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Villa Park
REVIEW

VOL. 22 • No. 21

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

All dressed up and ready for the prom



Willowbrook High School held its 2026 prom on Saturday evening at Rate Field—the home of the Chicago White Sox. The theme of this year's prom was "Midnight Masquerade." More than 500 students attended the prom and enjoyed dinner and dancing in the ballpark's Stadium Club. The students boarded buses at the school before departing for Chicago. One of the pre-prom photos at Willowbrook shows (left to right) senior Evan Haworth, junior Thomas Thimo, senior Ali Janjua and senior Ayden Ketelsen. Another photo shows (left to right) senior Delaney Smrz, junior Tess Doyle, senior Julia Amin and senior Charlotte Lowe. (Photos by Chris Fox)

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Artistic standouts at Willowbrook



The artwork of Willowbrook High School students was on display recently during the school's annual Student Art Show/Spring Art Exhibition, which featured more than 350 pieces. Several students were recognized during the April 22 reception. Seniors Norah Luedtke (right) and Josie Parkinson (left) were the two recipients of the Outstanding Seniors In Art honor. Luedtke also earned the Best in Show award. Luedtke and Parkinson are residents of Villa Park. This year's Student Art Show/Spring Art Exhibition at Willowbrook raised more than \$800 for the York Township Food Pantry through an "Empty Bowls Fundraiser," which allowed guests to buy handmade ceramic bowls created by Willowbrook students and staff members and receive a cup of soup for \$20. (Submitted photos)

Water fountains in Villa Park's parks open for season

Village also announces that 2026 passes for Jefferson Pool available

The Village of Villa Park announced last week that the water fountains in the village's parks and along the Illinois Prairie Path are officially open for the season. All restrooms in the village's parks are also open.

The village noted that the Lufkin Park splash pad was under repair, but was expected to open this week.

The Village of Villa Park also announced last week that 2026 passes for Jefferson Pool are now available. Passes are available online and at the Villa Park Recreation Center.

Jefferson Pool will be open for the season on Saturday, May 30. The season's final date of week-day open swim is Wednesday, Aug. 12.

The pool will close for the season at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 30.

For more information about pool hours and rates, or to purchase a season pass, visit inwillpark.com/aquatics.

Kentucky Derby party at Villa Park VFW



Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2801 held its first Kentucky Derby party on May 2. Mary Wyse of the Post 2801 Auxiliary (pictured bottom right with Post Commander Jim Blankshain) organized the event, which featured food and drinks, including mint juleps, along with contests for best hat, most dapper man, and best dressed couple. A sizable and enthusiastic audience watched the Derby's card of races on television before viewing the big race, which began at about 6 p.m. local time. (Photos by Chris Fox)



Villa Park holds its Spring Sweep on May 16; drop off items from your vehicle

The Village of Villa Park will hold its annual Spring Sweep recycling and shredding drop-off event from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 16. The drive-through Spring Sweep will take place along Home Avenue, near Villa Park Village Hall.

Attendees must remain in their vehicles at all times during the event. Volunteers will unload items from attendees' vehicles. If possible, pack all items to be dropped off in your trunk, preferably in labeled boxes for easy removal.

Traffic will enter eastbound on Home Avenue from northbound Harvard Avenue and exit onto Ardmore Avenue. This event is free for Villa Park residents, with a \$20 flat fee per vehicle for non-residents for electronics and paper shredding.

Paint will not be accepted at this year's event. Residents can drop off paint year-round at designated locations. To find local drop-off sites and learn more, visit paintcare.org/states/illinois/.

Acceptable items: electronics, including computers, monitors, printers, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, mice, cables and keyboards; used eyeglasses, hearing aids, ink cartridges, cell phones and chargers; old, tattered American flags; fluorescent bulbs and household batteries; full and discharged fire extinguishers; microwaves, small metal appliances and fans; adult and children's bicycles in repairable condition; lead/acid automotive and marine batteries; clothing, sheets, towels, books and holiday lights. Documents will also be accepted for shredding. There is a limit of three banker boxes per household. Smoke detectors will be accepted for a fee of \$12 (cash-exact change only, or credit card).

In addition to paint, items that will not be accepted at this year's Spring Sweep include: small engines, compressors, units, medications and sharps, Styrofoam, wooden speakers, and tires.

For more information, including an event map, visit inwillpark.com/spring-sweep.

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Villa Park Chamber of Commerce holds installation ceremony



The Villa Park Chamber of Commerce held its annual installation ceremony last week at Crazy Pour, 105 E. North Ave. Several members of the chamber's leadership team were reinstalled during the April 29 event. The officials who were reinstalled included Dani Brink (secretary), Len Loverher (director) and Jeff Stugin (director). Rae Rupp Sroh, who was absent from the ceremony, will continue as vice president. Deborah Cain was installed as the chamber's new president. She succeeds Alex Saucedo, who stepped down from that position. Gisela Parker, a new member of the chamber's leadership team, was installed as a director. Villa Park attorney Donna Craft Cain, who is a past president of the chamber and the current president of the DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education, administered the swearing-in at the installation event. Pictured left to right are: Parker, Deborah Cain, Stulgin, Loverher, Brink and Donna Craft Cain. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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.

April 28

A 25-year-old Villa Park man was charged with domestic battery and interfering with the reporting of domestic violence in the 700 block of N. Lincoln at 12:25 a.m.

April 27

Lisandro Duran-Moreno, 38, of Villa Park, was charged with DUI and improper lane usage near N. Ardmore and E. St. Charles at 1:11 a.m.

Michael Zolicofer, 45, of Chicago, was charged with DUI, speeding 26-34 mph over the limit and transportation of open alcohol by a driver near S. Summit and E. Roosevelt at 1:55 a.m.

A complainant at a store in the 1-100 block of E. St. Charles reported that a subject removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

A complainant in the 500 block of N. Westmore reported that a subject battered them. The complainant did not wish to sign complaints.

A complainant in the 500 block of E. Van Buren reported that an unknown subject entered an unsecured trailer and removed several items.

April 26

A 44-year-old homeless woman and a 39-year-old homeless man were charged with domestic battery in the 400 block of W. North at 3:36 a.m.

A complainant at a business in the 400 block of N. Ardmore reported that a subject cashed a check that had already been cashed online.

A complainant in the 300 block of W. Division told police that

a subject made threatening comments. The complainant did not want to sign complaints.

April 25

Weneslao Lopez Hernandez, 32, of Villa Park, was charged with DUI and possession of open alcohol by a driver near North and Harvard at 2:05 a.m.

Anibal Ramos Garcia, 23, of Addison, was charged with DUI, driving without insurance, driving without a valid license and improper lighting near W. North and N. Addison at 11:10 p.m.

A complainant at a store in the 500 block of W. St. Charles reported that a subject was causing a disturbance. The subject was issued a no-trespass warning.

April 24

Joanna Elizabeth Aurelio, 54, of Orland Park, was charged with DUI near W. North and N. West Avenue, Elmhurst, at 1:20 a.m.

Amy M. Smith-Vaughn, 46, of Glen Ellyn, was charged with three counts of battery and resisting a police officer in the 400 block of W. Division at 7:42 p.m.

April 23

A complainant near Jefferson Pool in the 300 block of N. Harvard reported at 5:38 a.m. that a vehicle was in the lot and running for two days. Officers made contact with the occupant, who advised they were resting.

April 22

Randall Lipschultz Jr., 46, of Lisle, was charged with DUI and transportation or possession of open alcohol by a driver in the 300 block of E. Kentworth.

A complainant at a store in the 400 block of W. North reported a decal was removed from the rear of their vehicle.

Identity theft, fraud

According to information provided by the Villa Park Police Department, three incidents of identity theft or fraud were reported in the village between April 22 and April 28.

Police search for suspect in Elmhurst with drones, K9s

Man eludes authorities after evening pursuit in and around Eldridge Park

The Elmhurst Police Department joined other law enforcement agencies in searching for a suspect near Butterfield Road and Commonwealth Lane on Thursday, April 30.

According to the police department, at about 8:15 p.m., another police agency pursued a suspected stolen vehicle into Elmhurst.

The vehicle crashed at Butterfield and Commonwealth. One suspect ran east from the scene and was last seen along Salt Creek between Commonwealth and Spring Road.

Authorities used public safety drones and police K9s to search for the subject, who was described as a black male, wearing a yellow shirt and blue jeans. Multiple residents reported seeing and hearing helicopters circling the area during the evening.

At 11:25 p.m. on April 30, the Elmhurst Police Department stated that the suspect had not yet been located.

Police encouraged residents living near Eldridge Park to call 911 if they observed suspicious activity.

At 6:40 a.m. on Friday, May 1, police stated that after overnight searches, the suspect was not located in the area.

Sports



Senior Charlie Roelle slides into home plate during Willowbrook's series opener against the Blazers. Roelle was called out on the play. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Warriors' winning streak hits 18 after extra-inning victory

Willowbrook closes out sweep of Addison Trail with road win

The Willowbrook baseball team raised its winning streak to 18 games after sweeping last week's three-game West Suburban Gold Conference series against Addison Trail. The Warriors completed the series sweep with a 7-4 eight-inning win in Addison on Friday, May 1. Willowbrook raised its conference record to 12-0 with that victory and pushed its overall season record to 19-4.

The Warriors will finish their conference season with this week's three-game series against Proviso East, followed by next week's three-game series with Morton.

In addition to playing the Pirates of Proviso East this week, Willowbrook will play a non-conference home game against Downers Grove North this Saturday, May 9.

The Warriors opened their conference series against Addison Trail with a 5-0 victory in Villa Park on April 28.

Willowbrook senior Noah Edison pitched a complete-game shutout in the series opener. Edison allowed four hits and no walks in seven innings in his victorious performance. He recorded two strikeouts.

Senior Jake Bonino went 2-for-4 and scored two runs for the Warriors, who scored one run in each of the first three innings and added two more runs in the fifth inning. Senior Charlie Roelle went 2-for-3 and scored one run. Senior Jory Crocker went 2-for-3 and drove in one run. Junior Alex Rodriguez went 2-for-2 with a pair of doubles.

One day after beating the Blazers in Villa Park, Willowbrook traveled to Addison Trail and earned a 5-3 win. Senior Bobby Biggs pitched the first four and one-third innings for the Warriors and allowed three runs, three hits and two walks while striking out five batters. Junior Ben Swanson then pitched one and two-third scoreless innings. Crocker took the mound for the bottom of the seventh inning and retired the side in order to earn a save.

Senior Ryan Dasbach went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs in Willowbrook's April 29 win at Addison Trail.



Senior shortstop Jory Crocker fires to first base for the final out of the Warriors' series opener against Addison Trail.

Swanson and senior Alek Ramey provided one RBI each.

The Warriors held a 4-1 lead over Addison Trail in Friday's series finale in Addison. The Blazers scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to even the score at 4-4. Willowbrook scored three runs in the top of the eighth inning.

Crocker went 1-for-4 with a double that drove in the run that broke the 4-4 tie in the top of the eighth inning. He earned the win on the mound by pitching two scoreless innings to finish the game. Crocker allowed one hit and no walks while striking out three batters.

Senior Tommy Roelle went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs in Friday's extra-inning win. Dasbach went 1-for-3 and scored three runs. Junior Mikey Garner pitched the first two innings for Willowbrook and recorded six strikeouts while allowing one run, one hit and five walks.

Fox fires shutout for Broncos

Wills connects for two home runs during team's 4-0 victory



Montini sophomore Cameron Fox struck out 11 batters in Saturday's shutout win over Resurrection. She gave up four hits and one walk in seven innings during the Broncos' 4-0 victory. (Photo by Chris Fox)

The Montini Catholic softball team defeated Resurrection 4-0 on Saturday morning in Lombard.

The Broncos improved to 16-8 overall and 5-5 in the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) Red Division with the victory. Montini freshman Brooke Wills went 3-for-4 with a pair of solo home runs.

She homered to lead off the bottom of the first inning and give Montini a 1-0 lead.

Wills launched another home run in the bottom of the sixth inning to produce the final run of the game.

Junior Aubry Raffin went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs for the Broncos with her two-run double in the bottom of the fourth inning. Junior Bridget Ryan went 4-for-4 for Montini.

Sophomore pitcher Cameron Fox fired a complete game for the Broncos in Saturday's

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 15

Broncos receive their rings



The members of Montini Catholic High School's 2025 football team received their championship rings during Sunday's ceremony in the school's stadium. The Broncos posted a perfect 14-0 record while winning the IHSA Class 4A state title during the 2025 season. Montini beat Rochester 47-33 in the Class 4A championship game at Hancock Stadium on Nov. 28. The Broncos won the Class 3A state title in 2024, when they posted a 12-2 record. One photo from Sunday's event shows (left to right) juniors Johnny and Joey Neustadt with their championship rings. Another shows senior Chris Juda. (Submitted photos)

Warriors net first conference victory

Willowbrook's girls soccer team earned its first West Suburban Gold Conference win of the season when it defeated Proviso East 1-0 in Villa Park on April 28.

The Warriors improved their conference record to 1-2 with the victory.

Willowbrook honored its senior players before the match against the Pirates.

The seniors on the varsity team include: Aliyah Brockie, Miah Catania, Charlotte Lowe, Tabitha Smaczny and Heidi Urteta Rosas.

The Warriors scored the only goal of the match when a shot caromed off a Proviso East player with about 27 minutes left in the first half.

The Warriors, who raised their overall season record to 4-7 with their win over Proviso East, will play conference matches at Leyden and Addison Trail this week.



Sophia Amin (left), Sophia Garcia (center) and Kennedy Rieger (6) celebrate after Willowbrook's goal in a 1-0 win over Proviso East on April 28. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Softball (From page 14)

win. She allowed four hits and one walk while recording 11 strikeouts in her victorious effort in the circle.

Two days before beating Resurrection, Montini earned a 13-3 five-inning GCAC Red Division home win over Loyola Academy in Lombard.

Fox pitched a complete game and allowed one earned run, three hits and three walks in five innings. She struck out nine batters.

Sophomore Danika Lucadello went 1-for-2 and drove in three runs for the Broncos in their April 30 win over the Ramblers. Junior Cedona Barrett went 1-for-1 with a double and drove in two runs.

Junior Alex Kalins went 1-for-3 with a double and drove in two runs.

Raffen also drove in two runs for the Broncos, who scored six runs during the bottom of the third inning to take an 11-3 lead and closed out their victory with two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Montini's schedule this week includes GCAC Red Division games against Saint Laurence and Mother McAuley, along with a non-division contest against Saint Edward.



Junior Aubry Raffen drove in two of Montini's runs during Saturday's 4-0 victory. Raffen recently connected for the 100th hit of her varsity career. She delivered that milestone hit in an April 21 win over Loyola Academy. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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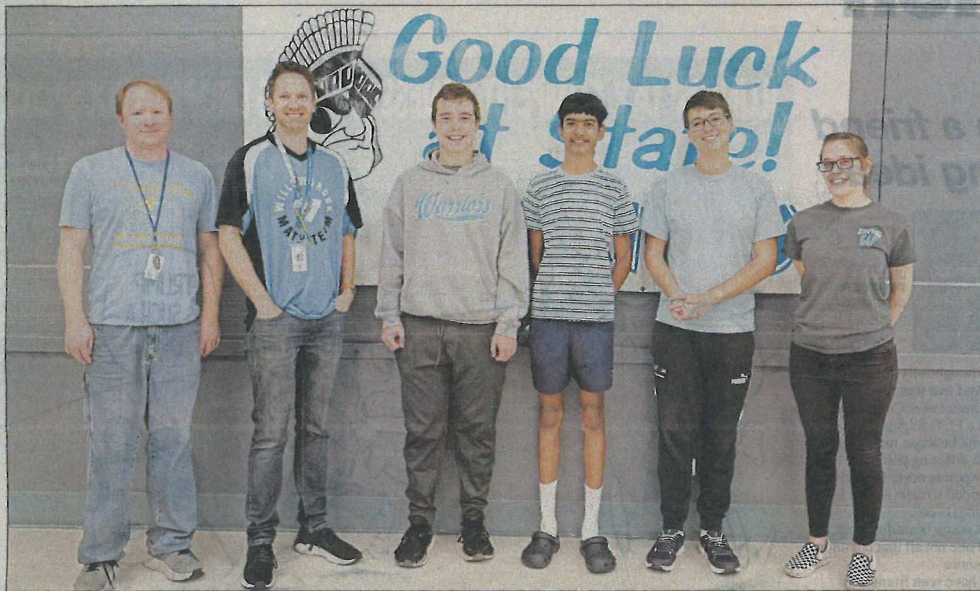
Ready for the Midnight Masquerade

The theme of Willowbrook High School's 2026 prom, which took place on Saturday night at Rate Field in Chicago, was "Midnight Masquerade." More than 500 students boarded buses at Willowbrook to travel to the prom. Pictured (left to right) are junior Isabelle Calderon and senior Korvyn Nieves. (Photo by Chris Fox)



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Willowbrook students take part in State Math Contest



Four members of Willowbrook High School's math team competed in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) State Math Contest, which took place at Illinois State University on April 18. Willowbrook held a state send-off celebration for those students on April 17. Pictured (left to right) at the state send-off are: math teacher Steve Bridges, Willowbrook math department head Brian Chelmecki, sophomore Marek Brown, freshman Siddharth Badri, junior Nathan Borcean and math teacher Carrie Skala. Not pictured is sophomore Nick Kuban. Willowbrook's students participated in the ICTM State Math Contest's 3AA Division. Brown and Badri competed in the Freshmen/Sophomore two-person contest and took 23rd place. Kuban earned 84th place in the Geometry contest. Borcean placed 91st in the Algebra 2 contest. (Submitted photo)

Blair-Sherlock passes bill amending restrictions on first-responder parking locations

State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock, D-Villa Park, recently introduced and passed a bill ensuring Home Owners Associations (HOAs) and Condominium Associations (COAs) cannot prohibit first responders from parking their emergency vehicles on their property.

"Our first responders work hard day in and day out to keep our communities safe," said Blair-Sherlock. "Preventing them from parking their vehicles on their own property, for whatever reason, is actively making a difficult job even more difficult.

It is their responsibility to respond to emergencies as quickly as possible. When these organizations restrict parking, that response time can be significantly delayed."

House Bill 67 prohibits HOAs and COAs from designating marked police and fire vehicles as commercial vehicles, and subsequently preventing them from parking at their property. Under this bill, first responders should be able to park their vehicles—as long as they are under 12,000 pounds—on their property. This is especially vital to employees

on duty, as quick access to their vehicles is vital to rapid response situations.

"This bill isn't just about the ability to park on their own property, but the overall safety of the community they serve. With these new regulations on HOAs and COAs, we hope first responders are able to effectively respond in emergency circumstances, without facing obstacles based on where they live," said Blair-Sherlock.

House Bill 67 is now heading to the Senate for consideration.

Obituary

THOMAS EDWIN SOBASKI, 97

Thomas Edwin Sobaski, age 97 of Villa Park, IL. Beloved husband of the late Noreen Sobaski. Loving father of Stephen (Sheila), Catherine (Thomas) Harle, Linda (William) Cherney and Nancy (Steven) Koester. Dearest grandfather of Grace, Stephanie, Jason (Robin), Nicole (Luke), Ryan (Kim), Megan (Andrew), Michael (Maggie), Matthew, Jennifer (George) and James. Great grandfather of Korben, Julietta, Oliver, Logan, Dane, Sydney, and Cecilia. Fond brother of the late John and the late William Sobaski.

Visitation was held, April 27, 2026, at Steuerle Chapel, 15 W. Park Blvd, Villa Park, IL 60181. Services were held Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at St. Alexander Catholic Church, 300 S. Cornell Ave, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Interment Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery. Funeral info: steurlefn.com or (630) 832-4161.

Keeping the trails beautiful



The Villa Park Community FUN Commission partnered with the Illinois Prairie Path Corporation to take part in the annual Trail Clean Up event on April 25. Volunteers, including State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock, assembled at the pavilion near the Villa Park Historical Museum before picking up trash on the village's portion of the Illinois Prairie Path. The volunteers also picked up litter along the Great Western Trail and in the village's parks. Bob Wagner and Go Green Villa Park supplied biodegradable, plant-based waste bags, as well as trash-grabbers, to assist in the clean-up. (Submitted photo)

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Sports

Rams sweep Raiders, lose at South Elgin

The Glenbard East baseball team began last week by sweeping a two-game Upstate Eight Conference series against Glenbard South. The Rams then suffered a conference loss at South Elgin before completing the week by losing a non-conference game at Plainfield Central on Saturday.



Lucas Calderin

The Rams' conference record fell to 9-2 after their 7-5 loss at South Elgin on April 23. Glenbard East's overall season record stood at 11-8-

1 after Saturday's loss at Plainfield Central.

Glenbard East opened its series against Glenbard South with an 11-0 five-inning win in Lombard on April 20. Senior Josh Ziemer went 3-for-4 with two home runs and six RBIs in the victory. Ziemer hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the fourth inning. He bashed another three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning to end the game.

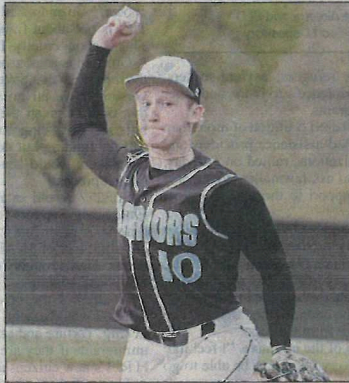
Senior Collin LaCount went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Rams during their series opener against the Raiders. Senior Jayden Phistry earned a complete-game victory for Glenbard East by pitching five scoreless innings and allowing two hits and one walk. Phistry recorded eight strikeouts.

The Rams completed their two-game sweep of the Raiders with a 9-2 win in Glen Ellyn on April 21. Ziemer went 2-for-4 with and drove in one run. Sophomore Jackson Turko went 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Senior Lucas Calderin went 2-for-4 for Glenbard East. Calderin pitched the first five innings of the game for the Rams. He shut out the Raiders, allowing seven hits and no walks in five scoreless innings. Calderin piled up 10 strikeouts in his winning performance on the mound.

Turko went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in the Rams' 7-5 loss at South Elgin on April 23. Calderin went 2-for-3 with two RBIs. South Elgin scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning to take a 3-0 lead. The Storm led the Rams for the rest of the game.

The Rams lost 14-4 to Plainfield Central in Saturday's five-inning game. Calderin went 3-for-3 and drove in one run in the contest.

Glenbard East's schedule this week includes a two-game conference series against Elmwood Park, along with one conference battle against Larkin and this Saturday's non-conference matchup at Wau-bonsie Valley.



Noah Edison (10) earned the win in the Warriors' series opener against Downers Grove South. Jake Bonino (6) hit two home runs in Saturday's win at Hinsdale Central. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Warriors' winning streak hits 15

The Willowbrook baseball team ran its winning streak to 15 games by earning four wins in a six-day span. After sweeping a three-game West Suburban Gold Conference series with Downers Grove South last week, the Warriors extended their winning streak to 15 games with Saturday's non-conference victory at Hinsdale Central.

Willowbrook's overall record stood at 16-4 after Saturday's 10-2 win over Hinsdale Central. The Warriors ran their conference record to 9-0 with their three-game sweep of Downers Grove South.

Willowbrook is continuing its conference season with this week's three-game series against Addison Trail. The Warriors, who are in position to post a perfect 18-0 conference record, will finish their West Suburban Gold season with a three-game series against Proviso East, followed by a three-game series with Morton.

Willowbrook began its series with its fiercest conference rival—Downers Grove South—with a 7-1 win in Villa Park on April 20. One day later, the Warriors hung on for a 10-9 victory at Downers Grove South. Willowbrook completed the series sweep with an 11-5 win in Villa Park on April 23.

Senior Noah Edison pitched the first six innings of the Warriors' win in the series opener against Downers Grove South. Edison allowed one run, four hits and two walks in his winning effort. He recorded five strikeouts. Senior Jacob Bylsma pitched one scoreless inning to close out the victory.

Senior Alex Dew went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Warriors, who scored four runs in the bottom of the first in their series opener with the Mustangs.

Willowbrook trailed Downers Grove South 8-4 after

See WARRIORS, Page 15

Smrz belts two homers in win over Batavia

Willowbrook's softball team won three of four games in a five-day span last week. The Warriors' overall season record stood at 9-11 at the end of the week.

Willowbrook began the week with an 8-2 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Hinsdale South on April 20. One day later, the Warriors beat Batavia 9-8 in a non-conference game in Villa Park. After earning a 21-1 conference win at Proviso East on April 22, Willowbrook finished the week with a 12-10 conference loss to Downers Grove South in Villa Park on Friday, April 24. The Warriors' conference record fell to 3-1 after the loss to the Mustangs.

Willowbrook senior Mari Smrz went 3-for-4 with two doubles and drove in two runs in last week's win at Hinsdale South. Senior Allie Coppersmith, senior Gianna Dugo, senior Adrianna Weaser, junior Natalie Quigley and freshman Savanna Bauman provided two hits each for Willowbrook. Weaser and senior Kyleigh Miazga shared the Warriors' pitching duties against the Hornets. Weaser allowed one earned run, no hits and six walks in



Mari Smrz bashed two home runs for the Warriors during their 9-8 victory over Batavia. (Photo by Chris Fox)

three innings. Miazga allowed one hit and no walks in four innings in the circle.

Smrz went 2-for-3 with a pair of home runs and five RBIs in Willowbrook's 9-8 win over Batavia on April 21. The visiting Bulldogs

led the Warriors 7-1 in the middle of the fifth inning, but Smrz hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth to cut Batavia's lead to 7-3. Smrz launched a three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning to give the Warriors an 8-7 lead. Batavia evened the score at 8-8 with one run in the top of the seventh inning. Willowbrook scored the game-winning run when Quigley doubled to drive in freshman Tessa Burritt in the bottom of the seventh.

Coppersmith went 3-for-3 with one RBI and scored three runs in the Warriors' win over Batavia. Quigley went 2-for-4 with one RBI.

Willowbrook led Downers Grove South 10-9 with two outs in the top of the seventh inning of Friday's back-and-forth conference game in Villa Park. The Mustangs then delivered a three-run homer to take a 12-10 lead.

Weaser went 3-for-4 and drove in one run during Friday's loss.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes conference games against Morton, Leyden and Addison Trail, along with a non-conference contest against Proviso West.

Sansone fires perfect game for Montini

Senior Robert Sansone of the Montini Catholic baseball team pitched a perfect game in the Broncos' 10-0 six-inning home win over Aurora Central Catholic on April 20.

The right-handed Sansone recorded six strikeouts while retiring 18 straight batters in Montini's win over the Chargers in Lombard. Junior Johnny Louise of the Broncos went 4-for-4 and drove in four runs. Senior Nick Mandra went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Senior Richard Grewent went 2-for-3 and scored two runs.

Sansone's masterpiece on the mound marked the first of four straight Montini wins last week. The four victories—two over Aurora Central Catholic and two over IC Catholic Prep—pushed Montini's overall season record to 11-9.

One day after Sansone's perfect game, the Broncos traveled to Aurora Central Catholic and earned a 9-8 win. Montini held a 9-1 lead in the middle of the seventh inning, and hung on for the victory after the Chargers scored seven runs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Junior Julio Ayala went 3-for-4 with three RBIs for the Broncos in their April 21 win. Junior Jack Spanos went 3-for-4 and scored two runs. Senior Blake Heyer pitched the first five innings of the game for the Broncos and earned the win. Heyer allowed one run, three hits and two walks while recording seven strikeouts.

Montini's winning week continued with an 11-1 five-inning home win over IC Catholic Prep on April 23. Ayala went 2-for-4 with two RBIs in the victory. Sophomore Kameron Cox also went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs. Sophomore Sonny Mateja went 2-for-4 with one RBI and scored three runs.

Louise pitched the first three innings of the April 23 victory and allowed one run and one hit. Senior Drake Palmer and junior Kevin May pitched one scoreless inning each to close out the win. May recorded three straight strikeouts to set the Knights down in order in the top of the fifth inning.

The Broncos extended their winning streak to four games when they defeated IC Catholic Prep 7-1 in Elmhurst on Saturday, April 25. Mandra went 2-for-4 with two home runs and three RBIs in the victory. Mandra hit a solo homer in the top of the first inning. He belted a two-run homer in the top of the seventh inning. Louise went 2-for-3 with a homer and two RBIs. Louise homered in the top of the third inning.

Mateja pitched the first five innings of Saturday's game for the Broncos. He earned the win after allowing no earned runs, one hit and one walk. Mateja struck out eight batters. Sophomore Eddie McCarthy pitched the final two innings for Montini. He held the Knights scoreless while allowing two hits and one walk.

The Broncos' schedule this week includes two games against De La Salle and two games against Marmion Academy.



Glenbard East's Althea Fitzgerald (10) went 3-for-3 for in last week's win over Fenton. Claire Bolda (23) pitched a complete game in the Rams' 5-1 win over South Elgin, allowing just two hits in seven innings. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Willowbrook graduate Cruz drafted by 49ers

Willowbrook High School graduate Enrique Cruz Jr. was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the fifth round of the 2026 National Football League Draft on Saturday.



Enrique Cruz Jr.

Overall, he was the 179th player picked during this year's draft.

Cruz, an offensive lineman who graduated from Willowbrook in 2021, began his collegiate football career with Syracuse University.

He spent the 2025 season with the University of Kansas Jayhawks.

Cruz was the starting right tackle for the Jayhawks in all 12 of their 2025 games, and earned All-Big 12 honorable mention honors at the end of the season. The team posted a record of 5-7 during the 2025 season. The Kansas program's website lists Cruz as 6 feet, 6 inches tall and 320 pounds.

• Warriors (Continued from page 14)

three innings of the April 21 battle. Willowbrook scored four runs in the top of the fourth inning to even the score at 8-8. The Mustangs regained the lead with one run in the bottom of the fourth inning, but the Warriors scored two runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 10-9 lead.

Senior Alek Ramey pitched two scoreless innings in relief for Willowbrook. Senior Jory Crocker took the mound after Ramey and held the Mustangs scoreless in the sixth and seventh innings.

Crocker went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs in Willowbrook's 10-9 win in Downers Grove. Ramey went 1-for-2 with three RBIs. Junior Ben Swanson went 2-for-4 and scored three runs.

The Warriors scored 11 runs during the first four innings of their series finale against the Mustangs. After scoring three runs in the bottom of the first inning, Willowbrook added two runs in the second inning, four runs in the third inning and two runs in the fourth inning. Dew went 2-for-4 with three RBIs in the victory. Swanson went 2-for-2 and drove in two runs.

Senior Bobby Biggs pitched the first four innings of the Warriors' April 23 win. Swanson pitched the final three innings and allowed no runs, one hit and no walks while recording five strikeouts.

The Warriors' winning streak reached 15 games following Saturday's 10-2 triumph at Hinsdale Central. Senior Jake Bonino went 3-for-4 with two home runs and three RBIs to lead Willowbrook's offensive attack. He led off the game with a solo home run in the top of the first inning and added another solo homer in the top of the fourth inning. Ramey went 2-for-3 with a home run and two RBIs.

Ramey belted a two-run homer in the top of the third inning to give the Warriors a 3-0 lead.

Junior Mikey Garner pitched the first four innings of Saturday's game for the Warriors. He allowed one run, one hit and three walks. Garner struck out six batters.

Edison pitched the fifth and sixth innings for Willowbrook. Crocker pitched the seventh inning and struck out three batters to wrap up the victory.

Rams post wins over Fenton, South Elgin

The Glenbard East softball team improved to 6-1 in the Upstate Eight Conference following last week's home wins over Fenton and South Elgin. The Rams defeated Fenton 15-0 in a six-inning game in Lombard on April 20. Three days later, Glenbard East beat South Elgin 5-1.

The Rams suffered a 10-0 non-conference loss to St. Charles North in a five-inning game on April 21. Glenbard East picked up three straight wins and won the championship at the Rolling Meadows Mustang Stampede, which took place on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25. After beating Taft 7-4 on Friday in Rolling Meadows, the Rams earned two wins in Palatine on Saturday—a 5-0 victory over Palatine and a 14-4 triumph over Evanston. Glenbard East raised its overall season record to 13-2 with Saturday's two victories.

Junior Althea Fitzgerald went 3-for-3 with two runs scored and one RBI in Glenbard East's April 20 win over Fenton. Senior Amelia Clifford went 1-for-4 and drove in three runs while scoring two runs for the Rams. Junior Ally Amrhein went 1-for-4 with two RBIs and scored two runs.

Junior Claire Bolda pitched the first five innings for Glenbard East in last week's win over the Bison. Bolda allowed one earned run, six hits and three walks. She recorded 10 strikeouts.

Bolda fired a seven-inning complete game in the Rams' April 23 home win over South Elgin. She allowed two hits, no

earned runs and four walks while recording eight strikeouts against the Storm. At the plate, Bolda went 2-for-3 and scored one run. Senior Reese Kuhlman went 1-for-2 with one RBI and scored one for the Rams.

Eight Rams picked up one hit each during Friday's win over Taft. Fitzgerald went 1-for-3 with a triple. She scored twice and drove in one run.

Sophomore Lorelai May pitched the first four innings for the Rams in their win over Taft. Senior Keira Nelson then pitched two scoreless innings for Glenbard East. Bolda pitched the seventh inning and allowed one run while striking out three batters.

Bolda delivered a seven-inning shutout in Saturday's victory over Palatine. She struck out 14 batters in her dominant performance in the circle. Bolda allowed two hits and two walks. Junior Lilly Carver went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs for the Rams.

Carver went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and scored three runs in Saturday's five-inning win over Evanston. Nelson went 2-for-2 with one RBI and scored three runs. May pitched the first three innings against Evanston and allowed no earned runs. Nelson pitched the last two innings.

The Rams' schedule this week includes conference games against Bartlett, Elmwood Park and Glenbard South.

Warriors boys track and field wins team championship at Raider Invitational

Willowbrook High School's boys track and field team won the team title at the Raider Invitational at Glenbard High School on Friday, April 24. The Warriors amassed a first-place total of 165 team points in the eight-team event. Belvidere North finished second with 137 points. Glenbard South placed third with 120 points. Glenbard East secured fourth place with its total of 98 points.

Willowbrook sophomore Legend Alka won the invite's 3,200-meter run, which he completed in 9 minutes, 35.91 seconds. He finished about one second ahead of his teammate—senior Miteku Branch—who posted a second-place time of 9:36.93. Junior Jacob Alexander of the Warriors delivered a third-place time of 10:20.36.

Senior Hayden Roscoe of Willowbrook ran to a victory in the 300-meter hurdles race, which he completed in a first-place time of 40.54 seconds. Roscoe placed second in the 110-meter hurdles race, which he finished in 15.93 seconds.

The Warriors' 4 x 400-meter relay team of junior Jorge Rosales, freshman Jackson Dyers, senior Evan Haworth and Roscoe raced to a victory with its first-place time of 3 minutes, 31.30 seconds.

Willowbrook senior Otis Powell won the invite's title in the

high jump by clearing 6 feet, 6 inches in his best attempt of the competition. Powell placed third in the long jump. He covered 20 feet, 10½ inches in his best effort of the invite. He added a fourth-place finish in the 100-meter dash, which he completed in 11.34 seconds.

Sophomore Adam Hajyasin of the Warriors delivered a victorious performance in the triple jump at the Raider Invitational. He sailed 41 feet, 6 inches in his best jump of the day.

The Warriors' 4 x 800-meter relay quartet of Thomas Thimo, Ayden Ketelsen, Kole Johanson and Edison Balogh posted a second-place time of 8:44.74. Willowbrook's 4 x 100-meter quartet of junior Josiah Marlowe, Roscoe, Rosales and Powell also turned in a second-place finish. The four Warriors completed the 4 x 100-meter relay in 43.23 seconds.

Haworth finished third in the 800-meter run (1:57.43). Thimo delivered a fourth-place time of 2:01.59 in the 800-meter run.

Rosales contributed a third-place finish in the 400-meter run, which he completed in 51.73 seconds.

Willowbrook seniors Nicholas Hackett and Elijah Brown finished third and fourth, respectively, in the shot put. Hackett's best throw of the invite covered 48 feet, 10¾ inches. Brown's best attempt traveled 48 feet, 6 inches.

Rams' 4 x 200-meter relay team earns a first-place finish: Glenbard East's 4 x 200-meter relay team ran to a victory at the Raider Invitational. The Rams' foursome of sophomore Ethan Monday, junior KeVohn Dennis, junior Monty Perry and senior Lucas Freese won the race in a first-place time of 1 minute, 34.52 seconds.

Freese finished second in the triple jump. He covered 41 feet, 1 inch, in his best jump of the invite. Senior Michael Orive raced to a third-place finish in the 100-meter dash (11.3 seconds), while junior Matthew Greenfield placed third in the 110-meter hurdles race (16.48 seconds). Greenfield also finished third in the 300-meter hurdles event (43.38 seconds). Senior Mason Hephner earned a third-place finish in the 1,600-meter run (4:31.21). Senior Sam Walton placed fifth in both the discus throw (132 feet, 1 inch) and the shot put (45 feet, 4¾ inches).

Glenbard East's 4 x 100-meter foursome of Monday, Dennis, Orive and senior Mustafa Usmani turned in a third-place finish (43.39 seconds). The Rams' 4 x 800 quartet of sophomore David Botero, senior Christopher Beales, sophomore Jason Kelly and senior Elliott Momeyer also ran to a third-place finish (9:01.35).

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



MAISIE THOMPSON

Willowbrook, senior, badminton

Thompson won the No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles championships at the West Suburban Gold meet.

She was voted the Athlete of the Week in an online vote. Other nominees were Riverside-Brookfield softball's Amelia Pytel, Lemont baseball's Cannon Madej and Lyons baseball's Jack Slightom.



Nazareth's Christian Drye gets the save in relief against Joliet Catholic on April 29 in Joliet.

• NAZARETH BASEBALL

Continued from page 8

In the third, Derrick Pomatto's single with runners on first and second saw Evan Willis run for home, only to get tagged out at the plate. The fifth had John Curbis, Pomatto and Steve Martin all hit two-out singles to lead the bases, but the Hilltoppers couldn't score, and the inning ended with a fly out.

The Hilltoppers finally broke through in the bottom of the sixth. After a lead-off, first pitch single by Nick Koonitz, Koen Lynes tripled the next at-bat to send Koonitz home and pull JCA to within 3-1. Isaiah Ordonez was walked next, and Cody Busch grounded into a double play that managed to score Lynes and shave it to 3-2.

Pomatto hit a lead-off single to start the seventh, but the defense turned a double play the next at bat, and Drye struck out AJ Perez to end the game and give Nazareth the win.

"The defense was huge today," Drye said. "It's a big confidence booster on the mound because you know that no matter what, they have your back."

Pomatto's 3-for-4 effort led JCA (8-12), and Lynes struck out eight with one hit and one walk in four innings of relief. Starter Jacob Wojciechowski allowed just three hits in three innings, but also surrendered seven walks.

"We just have to start the game a little bit better," JCA coach Jared Voss said. "I think walks, at the end of the day, hurt us. I thought we outhit them, but the walks seem to get you every time."

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