

state-level competition (Science Olympiad, Model UN, Mock Trial and Distributive Education Clubs of America). Additionally, she serves as an editor of Willowbrook's student newspaper (Skyline) and yearbook (Centurion). Kumar helped coordinate the recent Senior Sunrise event in which about 200 members of Willowbrook's Class of 2023 gathered to watch the sunrise at the school to celebrate the start of the 2022-23 school year. In addition to her involvement in numerous activities at Willowbrook, Kumar is a volunteer with the Villa Park Public Library. She also volunteers with Chicago Tyagaraja Utsavam, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting Carnatic music in the United States. Kumar is considering what school she will attend after she graduates from Willowbrook next year. She plans to major in journalism and business.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Addison Trail welcomes new School Resource Officer

A new School Resource Officer (SRO) recently joined the team at Addison Trail – but he is a familiar face to the community.

Tim Johnston will succeed Marcus Rivera as the SRO. Johnston might be new to Addison Trail, but he has been with the Addison Police Department for 10 years and serves as a detective.

"My main goal as Addison Trail's new SRO is to ensure the safety of students and staff," he said. "I also hope to get to know each student in different environments, whether that be at sporting events, dances, afterschool activities, or just popping into classrooms and giving a quick presentation on different topics. I want the school and community to know my door is always open, and everyone is always welcome."

Throughout his career with the Addison Police Department, Johnston has worked as a juvenile officer, a member of the Crisis Intervention Team, an instructor for firearms and Rapid Response and several other specialty positions.

In his free time, he has worked as a patrol officer to get to know the youth in the area. But it was during his temporary duty assignment with Indian Trail Junior High School when Johnston realized he wanted to serve as an SRO.

Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews said the school is pleased to welcome Johnston, and he knows Johnston will continue the excellent work Rivera and previous SROs have established.

"Our No. 1 priority is the safety and security of our students and staff, and the SRO position is a way for us to ensure the well-being of everyone in our building," Andrews said. "We look forward to working with Johnston and continuing our tremendous partnership with the Addison Police

"My goal is to develop positive relationships with students and their families and build trust with them and the community. I want them to know I will be there for them – whether it be in a crisis situation, or just to give them an ear when they need someone to listen. At the same time, I will be fair and honest with them."

– Tim Johnston, Addison Trail's new School Resource Officer

Department."

Although Johnston's job is to enforce the law and school policies, he knows the role encompasses so much more. He is happy to help maintain a culture of trust and understanding.

"My goal is to develop positive relationships with students and their families and build trust with them and the community," Johnston said. "I want them to know I will be there for them – whether it be in a crisis situation, or just to give them an ear when they need someone to listen. At the same time, I will be fair and honest with them."

To contact Johnston, e-mail tjohnston@dupage88.net.

Two Addison Trail students named as winners of logo-design contest

Last October, the Village of Addison was named as a 2020-21 RWJF Culture of Health Prize winner by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The RWJF Culture of Health Prize honors and elevates U.S. communities working at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity and equity for all.

Addison is one of 10 winners and is being recognized nationally for pursuing innovative ideas and bringing partners together to rally around a shared vision of health. For more information about the award, go to tinyurl.com/AddisonRWJF.

To celebrate this prestigious award, students in Addison were invited to participate in a contest to design a logo that shows what being a "culture of health" means to them

as youth in the village. Students were encouraged to create an image that represents all aspects of health – including physical health; mental health; safety; education; career opportunities; and support, equity and access for all residents.

In August, two Addison Trail students were recognized as the winners of the competition: Maria Gonzalez and Emily Moy. They were presented by Village of Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra and District 88 Superintendent Dr. Jean Barbanente.

Gonzalez, a senior at Addison Trail, submitted a digital drawing entitled "Bloom From The Heart (Floresca Desde El Corazon)." A freshman at Addison Trail, Moy submitted a digital art piece with marker touch-ups, entitled "Wings to Health."

AT to host financial aid workshops

The Addison Trail Guidance Department will host two financial aid workshops to assist families with post-secondary-education planning.

Starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, Paul Daly with OMH Partner Group Inc. will discuss financial aid terms and guide parents/guardians through the financial aid process during a virtual workshop. All Addison Trail parents/guardians who have children interested in attending college (no matter what year they are in high school) are encouraged to attend this event to learn about the financial aid process.

Starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29, representatives from the College of DuPage (COD) Financial Aid Department will present about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during a virtual workshop.

They will go through the FAFSA

line by line. Class of 2023 families can begin completing the FAFSA starting on Oct. 1, and the form can be found at studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa. As a reminder, completing the FAFSA is a graduation requirement for Illinois students. Seniors who choose not to complete the FAFSA must submit the waiver at isbe.net/Documents/FAFSA-Non-Participation-Form.pdf and return it to their counselor.

Zoom links for each presentation will be e-mailed to families the week of the respective workshop. The links also will be posted online at dupage88.libguides.com/Guidance. If you're unable to join live, recordings will be available on that webpage after each workshop.

For questions or more information, contact Addison Trail Guidance Counselor Dana Marine at 630-628-3373 or dmarine@dupage88.net.

Kermes event set for Latino Heritage Month

Latino Heritage Month Kermes will be taking place on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fenton stadium behind the high school.

Food begins at 9 a.m. and there is a plan to have live music beginning at 5 p.m., with many other festi-

ties in between.

"We hosted an inaugural kermes in May for *Cinco de Mayo* and it was a resounding success," said Fenton High School Superintendent James Ongtengco. "We pride ourselves on welcoming all people from all cultural backgrounds, and

a kermes is a great way to celebrate and learn more about our Latino classmates, neighbors, teachers, and coworkers."

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 24 and come out for a great day of food and fun.

All proceeds will benefit students.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

This is a picture from the Kermes held at last year's *Cinco de Mayo* celebration. Kermes will be celebrated again on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Latino Heritage Month.

PRC launches Hunger Action Month campaign

People's Resource Center (PRC) is recognizing Hunger Action Month all September through events, opportunities to get involved and digital content to raise awareness of food insecurity in DuPage County.

Hunger Action Month is a nationwide awareness campaign designed to raise awareness of food insecurity and to inspire neighbors to take action in their communities.

"As one of the largest human services agencies in the County, we know how food insecurity can affect a household," said Christina LePage, vice president of programs at PRC. "Our grocery assistance programs and wider array of services can offer a little extra support so they can worry less and focus on taking care of their families."

PRC participates in the campaign every year by engaging staff, volunteers and community members to get involved, learn more and spread awareness of our services.

This year, the community is encouraged to get involved with PRC's campaign by:

- Attending the "Take Action Against Hunger" livestream panel discussion on Sept. 14

- Visiting one of three local restaurants for a special Dine Away Hunger on Sept. 21

- Participating in the Wheaton Lions' Club Hunger Food Drive from Sept. 20 – Oct. 4

- Wearing orange on Hunger Action Day on Sept. 23 to raise awareness of food insecurity and our community's efforts to end it

- Launching your own food and supply drive in your school, workplace or neighborhood using PRC's toolkits as a guide.

- Tagging PRC in your stories and posts when you volunteer or drop off donations

You can also volunteer, become a monthly donor or double your gift's impact through an employer's matching gift program.

Community members can stay updated on the PRC Community's activities throughout the month by following us on social media, signing up for our e-newsletter, and checking our website.



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JB Pritzker has extended his COVID emergency powers for the 33rd straight month. I understand why he used these emergency powers when the pandemic first hit, but not anymore. Now, this is nothing but a power grab.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your speech! You are spot-on for saying Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic. I loved seeing the reactions of Trumpians after the speech, whining and moaning, just like their leader does about everything. Hopefully, it won't be long before we see their savior behind bars.

I find it amusing that Mr. Biden calls Donald Trump's philosophy "semi-fascism." This is the same Joe Biden who called for national unity in his inaugural address. His speech last night (referring to Sept. 1) was pathetic and accomplished nothing except to further divide the nation.

I see some of my fellow residents have believed the fake story on the internet about thousands of new IRS agents going after the "little" guy. It's all fake, friends. It's also fake that Trump tried to give over the classified documents that had to be seized. It will be so great to see him on trial, but I'm afraid we will never see or hear the end of him and his nonsense.

I don't blame the governor of Texas for sending illegal immigrant to sanctuary cities, because he shouldn't have to handle the burden alone. As a sanctuary city, Chicago is getting its share of immigrants. Oh, wait, Mayor Lightfoot intends to ask the federal government for financial help to feed, clothe and provide medical care, so that means a cost to all taxpayers. Many of them are from Venezuela seeking political asylum, but why do they always drift up to the U.S.? Surely there are other countries that could help? Look at the size of nearby Brazil, for instance. Or

maybe Canada could volunteer to take some of the burden off the U.S. We have become the sanctuary country of the world, it seems. One radio commentator posed the idea to send some of the immigrants to rural, agricultural areas where the need is, and they could get jobs almost immediately, thus contributing to their new society. My biggest concern is that there appears to be little or no screening of who is mixed in with all these illegal immigrants: criminals or potential terrorists sneaking in with the crowd?

It's one outrage after another with the Democrats: open borders, COVID misinformation, raiding Trump's home, the January 6th kangaroo court, mass mail-in balloting, the Green New Deal racket, forgiving student loan debt (i.e., buying votes), spending money we don't have, etc. Apparently, the Democratic voters support all of this, which is why we will have to part ways eventually. A peaceful, voluntary separation from Democrats is what I pray for every day.

I am a conflicted voter. I lean toward conservatism when it comes to reducing the size of government in order to save money/redundancy, even though years ago that put me out of a government job during the Reagan era when the funding was cut. At the same time, I understand the liberal mindset of wanting to help anybody and everybody from a social perspective. However, the difference is not that the conservatives don't want to help our citizens; it is just that they realize the money has to come from somewhere. The liberals just figure they can reach into my wallet, or take the shirt off my

back to give to someone else.

I am really having a hard time figuring out why people keep voting for people who are raising your taxes and giving away your children's future in the way of massive deficits. Regulations on energy are going to drive up, and have already driven up, prices for natural gas and electricity. This green initiative has caused prices for electricity to go up from .12 to .75 all over Europe and they expect that to double by winter. You are going to get priced out of your homes. Please quit reading what the media wants you to focus on.

I just watched Joe Biden's speech. Truly unbelievable. It appears that the Democratic Party has lost its mind. Democrats are so full of hate that they can't think straight. As a Republican, I now know what Democrats really think of me. It's clear that they will try to take away my basic God-given rights in order for them to attain more power. They have no respect for the Constitution or the rule of law. It's all about pushing propaganda and exercising raw power in order to enact one-party rule, similar to the Soviet Union. God help us.

Yes, I'm calling for all those people who keep saying "blame Joe Biden for the high gas prices instead of blaming it at themselves. People in this area and in the suburbs drive too much. Stay at home. Quit driving your kids to all these sports events. And quitting from town to town for no other reason aside from your boredom in little cookie-cutter suburban homes."

Government freebies for American freeloaders.

So, the state of California is a residents not to charge their electric cars in order to avoid straining the electric grid because of an exorbitant heat wave. This was just days the climate change fanatic they as governor (Gavin Newsom) nounced the state will ban all new gas-powered cars by 2035 can't make this stuff up. California already imports 30 percent of its energy. If their electric grid is having difficulty handling demand now, is it going to be like by 2035? What a scary is that JB Pritzker has the mindset with regard to climate change as Newsom.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Winning Warriors

Willowbrook's girls tennis team faced Timothy Christian in last week's dual meet in Villa Park. The visiting Trojans defeated the Warriors 5-3 in the meet, which featured four singles matches and four doubles contests. Sophomore Ella Lopez (above left) provided one of Willowbrook's three victories in the Sept. 1 meet by earning a 6-2, 6-3 win in the No. 4 singles match. Senior Grace Van Dyke (above right) also claimed a victory for the Warriors by rallying to win the No. 3 singles battle. After losing the first set 6-4, Van Dyke won the second set 7-6 to force a tiebreaker. She earned a 10-3 win in the tiebreaker. Willowbrook's No. 2 doubles team of junior Lauren Schalk and sophomore Avery Soils delivered the team's other win against Timothy Christian. Schalk and Soils posted a 7-5, 7-6 victory. The Warriors are opening their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's dual meets against Addison Trail and Hinsdale South. Willowbrook will conclude its week by hosting this Saturday's District 88 Invitational.

Warriors sprint to an eighth-place finish at Lyons Township's invite

Kevin Diederich leads Willowbrook with a 15th-place finish

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys cross-country team competed in Saturday's Mike Kuharic Invitational at Lyons Township High School's south campus in Western Springs. The Warriors placed eighth in the team standings of the 14-team event.

Senior Kevin Diederich delivered Willowbrook's best finish in the 5,000-meter (3.1-mile) race, which he completed in a 15th-place time of 16 minutes, 43.02 seconds. Senior Charlie Hayes (18:18.70) ran to a 56th-place finish for the Warriors, while junior Sam McNeilly (18:20.69) landed in 57th place.

Seniors Henry Sloan (18:47.59) and Garrett Williams (18:54.04) finished 62nd and 64th, respectively. Junior Evan Weder (22:24.08) crossed the finish line in 95th place.

Willowbrook seniors Amelia Barrington and Alyssa McKenna competed in Saturday's 5,000-meter girls race at Lyons Township. Barrington ran to a 59th-place finish, completing the race in 24 minutes, 8.65 seconds. McKenna (27:23.99) posted a 78th-place finish.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

A day on the links

Willowbrook's boys golf team earned a 167-202 victory over Lyons in last week's West Suburban Gold Conference dual meet at White Golf Club in Bensenville. Senior Vince Guajardo of the Warriors earned medalist honors in the Aug. 30 meet by firing an even-par nine score of 36. Senior Brett Vandergriff shot a 40 for Willowbrook. Victor Voskresenski carded a 45, while senior Nick Chivilio shot a round out the Warriors' scoring total. Two days after beating Leyden, Willowbrook lost a conference dual meet to Addison Trail at The Pre at Oak Meadows. The Blazers defeated the Warriors 167-191 in the 1 meet. The Warriors' conference record fell to 2-2 with the loss. Vandergriff delivered Willowbrook's best score against Addison Trail by shooting a nine-hole score of 39 on a par-36 layout. Guajardo shot a 47, junior Alex Calderon and senior Brandon Rodriguez contributed scores of 52 and 53, respectively. The Warriors welcomed several other teams to Saturday's John Hamann Scramble Invite at Sugar Creek Golf Club. Each team at the invite played 18 holes by taking two turns around a Creek's nine-hole, par-32 course. Willowbrook entered two teams in the 12-team event. The Warriors' Silver team shot a 3-under-par the scramble, good for eighth place. Willowbrook's Blue team posted a 10th-place score of 65. St. Viator won the Invitational title with its score of 53. Vandergriff, who played with Willowbrook's Silver team, is pictured while hitting a tee shot on the ninth hole. Sophomore D.J. Javiera also played on the Silver team. In the background, Calderon, Guajardo and sophomore T.J. Radomski rounded out the Warriors' Silver Team. Willowbrook's schedule this week includes conference meets against Morton and Downers Grove South.

Warriors gain experience against tough opponents

Willowbrook drops three-game battle against Lyons Township; three days later, Warriors lose to Metea Valley in a tournament final

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team played against some fierce competition during a busy week of action. The Warriors won five of seven matches during the week, which concluded with Saturday morning's loss to the defending IHSA Class 4A state champion.

Willowbrook began the week with a 25-21, 25-19 home victory over Fenwick on Aug. 29. Two days later, the Warriors battled Lyons Township in an entertaining three-game clash in Villa Park. The visiting Lions earned a three-game win in the Aug. 31 match, defeating the Warriors 25-20, 12-25, 25-22.

Willowbrook then played five matches in its own eight-team tournament, which took place on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors rolled to three victories on Friday, beating Glenbard South (25-8, 25-8), Glenbard North (25-12, 25-12) and Trinity (25-13, 25-13). The Warriors edged West Chicago 25-21, 25-20 in Saturday morning's semifinal round. Later that morning, Willowbrook squared off against Metea Valley—the reigning IHSA Class 4A state champion—in the event's championship match.

Metea Valley beat the Warriors 25-17, 25-11 in the tournament final.

Willowbrook completed the week with an overall season record of 7-2.

The Warriors' Aug. 31 match against Lyons Township was a spirited battle in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Willowbrook rebounded from

a slow start in the opening game to deliver an excellent effort in the second game. The third game was close, with the Lions leading 18-12 at one point. The Warriors then cut the lead to 18-16, leading Lyons Township to call a timeout. The Lions emerged from that timeout to win the next three points and take a 21-16 lead.

"It was definitely not the outcome that we wanted, but we did see some great things during the match in its entirety," said Willowbrook coach Irene Mason after the showdown against the Lions. "I think we came out a little slow. The second game was a glimpse of what we should look like. Game three was a fun one; back and forth with a lot of action."

Junior Calli Kenny provided 10 kills, 13 assists and 17 digs for the Warriors during the three-game battle against Lyons Township. While disappointed with the loss, Kenny stated that the experience of the match will help Willowbrook.

"This gives us fuel for the rest of the season," said Kenny after the contest against the talented Lions. "We know we can compete with one of the best teams in the state. Even though we lost, it gives us confidence."

Willowbrook sophomore Hannah Kenny amassed 10 kills, 13 assists and 14 digs against Lyons Township. Junior Elle Bruschuk supplied three kills, three blocks and two digs. Senior Hope Reckamp had three kills and two blocks. Senior Natalie Cipriano also provided three kills and two



blocks. Senior Grace Conley contributed 11 digs and four assists. Senior Kylie Brown made nine digs, while sophomore Anna Marinier connected for three kills.

Calli Kenny delivered 11 kills, 11 assists and eight digs during Saturday's tournament semifinal against West Chicago. Hannah Kenny had seven kills, 12 assists and seven digs in the match. Marinier bashed six kills, while Conley piled up 12 digs. Brown added nine digs.

The Warriors opened their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this week's home match against Addison Trail. Willowbrook will conclude this week's play by competing in this Saturday's Eagle Invite at Leyden.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team squared off with Lyons Township in last week's intense match in Villa Park. The Lions edged the Warriors 25-20, 12-25, 25-22 in the three-game contest, which was played in front of a bolsterous audience on Aug. 31. One photo from the match shows senior Grace Conley (above left - No. 4) hitting a serve. Another photo shows senior Natalie Cipriano (above - No. 1) hitting the ball at the net. The Warriors finished a busy week of action by playing in their own eight-team tournament on Friday and Saturday. Willowbrook won its first four matches of the event to advance to the championship battle against Metea Valley—the reigning IHSA Class 4A state champion. Metea Valley defeated the Warriors 25-17, 25-11. Willowbrook finished the week with an overall season record of 7-2.

Warriors drop to 0-2 after losing 30-0 to Downers Grove North

Willowbrook still looking for its first points of the season; Warriors open conference play this Friday at Proviso East

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook football team suffered its second straight shutout loss when it dropped a 30-0 decision to Downers Grove North on Friday night in Villa Park.

The Warriors fell to 0-2 after the non-conference loss to the Trojans, who improved to 2-0.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's football team fell to 0-2 after Friday night's 30-0 loss to Downers Grove North in Villa Park. The visiting Trojans, who improved to 2-0, led the Warriors 16-0 at halftime. One photo from the game shows Willowbrook junior quarterback A.J. Palicki (front) throwing a pass to junior Jimmy Degnan. Another photo from Friday's contest shows sophomore receiver Ryan Bannon (above - No. 13) of the Warriors. Willowbrook will begin its West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's game at Proviso East (0-2).

Willowbrook opened its season with a 28-0 home loss to Notre Dame College Prep School of Niles on Aug. 26.

The Warriors will begin their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's contest at Proviso East (0-2).

Willowbrook also began its 2021 season with two straight non-conference losses. The Warriors then went 6-0 in conference play and completed the regular season with a 6-3 record. Willowbrook earned a pair of wins in the IHSA Class 7A playoffs before losing to eventual state champion Wheaton North in a quarter-

final clash in Villa Park.

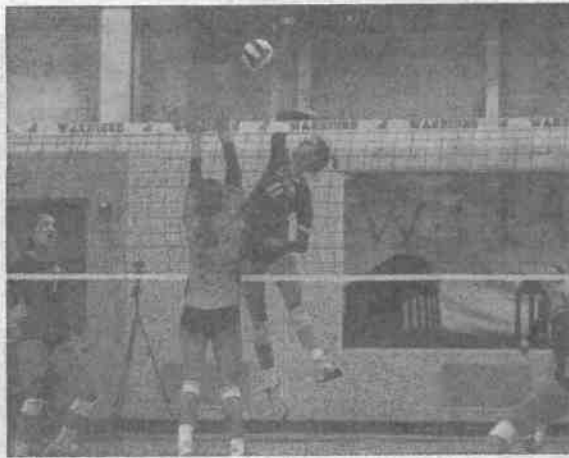
After a scoreless first quarter, Downers Grove North piled up 16 points during the second quarter of Friday's game to build a 16-0 halftime lead. The Trojans scored their first touchdown on a 56-yard pass with about eight minutes left in the first half. Downers Grove North scored its next points after an excellent punt that pinned Willowbrook near the goal line; the Warriors began their ensuing possession at their own 1-yard line. Moments later, the Trojans sacked Willowbrook junior quarterback A.J. Palicki in the end zone for a safety. The two-point safety pushed Downers Grove North's lead to 9-0.

"Defensively, we came out and played really well early on," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after Friday's loss. "Offensively, we couldn't move the chains. There was no rhythm, no continuity [on offense]."

After the safety, Willowbrook kicked the ball off from its own 20-yard line. The Trojans made a good return of the kickoff and started their offensive series near the Warriors' 30-yard line. The ensuing drive ended with a 7-yard touchdown run with about 40 seconds left in the first half. The Trojans made the extra-point kick to take a 16-0 lead.

Downers Grove North added a 3-yard touchdown run in the middle of the third quarter. The Trojans intercepted a Willowbrook pass later in the period. That turnover led to Downers Grove North's final touchdown of the evening—a 4-yard scoring run with 1.6 seconds left in the third quarter.





Gary E. Duncan Sr. for Shaw Local News Network

Lyon's Katie Debs goes up for a kill against Willowbrook on Aug. 31.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: LYONS 25-12-25, WILLOWBROOK 20-25-21

Kamryn Lee-Caracci powers Lyons past Willowbrook

By JOSHUA WELGE
jwelge@shawmedia.com

VILLA PARK — Kamryn Lee-Caracci blocked a Willowbrook girl at the net and then wagged two fingers in a clear alpha move.

Lee-Caracci is an alpha for Lyons Township.

The 6-foot senior, a Georgetown recruit, was a key figure last season in the Lions' 32-win season and an honorable mention All-State pick. With stand-outs Tia Kostic and Adriana Vassek graduated, Lee-Caracci is clearly the center of attention at Lyons. And she wants to be the girl the Lions lean on.

"They were two heavy losses, but even though we have a lot of returners, we have a lot of girls stepping up who were sophomores before," Lee-Caracci said. "The only thing they really need is someone to lead them, someone who they can rely on, which is the position I want to be. I don't want to be just a throwaway player. I want to be that someone who people can rely on to lead."

Lee-Caracci led the way at the most critical time Aug. 31.

After Willowbrook came alive in a big way to take the second set, Lee-Caracci took charge in the third. She had three kills and the big block for the Lions' first four points, and Lyons went on to a 25-20, 12-25, 25-21 win in a match between last year's champions of the respective divisions of the West Suburban Conference.

"That is what senior leadership is," Lyons coach Jill Bober said. "It's not just

about getting those points and kills, but it's also leading the people around you, it's wrangling those people up and getting that energy going."

After a less-than-satisfactory second set by her standards, Lee-Caracci was a towering presence in the third — both at the net and at the service line. She had seven kills, three aces and a block in the set, accounting for nearly half of Lyons' points. Lee-Caracci's huge kill was followed by back-to-back aces to get Lyons to 24-19 in the third.

"I think I learned a lot in that second set," Lee-Caracci said. "I was having a really bad passing game and it got in my head. I learned that I can do better. If I can't pass perfect I can hit better and perform for my team."

Lee-Caracci was fired up for this match. Lyons (5-0) and Willowbrook (3-1) were the cream of the crop in the West Suburban Conference last season, but did not play each other. Lee-Caracci followed Willowbrook's historic path to its first sectional title and went to the Warriors' supersectional match at Mother McAuley. She was club teammates with Willowbrook star Calli Kenny for three years. There is respect and friendship. The girls posed for pictures together after the match.

"I was so excited," Lee-Caracci said. "I know Calli Kenny and I know her sister Hannah is a strong player. I love playing against people I know because it makes me want to perform better."

See LYONS, page 41

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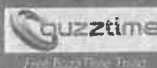


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Suburban Life

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



ELEN RYSON AND MADDIE HODEN

St. Francis, seniors, tennis

Why they were selected: The two-time All-State doubles team of Ryson and Hoden went 5-0 this past week in dominant fashion, winning all five matches in straight sets by a combined margin of 60-9 in games won. They were voted the Athlete of the Week in an online vote by readers.

Here is their interview with Sports Editor Joshua Welge.

Welge: How do you feel about the start to your season?

Ryson: It's going well. I think we started off really strong. We have these two really good freshmen. After last year, we lost some seniors but the freshmen are doing really good. We have these bus rides to matches that we do karaoke on. It unites everyone. We get along really well.

Welge: How did the two of you get paired up?

Hoden: My original doubles partner my sophomore year had to quarantine due to a COVID exposure. Elen and I played sectionals together and played all together junior year.

Ryson: I was playing singles at the time. We had a girl at No. 1 singles that was injured a lot and I had to fill in for her. It was fun, but I think I'm more of a doubles player. I got in my own head that

I liked having my partner Maddie to talk to. We went to state, we had a great connection and the rest is history.

Welge: How do the two of you complement each other?

Ryson: She is a lefty and I am a righty. I like to think of it as our personalities complement each other. She says that she is the brains and I am the brawn. She's super calm, easy going, super stable. That helps me. I like to think that I'm stable, too, but on the court it gets me stressful. She is there to keep me sane. We even each other out.

Welge: Why do you like doubles?

Hoden: I played some singles my freshman year, but the majority of high school tennis I've played doubles. I prefer doubles. I like having another person with me on the court. I find it more fun and I like the strategy of doubles. There are more combinations and more strategy.

• LYONS

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Lyons' 6-foot-3 middle Katie Debs, who had the kill for match point, also had a kill off a quick set to start a 7-1 run that gave Lyons the lead for good in the third set at 15-9. Earlier, Debs had three kills and two blocks to key the Lions in a nip-and-tuck first set. Lyons pulled away with a 6-1 run after an 18-18 tie.

Willowbrook bounced right back in the second set. Calli Kenny's kill started a 10-0 run that she finished with back-to-back-to-back aces for a 15-7 lead. Elle Bruschk had two kills in that stretch, when the Warriors more closely resembled the team that won its first 30 matches last season.

"First set as a whole we came out a little timid and I feel like as a team we played a little scared - they have a 6-foot-4 middle, a Georgetown commit," Kenny said. "For some of us, that scared us a little. As the game wore on, we got comfortable in our skills and that's what changed set two and set three."

Calli Kenny finished with 10 kills, 13 assists, 17 digs and three aces, Hannah Kenny had 10 kills, 13 assists and 14 digs and Bruschk had three kills, three blocks and two digs. Natalie Cipriano added three kills and six digs.

"It did look like we were not as con-



Gary E. Duncan Sr. for Shaw Local News Network
Lyons' Amanda Hahn (17) cheers during a timeout in the win over Willowbrook.

fident as what I'm used to," Willowbrook coach Irene Mason said. "Once we settled in, we played our game, the level we should be at. It showed us what we need to work on."

Kenny, like Lee-Caracci, was excited to play against girls she knows well from club but only from afar in a high school setting. She last played Lyons as a freshman.

"I know a lot of the girls on the LT team, our high school coaches, club coaches, everyone we know," Kenny said. "I think this gives us fuel for the rest of the season. We know we can compete with the best teams in the state. Even though we lost this gives us confidence."

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