

Willowbrook drops thriller in regional championship game

BY CHRIS CASEY
Shaw Media

The odds were stacked against St. Charles East.

The odds were stacked against the Saints basketball team when it found itself with a new coach midway through its season.

The odds were stacked against St. Charles East as it took the floor against Willowbrook on its home court Thursday night for a regional championship.

The odds were most certainly stacked against the Saints when their 12-point second half lead had vanished with a minute to play. However, sophomore Lexi DiOrio found herself in the right place at the right time when it mattered most for the game-winning layup with 40 seconds to go to give St. Charles East a 49-46 victory over Willowbrook to win the Class 4A Willowbrook Regional championship.

After teammate Torrie Kortan got her own rebound on a blocked shot, the senior found DiOrio alone under the basket for what proved to be the decisive bucket to give St. Charles East its first regional title since the 2014-15 season.

"I think this game summarized our whole season and showed how strong we are," DiOrio said. "We all came together and it wasn't easy, but we found a way to get the win and that's all that matters."

"We love to win ugly," Kortan added. "There's no other team that wins ugly like we do, but, hey, we find a way ... We're fighters. I don't think very many teams could have come back the way we did. We knew from the beginning of the season that this is a special team and it came down to wanting it more than them tonight."

Kortan was one of four



ERICA BENSON/for Shaw Media

Willowbrook's Sophia Sullivan sinks a layup against St. Charles East during the Class 4A regional championship game Thursday in Villa Park.

Girls basketball

Saints (20-6) in double figures with her team-high 13 points. DiOrio, Alexis Maridis and Cali Papez each added 10 points in the victory.

It was also Kortan that secured the loose ball after a tap out from DiOrio on Willowbrook's final offensive possession to help secure the Saints' spot in Tuesday's 4A Bartlett sectional semifinals against DuKane Conference rival Geneva or Schaumburg.

Kortan was one of four St. Charles East starters that battled foul trouble Thursday night during Willowbrook's furious comeback, but in the end coach Josh Foster saw his group find a way to hang on. Maridis had two important baskets in the final couple of minutes to help secure victory for the Saints, as well.

"I think we knew we were the tougher team, we just had to prove it," Foster said. "I think it's all about being mentally tough when the cards are stacked against you. We battled tonight and didn't get some calls, but that's going

to happen. A 50-50 ball there at the end ends up in Torrie's hands, she hangs on, makes a free throw and that was it.

"The DuKane Conference prepares you for games like this. We play games like this every single night out. It's tough being in that conference when you're going through the grind of that schedule, but then you're truly ready for this kind of game."

Willowbrook senior guard Sophie Sullivan's attempt at a game-tying 3-pointer from just over half-court as time expired fell short. So did the Warriors, despite Sullivan's 19 points, 11 in the second half. Cali Kenny also added 14 points in the loss for Willowbrook (22-6).

"It was a great game. Both teams wanted it," Willowbrook coach Terry Harrell said. "[St. Charles East] did what we expected them to do, but they creep away from you. You look up at the scoreboard and are like 'how are we down 10?'. It was a good, competitive game and I feel bad for my seniors, but we have a lot of young, promising players so we'll be back."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

is one at the Angels' facility in Tempe, this week as the MLB lockout prevented spring training as scheduled.

talks end 15 minutes

also differ on the postseason: Owners want to expand the playoffs from 10 teams to 14, while players are offering 12.

Still, the union's change in arbitration moved the sides closer in structure for when they actually start intensive negotiations. Without the imminent threat of losses caused by missing regular-season games, both sides appear hesitant to reveal bottom-line positions.

Deputy Commissioner Dan Haem, Executive Vice President Morgan Sword and Senior Vice President Patrick Houlihan made the five-minute walk from MLB's West Midtown office to the players' association's East Midtown workplace on an usually warm winter afternoon.

Sword and Houlihan left shortly after they arrived, and Haem remained for a 20-minute, one-on-one meeting with Bruce Meyer, the union's chief negotiator. That talk was described as unusually candid.

The union dropped its request to lower salary arbitration eligibility to two years of major league service, its level from 1974-86. Instead, players proposed the so-called super-two group be expanded to the top 80% by service time among those with at least two

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CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Special seniors

Willowbrook High School's dance team performed during halftime of Saturday's boys basketball game against Proviso East. The performance highlighted the dance team's seniors. Pictured left to right are seniors Ava Cappitelli, Nelly Irion, Coco Bernardi, Sabrina Corso and Olivia Ehrhardt. On Jan. 29, Willowbrook's dance team earned a ninth-place finish in the Class 2A level of the IHSA competitive dance state meet in Bloomington.

AAUW offers returning student scholarships for women

Deadline to submit applications is April 15

The AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch is offering three scholarships of \$3,000 each to women from the communities of Elmhurst, Addison, Bensenville, Berkeley, Northlake, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, or Villa Park who need financial assistance to continue education at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Funds for these scholarships come from the Used Book Sale that AAUW hosts each summer. The 2021 Used Book Sale was so successful that the organization is pleased to be able to offer three scholarships this year.

An applicant may be studying full or part time. Besides being from one of the above communities, the applicant must be continuing her education after completing at least 12 credit hours at an accredited college or university and be age 25 or older. The AAUW mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research at both the national and local levels.

Scholarship requirements as well as the application form for the scholarship can be found on the AAUW website: www.aauwelmhurst.org. The application deadline is Friday, April 15.



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Addison Trail student Lloveras named 88's Best for January

Alicia Lloveras has been named as Addison Trail's January recipient of 88's Best recognition for her stellar involvement in extracurricular activities. Lloveras, a senior, was recognized during the Jan. 24 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

During her four years at Addison Trail, Lloveras has played sports, participated in numerous clubs and managed to be at the top of her class. She is a great role model for her peers and has spent her high school career balancing all of it with a positive attitude and a contagious Blazer spirit that has had a lasting impact on her teachers, coaches, classmates and teammates. Lloveras credits her parents as her largest influence and key to her success.

"(My parents) taught me how to excel in school and life skills that I can use in my future," Lloveras said.

Academic achievements:

- Named to the Distinction Honor Roll each semester of her high school career
- Recognized as AT's Best several times
- Member of National Honor Society
- Member of Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) Honor Society
- Involvement at Addison Trail:
 - Member of Best Buddies (a club dedicated to ending the social, physical and economic isolation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities)
 - Member of Concert Band and Marching Band (also Band Officer)
 - Member of Future Medical Professionals Club
 - Secretary of Key Club
 - Member of the Girls Badminton Team (placed 33rd for singles during the Illinois High School Association (IHSAA) State Tournament)
 - Member of the Girls Tennis Team (placed 3rd in singles and 3rd in doubles during the West Sub-

• Program

(Continued from front page)

Other phases of program

Other phases of the program include an on-site property assessment by a trained police officer to inspect for such safety features as exterior lighting, properly maintained landscaping, door and window locking features and functioning smoke detectors. After owners complete the first two phases of the program, there is a "safety social" with residents from the rental property and police personnel to celebrate their achievement. Two apartment complexes where owners completed all three phases of the program are College Park, located at 930 College Blvd., Addison, and Northgate Apartments, 900 N. Rohlwing Road.

"Every property owner should take this program," said Iqbal, a property owner on Kimberley Ave., who intends to enroll in other phases of the program. "I will tell other [property owners] they should take this class."

urban Conference Gold Division meet and received All-Academic Team honors)

- Community involvement:
- Volunteers with Kiwanis Club
 - Volunteers with Addison Township Food Pantry
 - Volunteers with Feed My Starving Children
 - Volunteers with St. Philip the Apostle Parish Annual Giving Tree
 - Volunteers with the Addison Park District Park Pride event
 - Works as a swim instructor and lifeguard at Goldfish Swim School

Future plans:

Lloveras plans to study science at a post-secondary-education institution and pursue a career as a pharmacist.

Staff members offer their comments

"I had the pleasure of coaching Lloveras in badminton for the past three years. Lloveras earned the role of captain on the team due to her unbelievable work ethic and her ability to lead. She is an extremely hard worker in athletics, on the badminton court, in the classroom and as a member of the band. It is because of this work ethic that she qualified for the state tournament last year during the 2021 season. She understands the work it takes to become a great teammate and has gone beyond those characteristics."

—Eric Norberg, math teacher and girls badminton team coach

"Lloveras was a bright spot in AP English Language and Composition, because she came to class full of energy and ready to engage in conversation. She was thoughtful in her contributions to class discussions and produced clear, crisp writing when it came to arguments.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Alicia Lloveras is pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews, after being selected as Addison Trail's 88's Best for the month of January.

She is organized, responsible and determined to succeed."

—Amy Ferraro, English Department Head

"I have had the pleasure of having Lloveras in my Anatomy class last year and again in Medical Careers last semester. Lloveras is such a self-motivated, hardworking student. She is one of the few students who consistently participated during remote learning last year

and learned everything she could from my class. In Medical Careers, she took advantage of learning as much as she could during her time at the hospital. Lloveras is talented in so many ways — from academics to athletics. She knows how to balance and excel in whatever she puts her mind to. I have no doubt Lloveras will go on to do great things in her future!"

—Tracy Marzullo, science teacher

Chicago woman charged with burglary/retail theft from Oak Brook Neiman Marcus

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Interim Chief of Police John Krull have announced that bond was set for a Chicago woman accused of stealing more than \$17,000 worth of merchandise from the Neiman Marcus store in Oak Brook.

Terri Collins, 21, appeared in bond court where Judge Leah Bendik set bond at \$50,000 with 10 percent to apply. Collins has been charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony) and one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony).

It is alleged on Feb. 5 at approximately 2:54 p.m., Collins, along with several other individuals, entered the store and met up with two males who were already in the store.

It is alleged that Collins and the individuals with whom she entered the store, along with the two males who were previously in the store, then went directly to a coat section of the store.

It is further alleged that Collins and the others cut the security wires off numerous Moncler coats and ran toward the store's exit.



Terri Collins

It is alleged that as Collins and the other individuals attempted to leave the store, a loss prevention officer knocked the items out of Collins' hands, including coats and a pair of wire cutters.

Collins was detained at the scene while all the other individuals were able to flee prior to the arrival of the Oak Brook Police Department. Additional coats were found outside the store.

"Smash and grab thefts involving multiple individuals are not a crime of opportunity, Berlin said. They are well organized by those who resort to violence and sheer numbers to commit their crimes. The allegations that this defendant, along with several others, entered a retail store in the middle of the afternoon intent on stealing merchandise will not be tolerated in DuPage County and will be met with the full force of the law.

"As I have said many times before, public safety is our top priority in DuPage County, and anyone who commits this type of violent forcible felony will be caught, prosecuted and, if found guilty, face significant consequences."

Collins' next court appearance is scheduled for March arraignment in front of Judge Daniel Guerin.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS/Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors compete at sectional

Willowbrook's girls gymnastics team competed in last week's Glenbard West Sectional in Glen Ellyn. The Warriors posted a sixth-place score of 136.85 in the event, which featured six teams. DeKalb won the sectional title with a score of 146.0. Glenbard West (143.675) finished second. Willowbrook senior Bella Naumovsky earned multiple individual berths in this week's IHSA state meet with her strong performances at the sectional. The top five finishers in each sectional event automatically qualified for the state meet, which will take place at Palatine High School. Naumovsky earned a second-place score of 9.375 on the uneven bars at the sectional. She delivered another second-place effort on the balance beam with her score of 9.25. Naumovsky is pictured (above, far right) during her balance beam routine. Naumovsky earned an individual state-meet berth on the vault by tying for fourth place with her score of 9.225.

Naumovsky also advanced to the state meet's all-around competition by producing a second-place all-around score of 36.575 at the sectional. Willowbrook senior TePlacek is pictured (above right) during her floor exercises routine. Placek earned 17th-place score of 8.825 for her performance. She finished 17th in the meet's all-around standings with her score of 33.4. Junior Sarah Ball of the Warriors is also pictured (above left) at the conclusion of her floor exercises routine at last week's sectional. Ball tied for 21st in the event with her score of 8.75. She placed 22nd in the all-around competition with her total of 32.15. Ball's all-around total included a 15th-place score of 9.025 on the vault. Pictured (left to right) behind Ball at the end of her floor exercises routine are: junior Hanna Mitrick, sophomore Mia McBride, junior Molly Morris, Placek and Naumovsky.

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Coming events

Thursday, Feb. 17

History unveiled: The truth about presidents with Jim Gibbons

Starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, did you know that four presidents rode in the same car that President Kennedy was assassinated in after his assassination? Have you heard about the meeting between President Nixon and Elvis? Historian Jim Gibbons will present fun-filled trivia and historical facts on the presidents. Co-Sponsored by the Addison Historical Society. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events

Saturday, Feb. 19

Device drop-in

From 10 a.m.-noon at the Teen Program Room of the Addison Public Library, need help getting familiar with a new device? We can help! Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Sunday, Feb. 20

Getting Addison back to work kickoff celebration

From 1-3 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, come to our kick-off to take a new professional headshot for your LinkedIn profile, meet our community partners that work with job seekers, and pick up information about the Getting Addison Back to Work series. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Monday, Feb. 21

Book discussion: "Still Lives" by Maria Hummel

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak, the book is about a young editor at a Los Angeles art museum who finds herself pulled into the disturbing and dangerous world of a famous artist who goes missing on the opening night of her exhibition. Info: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Hive Minds (for teens)

From 3-4:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, chill out with us. All week we'll showcase different ways to calm down, focus, and recharge. Try some ASMR and simple crafts, or talk with experts about mental health. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Steps to develop an effective online business

From 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom via the

Addison Public Library, an online presence is critical for business today, even more with social distancing guidelines. From which social media platform you should use for your business, to how to know if the content you post is effective, this program will teach you what it takes to create an effective online business presence in 2022. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Why meditation matters

Starting at 7 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, learn a simple meditation technique that can help you in all aspects of your life. John Bednarik is a long-time meditator and has been speaking on the topic over 30 years. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Job search like a pro: Resumes

From 7-8 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, Erica Reckamp of Job Search Like a Pro, TopResume, ZipJob, and Monster.com will teach you how to craft content that performs well when subjected to hiring committees and Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS). We will also discuss keyword-optimized content and how to stand out as a top candidate. Part of the Getting Addison Back to Work series. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Creative Studio drop-in help

From 1-3 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, need help with a Creative Studio project? Drop-in to get assistance from staff! Equipment and staff help will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Computer basics

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Dinosaur story time

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library. Registration is now open. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Meet the threats

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, a roundtable discussion of current events from foreign policy and social issues to

the business world and the legal system. Attendees will share their opinions and perspectives that shape American society. If you're concerned about the direction the U.S. is heading, this program is for you! Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Thursday, Feb. 24

Chair yoga

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, certified yoga instructor Marti Lahood will guide you through one of the gentlest forms of yoga, emphasizing breath awareness and relaxation. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

STEM Club: Mini Zipline

From 4-4:45 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us to construct your own mini zipline that will carry toys across the room. For grades 1-5. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Desueño Dance: Line Dancing

Starting at 6 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, whether you call it hustle, a shuffle, or a slide, line dancing is a popular activity at parties, weddings, and cookouts throughout the US. Dust off your dance shoes and get ready to be the star of the next party. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Friday, Feb. 25

TinkerCad Basics: Keychains

From 1-2 p.m. at the Addison Public Library, learn the basics of TinkerCad, an online 3D designing software. During this class, you will learn how to add your name to a 3D keychain. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Ongoing events

Talking politics

English conversation groups

At 2 p.m. Mondays on Zoom, and at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, practice listening and speaking skills in a small group setting. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Story time on Zoom

On Mondays Feb. 14 through March 7 from 10-10:30 a.m. via the Addison Public Library, stories, songs and more! Geared

toward ages 2-5 but all ages welcome. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Story time inside

From 10-10:30 a.m. Thursdays Feb. 17 and 24 at the Addison Public Library, story time inside is geared toward ages infant to 3, but all ages are welcome. Registration is now open. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

English reading circle

At 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Ladies Night Wine and Golf

Ninety (90) minutes of golfing fun includes instruction from a certified PGA coach at Links and Tees Golf Dome starting at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 9 and 23. Info: addisonparks.org.

[Hola! (drop-in)]

Join the Addison Public Library on Thursdays from 10:43 to 11:15 a.m. for an in-person bilingual story time in Spanish and English. Drop-in. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

Homework help

From 4 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays through Feb. 25, meet with a volunteer from an area college or university in our Children's Services area for assistance with homework or skill building. For grades K-12 on a first come, first served basis. Info: addisonlibrary.org/events.

Computer basics

Learn computer basics from 6-7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

Heroes story time

From 10-10:30 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for stories and activities about everyday heroes, superheroes, and more. Info: addisonlibrary.org or call 630-543-3617.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: news1@rvpublishing.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

ATHS implements new program to support English learners

One of the greatest strengths of District 88 and Addison Trail is the rich diversity represented among the students and staff.

About 40 languages and more than 30 countries are represented among District 88 families, and almost half of the nearly 4,000 students speak a language other than English at home. The district's core values include ensuring all students, staff and community members feel safe, valued, respected and welcome – regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

As part of that commitment to fostering an inclusive environment and a sense of belonging for all students, Addison Trail recently implemented a program to support English learner (EL) students.

Spearheaded by Addison Trail EL reading teacher Maria DiNovo and the leadership team of Erica Craig, Director of Bilingual for District 88 and Addison School District 4, and Jenna Phillips, Addison Trail EL and Reading Department Head, the program – called Puentes, which means "Bridges" in Spanish – trains students in advanced EL classes or recently exited EL students to

provide guidance and social-emotional assistance to new EL students.

Puentes was inspired by pupils in EL 3 classes who were looking for a way to help new students, because they "remember what it was like" when they first came to Addison Trail.

The group met for the first time on Jan. 27. Mentors will meet regularly with Addison Trail Social Worker Jorge de Leon to develop leadership skills to connect with and guide the school's newest language learners.

Students in the program will meet for activities twice a month, with an overall goal of having mentors and mentees participate in extracurricular activities together to increase participation of language learners in clubs, activities and sports at Addison Trail.

"Through this program, we hope to help increase the feeling of belonging for the newest members of the Addison Trail community," DiNovo said.

For questions or more information about Puentes, contact DiNovo at mdinovo@dupage88.net or 630-458-4355.

Parks and Rec Foundation seeks funds for scholarships

The Addison Park District's Parks and Recreation Foundation supports and enhances the Park experience for all Addison residents through tax-deductible donations and fundraising. Projects are selected each year to help add value to the park district as well as provide scholarship funding to the community for recreational

opportunities.

Scholarships are granted to those who are unable to pay to participate in park activities and programs. Contributions from the public help fund those scholarships. For more information or to make a donation, visit addisonparkfoundation.org or call 630-361-2313.

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