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A special season and a coaching career come to an end



The Willowbrook High School baseball team's 2026 season ended with a 5-2 loss to York in an Illinois High School Association Class 4A regional final in Villa Park on Saturday, May 30. The Warriors finished their season with a record of 29-7. Willowbrook won 27 straight games during the season and captured the West Suburban Gold Conference title with a perfect 18-0 record. The loss to York marked Vic Wisner's final game as Willowbrook's head coach. Wisner is retiring from teaching and coaching at the school. A 1985 Willowbrook graduate, Wisner has been the Warriors' head baseball coach since the 2011 season. Wisner and Jake Bonino, one of the 14 seniors on this year's Willowbrook team, are pictured as they embrace after the season-ending contest. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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Sports

Warriors' special season ends in loss to York

Dukes hold Willowbrook scoreless for first six innings

The Willowbrook baseball team's memorable 2026 season came to an end with Saturday's 5-2 loss to York in an IHSA Class 4A regional final in Villa Park.

The Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 29-7. After starting the season with a 1-4 record, Willowbrook reeled off 27 straight wins before ending its regular season with two straight losses.

During their 27-game winning streak, the Warriors won the West Suburban Gold Conference championship with a perfect 18-0 conference record.

Willowbrook opened the post-season with an 11-1 six-inning win over Maine West in a May 27 regional semifinal in Villa Park. That win propelled the Warriors to Saturday's regional final against York, which defeated Wheaton Warrenville South in 3-1 on May 28 in the Willowbrook Regional's other semifinal.

With its win over Willowbrook, York ad-

vanced to this week's Bartlett Sectional. The Dukes are the sectional's No. 9 seed. The Warriors, who were the sectional's No. 1 seed, hoped to win Saturday's regional final to claim a regional plaque in head coach Vic Wisner's final home game. Wisner is retiring at the end of this season.

York scored three runs in the top of the third inning to take a 3-0 lead in Saturday's regional final. The Warriors committed two errors



Senior Noah Edison delivers a pitch during Willowbrook's regional final against York. (Photo by Chris Fox)

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Montini Catholic won an IHSA Class 3A regional championship on its home field Saturday. The Broncos' baseball program has now won 23 regional titles. (Photo by Fernando Rendon)

Broncos win regional title on own turf

Two solo homers help Montini beat Hornets, advance to Nazareth Sectional

The Montini Catholic baseball team won an IHSA Class 3A regional title on its home field on Saturday, May 30, securing the program's 23rd regional championship by defeating Hinsdale South 4-1 in the final of the Montini Regional in Lombard.

Montini raised its season record to 24-13. The Broncos advanced to this week's sectional at Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park. Montini faced Nazareth in a sectional semifinal earlier this week.

The winner of that game will meet De La Salle or Solorio Academy in the sectional final on Saturday, June 6. The champion of the Nazareth Sectional will play in the super-sectional at Ozinga Field in Crestwood on Monday, June 8.

Nazareth is the sectional's No. 2 seed. Montini is the No. 3 seed. No. 8 seed Solorio Academy upset top-seeded Lemont 5-4 on Saturday.

The Broncos opened postseason play with a 21-0 rout over Chicago's Clark High School in a regional semifinal on May 27. The Broncos led Hinsdale South 2-0 after two innings of Saturday's regional final. Kameron Cox hit a solo home run in the bottom of the first, and Drew Chastka then launched a solo homer in the second inning.

The Hornets cut Montini's lead to 2-1 in the fourth, but Montini scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to increase its lead to 4-1.

Blake Heyer pitched the first 5 1/3 innings of Saturday's regional final, earning the win after allowing a run on three hits and three walks while striking out eight. Robert Sansone pitched an inning in relief, and Drake Palmer took the mound in the top of the seventh and picked up a save after the Hornets grounded into a game-ending double play.



The Rams and their fans were fired up after a block from senior Nate Lynch (12) helped them to a 12-9 lead in the third game of their postseason match with Bolingbrook. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Rams win first regional championship in 11 years

After prevailing at Oswego East Regional, Glenbard East drops a three-game battle during sectional semifinals



Max Waldschmidt had 11 kills during Glenbard East's season-ending loss to Bolingbrook.

The Glenbard East boys volleyball team completed its season with a narrow three-game loss to Bolingbrook in a semifinal match at the IHSA Hinsdale South Sectional on Saturday, May 30.

Bolingbrook edged the Rams 26-24, 19-25, 25-21 in the post-season battle, which took place in front of loud and enthusiastic supporters for both teams.

Glenbard East reached the sectional semifinal after winning three post-season matches and earning the program's first regional championship since 2015.

The Rams began the post-season with a 25-15, 25-14 home win over Montini Catholic in a quarterfinal contest that was part of the Oswego East Regional.

On Tuesday, May 26, the Rams edged Joliet Catholic 23-25, 25-16, 25-21 in a regional semifinal in Oswego.

Two days later, Glenbard East

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Rams' season ends with loss to Wheaton North



Glenbard East senior Lucas Calderin delivers during the Rams' contest against Wheaton North. (Photo by Chris Fox)

The Glenbard East baseball team lost its post-season opener, falling 3-1 to Wheaton North in a semifinal game at the IHSA Class 4A Lake Park Regional in Roselle. The Rams finished their season with an overall record of 19-13-1.

Glenbard East scored its only run of the game in the bottom of the first inning to take an early 1-0 lead. Sophomore Jackson Turko tripled and scored the Rams' lone run on a sacrifice fly by senior Josh Ziemer. The Falcons took a 2-1 lead after a two-run home run in the

top of the sixth inning.

Senior Lucas Calderin pitched a complete game for the Rams in their regional semifinal against the Falcons. Calderin allowed three runs, four hits and five walks in seven innings. He recorded four strikeouts.

Wheaton North advanced to Saturday's regional final with its win over the Rams. The Falcons lost 2-1 to Lake Park in that regional final. The Lancers of Lake Park advanced to this week's Bartlett Sectional.

Powell comes in 10th in high jump at state meet

Willowbrook senior Otis Powell finished in a tie for 10th place in the high jump at the IHSA Class 3A boys track and field state meet, which ended on Saturday, May 30, at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Powell cleared 6 feet, 4 inches in his best attempt of the meet.

Sophomore Legend Alka of Willowbrook ran to a 17th-place finish in the 3,200-meter-run at the Class 3A state meet. Alka finished the race of nearly two miles in 9 minutes, 24.52 seconds.

Senior Miteku Branch of the Warriors completed the same race in a 35th-place time of 9:43.46.

Talbot competes in state singles for fourth time

Glenbard East senior Finn Talbot participated in singles action at the IHSA Class 2A boys tennis state meet last week.

Talbot—who qualified for the Class 2A state singles meet in each of his four seasons competing as a Ram—suffered a 7-5, 6-1 loss in his first-round

match on Thursday, May 28. He then won three straight matches that same day in the consolation draw of the double-elimination tournament.

Talbot lost his first match on Friday, May 29, falling in straight sets in the fourth round of the consolation bracket.

• Rams (Continued from page 11)

beat Plainfield North 25-23, 25-23 in the regional final.

Glenbard East, which finished its season with a 25-14 record, was the Hinsdale South Sectional's No. 7 seed.

Plainfield North was the sectional's No. 2 seed.

The Rams led Bolingbrook—the sectional's No. 3 seed—23-22 late in the first game of Saturday's sectional semifinal. The Raiders won the next two points to take a 24-23 lead. Glenbard East won the next point before Bolingbrook won two straight points to capture the first game.

The Rams and Bolingbrook were tied at 12-12 in the second game.

Glenbard East went on a run to build a 20-15 lead on its way to winning the second game.

A great block from senior Nate Lynch provided a winning point that gave the Rams a 12-9 lead in the decisive third game.

Glenbard East held a 13-10 lead, but Bolingbrook evened the score at 17-17. The Raiders won the next three points to take a 20-17 lead.

The Rams failed to put two serves in play late in the game; one serve went into the net to help Bolingbrook to a 21-18 lead. The match ended after a Glenbard East serve sailed beyond the back line.

"Momentum is a huge thing," said Glenbard East coach Bradley Cardott after the loss to Bolingbrook.

"They [the Raiders] made the plays when they needed to."



Gabe Polyak had 14 kills and eight digs for the Rams in their sectional loss against Bolingbrook. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Senior Gabe Polyak bashed 14 kills and made eight digs for the Rams during the sectional semifinal against the Raiders. Sophomore Max Waldschmidt provided 11 kills, while Lynch supplied 10 kills. Sophomore Cole Smith handed out 41 assists, and senior Jake Hayes made 12 digs.

Senior Jackson Yates contributed six kills for Glenbard East. Senior Michael Hoffmann added three kills and four blocks. Bolingbrook advanced to the sectional final with its win over the Rams.

The Raiders faced the sectional's No. 1 seed—Glenbard West—in the sectional final earlier this week. The winner advanced to the state quarterfinals, which will be contested this week at Bolingbrook High School.



Montini sophomore Cameron Fox approaches her teammates at home plate after her two-run homer gave the Broncos a 2-1 lead over Fenwick. The Friars defeated Montini 4-2 to win a sectional title. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Broncos fall to Fenwick in sectional final

Fox hits homer to give Montini Catholic a lead before the Friars rally for victory

The Montini Catholic softball team's season ended with its 4-2 loss to Fenwick in the championship game of the IHSA Class 3A Glenbard South Sectional in Glen Ellyn on Friday, May 29.

The Broncos started their season with a 23-10 record.

Montini sophomore Cameron Fox bashed her fourth home run of the season—a two-run blast in the top of the third inning—to give her team a 2-1 lead over Fenwick in the sectional final. The Friars took a 3-2 lead on a two-run double in the bottom of the fifth inning. Fenwick's next batter hit a run-scoring single to extend the lead to 4-2.

Fox pitched a complete game in the loss to the Friars, allowing three earned runs, four hits and four walks while striking out seven batters.

Fenwick was the Glenbard South Sectional's No. 1 seed. Montini was the sectional's No. 3 seed.

"Fenwick is obviously a very solid team, top to bottom," said Montini coach Amy Bukovsky after her team's season-ending loss. "They're just a very tough team. Defensively, they made some really great plays today. They executed very well. It just didn't go our way today."

Fenwick advanced to this week's Class 3A super-sectional at Benedictine University in Lisle. The Friars faced Lemont in the super-sectional earlier this week. The winner of that game earned a berth in this week's IHSA Class 3A state semifinals in Peoria.

Two days before facing the Friars in the sectional final, Montini crushed



Junior Aubry Raffan hit a home run and also had a double in Montini's playoff victory over St. Francis.

St. Francis (the sectional's No. 2 seed) 17-4 in a sectional semifinal. The Broncos scored six runs in the top of the fourth inning to take an 8-1 lead over the Spartans. Montini added three runs in the fifth inning and piled on six runs in the seventh inning.

Montini junior Aubry Raffan went 2-for-3 with a home run and a double and drove in four runs in her team's May 27 win over St. Francis. Freshman Brooke Wills went 4-for-6 and scored three runs while driving in one run for the Broncos. Junior Bridget Ryan went 3-for-5 and drove in five runs. Fox, junior Cedona Barrett, sophomore

Danika Lucadello, sophomore Natalie Glosky and junior Teagan O'Connor provided two hits each for Montini.

"We're just really proud of our girls," added Bukovsky after the post-season loss to Fenwick. "We are still a fairly young group. We've learned so much and gotten so much better from the beginning of the year. We're excited for what's to come in the future."

Glenbard East drops game with Saints during sectional semifinal

The Glenbard East softball team's season ended with an 8-0 loss to St. Charles East in a semifinal game at the IHSA Class 4A Bartlett Sectional on May 27. The Rams completed their season with a 21-5 record.

The Saints of St. Charles East scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning to take a quick 6-0 lead over the Rams, who committed four errors in the contest. The Saints held Glenbard East to four hits over seven innings. Junior Lilly Carver connected for two of the Rams' hits. Sophomore Emma Jaras and senior Keira Nelson provided one hit each.

St. Charles East defeated Fremd 1-0 in Saturday's sectional final to advance to this week's super-sectional against Marist in Rosemont. The winner of that super-sectional moved on to this week's Class 4A state semifinals in Peoria.

The Rams advanced to the Bartlett Sectional after winning the title at the Elk Grove Regional. Glenbard East defeated Lake Park 6-5 in the regional final on May 22 to capture the program's first regional championship since 2003.

ing loss to the Dukes. "We just played on our heels a little bit, which wasn't us. It took us a while to catch our breath. And in a playoff game, you don't have a lot of time to catch your breath."

York's program has now won regional championships in five consecutive seasons from 2022 to 2026.

Junior Mikey Garner pitched the first three innings of Saturday's game for the Warriors. He allowed one earned run, three hits and two walks while striking out three batters. Senior Noah Edison pitched the next four innings for Willowbrook. Edison allowed two earned runs and six hits. He didn't issue any walks, and he recorded three strikeouts.

Bonino went 2-for-2 and drove in two runs in Willowbrook's win over Maine West in the May 27 regional semifinal. Dew went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs for the Warriors, who scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to end the game. Junior Alex Rodriguez went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs.

Senior Bobby Biggs pitched a complete game and earned the victory for the Warriors in their post-season opener. Biggs allowed no earned runs, three hits and three walks in six innings on the mound. He piled up eight strikeouts.

"Today doesn't define who they are and how I feel about them," said Wisner while referring to this year's senior-loaded team after Saturday's loss. "They are a great bunch of young men."

• Warriors (From page 10)

during the inning. The Dukes extended their lead to 5-0 by scoring two runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Willowbrook senior Alex Dew singled to lead off the bottom of the seventh inning. Senior Tommy Roelle then drew a walk. After York recorded an out with a strikeout, senior Jake Bonino hit a hard ground-er that the Dukes' shortstop couldn't field cleanly. Dew scored on the play. Moments later, Roelle scored on a groundout by junior Ben Swanson. Senior Jory Crocker then hit a fly out to end the game.

"For us, we hadn't played like that in weeks," said Wisner after the season-end-