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VOL. 23 · No. 43 WWW.ADDISONINDEPENDENTNEWS.COM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

Center for the Arts set to host Oct. 17 reception, with Holz exhibition on display through Nov. 7

Illinois artist Cheryl Holz's exhibition, *The Naturalist's Cabinet: Observations, Fragments and Reassemblies*, will be on display through Nov. 7 at the Addison Center for the Arts, and an artist's reception event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 1-4 p.m.

Holz is a nationally recognized mixed media artist, amateur naturalist, and self-described art material junkie. She grew up in the country collecting moss, bugs, leaves and, to her mother's chagrin, snakes and salamanders. That rural upbringing remains a major influence on her aesthetic sensibility and artwork.

Today, Holz lives and works in Illinois, where she regularly explores local forest preserves with her rescue pups, Max and Duncan, photographing, collecting, and observing the natural world. Her lifelong curiosity and love of discovery fuel an ever-evolving creative practice.

Holz's work has received national recognition and has been exhibited in museums, galleries, corporations, hospitals, and private collections. When she isn't in the woods or studio, she can probably be found searching flea markets for the next irresistible art material.

Holz's work is a celebration of the natural world and the endless possibilities of mixed media. She collects leaves, bark, lichen, moss, photographs, field guides, and other fragments of the natural world, then experiments with ways to transform them into tactile, layered works. Ecoprints, digital prints, silkscreen, transfers, painting, photography, found materials, and assemblage all become part of the process.

She deliberately builds up and wears away layers, echoing natural aging processes like water shaping rock.

A compulsive experimenter, Holz approaches each work like jazz: research and preparation provide the foundation, but improvisation takes over in the studio. She seeks an equilibrium between spontaneity and deliberation, representation and abstraction, the macro and the micro. Her goal is to invite close looking, curiosity, and connection — and inspire others to bring a little of nature's peace and wonder into their own spaces.

Find more information about Holz and her artworks at https://cherylholz.com/.

The Addison Center for the Arts is located on the Addison Trail High School campus at 213 N. Lombard Road, Door No. 4.

Addison Trail celebrates Homecoming 2026





Addison Trail celebrated its Homecoming Week 2026 with several events and activities from Sept. 21 through 26. The theme this year was "Back to the '60s" in honor of the school's 60th anniversary, and students and staff members showed their Blazer Pride and school spirit throughout the week. (Submitted photos)

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Harvest Fest celebration draws 2,000 attendees to Fischer Farm



Approximately 2,000 people took advantage of temperate weather Sept. 26 at Fischer Farm's Harvest Fest, enjoying great food, carnival games, crafts, an artisan fair, corn maze, wagon rides and the Subie World plushie workshop sponsored by Grand Subaru. (Submitted photo)

Kalayil earns 88's Best recognition



Chris Kalayil (right, with Principal Jack Andrews) was named Addison Trail's September recipient of the 88's Best award. Kalayil, a senior, was recognized for his outstanding academic achievements during the Sept. 28 District 88 Board of Education meeting. Recipients receive an 88's Best glass sculpture and a certificate to a local restaurant. (Submitted photo)

Bville Jets invite athletes age 7-14 to travel soccer tryouts Oct. 22 at Varble Park

Young soccer players looking to sharpen their skills, challenge themselves and take their game to the next level are invited to try out for the Bville Jets spring travel soccer program through the Bensenville Park District.

The Bville Jets travel soccer tryouts will take place at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at Varble Park. A supplemental tryout will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at Varble Park. The program is open to athletes ages 7-14 who are ready to compete, develop their skills and grow as players in a fun and challenging environment.

High school players ages 14-18 also are invited to participate and learn more about a potential spring travel soccer program for their age group as well.

Players will receive coaching from A-licensed coach Ty Beshiri and participate in training informed by Ecological Dynamics Academy methods. The approach emphasizes player development, creativity, decision-making and soccer IQ, helping young athletes become more confident and adaptable on the field.

The tryouts are designed for motivated players who are ready to embrace new challenges and continue developing their skills. Space is limited, and advance registration is encouraged.

Young athletes interested in joining the Bville Jets are encouraged to sign up and secure a spot at the tryouts. Registration is free and available through the Bensenville Park District by visiting the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St., calling 630-766-7015 or online at BvilleParks.org/Register. Email Beshiri at tbeshiri@bvilleparks.org for more information.

Karate Club helps children build confidence, safety awareness

Young martial artists can build confidence, learn important safety skills and work toward earning their next belt through the Bensenville Park District's Kids Karate Club.

Designed for children ages 4-14, the Kids Karate Club introduces participants to the fundamentals of karate, self-defense, sparring and kata while emphasizing personal safety, respect, self-esteem, leadership and making good choices. Participants also learn practical skills related to avoiding strangers and protecting themselves in age-appropriate ways.

The progressive martial arts program allows students to advance through belt levels, with a path toward Black Belt. Beginner and advanced classes are offered from 6-6:45 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 22-Dec. 10, at the Deer Grove Leisure Center. The program costs $63, or $58 for in-district patrons. There will be a double class Thursday, Nov. 19, and no class Thursday, Nov. 26. Belt testing is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 17.

"Through karate, participants can build confidence, learn to make good choices and develop respect and leadership skills that can benefit them both inside and outside the classroom," said Bensenville Park District Superintendent of Recreation Anne Popek.

Registration is required and is available at the Deer Grove Leisure Center, 1000 W. Wood St., by calling 630-766-7015 or online at BvilleParks.org/Register.

Police Reports

ADDISON

The Addison Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the victim's privacy. 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. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

Oct. 6

A 25-year-old West Chicago man was charged with two counts of domestic battery and two counts of endangering the life of a child in the 3N200 block of Valewood Drive at 9:25 p.m.

Oct. 5

Fernando Barragan-Melchor, 25, of Addison, was charged with battery and resisting a police officer, and was issued a warrant in the 1500 block of W. Lake at 11:55 a.m.

Jessica A. Koeller, 38, of Addison, was charged with perjury at 10:57 p.m.

A 19-year-old Addison woman was charged with two counts of domestic battery near W. Lake and N. Rohlwing at 7:47 p.m.

Oct. 4

Concepcion J. Rostro Sosa, 47, of Aurora, was charged with submitting false reports at 10:55 p.m.

Martin A. Valenzuela Coronel, 26, of St. Louis, was charged with improper lane usage, expired license and two counts of DUI near Lake and Addison at 2:12 a.m.

A 41-year-old Addison man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 400 block of Cherry Hill Court at 3 p.m.

Oct. 3

A 38-year-old Chicago man was charged with two counts of domestic battery in the 700 block of E. Lake at 2:28 a.m.

Oct. 2

Fredie Cruz-Castro, 42, of Elgin, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia near Country Club and Morris at 8:59 a.m.

Jorge E. Gomez, 44, of Addison, was charged with disorderly conduct and obstructing a police officer in the 400 block of W. Stevens at 11:22 a.m.

Jorge L. Reyes Ortiz, 69, of Addison, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, illegal possession/transportation of liquor and a seat belt violation in the 400 block of W. Lake at 9:43 p.m.

Oct. 1

Joshua A. White, 33, of Chicago, was charged with driver failing to give notice of a crash, improper lane usage and two counts of DUI in the 1700 block of W. Lake at 3:01 a.m.

Sept. 30

Fernando Barragan-Melchor, 25, of Addison, was charged with resisting a police officer, battery and criminal trespassing to land at 2:17 p.m.

BENSENVILLE

The Bensenville Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Persons who are charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the victim's privacy. 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. Juveniles age 17-or-younger are not named.

Oct. 2 near Railroad Avenue and S. York Road, Josue Santiago-Lopez of Bensenville was arrested for public intoxication and three failure-to-appear warrants.

Sept. 30 near W. Main St. and Eastview Avenue, Amir D. Grayer of Bensenville was arrested for burglary to a motor vehicle.



These students, part of District 88's Beyond B.O.S.S. Community, attended the Chicago Football Classic HBCU College and Career Fair Featuring Teen Fest. The event took place at the United Club at Soldier Field in Chicago. (Submitted photo)

District 88 Beyond B.O.S.S. students explore futures during HBCU College & Career Fair

Last month, students who are part of District 88's Beyond B.O.S.S. Community attended the Chicago Football Classic HBCU College and Career Fair featuring Teen Fest. The free event took place at the United Club at Soldier Field in Chicago.

The experience gave students an opportunity to speak directly with representatives from more than 20 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) throughout the country. Participants received information about admissions requirements, academic programs, campus life, financial aid and available scholarships.

Representatives from all seven City Colleges of Chicago were present, giving students access to information about certificates, associate degrees, transfer opportunities, scholarships, career preparation and other affordable pathways to higher education.

Students also learned about resources and support programs offered through City Year, the Miss Teen HBCU Scholarship Pageant and other participating organizations.

For some students, the fair provided more insight into colleges they are considering. For others, it introduced new possibilities and encouraged them to begin thinking more seriously about life after high school. Students were able to ask questions, gather valuable resources and see the range of opportunities available to them. They attended the event with District 88 Student Success Coordinator Dr. VaLarie Humphrey, who coordinates the Beyond B.O.S.S. Community.

"The field trip reflected the mission of the Beyond B.O.S.S. Community to educate, expose, empower and prepare Black students for success beyond high school. Events like this help students turn possibilities into plans and begin building a clear vision for their future. District 88 remains committed to providing meaningful college and career experiences that help every student recognize available pathways and possibilities."

Friday the 13th Comedy fundraiser brings laughs to White Pines Nov. 13

Get ready to laugh for a good cause when the Friends of Bensenville Parks Foundation hosts Friday the 13th Comedy Night from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Friends of Bensenville Parks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting parks, recreation and community initiatives.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with music from DJ Joe "Cool" Rodriguez, along with food and drinks available for purchase. The comedy takes center stage at 8 p.m. with a four-comedian lineup featuring headliner Eli Castro, along with Seth Davis, Anthony Bonazzo and Marci Deloney.

Castro is an accomplished comedian, writer and performer whose comedy draws on language and culture to connect with audiences of all ages.

He has written and performed 10 one-man shows, earning critical acclaim and appearances on programs including ABC's "The View," Telemundo's "Un Nuevo Dia," Fox's "Good Day New York" and WGN-TV. He also won Best Stand Up at the United Solo Festival in New York City.

Before pursuing comedy full time, Castro worked as a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney.

Davis brings high-energy, self-observational and absurd humor to the stage. A Chicago-area native and graduate of The Second City and I.O. Theater, Davis has appeared off-Broadway, on NBC5's "The Nude Hippo Show" and "The Daily Show," as well as at comedy festivals throughout the country.

His material draws from family, relationships, growing up in Skokie and the everyday absurdities of life.

Bonazzo, a New Jersey native now living in Chicago, is known for his quick wit and fast-paced delivery. He has appeared at the Netflix Is a Joke Festival and has opened for comedians including Michael Che, Adam Carolla, Kathleen Madigan and Jessica Kirson. His work also includes appearances in videos for The Onion, a Dry Bar Comedy special and specials available on YouTube and Tubi.

Deloney has performed on stages across the country, including The Second City, and was a finalist on Nick at Nite's "Search for the Funniest Mom in America." Her clean, quick-witted style blends personal experiences with relatable observations, making her comedy accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Tickets are $25 per person in advance through Eventbrite.com. Guests also can reserve a table for eight for $240, making it easy for friends, family and coworkers to enjoy the evening together.

Guests for Friday the 13th Comedy Night must be 18 or older. Food and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

For tickets and additional event information, visit Eventbrite.com and search for "Comedy Night" in Bensenville.

Sports

Montini Catholic coasts to win over Marmion Academy

Broncos score six first-half touchdowns, build 42-0 halftime lead in blowout

The Montini Catholic football team raised its season record to 6-2 with Friday's 49-7 victory over Marmion Academy in Lombard.

The Broncos scored six first-half touchdowns to build a 42-0 halftime lead over the visiting Cadets, who are members of the Chicago Catholic League (CCL) Purple Division. That lead of at least 40 points triggered a running clock for the entire second half.

After forcing a Marmion punt on the game's opening drive, Montini scored on its first offensive series. Senior quarterback Israel Abrams threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to senior Luca Florio to give the Broncos a 6-0 lead. Senior Johnny Louise then made the first of his seven extra-point kicks of the evening to push the lead to 7-0.

Florio scored Montini's second touchdown on a 47-yard punt return. Abrams and senior Donovan Evans connected on a 64-yard touchdown pass with about five minutes to play in the first quarter. Louise's extra point pushed the lead to 21-0.

Abrams added a 15-yard touchdown pass to senior Daniel Sago. Senior Eddie Kowalczyk contributed a 48-yard touchdown run. Abrams scored Montini's

See BRONCOS FOOTBALL, Page 12

Rams lose division battle with Bulldogs

Riverside Brookfield builds 24-7 halftime lead on its way to 38-28 victory

The Glenbard East football team's five-game winning streak ended with Friday night's 38-28 loss at Riverside Brookfield in what amounted to the Upstate Eight Conference's East Division championship game.

The Rams completed their division season with a 5-1 record. Riverside Brookfield moved its division record to 5-0 with Friday's victory. The Bulldogs, who are 7-1 overall, will complete their regular and division seasons with this week's game at Glenbard South. If Riverside Brookfield wins that game, it is the outright division champion. If the Raiders upset the Bulldogs, there would be a three-way tie at the top of the division, with Glenbard East, Riverside Brookfield and Glenbard South claiming a share of the Upstate Eight East title.

Glenbard East (5-3 overall) will wrap up its regular season with this Friday's home game against South Elgin (7-1 overall) of the Upstate Eight Conference's West Division.

Friday's loss marked the Rams' first intra-division or intra-conference loss in over three years. On Sept. 1, 2023, South Elgin beat Glenbard East 17-14 in an Upstate Eight Conference game in Lombard. That game took place when the conference included 10 teams and no divisions. The Upstate Eight Conference expanded to 14 teams, and two seven-team divisions, before the start of the 2024 season.

The Rams posted unblemished 6-0 division records in 2024

See RAMS FOOTBALL, Page 12

Warriors win regional title before losing in sectional semifinals

Willowbrook rallies to beat Lake Park; season ends with loss to Oswego East

The Willowbrook flag football team's 2026 season ended with Saturday's 12-6 loss to Oswego East in a semifinal battle at the IHSA St. Charles North Sectional.



Willowbrook sophomore Kennedy Rieger (5) returns an interception for a touchdown against Lake Park. (Photo by Chris Fox)

The Warriors ended their season with a record of 17-2.

Willowbrook and Oswego East both entered Saturday's contest with identical 17-1 records. The Wolves of Oswego East faced St. Charles North earlier this week in the sectional final in St. Charles. The winner advanced to the IHSA state quarterfinals, which will be contested at Willowbrook this Friday. The state semifinals, third-place game, and state-championship battle will take place at Willowbrook this Saturday.

This is the third year of the IHSA state competition in flag football, and the third year it's taking place at Willowbrook. The Warriors advanced to the state quarterfinals in 2024. Willowbrook won the third-place trophy in last year's IHSA state tournament.

Three days before losing to Oswego East in Saturday's sectional semifinal, Willowbrook rallied to defeat Lake Park

See WARRIORS FLAG FOOTBALL, Page 12



TOP: Kamron Greenhow (21) ran for three touchdowns during the first half of the Warriors' victory over Proviso East. BOTTOM LEFT: Willowbrook senior kicker Ben Swanson (39) was fired up after he recovered his own onside kick during the Warriors' shutout win over the visiting Pirates. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Warriors cruise to conference win, notch shutout against Proviso East

Willowbrook completes regular season with Thursday's home battle against Addison Trail



The Willowbrook football team improved to 5-3 overall and 3-2 in West Suburban Gold Conference play with Friday's 35-0 victory over Proviso East in Villa Park. The Warriors scored four touchdowns in the first half of the contest to take a 28-0 halftime lead over the visiting Pirates, who dropped to 1-7 overall and 0-6 in the conference with the loss.

Junior running back Kamron Greenhow scored Willowbrook's first three touchdowns in Friday's win. The Warriors drove 62 yards for a touchdown on their opening possession. Junior Jax Chavez began the drive with a 31-yard run. Greenhow finished the drive with a 17-yard touchdown run. Senior Ben Swanson made the extra-point kick to give the Warriors a 7-0 lead with 7:54 left in the first quarter.

Greenhow broke a 25-yard touchdown run with 27.3 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Swanson's extra-point kick pushed the lead to 14-0.

Swanson recovered his own onside kick on the ensuing kickoff. Willowbrook boosted its lead after Greenhow ran 12 yards for a TD with 8:25 remaining in the second quarter. Swanson made the extra-point kick to

See WARRIORS FOOTBALL, Page 12

Glenbard East wins championship at UEC East Division Meet

Glenbard East's girls tennis team won the first conference or division title in program history on Oct. 9.

The Rams compiled a first-place team total of 80 points in the Upstate Eight Conference East Division Meet, which concluded on Glenbard East's courts in Lombard.

Glenbard South finished second in the seven-team division meet's standings with its total of 74 points.

The Rams' champions in the meet included the No. 2 doubles team of seniors Jenna Pople and Marija Checks.

Glenbard East's No. 3 doubles duo of seniors Ava Ebner and Grace Sabourin also delivered a first-place finish, as did the Rams' No. 4 doubles tandem of senior Audrey Tragasz and junior Emma Ratajczak.

Ebner and Sabourin clinched the division title for the Rams by prevailing 6-0, 4-6, 6-2 over a Glenbard South duo in what turned out to be the meet's decisive No. 3 doubles flight's championship match. If the Raiders prevailed in that match, Glenbard South would have captured the division title.



Glenbard East celebrates after winning the Upstate Eight Conference East Division Meet on Oct. 9 in Lombard. It marks the program's first conference or division title in school history. (Submitted photo)

Warriors boys soccer edges Leyden, falls to Addison Trail

Blazers score late goal to tie match, add winning goal early in OT

The Willowbrook boys soccer team played two exciting West Suburban Gold Conference matches in Villa Park last week. The Warriors defeated Leyden 3-2 in an Oct. 6 battle.

Two days later, Willowbrook dropped a heartbreaking 2-1 overtime decision to Addison Trail.

The Warriors dropped to 4-11-2 overall and 2-4 in conference action following their overtime loss to the Blazers.

Willowbrook fell to 4-12-2 overall after Saturday's 5-0 non-conference loss at Lake Park.

The Warriors and Leyden were tied at 1-1 at halftime. Junior Mikolaj Sokolowski scored Willowbrook's first-half goal with an assist from sophomore Hamza Abdoussi.

Willowbrook took a 2-1 lead when junior Angel Flores scored a goal with an assist from senior Ian Mueller with about 31 minutes left in the match.

A little more than one minute later, Leyden netted an equalizer to even the score at 2-2.

Mueller scored what turned out to be the winning goal against the Eagles with 6:41 left on the clock. Sophomore Marco Flores assisted Mueller's goal.

The Warriors took a 1-0 lead over Addison Trail by scoring a first-half goal in the Oct. 8 match.

Sokolowski was pushing the ball toward the Blazers' goal on a breakaway when an Addison Trail player tackled him from behind about 25 yards in front of the goal. After the referee called a penalty on the play, Marco Flores launched a free kick into the net to give Willowbrook a 1-0 lead with 6:28 remaining in the first half.

The Warriors maintained their 1-0 lead over the Blazers until Addison Trail scored the tying goal with 1:53 left in regulation. The two teams were deadlocked at 1-1 heading into a 10-minute overtime period. Barely one minute into that period, the Blazers headed a free kick into the net to end the match and secure their 2-1 victory.



Senior Ian Mueller (22) scored one goal and also provided one assist during Willowbrook's 3-2 win over Leyden on Oct. 6. (Photo by Chris Fox)

Montini senior Doering competes at Class 2A boys golf state meet

Senior John Doering of the Montini Catholic boys golf team advanced to the IHSA Class 2A state meet in Normal after shooting an 18-hole score of 78 in an Oct. 5 sectional competition at the par-72 Deerfield Golf Club. Doering advanced to the state meet by finishing among the sectional's top 10 individuals who weren't members of state-qualifying teams. Competing at the Class 2A state meet at Weibring Golf Club in Normal on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9-10, Doering earned a tie for 62nd place. He shot an 18-hole score of 81 on the par-71 course on Friday and carded an 82 on Saturday.

Willowbrook's Yopchick, Vercruysse play in IHSA Class 3A sectional

Willowbrook senior Kyle Yopchick and Glenbard East junior Mike Vercruysse competed in last week's IHSA Class 3A boys golf sectional at Elgin Golf Club. The top 10 individuals at the Oct. 5 sectional who weren't members of a state-qualifying team advanced to the Class 3A state meet as individuals. Yopchick and Vercruysse didn't move on to the state meet, which took place Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9-10, at The Den at Fox Creek Golf Course in Bloomington.

Yopchick shot an 18-hole score of 86 on the par-72 course in Elgin. Vercruysse posted an 18-hole score of 93.

Glenbard East senior Cotcamp completes season at sectional

Glenbard East senior Angelina Cotcamp played in last week's IHSA Class 2A girls golf sectional at Mount Prospect Golf Club. Cotcamp shot an 18-hole score of 99 at the Oct. 5 sectional and didn't advance to the state meet, which took place Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9-10, at Hickory Point Golf Course in Decatur.

Rams pick up pair of division victories

The Glenbard East girls volleyball team improved to 9-19 overall and 3-2 in the Upstate Eight Conference's East Division with last week's division wins over Ridgewood and Elmwood Park.

The Rams earned a 19-25, 25-19, 25-16 victory at Ridgewood on Oct. 6.

Two days later, Glenbard East overpowered Elmwood Park 25-20, 25-6 in Lombard.

Senior Belle McDermott bashed 17 kills and made 19 digs for the Rams in their three-game win at Ridgewood.

Senior Taylor Griffith handed out 24 assists for Glenbard East. Junior Abby Michelon provided 14 digs. Sophomore Madi Schmidt hit 10 kills and made four digs for the Rams. Sophomore Olivia Stieve supplied 11 assists and nine digs. Senior Laila Hoffmann contributed seven kills and five digs.

Sophomore Eileen Urbina made six digs and doled out six assists for the Rams. Senior Megan Pham provided three kills and four digs.



Belle McDermott (10) led the Glenbard East girls volleyball team to last week's wins over Ridgewood and Elmwood Park. (Photo by Chris Fox)

•Warriors flag football

(Continued from page 10)

25-20 in the championship game of the Lake Park Regional in Roselle. The Warriors trailed the Lancers 13-0 early in the second half of the Oct. 7 regional final.

The Lancers took a 6-0 lead when they scored a touchdown with about one minute remaining in the first quarter. Lake Park added to its 6-0 halftime lead following its 76-yard touchdown pass on its opening possession of the third quarter. The Lancers added a conversion pass after the long touchdown score to take a 13-0 lead with about 11 minutes left in the third quarter.

Senior quarterback Kaitlyn Santos connected with senior Liz Pettinger on a 34-yard touchdown pass to help the Warriors cut Lake Park's lead to 13-6 with under six minutes to play in the third quarter. Willowbrook failed to score on its conversion pass after the touchdown.

Pettinger hauled in a 26-yard touchdown pass from Santos with 7:06 left in the regional final. The Warriors weren't able to score on the subsequent conversion pass, leaving Lake Park's lead at 13-12.

Moments later, Willowbrook sophomore Kennedy Rieger intercepted a Lake Park pass and raced about 20 yards into the end zone to propel her team to an 18-13 lead. Senior McKenzie Edison caught a pass from Santos on the one-point conversion attempt to raise the Warriors' lead to 19-13 with 6:56 to play.

After Pettinger intercepted a Lake Park pass with 5:36 left on the clock, Willowbrook's offense began a drive at the Lancers' 40-yard line. That drive ended with a 1-yard touchdown run by Santos with 1:53 to play. The Warriors weren't able to score on the conversion attempt, and their lead stood at 25-13.





TOP: Willowbrook celebrates with the championship plaque after winning the title at the Lake Park Regional. LEFT: Senior McKenzie Edison races down the sideline with the ball during her 69-yard TD reception in Saturday's sectional semifinal against Oswego East. (Photos by Chris Fox)

Lake Park struck back quickly, scoring on a long touchdown pass and adding the one-point conversion to trim the Warriors' lead to 25-20 with 1:08 to play.

The Lancers' offense remained on the field, as Lake Park had a chance to keep possession by gaining 20 yards on one play. The Warriors made a defensive stop and retained possession. Willowbrook ran about one minute off the clock before Lake Park had one last offensive play from its own 11-yard line. The Warriors made a stop on that play and proceeded to celebrate their come-from-behind victory. The celebration continued minutes later when the Warriors received the regional's championship plaque.

"I'm really proud of the girls for sticking in it when it felt like maybe too high of a hill to climb," said Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos after the Warriors' regional win over Lake Park.

Willowbrook, which opened the 2026 post-season with a 31-8 victory over Naperville North in a regional semifinal at Lake Park on Oct. 5, played Saturday's sectional semifinal in warm and sunny conditions at St. Charles North. After a scoreless first quarter, Oswego East scored two quick touchdowns to take a 12-0 lead. The Wolves scored their first touchdown on a pass play of about 30 yards. Moments later, Oswego East intercepted a Willowbrook pass and made a return of about 25 yards into the end zone to boost its lead to 12-0 with 6:55 to play in the second quarter.

The Warriors cut the Wolves' lead in half late in the second quarter after Santos completed a short pass to senior Jada Langston, who then lateraled the ball to Edison, who eluded a couple of defenders and raced down the field for a 69-yard touchdown with 1:31 to play in the half. The Warriors failed to convert a one-point attempt after Edison's touchdown.

Senior quarterback Madeline Carine completed a long pass to Pettinger on a third-and-long play during the fourth quarter. Pettinger's catch gave the Warriors a first down at Oswego East's 16-yard line. On the next play, Carine passed the ball to Edison, who made the catch in the end zone for what appeared to be the game-tying touchdown, but the play was negated by a Willowbrook penalty. The Warriors' offensive drive ended when the Wolves intercepted a Santos pass in the end zone on a third-and-goal play from the 8-yard line with about six minutes to play.

After an Oswego East punt, the Warriors began their last offensive drive of the game at their own 42-yard line with 1:48 on the clock. Willowbrook turned the ball over on downs at midfield with about one minute to play, and the Wolves proceeded to run out the clock.

"We didn't have the best start to this game, but we didn't quit," said Karos after Saturday's season-ending loss. "I'm super proud of our girls. We just needed to execute at the end."

Karos praised the team's seniors and their contributions to the Willowbrook program during her post-game comments after the sectional semifinal.

"They are some of the most decorated flag football athletes in the state," said Karos of the Warriors' seniors. "It's been wonderful to coach these seniors."

•Warriors football

(Continued from page 10)

raise the lead to 21-0. Late in the first half, after Proviso East couldn't handle a snap on an attempted punt, the Warriors started a drive at the Pirates' 34-yard line. Chavez closed out the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run with 13.5 seconds to play in the half. Swanson tacked on the extra-point kick to help Willowbrook to a 28-0 halftime lead.

The Warriors scored their fifth and final touchdown of the evening on a 20-yard pass from junior quarterback Niko Vourlos to senior JJ Miulli with 2:58 left in the third quarter. Swanson made his fifth extra-point kick of the game to give the Warriors their 35-0 advantage.

Sophomore Lucas Stringini and senior Christopher Allen made interceptions in the fourth quarter to help Willowbrook earn its first shutout win of the season.

The Warriors will close out the regular season with this Thursday's conference home game against Addison Trail. Both teams enter the contest at 5-3 overall and 3-2 in conference action.

The Warriors, Blazers, and the state's other playoff-bound teams will learn of this year's post-season pairings when the IHSA releases brackets this Saturday night, Oct. 17.

•Rams football

(From page 10)

and 2025. They sealed their 2025 championship by beating the Bulldogs 45-43 in a memorable battle in Lombard. Glenbard East's Moises Velazquez kicked a game-winning 48-yard field goal on the game's final play to lift the Rams to the victory and the 2025 division title.

Riverside Brookfield received the opening kickoff of Friday's game and drove 80 yards for a touchdown. The Bulldogs' drive featured a 69-yard run down to the Rams' 4-yard line. Riverside Brookfield scored on a 4-yard touchdown run on the next play. The extra-point kick gave the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead with 10:17 left in the first quarter.

Riverside Brookfield added to its lead with a 12-yard touchdown pass with 3:18 to play in the opening quarter. The extra-point kick raised the Bulldogs' lead to 14-0.

Glenbard East delivered a 76-yard scoring drive on its next possession. The Rams scored when senior Malachi Miller took a handoff from sophomore quarterback Carter Pohlman, ran to his right, and fired a long pass. Senior Mason Wright caught Miller's pass near the Bulldogs' 20-yard line and weaved into the end zone for a 47-yard touchdown reception. Velazquez, who is in his senior season, made the extra-point kick to trim the Bulldogs' lead to 14-7 with 1:50 to play in the first quarter.

Riverside Brookfield made a 27-yard field goal with about eight minutes left in the second quarter to increase its lead to 17-7. The Bulldogs added a 1-yard touchdown run with 19 seconds left in the first half. The ensuing extra-point kick helped Riverside Brookfield to a 24-7 halftime lead.

The Rams scored on the third quarter's first play from scrimmage, when Pohlman fired a 67-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Diamond Chew, who was wide open when he caught the ball near the Bulldogs' 30-yard line, and sprinted into the end zone. Velazquez made the extra-point kick to cut the lead to 24-14 with 11:45 left in the third quarter.

Riverside Brookfield pushed its lead to 31-14 with a 1-yard touchdown run and the subsequent extra-point kick with 6:49 to play in the third quarter. The Rams responded with a 65-yard scoring drive that ended with a 2-yard touchdown run by senior Montri Perry. The extra-point kick trimmed the Bulldogs' lead to 31-21 with 3:30 left in the third quarter.

Riverside Brookfield scored its fifth touchdown of the game on a 21-yard pass with 6:46 remaining in the fourth quarter. The extra-point kick pushed the lead to 38-21.

The Rams scored the game's final touchdown on Miller's 25-yard touchdown reception from Pohlman with 5:27 to play. Miller caught a pass behind the line of scrimmage and sped down the middle of the field and into the end zone. Velazquez added the extra-point kick to close out the scoring.

The Rams will learn their post-season plans when the IHSA releases this year's playoff pairings this Saturday evening, Oct. 17.

•Broncos football

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sixth TD of the first half on a 20-yard run. Montini freshman quarterback Charlie Bliss threw a 6-yard TD pass to senior Joey Neustadt during the second half.

Abrams completed 12 of 18 pass attempts for 234 yards and three touchdowns in one half of action. He has now thrown 25 touchdown passes this season. He's also piled up 10 rushing touchdowns.

Montini sophomore Julian Figueroa intercepted a Marmion pass to produce the game's only turnover.

"Lots of credit goes to the Marmion players and coaches," stated Montini coach Mike Bukovsky in his post-game comments. "They are feeling the effects of the Catholic League grind at this time, and were not at full strength. We knew they would prepare and compete hard the whole game, so we needed to start fast, and fortunately we did. It was truly an entire team effort."

Montini will complete its regular season with this Friday's CCL Green Division home game against St. Francis. The Broncos hold a 2-1 record in division play. The Spartans of St. Francis will enter the contest with an overall record of 4-4 and a division mark of 1-1. In the Green Division's other matchup on Friday, St. Rita will play at Nazareth Academy. St. Rita holds a 2-0 record in division play. Nazareth's division record stands at 0-2.

The Broncos, who are seeking their third straight IHSA state title, will learn their 2026 post-season path when the IHSA releases its post-season pairings this Saturday night, Oct. 17.

Warriors win Class 2A boys golf team state title

Wheaton Academy's Owen Coniaris, Hinsdale Central's Michael Jorski win individual titles

By JOSHUA WELGE
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Boys Golf
Class 2A state tournament

Wheaton Academy senior Owen Coniaris shot a 9-under par over the two-day tournament for a one-shot win over teammate Ben Patel for the individual title, and the Warriors won the team championship by 39 strokes over runner-up Quincy Notre Dame at Weibring Golf Club.

Wheaton Academy entered the final round of the tournament six shots ahead of Quincy Notre Dame, but shot 18-under par as a team on Saturday to run away from the field.

Coniaris shot a 6-under par on Saturday and Patel 5-under to lead the way. Luke Patel shot 7-under par on Saturday, 4-under for the tournament, to finish fourth individually.

Class 3A state tournament

Hinsdale Central junior Michael Jorski, trailing by a shot entering Saturday's final round, shot 3-under par Saturday to finish at 8-under and edge Evanston junior Lester Low by one shot for the Class 3A state title at The Den at Fox Creek.

Benet, with a team score of 597 over two days, took fourth place in the team race, behind Evanston (581), Hersey (591) and New Trier (592). Hinsdale Central, at 600, was fifth.

Benet freshman William Comiskey, Lyons senior Charlie Forrest and Lyons senior Ben Hare both finished at 3-over to tie for 11th.

Benet junior Rory Neill and Lyons junior Cohen Bloomfield tied for 18th at 5-over.

Girls Golf
Class 2A state tournament

Hinsdale Central, with a team score of 621, took fourth place at the Class 2A state tournament won by Stevenson (58) at Decatur's Hickory Point Golf Course. Benet was eighth with a 652.

Lemont sophomore Sarah Scott tied for eighth at 2-over par, nine shots back of state champion Taylor Miller of Plainfield East.

Amelia Gambla shot Hinsdale Central's low score of 7-over, good for a tie for 21st.

Girls Flag Football
Lyons 20, Downers Grove North 0

The second-seeded Lions beat the sixth-seeded Trojans in the Lyons Sectional semifinal, and will play top-seeded Romeoville Tuesday.



Mark Dosch

Wheaton Academy's Owen Coniaris putts on the 4th hole Monday, Oct. 5, during the Class 2A Sycamore Boys Golf Sectional in DeKalb. Coniaris led the team to state title over the weekend.

