. It looked like the Corsairs might own a 35-20 halftime lead, but the Broncos quickly moved the ball down the field to Carmel's 26-yard line. On the final play of the first half, Montini junior quarterback Israel Abrams found senior Isaac Alexander in the back of the end zone on a 26-yard touchdown pass. Junior Johnny Louise added the extra-point kick to cut the Corsairs' lead to 35-27 at halftime.

Montini took the lead after senior Charles Flowers carried the ball into the end zone on a 19-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Both teams' offenses exploded in the fourth quarter, producing multiple lead changes and a spectacular finish.

Abrams fired a pair of 90-yard touchdown passes during

the fourth quarter—one to junior Luca Florio and another to junior Damacio Oregon. The long touchdown pass to Florio boosted Montini to its 47-42 lead in the middle of the quarter. The 90-yard touchdown throw from Abrams to Oregon lifted the Broncos to a 53-48 lead. Abrams completed a two-point conversion pass to Louise after Oregon's touchdown to give Montini its 55-48 advantage with 1:26 remaining.

Junior Nico Castaldo of Montini made the tackle short of the goal line on Carmel's attempt for a two-point conversion in the game's closing seconds. After the Corsairs recovered the ensuing onside kick, senior Santino Tenuta of the Broncos sacked Carmel's quarterback to end the game.

In addition to moving to 6-0 overall, the Broncos improved to 2-0 in the Chicago Catholic League (CCL) White

Division with Friday's win. Montini is in first place in the four-team division's standings. Carmel (4-2 overall) and Fenwick (5-1 overall) are both 1-1 in division action, while St. Laurence (4-2 overall) is 0-2 in the division.

Montini's offense piled up an amazing 739 yards of offense in Friday's victory. Abrams completed 23 of 33 pass attempts for 600 yards and four touchdowns. He didn't throw any interceptions. Florio hauled in seven receptions for

213 yards and a touchdown. Oregon made three catches for 190 yards and one touchdown. Alexander supplied five receptions for 59 yards and two touchdowns. Castaldo snared six receptions for 148 yards.

Flowers ran for 96 yards and two touchdowns on eight carries. Alexander rushed for 61 yards and one touchdown on eight attempts.

Montini will play its homecoming game this Friday against the Lions of Saint Viator (1-5).



SAM MAERCKLEIN Rock Valley Publishing

Rams hammer Fenton 49-0 to move to 5-1

Musleh and Nee set new program records; Musleh hauls in five touchdown receptions to establish a new single-game record; Nee sets a new mark with six touchdown passes

Glenbard East's football team pounded Fenton 49-0 in Friday's Upstate Eight Conference East Division game in Bensenville. The Rams moved to 5-1 overall and 3-0 in division play with the win. The Bison dropped to 2-4 overall and 1-3 in the division.

The Rams scored three first-quarter touchdowns against Fenton to take a 21-0 lead after the game's opening 12 minutes. Glenbard East added three more touchdowns in the second quarter to build a 42-0 halftime lead. The lead of at least 40 points triggered a running clock during the entire second half.

Senior receiver Muhammad Musleh scored the Rams' first five touchdowns of the game on receptions from senior

quarterback Michael Nee. The duo made its first touchdown connection of the night in the game's first minute, when Nee threw a 68-yard touchdown pass to Musleh. Junior Moises Velazquez made the first of his seven extra-point kicks of the game to give the Rams a 7-0 lead with 11:05 left in the first quarter.

Nee and Musleh hooked up on a 37-yard touchdown pass with 7:44 remaining in the first quarter. Musleh hauled in a 22-yard touchdown reception on a pass from Nee with 2:19 to play in the opening quarter.

Moments after Glenbard East senior Keenan House recovered a Fenton fumble, Nee threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Musleh with 10:03 left in the second quarter. Velazquez add-

ed the extra-point kick to push the Rams' lead to 28-0. Musleh's 44-yard touchdown catch on a Nee pass raised the lead to 34-0 with 7:38 to play in the second quarter.

Nee threw his sixth touchdown pass of the game—a 16-yard scoring toss to junior Malachi Miller—with less than 30 seconds to play in the first half. Velazquez made the extra-point kick to give the Rams a 42-0 lead.

Junior Syncere Fox scored Glenbard East's final touchdown of the game on a 44-yard run with about nine minutes left in the fourth quarter.

Nee completed 14 of 17 pass attempts for 307 yards and six touchdowns in Friday's victory. Musleh scored touchdowns on all of his receptions, making

five catches for 180 yards and five touchdowns. Miller had five receptions for 60 yards. Senior Lucas Freese contributed three receptions for 50 yards. Junior Mason Wright provided one reception for 17 yards.

Musleh and Nee reportedly established new program records during Friday's win. Musleh set a new Glenbard East program record for touchdown receptions in a game, while Nee set a new mark for touchdown passes in a game.

The Rams' season continues with this Friday's division game at West Chicago (4-2 overall and 2-1 in the division). Glenbard East will finish its 2025 regular season with division home games against Glenbard South (on Oct. 17) and Riverside Brookfield (on Oct. 24).

Rams and Warriors compete in an IHSA Class 3A golf regional

Glenbard East's Matthew Figura earns an individual berth in this week's sectional

The Glenbard East and Willowbrook boys golf teams participated in last week's IHSA Class 3A Hinsdale Central Regional at Blackberry Oaks Golf Course in Bristol.

Willowbrook finished seventh in the team standings of the nine-team event, while Glenbard East posted an eighth-place finish. Wheaton Warrenville South

won the regional title. Hinsdale Central placed second, while Downers Grove North finished third.

Senior Matthew Figura of Glenbard East earned an individual berth in this week's IHSA Class 3A Moline Sectional with his strong performance at the Oct. 1 regional. Figura shot an 18-hole score of 79 on the regional's par-72 course to secure a berth in

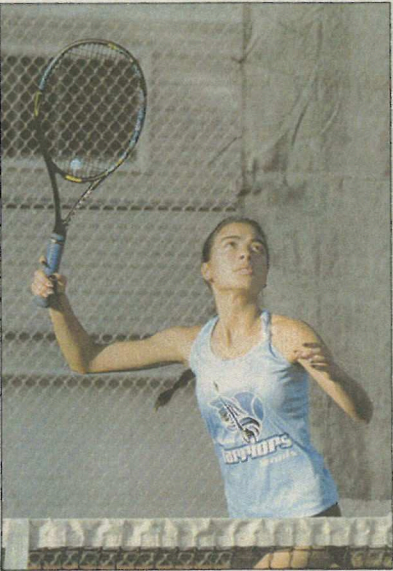
the sectional. The regional's top 10 golfers who weren't members of sectional-qualifying teams advanced to this week's sectional.

Earlier this week, Figura played in the IHSA Class 3A Moline Sectional at Short Hills Country Club in East Moline.

Willowbrook senior Ben Rattana shot an 18-hole score of 81 at the Hinsdale

Central Regional and lost in a playoff to earn an individual berth in this week's sectional. Senior Charlie Roelle of the Warriors posted a score of 82 at the regional. Glenbard East sophomore Mike Verduyse and Willowbrook junior Kyle Yopchick both posted regional scores of 84.

See GOLF, Page 19



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Warriors sweep the Rams

Willowbrook's girls tennis team faced Glenbard East in last week's dual meet on the Rams' courts in Lombard. The visiting Warriors swept all seven of the Oct. 1 meet's matches to post a 7-0 victory. Willowbrook senior Shannon Freer (above left) defeated Glenbard East junior Jenna Pope 6-1, 6-1 in the No. 1 singles match. Junior Claire Brennan (above middle) of the Warriors edged Glenbard East junior Akemi Gonzales 7-5, 6-4 in the No. 2 singles contest. Sophomore Elena Maxse posted a 6-0, 6-1 victory for the Warriors in the No. 3 singles match. Willowbrook

senior Hannah Gawat (above right) teamed with senior Kiki Smalling to earn a 6-2, 6-2 win in the No. 1 doubles contest. The Warriors' duo of senior Kamira Henry and junior Anna Miehl posted a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Glenbard East juniors Maguire Keating and Audrey Tragasz in the No. 2 doubles match. Senior Heidi Urrieta joined sophomore Anika Urbanas to claim a 7-5, 6-1 win for Willowbrook in No. 3 doubles action. The Warriors' tandem of senior Alicia Martinez and sophomore Cara Casey earned a 6-2, 6-1 victory in the No. 4 doubles match.

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