

ACCI to host annual meeting, installation of officers, new directors

Event will include Mayor's State of the Village address

ADDISON — Mayor Richard Veenstra will present his annual "State of the Village" address on Thursday, January 15, beginning with registration at 11 a.m., at Alta Villa Banquets, 430 No. Addison Road. All members of the business community, as well as citizens and organizations are invited to join the Addison Chamber of

Commerce & Industry for this annual community update.

Prior to Mayor Veenstra's address, the Chamber will hold its annual meeting and installation of newly-elected officers and directors.

Tickets are \$25 each for ACCI members, \$30 for non-members. The meeting and program will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Reservations are required by Monday, January 5, and can be made by calling 630-543-4300 or by sending an e-mail to: addisonchamber@sbcglobe.net.

Mayor's 24th annual Community Charity Ball earns \$53,000

Checks presented at Village Board Meeting

VILLA PARK — More than 500 residents, business community members and friends of Addison attended the 24th Annual Mayor's Community Charity Ball on Nov. 15 at Alta Villa Banquets. The proceeds from that event, totaling more than \$53,000, were scheduled to be presented to 19 charities and service organizations at the Addison Village Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, December 15.

"Every facet of our community comes together for this event, knowing that it will benefit a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker or someone else in need," Mayor Veenstra said.

Eighteen different groups use the Mayor's Ball each year as a

fundraiser: Addison Community Switchboard, Addison Center for the Arts, Addison Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Americans of Italian Descent, Concord Lutheran School, District 4 Foundation for Educational Excellence, District 88 Foundation, Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club of Addison, Knights of Columbus, LCFS - Lutherbrook Child & Adolescent Center, Medinah Shriners, Parks & Recreation Foundation, Rotary Club of Addison, Serenity House, Sister Cities of Addison, Student Participation Center, and Women's Club.

Proceeds raised by the Village of Addison are split between two charities of the Mayor's choosing. This year those benefited Addison Community Switchboard and the Addison Historical Society.



photo provided

Check out the pretty packages!

Under the watchful eyes of nearby adults, these young Lincoln students look over the array of gift baskets on display at "Brunch With Santa," held on Saturday, December 6. The annual event was hosted by the Lincoln School Parent Teacher Committee. More photos inside this issue.



photo courtesy of Addison Trail senior Daniella Gonzalez

Addison Trail recognizes National Honor Society inductees

On Friday, December 5, 77 junior and senior students from Addison Trail were inducted into the Addison Trail Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), and 65 seniors were reaffirmed.

Some of the inductees are pictured, including (back row, from left) Ryan Zygowicz, Eric Grygo, Kannon Nelms, John Scorza, Nicholas Fugarino, Alivia Amelio; (front row, from left) Zachary Atiyeh, Antonino Conte, Carla Muell, Marina Stokes, Petra Kyriakopoulos and Maria Koulogeorgas.

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Submitted photo
Spirito! Men of Spirito! perform at their winter concert, The Seven Joys of Christmas, earlier this month.

Men of Spirito! holding auditions for spring season

ELMHURST — Spirito! announces auditions for the spring session for Men of Spirito!, a chorale group composed of men eighteen years of age or older who embrace Spirito!'s mission of fostering a love of chorale music through service to the surrounding community.

"We are looking for a few good men!" said Molly Lindberg, artistic director of the Men of Spirito. "If you can carry a tune, I will teach you the rest!"

The Men of Spirito rehearse from 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays from mid-January through May. The group has quickly becoming a highly requested performance ensemble for community events, having performed last year at US Cellular Field singing the National Anthem for the Chicago

"We are looking for a few good men!
If you can carry a tune, I will teach you the rest!"

— Molly Lindberg, artistic director

White Sox, the Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Memorial in Wilder Park, the Elmhurst Relay for Life, and the 125th Anniversary Celebration Concert at Grace Lutheran Church in La Grange.

Call Spirito at 630-581-5440 or E-mail: spirito@spiritosingers.org or visit spiritosingers.org for more information.

OBITUARIES

Mark W. Johnson, 66

VILLA PARK — Mark W. Johnson, of Villa Park, passed away on December 13, 2014, at the age of 66. He was a police officer for Villa Park, a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Villa Park and served on the District 88 School Board. Visitation will be held on Friday Dec 19, 2014, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Steuerle Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. Funeral services will be held on Saturday December 20, 2014; instate at 9 a.m. until service time 10 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church 545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park. Interment Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery, Oakbrook Terrace. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

Marilyn Butler, 79

VILLA PARK — Marilyn Butler, of Villa Park, passed away on December 8, 2014, at the age of 79. Loving mother of Kathryn (Gordon), David (Ronda) and the late Michael, dear grandmother of Michael Jr.(Amy), Wyatt, Erin, Jane, Collin and Laura, great grandmother of Hailey, Raylyn, Kayla, dear sister of Donn (Mavis) and

the late William. Memorial visitation will be held on Monday Dec 22, 2014, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Steuerle Funeral Home 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.

Walter O. Wyman, 83

VILLA PARK — Walter O. Wyman age 83, a 50-year resident of Lombard, passed away December 12, 2014, at the age of 83. A Marine Corp Veteran of the Korean Conflict. Beloved husband of the late Shirley Ann Wyman. Loving father of Walter O. (Vielka) Wyman, Timothy Wyman, Patricia (Scott) Hendrickson, Charles (Beth) Wyman and the late Lance Wyman. Dearest grandfather of Danielle, Wally, Austin, Sierra, Lily, Jesse and Will. Fond brother of Alyce Mae. Dear companion of Lee Patke. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 18, 2014, at Steuerle Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park. Interment with military honors was held at Fairview Memorial Park Cemetery in Northlake. Arrangements provided by Steuerle Funeral Home. Call (630) 832-4161 or visit steuerlefh.com for more information.



by Jeffrey T. Boland
Licensed Orthodontic Specialist

GETTING AN EARLY START

By scheduling an appointment to have their children's teeth assessed by the orthodontist, parents of 7-, 8-, and 9-year-olds can learn if their children might benefit from treatment that prevents their teeth from overcrowding. By intervening at these early ages, when mouths are growing at their fastest rate, orthodontists can bring about changes that may prevent more extensive treatment later on. The determination to start orthodontic treatment early can be made by checking chewing habits, taking an x-ray of growing teeth, and examining permanent teeth. Clear indications that children probably need to visit the orthodontist are: two bottom teeth that are being pushed behind nearby teeth, top teeth that stick out, or jaws that are noticeably misaligned.

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends visiting the orthodontist around age seven. By this age, most children have a mix of baby teeth and adult teeth. This makes it easier for the orthodontist to diagnose and correct tooth and jaw problems sooner and without surgery. To schedule a free orthodontic consultation for your child, please call our office. We are available by appointment. Straighter Smiles Are Our Specialty!



455 North York Street
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
630-279-5577
www.straightersmile.com

Addison Trail hosts Winter Wonderland Dance

ADDISON — On Dec. 6, more than 400 students filled the halls at Addison Trail for the school's Winter Wonderland Dance.

The event was a fundraiser for the Girls Basketball Team, the Boys Soccer Team and the Girls Gymnastics Team. Each team received about \$1,400 from the dance. Holiday decorations lined the area, refreshments and a spot for fun photos were available and music was provided by BOOM Entertainment. The dance was the capstone to a week filled with Winter Wonderland festivities.



photos provided

Above left: Addison Trail sophomore Alyssa Pham (left) dances with sophomore Anastasia Labadessa during the school's Winter Wonderland Dance. Above right: Addison Trail sophomores Jacky Soto and junior Ruben Aranda enjoy the holiday decorations during Addison Trail's Winter Wonderland Dance on Dec. 6. The event was a fundraiser for the Girls Basketball Team, the Boys Soccer Team and the Girls Gymnastics Team.

AT's Padres Latinos en Acción group meets

Continues to benefit Spanish-speaking parents

ADDISON — Each month, Addison Trail hosts a group for Latino parents called Padres Latinos en Acción. During those meetings, Spanish-speaking parents are able to increase their knowledge of

the school system to help their student achieve at the highest level.

On Dec. 2, the group had its largest turnout of the 2014-15 school year so far, with about 60 attendees. The meeting topic was "How to finance college for your student." The featured speaker was Ercilia Miranda-Jonas from the Illi-

nois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC).

Jesus Magana from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign spoke about the university and also offered tips on how to finance college. For more information about Padres Latinos en Acción, visit dupage88.net/site/public/files/?item=1846.



photo provided

Nearly 60 people attend the Dec. 2 Padres Latinos en Acción meeting at Addison Trail. That was the group's highest turnout so far this school year, and the meeting topic was "How to finance college for your student." Padres Latinos en Acción is a group that connects Spanish-speaking parents to Addison Trail.

• INITIATIVE

Continued from page 1

Healthcare in a new and exciting way with a new brand position, Healthy Driven. We want to inspire our patients and community."

Originally from Roscoe, Illinois, Patrick is the most successful woman in the history of American auto racing. Since 2013, most of her racing has been in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, driving the #10 GoDaddy Chevrolet for Stewart-Haas Racing. Patrick is the only woman to have won an IndyCar Series race, the 2008 Indy Japan 300, and her 3rd place finish at the 2009 Indianapolis 500 is the best showing by a woman in the history of the legendary race.

"Leading the Healthy Driven campaign is a natural connection and extension of my personal and professional lifestyle," she said. "Through my Healthy Driven Challenge, I want to motivate others to take charge of their health."

Patrick will donate up to \$10,000 — one dollar

for each challenge taken on HealthyDriven.com — to help fight childhood obesity in the Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare service area.

Participants have the opportunity to select health challenges from three categories on their desktop, tablet or mobile device:

- Nutritional (for example, replace soda or juice with water for one week);
- Physical (take the stairs instead of the elevator at work); or
- Emotional (volunteer at a local charity).

There is an option to become a repeat challenger by creating a log-in. Challengers will receive a personalized photo message from Patrick to share on Facebook or Twitter, along with a personalized Challenge dashboard. They are eligible to win a FitBit, fitness center membership and other valuable prizes.

For more information, visit HealthyDriven.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, Dec. 30 Teen Coachlite Skating Trip (Co-Op)

From 9 a.m.-3 p.m., have fun roller skating with your friends at Coachlite Skate Center, 1291 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Roselle. The fee includes roller skate rental plus \$5 credit toward inline skate rental, video games or to purchase something at the concession stand. Meet at the Bloomingdale Park District's Johnson Rec Center on Meacham Road. Registration deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 16. This event is for ages 10-14. Info: call 630-233-7275, option 2.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 Family New Year's Party

From 2-5 p.m. at the Centennial Rec Center, the Addison Park District invites families for a dip in the pool and then a rockin' DJ and a delicious ice cream sundae bar. Enjoy an inflatable jumpy, family games, a countdown and a balloon drop. Register before Monday, Dec. 15 and save; the registration deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 23. All ages are welcome. Fee: \$5 for resident; \$8 for nonresidents per person (before Dec. 15); \$8 for residents; \$10 for nonresidents per person Dec. 16 or later. Info: Call 630-233-7275.

Ongoing events • Addison Park District open gym

The Park District will be having an open gym for all ages from 3-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 6-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Centennial Rec Center gymnasium. Fees: \$2.50 for children in eighth grade and

younger on regular days, or \$4 for extended days and weekends; \$3 for ages high school and older on regular days, or \$5 on extended days and weekends. Info: go to addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

• Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs will meet on the third Thursday of each month and has a variety of social activities. The meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall; 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or www.cfsites.org.

• Active Adults Senior Club

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. For more information, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275, option #2.

• Holiday lights recycling

The Addison Park District has teamed up with Elgin Recycling to keep your holiday lights out of area landfills. The holiday lights recycling program will run until Monday, Jan. 18, with drop off locations at all Park District facilities. Residents can bring in non-working holiday lights such as: mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights and extension cords.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: QuestPublishing@aol.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

SPORTS

DECEMBER 18, 2014 • 19

Addison Trail boys basketball team off to nice start

Blazers go 4-1 through first five games

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team's hot start to the season continued at its own Addison Trail Invitational recently.

The Blazers opened play in the pre-holiday tournament by scoring a 56-46 win over Stagg.

"We got off to a slow start and got down 9-0," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "We started to come back and tied the game at 17-17. We played much better the next three quarters on the defensive end of the floor. We gave up 29 points after the first quarter. It was a nice wake-up call for

us."

Strong shooting helped Addison Trail pull out the win.

"We shot it well in the second half," said Lyons. "We had eight 3s overall. Stagg is a tough team to play. They mix defenses all the time. We came out and were more aggressive in the second half and picked up the tempo of the game."

Taylor White led the Blazers with 14 points. Matt Gontarek had 12 points on four 3-pointers. Ryan Zygowicz added 11 points off the bench.

"We had some good balance with our scoring," said Lyons. "It was nice to see Ryan play well. He's a guy we expect to help us this year and he contributed for us. I thought as the game went on we were very unselfish and moved the ball well and found open guys for shots and they knocked them down. We did enough to build the lead and hold on. It

was a good win."

Earlier, the Blazers dropped a 56-51 West Suburban Conference Gold Division game to District 88 neighbor Willowbrook.

"From an energy and effort standpoint we were great," said Lyons. "We competed for four quarters. But we shot 31 percent from the floor. We led by a point at halftime and were up by three at the end of the third and with four minutes to go. We couldn't separate ourselves from them. It was a hard-fought game to the end. We saw some things that we need to correct, but I was proud of the effort. If we come with that effort every game we are going to put ourselves in a position to win more times than not."

White had 16 points to lead the Blazers. "Taylor has been playing very well for us," said Lyons. "He's averaging around 17.5 points a game and he's

scoring a variety of ways whether it's shooting the three or making free throws or scoring in transition. He's not one-dimensional in how he scores. He's very important for us."

Lyons said the Willowbrook game will be a preview of what else is to come in the conference.

"We know the conference is going to be competitive," he said. "Willowbrook has a solid team."

The Blazers played two more games in their tournament earlier this week. Addison Trail also will head to Centralia for a Christmas tournament.

"We have five games over the next week-and-a-half," said Lyons earlier last week. "If we play with that same high energy and correct some of our mistakes, I feel we have a chance to be in every one of those games."

Addison Trail girls basketball team improving on offensive end

Baumgartner providing spark for Blazers

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls basketball team is giving opponents a run for their money.

"We're hanging with teams and competing, but we haven't been able to finish," said Addison Trail coach Rob Schader. "We lost some games we could have won. We lost by three to Fenton and lost by nine to Illiana Christian. We lost to Hinsdale South by 10 or 12 and lost to Leyden by 10. We're scoring more points but we're giving up points, plus rebounding and turnovers have hurt us."

Addison Trail was 1-8 overall through its first nine games. "The girls are fighting hard," said Schader. "We've been really good defensively at times, but then we'll give up second chances. We've struggled a little with rebounding and we're turning the ball over too much. We had 24 turnovers against Illiana Christian."

Schader said the team certainly isn't lacking in the effort department.

"The girls are getting after it and dive on the floor for balls, but we'll have one or two breakdowns and that's hurt us," said Schader.

Schader said the team also is encountering a talent-rich West Suburban Conference Gold Division. "Most of the conference is pretty well-matched with Proviso East and Morton," said Schader. "We got it down to six in the third and fourth quarter against Morton. They had a couple good scorers. We got it down to five points against Illiana Christian and then we had a couple 3s go in and out and we end up losing by eight or nine. We also had a tough time with free throws against Illiana."

A major bright spot for the Blazers has been the play of Rachel Baumgartner. "Rachel is playing great," said Schader. "She's scoring 10 to 12 points a game and is such a hard-working kid."

Schader also cited strong play from Stephanie Messina and junior Maria Koulogeorgas. "Steph Messina has been playing well and Maria has been doing a very nice job scoring," said Schader. "She had one game of 18 and another of 16."

Addison Trail played Downers Grove South on Tuesday and will face Leyden Friday in another WSC Gold game.

"The girls are trying hard and keeping their spirits up," said Schader. "These kids fight to the end."

Fenton girls basketball team faces strong conference competition

Fritz starring for Bison in recent contests

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Fenton girls basketball coach Tim Anderson had an inkling a recent three-game stretch in the schedule would present some major challenges.

He was correct. The Bison dropped three Metro Suburban Conference West Division games to Elgin St. Edward, Glenbard South and Riverside-Brookfield.

"It was a rough stretch for us," said Anderson. "We played some very good teams. St. Edward was ranked 10th in the state in Class 3A and had a 7-0 record. Those three games will be the toughest three-game stretch we will see all season. R-B was 8-0. It was an experience. We knew going in two of those three would be really tough and St. Edward was right up there with those two. They have a very good team. It was a learning curve that is going to help us figure some things out."

Fenton lost 54-35 to St. Edward. "It was not a 20-point game," said Anderson. "We were down by seven in the fourth quarter. We gave them everything we had. They made a push midway through the fourth. They hit two 3-pointers and that was the dagger. I was happy with how our girls played. We competed very well and performed fairly well. The compete part always comes first."

The Bison also dropped a 44-32 game to Glenbard South. "Again, I thought we played a good game and were competitive," said Anderson. "This was another case where there was a height differential. St. Edward had a 6-3 girl who had 19 points, but only had one offensive

rebound. We did a good job keeping her off the boards. Glenbard South has a 6-4 girl and we did a nice job keeping her off the boards. Glenbard South was a little bigger and quicker."

The three-game stretch came to a close with a 82-34 loss to Riverside-Brookfield.

"R-B shot us out of the gym," said Anderson. "They have a 6-7 girl, but they hit 13 threes and shot 53 percent. There is nothing you can do. It was a shooting barrage. There only are a finite number of things you are able to do when a team shoots like that against you. And it wasn't like these were wide-open looks. R-B deserves a lot of credit. They have a really good team. They have everything. They have three guards. It's not a matter of stopping one of them, it's three of them. We didn't have an answer."

Anderson lauded the recent play of Dana Fritz. "Dana isn't intimidated by anything or anyone," he said. "She's been one of our big leaders because of how hard she plays."

Fenton was 2-5 after the three games. "We played really good teams that sent a pretty strong message of what we need to improve on to move forward," said Anderson. "We'll play all three teams again. It's about us moving forward at this point in the season. We know what we do well and what we need to work at. Sometimes we go into shooting droughts. We showed in our games against Addison Trail and Lane Tech that we can shoot well. The potential is there to put the basketball in the basket. It's a huge priority for us right now."

Fenton played Ridgewood on Tuesday and will head to St. Viator for a Christmas tournament.

Willowbrook girls bowling team faring well

Fenton wrestlers continue strong start

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Willowbrook girls bowling coach Bill Eufasio likes what he is seeing from his team thus far.

"The season has started with a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm," he said.

The varsity team features first-year senior bowler Lauren Mast, juniors Kelly Conley, Maddie Weinhold, Haley Doyle and Julia Bergh, along with sophomore Jordan Tiberi and freshman Dana Sasenick.

"They all have displayed moment of great individual success," said Eufasio.

The coach noted Tiberi and Sasenick have been the team's

most consistent bowlers. "Jordan and Dana have registered some excellent scored," said Eufasio. "We still are searching for consistency as a team. The girls continue to work hard at practice to improve their skills."

Eufasio noted the program also shows promise at the junior-varsity level. "The JV team keeps showing continual improvement," he said.

First-year senior bowlers Mia Railing and KJ Wangler along with first-year sophomore bowler Olivia Pennebaker have been key JV contributors. "Mia, KJ and Olivia are very athletic and their skills are improving rapidly," said Eufasio.

Willowbrook's program currently features 27 bowlers. "All members of the team are provided with the opportunity to

earn competition time," said Eufasio. "Assistant Coach Kevin Allen and I feel our proudest moment so far this season was having 22 bowlers compete in a match against York. This is an indication of our growth as a program and of a very positive future."

Willowbrook competes in the Lisle tournament Saturday.

Fenton wrestling

The Fenton wrestling team was off to a 5-1 start in dual matches. Fenton had wins over Hoffman Estates, Palatine, Maine West, Kelvyn Park and Chicago Mather.

"We have had quite a successful start to the season," said Fenton coach Brian Hastings.

At the Fenton Weiss tournament, the Bison placed second out 10 teams. Milton (Wis.) won the tournament.

Senior Corey Muniz (106

pounds), Oscar Ledezma (145) and Joe Oweina (152) won individual titles.

Second-place finishers included senior Antoine Bess (126) and juniors Manny Morales (113) and Nathaniel Miller (120).

Taking third were seniors Grayson Kaspar (152), Juan Alfaro (182) and Rodrigo Castaneda (220), along with sophomore Angel Nava (132) and freshman Dylan Butts (160). Sophomore Ivan Rodriguez (182) placed fifth.

Through late last week, Ledezma and Muniz each were 7-0. Oweina and Morales were 7-1. Kaspar was 6-1. Alfaro and Nava were 8-2 and Bess had a 7-2 record.

Willowbrook girls basketball

The Willowbrook girls basketball team dropped a recent 43-31 West Suburban Confer-

ence Gold Division game to Downers Grove South.

Downers Grove South led 10-2 after the first quarter and 17-11 at halftime. The Trojans outscored Willowbrook 11-7 in the third quarter and 15-13 in the fourth quarter.

Josie Zabran led the Warriors with 11 points. Sam Schmidt added six points.

In earlier action, the Warriors scored a 58-24 win over Leyden in WSC Gold play. Willowbrook led 14-2 after the first quarter and 23-18 at halftime. The Warriors scored 11 points in the third quarter and held a 24-2 edge in the fourth quarter. Zabran had 19 points on 8-for-8 shooting. Michala Giammarino had 10 points (two 3-pointers). Alyssa Ressler and Schmidt each had 10 points.

Willowbrook boys basketball team making strides

Miller's strong outside shooting benefiting Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Willowbrook boys basketball coach Chris Perkins has seen positives from his squad thus far.

Through the first six games of the year, the Warriors were 4-2 overall and 1-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play. Willowbrook defeated District 88 neighbor Addison Trail and lost to Morton in its first two conference games.

"We're doing alright so far,"

said Perkins. "We are forcing a lot of turnovers and converting those into easy baskets for us. We're mixing up the full-court pressure with half-court traps and trying to speed teams up. It's been a group effort defensively."

The Warriors have received a number of key contributions on the offensive end. Sophomore Alonzo Verge Jr. was leading the team in scoring through the first six games. Junior Kevin Miller and seniors Jake Bruns, Kyle Rushing and Chris Raycroft also have helped.

"Alonzo has been our leading scorer every game so far and is averaging over 20 points for us," said Perkins. "He gets to the basket and puts pressure

on the defense when he does that."

Perkins noted Miller has been a big help from the perimeter. He had five 3-pointers in each game against Addison Trail and Morton.

"Kevin has been shooting the ball really well for us," said Perkins.

Perkins likes the progress

he's seen offensively thus far. "We're trying to get better offensively with our read option offense," he said. "Guys are getting more comfortable making the proper reads. We're switching some defenses on the fly and getting stops. It's a different style of play than last year. The key is the kids are getting more confidence in

what we are trying to do. We're playing OK right now and I think we can play a lot better. I'm waiting for us to put together a complete game."

Willowbrook played at home Tuesday against Downers Grove South in another WSC Gold game. The Warriors will head to Glenbard West at Christmas for tournament play.

The Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Rock Valley Publishing are pleased to announce the...

Willowbrook/Burr Ridge 2015 Community Directory

The Community Directory is an essential reference guide for both residents and businesses. It includes a comprehensive list of Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry members with feature stories on business and industry trends, plus retail professional and service establishments. Vital information is provided about city and government services, as well as educational and recreational opportunities.

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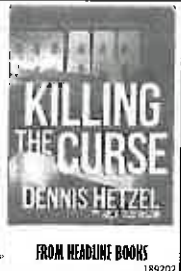
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SPORTS

JANUARY 8, 2015 • 16

Rowland, Jessen star for Willowbrook at Dvorak wrestling invite

Verr places eighth at 106 pounds

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook wrestling team recently performed on one of the biggest stages around and came away with various successes.

The Warriors participated in the ultra-competitive Dvorak Memorial Invitational tournament, which is regarded by many as the most challenging regular-season event in the state.

Willowbrook finished 20th in the field with 91.5 points,

but had an impressive three wrestlers place in the top 10 in their respective weight classes.

Matt Rowland continued his outstanding season by winning the 152-pound division. He improved his record to 28-0.

Rowland won his first match by pinfall in just nine seconds. He then scored a close 3-2 win in the quarterfinals and then notched a 3-1 victory in the semifinals.

Rowland won the title with a 6-3 win over Lockport's Trevell Timmons.

Freshman Jack Jessen finished third at 170 pounds. He upped his record to 28-1 overall.

Jessen scored a pinfall win

in 2:18 to open the tournament. He then scored a 13-3 major decision in the quarterfinals, but dropped a 6-2 match to Bishop McNamara's Kyle Betourne in the semifinals.

Jessen then recorded a technical fall in 5:38 in the consolation semifinals and ended the tournament with a 9-3 win in the third-place match against Lincoln-Way Central's Brandon Dominski.

Andrew Verr was the third Willowbrook wrestler to place in the top 10. He took eighth at 106 pounds. Verr dropped his first match by an 8-1 count, but came back in the second round of the consolation bracket to score a pinfall win

in 1:03. He then recorded a fall in 1:00 in the third round against a wrestler from Iowa. In the fourth round of the consolation bracket, Verr was an 8-5 winner. Verr dropped a 4-3 match in the fifth round of the consolation bracket and then lost 5-1 in the seventh-place match.

In other weight classes, Willowbrook's Trevor Bell (17-9) scored one victory at 113 pounds (via a 10-2 major decision). Christian Chavez (17-5) also recorded a win at 220 pounds (pinfall in 3:33), while Javier Ayala (10 wins) notched a victory at 195 pounds (7-4 decision).

Alex Rego (120 pounds,

14-11 record), Ricky Saldana (132 pounds), Jacob Seymore (138 pounds, 5-3), Austin Denz (145 pounds, 11-11), Joe Palumbo (160 pounds, 12-11) and Marcus Krupiczowicz (285 pounds, 15-9) also competed in the tournament for the Warriors.

Rowland was tops in the tournament for quickest pinfall with his nine-second victory. Jessen tied for 11th in the tournament for most total match points with 45.

Willowbrook finished 21st as a team in most pins/least amount of time with five pins in 8:03. The Warriors also were 22nd in match points with 129.

Addison Trail boys basketball team competes at Centralia

Blazers score victory over Missouri team as Novak scores 14 off bench

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys basketball team headed south for the holidays.

The Blazers competed in the recent Centralia tournament where they went 1-2.

Addison Trail scored a 58-40 win over University City (Mo.) and then lost 50-25 to host Centralia and 56-41 to Belleville West.

Defense helped key the win over University City. "We, in general, defended very well," said Addison Trail coach Brendan Lyons. "We played a zone defense the entire game because they were hurting us off the drive."

Addison Trail led only 14-13 after the first quarter, but held the Missouri squad to five points in the second quarter and four points in the third quarter. Addison Trail held a 20-plus lead heading into the final stanza.

"I wanted to see us defend the ball better when we were playing man-to-man defense, but I liked our ability to be flexible and adjust," said Lyons.

Taylor White led the Blazers with 17 points. Junior Zach Novak came off the bench to add 14 points.

"We had good balance on both ends of the floor," said Lyons. "We had good contributions from a lot of guys."

Addison Trail then ran into the host squad playing in front of its home fans. "Centralia was a tougher team than we were that night on both ends of the floor," said Lyons. "That was a very good team on its home floor with a

near sellout crowd. We only trailed by 10 points at halftime, but they built the lead and we didn't defend well. We struggled to get open looks and we relied on the 3-point shot and it wasn't falling. They wore us down."

Addison Trail played Centralia at 8 p.m. and then turned around the next morning at 8:30 a.m. and faced Belleville West.

"It took us awhile to get going," said Lyons. "Belleville is a big team. Their front line went 6-9, 6-7 and 6-7 and we had to gimmick a lot on the inside. We didn't do a bad job inside defensively, but they knocked down six 3s. They made shots when they had to. I'm not disappointed with our effort. It was a tough bounce-back from the previous night. It's a game I would have liked to see us win."

Addison Trail headed into the New Year with a 10-3 overall record. Lyons attributes a lot of the team's success to the many contributions it has received throughout the roster.

"We have kids who have been there for us all year," he said. "We've had a lot of balance. We play about nine guys. Taylor White and Matt Gontarek are our two captains and have done a good job setting the tone. This is a very unselfish and coachable group. That balance has been consistent through the first 13 games."

Addison Trail brought a 9-1 record to Centralia after winning its own pre-holiday tournament. The Blazers closed up that event with wins over Lake Park and Naperville Central (in overtime).

"That was our second tournament win of the year, which is a really good thing for the kids," said Lyons. "We were 9-1 heading into Centralia having beaten some good teams. We feel good about

what we are doing. We're 10-3 and have played a tough schedule and have wins against strong teams. The kids are confident, but they are grounded in the sense of they know there still is a lot of work to be done."

Lyons said the Centralia event was an overall success.

"We played quality teams there, teams we don't see usually," he said. "That's a good thing that will help us focus on some of the things we may have gotten away from before we get back into the grind of the conference schedule. This not only was a good experience for the

kids—they loved going down there and had a blast—but it's something that can make us a better team."

Addison Trail was 2-1 through its first three West Suburban Conference Gold Division games.

"I'm pleased with what we've done, but there still is a long road ahead," said Lyons. "We want to compete for the conference title and get a good seed in the sectional. We know we have to do a lot of things right. We'll play one game at a time and make sure we put ourselves in the best position to win."

Willowbrook boys basketball team takes second at Glenbard West

Verge Jr. earns all-tournament position

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys basketball team ended up in second place at the recent Glenbard West tournament.

Willowbrook won the Green Division of the tournament and lost to White Division champion Leyden in the overall tournament title game.

Willowbrook advanced to the final thanks to a 2-1 record in pool play. The Warriors defeated St. Francis and Glenbard West and lost to Northridge Prep.

"We were balanced offensively against St. Francis," said Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins. "We executed at the end and shot the ball well from the free-throw line."

The Warriors also were strong in the waning minutes in the victory over host Glenbard West. "We pulled through

with stops toward the end of the game when we needed them. It was a close game throughout."

Hot opponent shooting hurt Willowbrook in the championship game.

"One of Leyden's guards had eight 3-pointers against us," said Perkins. "He got them off to a great start. Offensively, we couldn't put the ball in the hole. We started off 2-0 in the tournament and then lost the last two games. We kind of faded at the end of the tournament."

Perkins noted the team learned plenty during the tournament. "We learned if we go with a smaller lineup we are better defensively in terms of pressuring people," he said.

Sophomore Alonzo Verge Jr. was named to the all-tournament team.

"Alonzo gives us a little of everything," said Perkins. "He's our leading scorer and assist man and leads us in

See WILLOWBROOK, Page 19

IC Catholic Prep boys cagers go 3-1 at ICCP/Westmont tourney

**Epting records
1,000th career
point in game
against
Evergreen Park**

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The IC Catholic Prep boys basketball team placed second in its own ICCP/Westmont tournament.

The Knights scored wins over Chicago Latin School, Elmwood Park and Evergreen Park and lost to Elgin St. Edward in the championship game.

"The Evergreen Park game put us in the final and that's a game where we played as a team and came together and made some real positive strides," said IC coach TJ Tyrrell. "We were unselfish. It was a very nice team win."

IC trailed 19-16 after the first quarter in the final against St. Edward and was down 30-24 at halftime.

"We struggled a little bit against St. Ed's," said Tyrrell, who noted this could be the first of four potential meetings with the Elgin school this season.

son. "Ed's made a strong run and we couldn't come back. We'll learn from this. We have to withstand runs against teams and make runs of our own. These are growing pains that we'll work out."

Tyrrell noted IC shot 80 percent from the field in the win against Evergreen Park.

"Against St. Edward, the shots weren't falling for us and we struggled a little bit defensively allowing some easy layups and not rotating on the help side," he said. "Ed's is a solid team (13-2 record) but we should have put on a better performance."

The loss put IC at 8-4 overall. "The tournament gave us an opportunity to work on areas where we are struggling," said Tyrrell. "I'm happy with how we are working the ball around. In earlier losses, guys were trying to do too much. They are beginning to realize that if they work together they can be a lot stronger and more successful. We've been working on making that extra pass. Our assist numbers were way up in the tournament and that's what we had been focusing on in our pre-game goals. We wanted to have 15-plus assists in each

"The Evergreen Park game put us in the final and that's a game where we played as a team and came together and made some real positive strides."

— IC Coach TJ Tyrrell

game. We did that except in the loss to St. Ed's. If we continue to do that, we will be successful in games."

The Knights received strong play in the tournament from a variety of sources, including the likes of Rhashaun Epting, Austin Reed, Troy Burrows, Will Lyles and Jordan Rowell.

"Rhashaun had a very nice effort in the tournament," said Tyrrell. "Austin Reed is a sophomore who has put up some big numbers. He leads us in steals and assists. Troy had an outstanding shooting effort in the tournament. His shot is more consistent and that's important for our success. Will Lyles and Jordan Rowell continue to work hard. They go extremely hard and stay positive in times of adversity. I'm really happy

with their efforts."

Junior Ben Johnson also helped the Knights off the bench.

"Ben Johnson gave us good production," said Tyrrell. "He works hard and is a real good kid."

IC was 1-2 through its first three Metro Suburban Conference West Division games.

"Our upcoming conference games all are very important," said Tyrrell.

IC played Glenbard South in a conference game at home Tuesday and will head to Aurora Central Catholic Friday for another league contest.

In the tournament win over Latin School (68-54), Burrows had 21 points (4 three-pointers). Epting added 19 points and also hit four 3-pointers.

Lyles had 12 points, while Johnson and Reed each logged six points.

In a 63-48 win over Elmwood Park, Reed had 14 points (two 3-pointers), six rebounds, five assists and seven steals. Lyles also had 14 points on 6-for-11 shooting. Epting finished with 10 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and shot 6-for-8 from the free-throw line. Johnson added eight points. Angel Ramirez, a junior, had six points. Rowell had six rebounds and three steals. IC had six blocked shots as a team.

In the win against Evergreen Park (75-46), IC led 22-4 after the first quarter and 39-12 at halftime. Epting had 19 points and went over the 1,000-point mark for his career. He shot 8-for-10 from the free-throw line. Burrows added 18 points (3 three-pointers). Reed finished with nine points, while Lyles had seven points. Connor Youngman and Jon Simmons each had six points. Ramirez finished with five points.

Against St. Edward, Epting had 10 points, (2 three-pointers), eight rebounds and three assists. Lyles and Burrows each had six points.

WILLOWBROOK

Continued from page 16

steals. He's probably third on the team in rebounding. He's only a sophomore. He has a lot of potential."

Perkins also lauded the play of seniors Chris Roycroft and Jake Bruns.

"Chris gave us a presence inside and Jake knocked down some shots in the last two games," said Perkins.

Willowbrook came out of the tournament with a 6-6 record. The Warriors were 1-3 in their first four West Suburban Conference Gold Division games.

"We've been a little inconsistent," said Perkins. "We've lost

games we should have won. Going forward we're looking for more consistency. I do like that we are gaining experience with these close games. Now we need to get that consistency. We need to come out with a sense of urgency. If we do that we are going to be OK."

Willowbrook returns to action Saturday at home against Argo in a non-conference game.

"We gave the guys a couple days off to recharge the batteries and we'll get back to work (this week) and prepare for Argo," said Perkins.

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192519

Fenton girls basketball team plays in St. Viator tournament

Bison score win over Elmwood Park; Fritz picks up all-tourney honor

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Fenton girls basketball team finished 1-3 at the recent St. Viator tournament over the holidays.

Fenton defeated Elmwood Park in the final game and lost contests to East St. Louis, Regina Dominican and Glenbrook North.

The Bison lost their opener to East St. Louis by a 45-32 count.

"That was kind of a low point for us," said Fenton coach Tim Anderson. "We jumped out to a seven-point lead and looked good. The rest of the game was a big question mark. The girls know it. We were shaking our heads as to what happened. We kind of let an opportunity slip by."

Fenton then dropped a 49-28 decision to Regina Dominican. "Regina is very good," said Anderson. "We didn't play bad against them. They are a very well disciplined team and are guard-oriented and very quick. We've had some trouble

scoring lately and they played really good defense. It was a nice effort on our part, but they exploited the fact that we've been having trouble putting the ball in the basket. It was a better overall effort and performance."

The Bison then lost a 41-38 game to Glenbrook North. "We had a chance at the end," said Anderson. "We were down by 12 at one point. Of the four games, this was, by far, our best performance and our best effort. Earlier in the year we struggled with shot selection. Now it's a matter of reminding the girls that wins and losses are determined by who puts the ball in the basket more. For us, shots aren't falling right now. That was the difference in this game."

Anderson was pleased the team cut a 12-point deficit down to one or two points.

Sophomore Krysta Wilson starred in the game against Regina. She made five 3-pointers, including three in the fourth quarter.

"She leads the team in 3s and she got us right back into it," said Anderson. "She was getting good shots within the framework of what we're trying to do. It was a nice effort aside from the ball not going in the basket for us as a team.

It was a really good performance."

Fenton was up by double digits for the majority of its 32-27 win over Elmwood Park.

"It was a very good defensive effort on our part," said Anderson. "We held their good guard who was on the all-tournament team to six or seven points."

Anderson is stressing to his team to keep a positive outlook regarding its shooting woes during the first half of the season.

"It's natural that they might get frustrated. I understand," said Anderson. "I've seen this happen before. I feel like we're doing things the right way but we're not getting that final bit of gratification by the ball going in the basket. I feel for them. They will get better."

Anderson also lauded the play of senior Jannely Hernandez, who came up with a big steal in the win.

"Jannely stepped up after they cut it to one," said Anderson. "She jumped the gap and stole the ball and went coast-to-coast and knocked in the layup. That was a big sigh of relief. We were in control the rest of the way."

Senior Dana Fritz earned all-tournament accolades at St. Viator.

"Dana made the all-tourna-

ment team and deservedly so," said Anderson. "I'll tell you what, I'm at a loss explaining all the things she does for us. She has this rare thing where she can turn a mistake into something on the other end of the floor very quickly. She's thinking steal, rebound or creating a turnover. Other coaches make the comment about how hard she plays. That's one of the ultimate compliments you can give somebody. Dana's effort is superior. I don't know if she led us in scoring or rebounding any of the games, but she definitely was the standout over those four games."

Fenton (4-9) is ready to tackle the second half of the season. The Bison played St. Viator as part of the Fenton season-ender tournament Tuesday. Fenton plays St. Edward on Thursday.

The Fenton tournament that is spaced over multiple weeks and runs into February features the host Bison, St. Viator, Chicago Latin School, Lake Forest Academy and Chicago Academy. Each team plays four games in the round-robin format.

"There is so much room for improvement," said an upper Anderson of his team's second half prospects. "There's a lot of room for improvement because there is a lot of potential here. We have girls with nice technique. They are nice shooters. I'm an eternal optimist. If you work hard, things will get better. I can't fault their effort. They are working hard. If they keep working hard the odds will be in our favor and we will make leaps forward."

Willowbrook girls basketball team defeats Elgin at Wheaton North

Warriors receive key contributions from Brown, Ressinger and Zabran

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls basketball team was competitive in all four games it played at the recent Bill Neibich Falcon Classic at Wheaton North.

But the Warriors only had one win to show for it, finishing 1-3 at the event.

"We had good efforts, but we're not quite deep enough right now to play back-to-back games," said Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell. "In the three games we lost, we were ahead at halftime or losing by a couple of points and then in the second halves we couldn't generate enough offense."

Willowbrook opened the tournament with a 42-27 loss to Algonquin Jacobs. The Warriors then dropped a 47-30 game to Schaumburg and a 43-37 contest to Glenbard North.

"The girls are giving great efforts, but we get hurt when we get fatigued or we get in foul trouble. We're working on getting a rotation of 10 girls like we've had the last few years. We're not there yet, but we're working on getting there."

Willowbrook's closed the tournament with a 55-25 win against Elgin. The Warriors played that game without leading scorer Josie Zabran who was sidelined with an injury.

"Josie missed the Elgin games and other girls stepped up and scored the basketball,"

said Harrell. "That was great to see and we can build on that."

Harrell cited strong play in the tournament from the likes of Zabran, Alyssa Ressinger and Breonna Brown.

"Josie continues to play well for us," said Harrell. "Alyssa has come on lately and increased her rebounding. She averaged nine rebounds a game at Wheaton North. Breonna has become a consistent starter for us. She's worked her way up. We put her on the other team point guard and she has done a good job with that, plus she has hit some timely baskets."

Willowbrook has been preparing for games this week against Glenbard South and Downers Grove South (away).

"We want to get back to how we've been playing," said Harrell. "Practice is helping a lot. The girls understand what we need to do to get to where we need to be. Before Christmas I felt like we had turned the corner. Now we want to come out of Christmas playing well. We want to stay in the conference race."

Willowbrook was 4-2 through the first round of West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

"Proviso East is 6-0 and Morton is 4-2," said Harrell. "Hinsdale South is tough and Downers Grove South has beaten a couple people in the conference. It's still wide-open. One of our major goals is to take the conference championship and we're still fighting for that. The future is much brighter than how we came out of Wheaton North. We're looking forward to having a strong second half of the season."

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STAFF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS at Willowbrook High School were able to buy holiday items that were created by students in the school's LINK classes. The LINK students made about 500 gift tags to place on presents and approximately 150 Willowbrook magnets. The gift tags and magnets were sold for \$1 each. Proceeds benefited the LINK program. In making the gifts, the students gained experience in producing quality work, interacting with customers and working as a group. LINK students pictured (left to right) with some of the gift tags and magnets are: junior Quintin Dent-Howell, junior Joe Remedi, sophomore Guadalupe Perez, sophomore Christian Manning, freshman Rosa Boehm and freshman Becca Shulda.



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It took awhile, but the winter of 2014-15 has arrived



Winter is here, again...

Photo by Chris Fax

THIS WEEK'S SNOW and frigid temperatures weren't severe enough to keep some avid runners off of the Illinois Prairie Path. The above photo, taken Tuesday morning near the Rugaard Gazebo—just west of Ardmore Avenue—shows one of a few runners who braved the cold weather for a winter workout. The path was plowed earlier in the morning. The temperature at the National Weather Service's official recording site at O'Hare International Airport reached a low of 4 degrees below zero at about 5 a.m. on Tuesday. The temperature rose to 8 degrees above zero by noon. Today's forecast calls for a high of about zero and wind-chill readings of about 30 below zero.

Villa Park police investigate three shooting incidents within three weeks

by Bonnie MacKay

Villa Park detectives are investigating the third "shots fired" call on the north side of Villa Park during the past three weeks.

The latest incident was witnessed by a Villa Park police officer, who happened to be part of an extra patrol on the north side of Villa Park.

According to Villa Park Police Detective Sgt. Dan McCann, the department had placed extra patrol in a northside neighborhood because of problems.

At about 9:18 p.m. on Jan. 2, an officer heard shots coming from the area of a parking lot at 108 W. Terrace.

McCann said the officer approached the area on foot and attempted to stop a male subject who was observed running from the area.

The subject entered an older, gold Honda or Toyota, which the detective said drove directly toward the officer. Although the vehicle brushed up against the officer as it left the area, the officer was not injured.

However, by the time the officer was able to make it back to his squad car, the vehicle was able to leave the area, westbound on Vermont.

Villa Park officers responded to the area

and were assisted by officers from Lombard and Addison police departments, as well as the DuPage County Sheriff's Office on the Jan. 2 call.

"We don't know what they were shooting at," the sergeant related, adding that the department has encountered recent problems in the area.

"It happened very quickly," he said of the recent shooting incident.

McCann said this is the third shots fired call in that area of the village, relating that there had been a shots fired call in the same area about a week earlier. In all three incidents, officers did

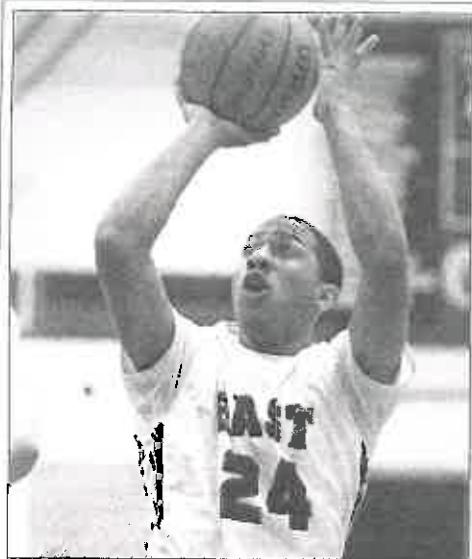
not find a shell casing, a bullet or a victim, according to the detective.

About a week earlier, Villa Park police had responded to the same area for a shots fired call.

McCann said although the latest incident was witnessed by an officer, who heard the shot and could identify it as a gunshot, there is no way to positively verify a shots-fired call.

He related that after the latest shots fired call, the department only received one 9-1-1 call.

McCann said although extra patrols have
(Continued on the next page)



Steady scorer...

File photos by Chris Fox

SOPHOMORE MICHAEL FINLEY (above) of the Glenbard East boys basketball team scored 46 points during the Rams' four games at the Jack Tish Holiday Tournament, which took place Dec. 28-31 at York High School in Elmhurst. The Rams won one of four games at the tournament and ended the month of December with an overall season record of 6-8. The Rams opened the holiday competition with a 45-36 loss to Naperville North on Dec. 26. Junior Zach Walsh scored nine points for Glenbard East, while Finley and junior Jack Grigat added eight and seven points, respectively. One day later, the Rams dropped a 58-43 decision to Downers Grove South. Finley made three 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 16 points. Senior Adam Eboli, who made a pair of 3-point shots, added nine points. Grigat sank two 3-pointers and provided six points. The Rams' third game of the tournament was a 64-62 overtime loss to Stagg on Dec. 29. The two teams were tied at 48-48 after three quarters and deadlocked 57-57 through four quarters. Senior Bryce Roberts poured in a team-leading 15 points for Glenbard East. Junior Patrick Peterkin, who connected on three 3-point shots, added 13 points. Finley and Walsh each scored 12 points. Glenbard East closed out the tournament with a 65-55 victory over Ridgewood on Dec. 30. The game was tied at 33-33 at halftime. The Rams outscored Ridgewood 17-6 during the third quarter. Roberts scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Finley added 10 points and 11 rebounds. Junior Terrance Lakes and Peterkin tallied 10 and nine points, respectively. The Rams, whose Upstate Eight Valley Conference record currently stands at 3-3, will play a pair of conference home games this week. Glenbard East will face Metea Valley on Friday and South Elgin on Saturday.



Scoring leader...

ALONZO VERGE (above) of the Willowbrook boys basketball team averaged 20 points per game during the team's first 12 contests of the season. Verge scored 30 points in the Warriors' last game—a 64-53 loss to Leyden at Glenbard West's holiday tournament on Dec. 27. The Warriors won two of four games at the tournament and closed out December with an overall record of 6-6.

Warriors win two of four at Glenbard West event

The Willowbrook boys basketball team begins the new year with an overall season record of 6-6. The Warriors closed out December with two wins and two losses at Glenbard West's holiday tournament.

Willowbrook's first game of the tournament was a 58-55 victory over Glenbard West on Dec. 22. Sophomore Alonzo Verge led the Warriors' offensive attack with 23 points. Senior Jake Bruns scored a team-leading 13 points in Willowbrook's next game—a 53-45 victory over St. Francis on Dec. 23. Senior Kyle Rushing grabbed 13 rebounds in the win over the Spartans.

The Warriors' next game of the tournament was a 54-36 loss to Northridge Prep on Dec. 26. Bruns scored a team-leading nine points,

while Rushing had seven rebounds.

Verge exploded for 30 points in Willowbrook's final game of the event—a 64-53 loss to Leyden on Dec. 27. Rushing made a team-high 10 rebounds.

Through 12 games, Verge has scored 240 points for an average of exactly 20 points per game. Junior Kevin Miller scored 7.75 points per game through the Warriors' first 12 contests. Bruns, Rushing and senior Chris Roycroft each scored about six points per game through the team's first 12 games.

The Warriors' season continues with Saturday's non-conference home game against Argo. Willowbrook won't play its next West Suburban Gold Conference game until Jan. 23, when it travels to Leyden.

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Warriors win one of four...

SENIOR SAM SCHMIDT (above) of the Willowbrook girls basketball team contributed a team-leading six rebounds in the Warriors' 55-25 victory over Elgin at Wheaton North's holiday tournament on Dec. 27. Willowbrook lost its first three games of the tournament before closing out the event with the victory over Elgin. The Warriors opened the holiday competition with a 42-27 loss to Jacobs on Dec. 22. One day later, Willowbrook fell 47-30 to Schaumburg. The Warriors' third game of the event was a 43-37 loss to Glenbard North on Dec. 26. Schmidt and junior Josie Zabran both scored seven points in the loss to Jacobs. Zabran was the team's leading scorer against Schaumburg (14 points) and Glenbard North (10 points). Senior Alyssa Ressler and junior Breonna Brown both scored 10 points in the victory over Elgin. The Warriors' overall record stood at 8-9 at the end of the tournament. Willowbrook's West Suburban Gold Conference season resumes with Saturday's game at Downers Grove South. The Warriors won four of six games during the first half of the conference season.

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"We lost (the game) in the second quarter," Rams coach Don Finnie said.

A Sidney Bobo lay-in with 5:33 left in the third quarter gave the Mustangs a 23-13 lead. Then they went cold too.

"We were too content with a 10-point lead and we just fell behind and we weren't trying as hard on defense, and that was when they came

"We're not getting scoring out of our players," said Finnie, whose team lost its third straight game. "That's another thing we've got to look at, how to get more balanced scoring on our team like they were a couple of games ago. It can't be just one player doing the scoring."

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Boys basketball

Willowbrook holds off West Chicago

BY JACOB ONAK

Daily Herald Correspondent

After being outscored by 16 points in the first quarter, West Chicago's boys basketball team came close to erasing its deficit in the fourth quarter, but Willowbrook held off the Wildcats to earn a 63-53 win in West Chicago on Tuesday.

The Wildcats cut the Warriors' lead to 56-50 with 3:43 left to play thanks to back-to-back 3-pointers from Quinn Ricci, but Alonzo Verge Jr.'s 25 points, paired with some late free throws, helped the Warriors escape with the win.

"I thought we came out that first quarter, we were shooting lights-out," Willowbrook coach Chris Perkins said. "But we kind of got away from what got us going. Defensive pressure, we got a couple turnovers, got some easy layups, and I thought we were moving the ball really well in the first quarter."

Verge and Jake Bruns helped Willowbrook get off to a fast start. Verge got some quick steals, which helped turn into 6 fast points. Bruns came off the bench to drop two of his three 3-pointers.

Willowbrook (8-6) slowed its pace a bit, and West Chicago slowly cut the lead. Mike Bibbs 10 points in the first half helped the Wildcats outscore Willowbrook 17-13, going into halftime down 33-21.

In the third quarter Verge continued to prove why he's one of the best sophomores in the state, adding to his 15 points in the first half with 10 points in the second, despite struggling from the free-throw line.

West Chicago (5-8) stayed with Willowbrook, going into the fourth down 48-35 until Ricci started finding his range.

The 6-foot-3 junior hit four of his five 3-pointers in the second half, tallying 19 points on the night. His big back-to-back 3s cut the lead to 6 points.

"I see Quinn do that all the time. It's just getting Quinn to do that, meaning getting Quinn to take his shots when they come," West Chicago coach Bill Recchia said. "He'll get there. He does a nice job. I mean early on he was averaging double digits for the first five games, and I think that's where he should be."

Though Willowbrook slowed the scoring pace, some points in the paint from Kyle Rushin along with Bruns going 4 of 4 from the free-throw line helped to squeeze out the victory.

"We did better than what we're usually doing," Verge said. "Started out the game strong, started off with momentum. But we always slowly lose that at a point of time in the game, so I think that's something we need to work on."

Naperville Central's Brandon Bullo on Tuesday in Aurora.

Naperville
its already

BY MIKE KRIZMAN

Daily Herald Correspondent

Naperville Central entered Tuesday night giving up an average of 41 points a game.

The Redhawks were a point better. Their zone defense forced 16 Waubesa Valley turnovers in a 51 victory in nonconference basketball action in Aurora.

Waubesa Valley's lead came on the first score of the game when Brian Phil knocked down a 3-pointer the first possession. Naperville Central (11-7) didn't relinquish the lead the rest of the way.

"We talked the last couple weeks about limiting the opponent's possessions," Naperville Central senior Matt Meier said. "We slowed the game down, got good steals and I think that helped tonight."

The Warriors (6-10) managed to tie the game twice the second quarter, the coming on a 3-pointer from top of the key by Chris Karl