

Warriors finish second at WSGC Meet

Allison Harr and Emma Foley win singles titles for Willowbrook

STAFF REPORT

Willowbrook's badminton team earned a second-place finish in Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet, which took place in Villa Park.

Hinsdale South won the conference meet in dominant fashion, winning titles in eight of 10 singles flights and claiming first-place honors in all five doubles flights.

Senior Allison Harr of Willowbrook won the title in the meet's No. 4 singles flight. She beat her Hinsdale South opponent 21-8, 21-10 in the championship contest. Junior Emma Foley provided the Warriors with another title by finishing first in the No. 6 singles flight. Foley outlasted her Hinsdale South opponent 25-23, 12-21, 21-16 in the championship match.

Willowbrook players who earned second-place finishes in the conference meet's singles action included senior Becca Lopez Egan (No. 1), sophomore Lillian Caron (No. 2), senior Amelia Gesicki (No. 3), freshman Abby

Schnittker (No. 5), senior Annabelle Romero (No. 7), junior Adreana Vega (No. 8), senior Mary Whiting (No. 9) and senior Molly Williams (No. 10).

The Warriors' No. 1 doubles duo of Gesicki and senior Emma Rattana earned a second-place finish at the conference meet. Willowbrook's duo of Allison Harr and Romero delivered a second-place effort at No. 2 doubles, while the tandem of Caron and Schnittker placed second at No. 3 doubles. The team of Foley and Vega landed in second place at No. 4 doubles. The duo of senior Claire Harr and Williams finished second at No. 5 doubles.

The Warriors will compete in an IHSA sectional this week. Willowbrook's sectional lineup will include six players—two singles players and a pair of doubles teams.

The Warriors' sectional players will try to earn berths in the IHSA state meet, which will take place at Hinsdale South. The three-day state meet will begin on May 12.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's badminton team hosted Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet. Hinsdale South won the event in convincing fashion, while the Warriors claimed second place. The Hornets posted first-place finishes in 13 of the meet's 15 flights. Hinsdale South won championships in eight of 10 singles flights. The Hornets won titles in all five of the event's doubles flights. One photo from the meet shows senior Allison Harr (above), who won the No. 4 singles title for Willowbrook. Another photo shows junior Emma Foley (right), who captured the No. 6 singles championship for the Warriors. Two more photos show seniors Amelia Gesicki (far left) and Emma Rattana (left), who teamed up to form Willowbrook's No. 1 doubles team at the conference meet. The duo of Gesicki and Rattana earned a second-place finish at the conference meet. Willowbrook will compete in an IHSA sectional this week. Willowbrook's sectional lineup will include six players—two singles players and a pair of doubles teams.



Warriors overpower Blazers in a three-game series sweep

Vaisvila pitches no-hitter in series opener; Meyer throws a one-hitter in the finale; Warriors move their conference record to 10-2 with the sweep

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook baseball team surged to 10-2 in West Suburban Gold Conference play after sweeping last week's three-game conference series against Addison Trail. The Warriors closed out the week with Saturday's 12-5 non-conference home win over York. Willowbrook raised its overall season record to 16-3 with Saturday's win over the Dukers.

The Warriors opened their series against Addison Trail with a 12-0, five-inning win in Addison on April 25. Senior Max Vaisvila enjoyed a memorable day in leading Willowbrook to the victory. Vaisvila pitched a no-hitter against the Blazers. He struck out 13 batters and allowed just one walk. Additionally, Vaisvila hashed a grand-slam home run in the top of the fifth inning.

Senior Jacob Kutella also homered for Willowbrook in the opening game of last week's series against Addison Trail. Kutella hit a two-run homer in the top of the first inning.

Willowbrook beat the Blazers 9-3 in the second game of the series, which took place in Villa Park on April 26. Senior Jacob Skinner earned the victory for the Warriors. Skinner pitched five and one-third innings, allowing three runs and three hits. He recorded five strikeouts and allowed one walk.

Junior Colin Slivka pitched the final one and two-third innings. He didn't allow any runs, hits or walks.

He struck out one batter.

Vaisvila went 2-for-3 and drove in two runs in the Warriors' April 26 win over the Blazers. Kutella, senior Bennett Fleming and junior Alex Chaitin contributed two hits each.

Willowbrook completed its series sweep of the Blazers with their 12-0, five-inning victory in Addison on April 28. Sophomore Dayne Meyer nearly pitched Willowbrook's second no-hitter of the series. Meyer held the Blazers hitless into the fifth inning. He was one out away from finishing off a no-hitter, but Addison Trail broke up the no-hitter with an infield single.

Meyer recorded 12 strikeouts and issued two walks.

Junior Joe Braden drilled a solo home run in the fifth inning to account for the Warriors' final run of their series against the Blazers.

Vaisvila went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles in the series finale against Addison Trail. He drove in three runs. Fleming went 2-for-3 with three RBIs.

Junior Aidan Pieniazek pitched the first five innings for Willowbrook in Saturday's win over York. Chaitin pitched the final two innings. Pieniazek, who allowed two earned runs, recorded six strikeouts. Chaitin, who didn't give up any runs in two innings on the mound, struck out four York batters.

Chaitin went 1-for-3 at the plate and drove in two runs. Kutella went 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Junior Isaac

Sobiesczyk went 2-for-2 and drove in one run. Junior James Degnan went 2-for-3 with one RBI.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes a non-conference home game against Bolingbrook, along with a non-conference contest at Lyons Township.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's baseball team improved its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 10-2 by sweeping last week's three-game conference series against Addison Trail. The Warriors earned a 12-0, five-inning win in the series opener in Addison on April 25. One day later, Willowbrook defeated the Blazers 9-3 in Villa Park. The Warriors completed the series sweep with a 12-0, five-inning victory at Addison Trail on April 28. Sophomore Dayne Meyer (No. 24) nearly pitched a no-hitter for the Warriors in their five-inning victory in the series finale. Meyer held the Blazers hitless through the first four and two-third innings. Addison Trail broke up Meyer's bid for a no-hitter with an infield hit. Meyer then struck out the next batter to end the game.



Senior Max Vaisvila (No. 1), went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs in the game. Vaisvila pitched a no-hitter in the series opener against the Blazers on April 25. He piled up 13 strikeouts and allowed one walk in his five-inning no-hitter. Vaisvila also connected for a grand slam homer in the victory.



I was going to say that Marjorie Taylor Greene is as dumb as a box of rocks. But rocks, along with stones, pebbles, gravel, boulders, monoliths, asteroids, comets and mimes all know enough to keep their mouth shut unless they have something with even just an iota of intelligence to say. (Hoping all you mimes have a sense of humor, we love you!)

At current rates of usage, coal availability in the entire world might last 120 years, and oil and natural gas may run out in less than 60 years. Our great-grandkids will not watch diesel fuel locomotives hauling coal through Lombard since both of those will no longer exist. Most people are better off remaining ignorant of the future. They should hope that the educated and enlightened people succeed in solving the problem soon enough.

Just as I thought, the left is having a meltdown over Elon Musk buying Twitter, saying it's a threat to, quote, "our democracy." This is what leftists always say whenever something doesn't go their way. Let me guess: If either Jeff Bezos or George Soros had bought Twitter, their ownership wouldn't have been a threat to our democracy and would be celebrated by the left.

Instead of teaching young children about transgender and sex, they should be taught how to sort out yellow journalism and propaganda while learning to read and enjoy "Hansel and Gretel."

Regarding the Biden/Trump bashing, all I can say is people were rightly criticizing Trump for his mean tweets and un-presidential personality traits, but we didn't hear as much complaining about inflation, gas prices, war

and the economy. While I do not like Trump, I felt more secure financially and safer from war than I am now. I have no faith in President Biden's ability as our country's leader; I agree with those who view him as a "puppet." Left on his own without all those people around him pulling the strings, I wouldn't be surprised if he got distracted by the sound of an ice cream truck and walked off. Oh, wait, he already did that.

I heard about a group of students at Evanston High School that walked out of class one day (April 25), demanding that the school hire a full-time sustainability coordinator to reduce the school's carbon footprint and help develop a climate change curriculum. I'm sure the students who cut class probably won't face any disciplinary action from the spineless administrators because, after all, these students are woke and we must celebrate their weakness.

About 50 percent of the population is very gullible and 50 percent deal with facts and results. That's true. But why do most of the Democrats identify with the gullibles and AOC?

Hi, I'm reading Speak Out comments with some amusement, especially the ones that are addressing that we don't often talk about local events or issues anymore. Several months ago,

I called Speak Out and commented on a local quality-of-life issue. Then the following week, callers called in and criticized me for having nothing else to be concerned about. So you can't win. Bye-bye.

I'm calling regarding the gasoline tax that everyone is complaining about. To begin with, I don't enjoy paying it either, but in January of 1990, the gas tax was 19 cents a gallon and Gov. Thompson was in office. In July 2019, 30 years later, it's up to 38 cents a gallon. This information is from the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax Report filed by state Rep. David Welter of the 75th District. So if you like you can check it. However, a gas tax that does not rise in nearly 30 years has got to go up at some point and it's not going to be a pleasant increase. Thank you.

Not a good time to live in Florida. It is estimated that taxpayers there will have to pick up more than \$2 billion additional costs to take care of the Disney property.

I paid for my education and my daughter's college education. I neither make a healthy six-figure income allowing me to drive a \$65,000 Tesla, nor can I wear a \$10,000 dress to a \$30,000-a-plate gala, yet you want me to pay for your college education? Whatever happened to accountability? I am a registered nonpartisan, which

allows me the clarity to see, apart from the partisan fog, that our country is truly in trouble and definitely wrong track.

This week's truism: A society great when old men plant the whose shade they know they shall sit. Greek proverb. Arbor Day the last Friday in April. The best time to plant a tree is now!

According to the *New York Post*, officials have stopped 1,323,597 immigrants in 2021 alone. That's more now wait under a bridge along the border, and photos in tents and other makeshift shelter up. If Title 42 is lifted, I should think the influx of illegal grants will look like, not to mention the criminal element hiding in sight among them. I am not here against those who might need attention, but I fear a floodgate of that will overburden our health system. News outlets say there is a partisan group of legislators looking to block the lifting of Title 42, and we Americans speak out loud and do what it takes to stem the flow of illegal individuals into the country so bad for the people living in the region who have to worry about who might show up or property, hide in the garage or break into their home, etc.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Still coaching

Former Willowbrook badminton coach Al Loew attended part of Friday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet in Villa Park. Loew, a longtime Willowbrook teacher and coach, guided the school's badminton program to IHSA state championships in 1998 and 1999. Willowbrook landed in a first-place tie with Hinsdale South in the team standings of the 1999 state meet. Loew is pictured while giving a few words of encouragement to (left to right) seniors Amelia Gesicki and Emma Rattana at Friday's meet. Gesicki and Rattana teamed up to earn second-place honors in the meet's No. 1 doubles flight. Hinsdale South won the team title at the conference meet. Willowbrook finished second. Willowbrook will compete in an IHSA sectional this week. The members of the Warriors' sectional lineup will try to earn berths in this year's IHSA state meet, which will take place at Hinsdale South from May 12-14.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley P

Talents on display at Willowbrook Student Art Show

The Willowbrook High School Student Art Show included more than 325 pieces created by the school art students. The art show took place in Room C2 at Willowbrook from April 26-28. The categories on display included drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, photography, graphic design, game design, cartooning and animation. The art show's reception on April 27 included a run of the highlights of the Art Department's events during the 2021-22 school year. Those highlights included field trips to exhibits at College of DuPage and the Bridgeport Art Center in Chicago, as well as a trip to the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The reception also featured a recognition of the Department's Outstanding Students of the school year—senior Guadalupe Flores, senior Tess P. senior Arianna Sanchez and freshman Meridian Sutton—as well as recognition of the students who have been published in the Skyline school newspaper and the Mindprints art and literary magazine. One (above left) shows Sanchez—who was honored as Willowbrook's Outstanding Senior in Art for the 22 school year—with some of her pieces that were on display. Another photo (above right) shows man Nina Young, who received the Best in Show honor for her self-portrait pastel drawing. She's pictured next to her award-winning piece. Freshman Natalie McKenna (not pictured) received the People's Choice award for her praying mantis collage, which was used for the poster to promote this year's art show

**VILLA PARK
REVIEW**

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Educators push back against testing requirements

State board looks to overhaul annual assessments

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Teachers and other education professionals are urging the Illinois State Board of Education to reduce the amount of time students spend on standardized tests each year and to adopt a new testing system that produces more useful information to help teachers improve their instruction.

"One thing that we're saying and that our members are saying is that we have a testing regime that has gone too far, and is not helping children learn," Illinois Federation of Teachers president Dan Montgomery said during a virtual news conference April 29.

Under state and federal law, all students in grades 3-8 are tested each year in English language arts and math. They are also tested in science in grades 5, 8 and 11. In Illinois, those tests are known as the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, or IAR, and are taken by students in the spring.

Nationwide testing mandates are a product of the 2002 federal law known as the No Child Left Behind Act which uses them to hold teachers, schools and districts accountable for meeting state educational standards.

Recently, though, the State Board of Education has considered overhauling its testing system and at one

point proposed replacing the single year-end test with three smaller tests that would be given in the fall, winter and spring. The plan also would have given districts the option of testing children in kindergarten through grade 2.

Amid pushback from teachers unions and others, however, ISBE backed away from that plan last year and instead commissioned a survey from the national Center for Assessment to get feedback from teachers, administrators, parents, students and others about ways to improve the state's testing system.

"We don't want to just decrease the amount of time of the end-of-the-year test, we want to decrease the amount of testing period," said Monique Redeaux-Smith, IFT's director of union professional issues.

The results of that survey were presented to the board April 20. Among the key findings was that many people found the current testing system doesn't provide much instructionally useful information because the tests are administered in the spring and results aren't released until the next fall after students have already advanced to another grade.

Many respondents also said too much time is devoted to preparing for and administering tests, taking away from actual classroom instruction. Many people surveyed also sug-

gested the state could provide more resources to help local districts give interim tests at different times of the year—tests that would be completely separate from the accountability tests given in the spring—to help teachers tailor their instruction to meet their students' immediate needs.

Finally, the report recommended that ISBE take its time and move deliberately before making any major changes to the testing system.

"There is high agreement about the need to improve state assessment, but less consensus about what improvement consists of," the report stated. "ISBE can play a central role in providing leadership, building up trust, and developing plans that balance moving forward with maintaining needed quality."

The push toward standardized testing as a way of holding schools accountable grew out of a movement that began decades earlier, known as outcomes-based education—the idea that schools should be graded on the basis of how much students learn rather than the resources that go into them.

That movement got a big boost during the Reagan administration with the publication of a 1983 report, A Nation at Risk, which painted a highly critical picture of the failures of American schools, calling the entire public education system "medio-

cre" and warning that it was quickly being surpassed by those of other nations.

But the emphasis on testing has long met resistance from many people within education, particularly teachers unions who have complained that it is unfair—especially to minority and low-income students who are more likely to attend under-resourced schools—and that it detracts from classroom education.

"This is a racist relic of the past," state Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, D-Chicago, said during the news conference. "Assessments have served to keep groups out of institutions, and we know that the value, the validity in our education system of using these assessments are highly questionable."

Paul Zavitkovsky, a former teacher and principal who now works at the Center for Urban Education Leadership, said there are testing systems available that would produce more useful information for teachers, but many of them don't report the results in any meaningful way.

"It looks like what the job of teaching is, is teaching a larger number of discrete skills faster and more effectively," he said. "And that actually ends up reinforcing exactly the kind of teaching and learning that creates a lot of the opportunity gaps that we actually see out there."

Villa Park's 2022 Spring Sweep recycling and shredding event will take place on May 21

Drive-through event is free to Villa Park residents, but there are fees for some items

STAFF REPORT
Villa Park's Community FUN (Focus on Unifying Neighbors) Commission is joining the Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission to hold the 2022 Villa Park Spring Sweep recycling and shredding drop-off event from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 21.

The drive-through Spring Sweep will take place on Home Avenue, near Villa Park Village Hall. Traffic will enter from Harvard Avenue, heading north, and exit onto Ardmore Avenue. Entering onto Harvard from St. Charles Road will be prohibited during the event.

Participants will recycle from the safety of their vehicles by driving to different stations on Home Avenue. Volunteers will collect and remove items from vehicles. Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles and

pack all of their recyclable items in the trunk of their vehicles. If possible, residents should pack items in easy-to-carry boxes clearly labeled with what items are inside.

The event is free to Villa Park residents. There is a \$20 fee per vehicle for non-residents. Fees will apply for residents who drop off paint and some other items (including aerosol products, insecticides, household cleaners, personal care cans) for recycling.

Accepted items include bicycles, scooters, helmets, gently used games, puzzles and LEGOS, hardcover and paperback books for children and adults (no encyclopedias, textbooks, workbooks or reference books), used clothing and shoes, small appliances in working order, full and discharged fire extinguish-

ers, old, tattered and faded American flags, eyeglasses, hearing aids, ink cartridges, metal (house) keys, soda/pop tabs, decorative lighting strings, paint, computers, monitors, printers, household batteries, digital cameras and cell phones.

Other accepted items include lead/acid automotive and marine batteries, as well as soccer gear (girls leggings,

soccer uniforms, cleats, balls, nets, referee/goalie gear, first aid kits).

The document shredding offers a limit of three banker boxes per household.

For more information, or to volunteer for the event, send an email to the Villa Park Community FUN Commission at pride@inwillpark.com.

Warriors reel off three shutout victories

Trio of non-conference shutouts push Willowbrook's overall record to 10-4

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls soccer team improved its overall season record to 10-4 by winning three non-conference home matches last week. The Warriors opened the week with a 1-0 victory over Fenwick on April 26.

Two days later, Willowbrook defeated West Chicago 3-0. The Warriors completed their successful week with Saturday's 10-0 win over Ridgewood.

Senior Brooke Vandergrift scored Willowbrook's goal in the team's 1-0 victory over Fenwick. Senior Erin Fitzgibbon provided an assist on Vandergrift's goal.

Vandergrift, Fitzgibbon and freshman Liz Tretina each scored one goal in the Warriors' win over West Chicago. Vandergrift assisted Tretina's goal. Senior Rachael Klamecki delivered an assist on Fitzgibbon's goal. Fitzgibbon earned an assist on Vandergrift's goal.

Junior Haley Preuss scored three goals for Willowbrook in Saturday's victory over Ridgewood. Fitzgibbon contributed a pair of goals. Sophomore Grace Soltys also netted two goals for the Warriors. Vandergrift, freshman Emily Barth and junior Jenna Boynton supplied one goal each.

Junior goalkeeper Maddie Aderholt helped the Warriors to last week's three shutout victories.

Willowbrook's schedule this week includes West Suburban Gold Conference matches against Hinsdale South and Proviso East, along with Saturday's non-conference match against York in Elmhurst. The Warriors will enter this week's action with a conference record of 1-2.

Obituary

Keith J. LaPointe, 55

Keith J. LaPointe, of Glen Ellyn, passed away recently at the age of 55.

Beloved husband of Michelle LaPointe; loving father of Joseph LaPointe, stepfather of Kaitlyn, and Ronald Rentner; dear son of the late Ronald LaPointe and Kathleen LaPointe, nee King; fond brother of Tina (Tom) Bararowski, William (Dana) Oliver, Steven (Christine) LaPointe; uncle of many nieces and nephews; and dear friend of the Szudrowicz family and many other

friends and family. Keith worked for Sherwin-Williams for 38 years.

Visitation was held Wednesday, April 27, 2022, from 3:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Steuerle Chapel, 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park.

Interment Private. Memorials to Moose International Inc., 155 S. International Dr., Mooseheart, IL 60539 are appreciated.

Funeral info: steuerlefh.com or 630-832-4161.