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Willowbrook High School's PBIS team holds end-of-year barbecue



On May 13, Willowbrook High School's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team hosted its annual end-of-year barbecue. The PBIS program was implemented in 2007 to teach Willowbrook students expected behaviors and rules, and what it means to be a Warrior and embody the Warrior Code. The goal of the program is to develop a positive school climate through creating common language and standards, and the barbecue is a time to celebrate improved behaviors at Willowbrook. Staff and students volunteered during the event, which featured music and tasty treats. The school's Class of 2026 celebrated its commencement on May 17. Willowbrook's freshmen, sophomores and juniors finished their 2025-26 school year with semester exams from May 20-22. (Submitted photo)

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Sports

Gertsen wins Class 2A state title in 3,200

Standout also finishes second in 1,600; Lindt joins Gertsen in All-State efforts in both races

Montini Catholic senior Sydney Gertsen won the state championship in the 3,200-meter run at the IHSA Class 2A girls track and field state meet at Eastern Illinois University on Saturday, May 23. Gertsen completed the race of nearly 2 miles in a first-place time of 10 minutes, 8.43 seconds. She crossed the finish line 2.8 seconds ahead of the runner-up—senior Sundara Weber of Sandwich.

Montini senior Ashlynn Lindt delivered a seventh-place finish in the 3,200-meter run, which she completed in 11 minutes, 5.98 seconds.

Gertsen and Lindt also competed in the 1,600-meter run at the Class 2A state meet in Charleston. Gertsen finished second to Weber in that race, with Weber posting a first-place time of 4:47.46. Gertsen completed the race in 4:53.94. Lindt finished the 1,600-meter run in an eighth-place time of 5:09.28. The 1,600-meter final took place on Saturday afternoon, a few hours after the 3,200-meter final.

Gertsen and Lindt both earned All-State honors in the 3,200-meter and 1,600-meter runs at the state meet. Athletes who posted top-nine finishes at the state meet secured All-State recognition.

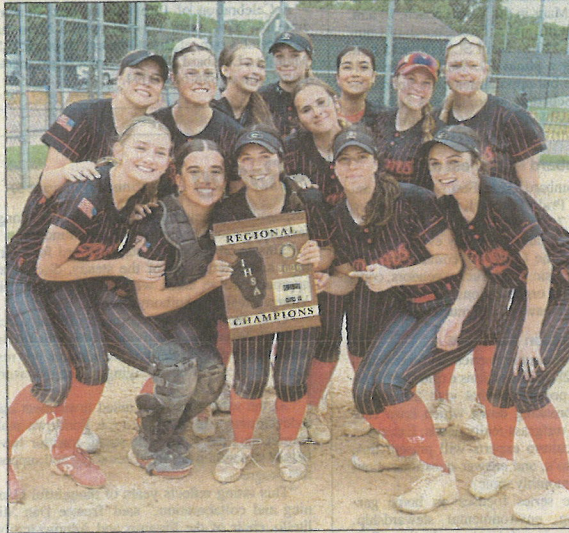
Nearly seven months ago, on Nov. 8, 2025, Gertsen won the individual title at the IHSA Class 2A girls cross-country state meet in Peoria. She finished the 3-mile race in Peoria's Detweiler Park in a winning time of 16 minutes, 34.79 seconds.

Junior Brooke D'Amico of the Broncos participated in the triple jump at the state meet. She did not advance to the final. The top 12 finishers in the meet's preliminaries qualified for the final. D'Amico covered 33 feet, 7½ inches in her best attempt at the state meet.

Montini senior Karissa Jones competed in the shot put at the state meet and did not advance to the final in that event. Her best effort at the event covered 32 feet, 10½ inches.



Montini's Sydney Gertsen (left) and Ashlynn Lindt (right) turned in All-State efforts at the Class 2A state meet on Saturday. Gertsen won the 3,200 and placed second in the 1,600. Lindt finished seventh in the 3,200 and eighth in the 1,600. (Submitted photo)



Glenbard East beat Lake Park 6-5 to win the IHSA Class 4A Elk Grove Regional title last week, a first for the Rams in 23 years. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Mission accomplished: Rams win regional title

Program captures first regional plaque since 2003

The Glenbard East softball team won a regional title for the first time in 23 years last week. The Rams defeated Lake Park 6-5 on Friday, May 22, to win the championship of the IHSA Class 4A Elk Grove Regional.

Glenbard East improved its overall season record to 21-4 with its win over Lake Park. Winning the regional championship propelled the Rams to this week's Bartlett Sectional. Earlier this week, Glenbard East faced St. Charles East in a sectional semifinal. The winner of that contest will meet St. Charles North or Fremd in a sectional final this Saturday, May 30.

The Rams began their 2026 post-season journey with an 11-0 six-inning win over Elk Grove in a regional semifinal on May 20.

"I am super proud of my girls today," said Glenbard East coach Dawn Chantos after the Rams' victory over the Lancers of Lake Park. "We did our homework. We studied their hitters, their stats, and the girls executed everything today."

Glenbard East, the Bartlett Sectional's No. 6 seed, scored one run in each of the first three innings against Lake Park (the sectional's No. 3 seed) to take a 3-0 lead. The Rams scored three runs in the top of the fifth inning to raise their lead to 6-0. Lake Park scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to cut Glenbard East's lead to 6-5. The Lancers scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Rams secured their victory on a fly out



Glenbard East's Ally Amrhein went 2-for-4 and scored two runs in the Rams' victory over Lake Park.

to junior center fielder Althea Fitzgerald, who made a fine running catch earlier in the inning.

Junior catcher Ally Amrhein went 2-for-4 and scored two runs for the Rams in the regional final against Lake Park. Sophomore Emma Jaras went 1-for-2 and drove in two runs.

Glenbard East junior pitcher Claire Bol-da allowed four earned runs, five hits and six walks in the regional final. She recorded five strikeouts and earned the victory to raise her season record to 11-3.

Junior Lilly Carver went 3-for-3 with a

See RAMS, Page 11

Warriors' win streak ends at 27

Willowbrook aims to win regional title on home field

The Willowbrook baseball team's 27-game winning streak ended with a 4-1 loss at Lincoln-Way West on Friday, May 22. One day later, the Warriors completed their regular season with a 6-5 home loss to Oak Park/River Forest in Villa Park.

Willowbrook finished its regular season with a 28-6 record.

The Warriors lost four of their first five games of the 2026 season. Their record dropped to 1-4 after a loss at Montini Catholic on March 25. Willowbrook then reeled off 27 straight wins during the next 55 days. The Warriors posted a perfect 18-0 record in West Suburban Gold Conference play and captured the conference title during their lengthy winning streak.

Willowbrook earned its 27th straight win on May 19, when it defeated Marmion Academy 10-6 in Villa Park.

The Warriors, who are hosting an IHSA Class 4A regional, opened post-season play with this week's regional semifinal game against Maine West. The winner of that game will face Wheaton Warrenville South or York in this Saturday's regional final. The regional champion will advance to the Bartlett Sectional. Willowbrook is the sectional's No. 1 seed.

Senior Jory Crocker went 2-for-3 and drove in four runs for the Warriors in last week's win over Marmion. Senior Alex Dew went 2-for-4 and drove in two runs for Willowbrook. Junior Ben Swanson went 2-for-3 and scored three runs for the Warriors, who scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning. Marmion scored four runs in the top of the second inning to even the score at 4-4, but the Warriors responded with three runs in the bottom of the second inning to take a 7-4 lead. Senior Alek Ramey, who went 1-for-2, launched a three-run homer in the first inning to give Willowbrook a 4-0 lead.

Senior Jacob Bylsma pitched three scoreless innings in relief and earned the win for the Warriors when they May 19 victory over the Cadets. Bylsma allowed two hits and one walk. He recorded one strikeout. Crocker closed out the game by pitching a scoreless top of the seventh inning and striking out two batters.

Willowbrook and Lincoln-Way West were locked in a scoreless battle in the middle of the sixth inning of Friday's game in New Lenox. Lincoln-Way West scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Willowbrook scored its only run in the top of the seventh inning.

Junior Mikey Garner pitched five

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Broncos capture regional championship

Montini advances to Glenbard South Sectional after dominant win over Elmwood Park

The Montini Catholic softball team won an IHSA Class 3A regional title on Saturday, May 23. The Broncos beat Elmwood Park 11-0 in five innings in the championship game of the Elmwood Park Regional.

Montini advanced to this week's Glenbard South Sectional with its regional victory. Earlier this week, the Broncos faced St. Francis in a sectional semifinal. The winner of that game will battle Fenwick or Glenbard South in the sectional final this Friday, May 29. Montini entered the sectional with a season record of 22-9.

Sophomore Cameron Fox went 2-for-2 with a pair of home runs and drove in three runs for the Broncos in Saturday's regional final. Fox also pitched a shutout, allowing three hits and no walks while piling up 13 strikeouts in five innings in the circle.

Sophomore Natalie Glosky went 3-for-3 and drove in five runs for Montini, which scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning. Freshman Brooke Wills went 2-for-4 and drove in one run. Junior Aubry Raffan went 1-for-2 with a double and drove in two runs.



Glenbard East's Finn Talbot qualified for the IHSA Class 2A state meet by finishing second in singles at the Willowbrook Sectional. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Talbot makes fourth trip to Class 2A state meet

Senior Finn Talbot of the Glenbard East boys tennis team earned his fourth straight berth in the singles competition of the IHSA Class 2A state meet when he placed second at the Willowbrook Sectional, which ended on Saturday. The sectional's top four singles players and top four doubles teams qualified for the state meet.

Talbot opened the sectional with a 6-0, 6-0 win on Friday. He earned another 6-0, 6-0 victory in Friday's second-round match. Talbot advanced to the sectional's singles final with a 6-1, 6-0 semifinal win on Saturday. Glenbard West freshman Jack Creswell defeated Talbot 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 in the final.

The IHSA Class 2A state meet, which will take place this week, features 64 singles players and 64 doubles teams. Palatine High School is the host site for the state meet, which will feature matches at several high schools in Chicago's northwest suburbs.

•Rams (From page 10)

a pair of home runs to lead the Rams to their 11-0 win over Elk Grove in a regional semifinal. Carver hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the fourth inning to give Glenbard East a 4-0 lead. Carver bashed another two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning to end the game. While Glenbard East played the contest on Elk Grove's home field, the Rams were the home team by virtue of their better seed. Elk Grove was the Bartlett Sectional's No. 11 seed.

Amrhein went 3-for-4 and scored four runs in Glenbard East's May 20 win over the Grenadiers. Bolda allowed one hit and one walk in six innings in the circle. She struck out six batters in her shutout performance.

One year ago, the Rams' 2025 team posted a 20-6 record and opened the post-season with a 4-2 eight-inning loss to Conant in a regional semifinal in Lombard.

"We met our goal of 20 wins last year," noted Chantos after Friday's win over Lake Park. "This year our goal was a regional championship, so we are happy right now."



Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner (left) and senior Jake Bonino (right) during the Warriors' game against Oak Park/River Forest on May 23. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Warriors (From page 10)

innings for the Warriors in their loss at Lincoln-Way West. Garner allowed one earned run, one hit and four walks. He piled up nine strikeouts. Swanson went 3-for-4 for Willowbrook.

Willowbrook head coach Vic Wisner, who will retire at the end of this season, was honored before Saturday's game in Villa Park. Several former Willowbrook players attended the game to support Wisner at the Warriors' regular season finale.

The Huskies of Oak Park/River Forest owned a 6-0 lead in Saturday's contest after scoring two runs in the top of the second inning and adding four runs in the top of the third inning. Willowbrook scored three runs in the bottom of the third inning to trim the Huskies' lead to 6-3. Willowbrook added single runs in the fifth and sixth innings, but the Warriors were retired in order in the bottom of the seventh.

Swanson went 2-for-4 and drove in one run in Saturday's loss. Crocker went 1-for-4 with one RBI. Junior Alex Rodriguez also went 1-for-4 and drove in one run.

Multiple Warriors qualify for IHSA Class 3A state meet

Rams, Broncos will also send athletes to Charleston

Several members of Willowbrook's boys track and field team earned berths in the IHSA Class 3A state meet following their strong performances at the Lake Park Sectional on Friday, May 22. The state meet takes place this week at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Senior Otis Powell of the Warriors earned a state-meet berth in the high jump with his second-place finish at the sectional, which included athletes from 18 schools.

Powell cleared 6 feet, 6 inches in his best attempt at the competition.

Willowbrook senior Hayden Roscoe qualified for the state meet in the 300-meter hurdles, which he completed in a third-place time of 39.91 seconds at the sectional.

Senior Evan Haworth earned a trip to Charleston in the 800-meter run. He posted a fourth-place sectional time of 1 minute, 56.77 seconds in that event.

Sophomore Legend Alka and senior Miteku Branch will represent Willow-

brook at the state meet. Both Warriors earned their state-meet berths in the 3,200-meter run. Alka completed that race in a fifth-place time of 9:24.28 at the sectional. Branch finished just behind Alka with his sixth-place time of 9:24.73.

Senior Nicholas Hackert advanced to the state meet in the discus throw. Hackert placed fourth in that event at the sectional. His best throw at Lake Park covered 157 feet, 11 inches.

Willowbrook's foursome of junior Josiah Marlowe, sophomore Odin Gay, junior Jorge Rosales and freshman Jackson Dyers qualified for the state meet after finishing the 4 x 200-meter relay in a fifth-place time of 1 minute, 29.20 seconds at the sectional. Marlowe, Gay, and Rosales joined Powell to earn a state-meet berth in the 4 x 100-meter relay after posting a sixth-place sectional time of 42.39 seconds.

The top two finishers in each sectional event automatically qualified for the state meet.

All athletes who met state-qualifying standards with their sectional efforts also earned state-meet berths.

Rams' relay team qualifies for the state meet: Glenbard East's 4 x 200-meter relay foursome of senior Mustafa Usmani, senior Michael Orive, senior Lucas Freese and sophomore Ethan Monday qualified for the Class 3A state meet after meeting the qualifying standard at the Lake Park Sectional. The four Rams completed the relay in a seventh-place time of 1 minute, 29.55 seconds, which met the qualifying standard of 1:29.59.

Broncos send individual, relay team to Class 2A state meet: Montini Catholic junior Nino Pesola qualified for this week's IHSA Class 2A boys track and field state meet with his performance in the 1,600-meter run at the Glenbard South Sectional on Friday, May 22. Pesola finished the race in a fifth-place time of 4 minutes, 28.27 seconds, meeting the qualifying standard in that event.

Montini's 4 x 800-meter relay foursome of senior Sean Buckley and juniors Adriel Garcia, Gavin Conway and Graham Reiser earned a trip to the Class 2A state meet. The four Broncos completed the relay in a fourth-place time of 8 minutes, 16.83 seconds at the sectional.