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THURSDAY, FEB. 9, 2023

Warriors play in national event

Willowbrook High School's girls flag football program completed its memorable inaugural season by playing at the NFL FLAG Championships, which took place in Henderson, Nevada, near Las Vegas. In October, the Warriors won the title at the Girls Flag Football State Championship at the Chicago Bears' facility at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. In November, the Warriors' Black team won five straight games to capture a title at the NFL FLAG Regional Tournament in Canton, Ohio. Winning the regional championship in Ohio secured a berth in the national competition in Nevada, which began on Friday. The Warriors played three games on Friday in Henderson. Unfortunately, Willowbrook lost all three contests, falling 21-7 and 28-0 before losing a 7-6 overtime battle. Willowbrook played one more game in Nevada, losing 28-0 on Saturday. Members of the Warriors, pictured left to right at the national competition, are: (front row) freshman Marli Smrz, senior Emily Pearson, senior Rimon Karl, junior Jaydah Smith and senior Olivia Brach; (back row) junior Emma Anderlik, senior Kayleigh Dennison, senior Roslyn Sanchez, senior Kennedy Vannoy and senior Sarah Ball. The team's coaches are Rachel Karos and Nick Hildreth.



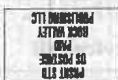
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Two Addison Trail wrestlers win individual regional titles

Duarte and Olascoaga deliver championship efforts at the Oak Park/River Forest Regional

STAFF REPORT

A pair of Addison Trail juniors won individual titles at Saturday's IHSA 3A wrestling regional at Oak Park/River Forest High School.

Martin Duarte and Elmer Olascoaga captured individual titles for the Blazers at the regional. Duarte won the 160-pound title at the regional, while Olascoaga captured the event's 195-pound championship.

Duarte and Olascoaga will join one other Addison Trail wrestler in this week's individual sectional at Conant High School. The top four finishers in each of the sectional's weight levels will qualify for the IHSA Class 3A individual state meet, which takes place Feb. 16-18 at the State Farm Center in Champaign.

Duarte received a first-round bye at the regional. He then earned a first-period pin in the semifinal round. Duarte produced another first-period pin in the 160-pound final, beating Leyden junior Brian Gonzalez about one minute into the match.

Duarte will enter this week's sectional with an overall season record of 24-5.

Olascoaga also received a first-round bye at the regional. He pinned his opponent in the second period of a semifinal match. Olascoaga pinned York senior Anthony Mancini in the second period of the 195-pound final.

Olascoaga will head to the sectional with a season record of 16-6.

Addison Trail freshman Josh Amorn-Vichet earned a sectional berth with his third-place finish in

the 120-pound level at Saturday's regional. Amorn-Vichet, who earned a 9-2 win over his opponent in the 120-pound division's third-place match, will enter the sectional with a 21-11 season record.

The Blazers finished fourth in the team standings of the six-team regional with their total of 90 points. York won the regional's team title with its score of 230.5 points.

Willowbrook

Willowbrook senior Isaiah Smith earned an individual berth in this week's Class 3A Hinsdale Central Sectional with his second-place finish in the 132-pound weight level of Saturday's Glenbard East Regional in Lombard.

Smith opened the regional by pinning his opponent in the first period of a quarterfinal match. Smith then won his semifinal match with a second-period pin. Smith lost a 5-3 decision to Wheaton Warrenville South junior Cooper Hollis in the 132-pound final.

Smith will enter the sectional with an overall season record of 24-12.

Smith was the only Willowbrook wrestler to earn a berth in the sectional. The top three finishers in each weight class at the Glenbard East Regional advanced to the sectional.

Three Warriors—junior Noah Brockie, senior Darren Jackowiak and sophomore Elias Samayoa—earned fourth-place finishes at the regional. Brockie finished fourth in

the 145-pound level and completed the season with a record of 27-16. Jackowiak, who placed fourth in the 152-pound division, finished the season with a 24-20 record. Samayoa wound up fourth in the heavyweight level and wrapped up the season with a 28-16 record.

Willowbrook placed seventh in the team results of the eight-team regional with its total of 52.5 points. Naperville Central won the regional title with its score of 213.5 points.

Right: Senior Isaiah Smith of the Willowbrook wrestling team earned a berth in this week's IHSA Class 3A individual sectional at Hinsdale Central, when he turned in a second-place finish in the 132-pound weight level of Saturday's Glenbard East Regional. Smith, who is pictured on the awards stand at the regional, opened the regional with a first-period pin in the quarterfinal round. He delivered a second-period pin in the semifinal round to advance to the regional's 132-pound championship match. Smith lost a 5-3 decision in the regional final. The top three finishers in each weight class at the Glenbard East Regional qualified for this week's Hinsdale Central Sectional. The top four finishers in each weight level at the sectional will advance to the IHSA individual state meet in Champaign.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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Blazers' girls bowlers win a regional title; Willowbrook takes second

Both teams advance to this week's Hinsdale Central Sectional

STAFF REPORT

The Addison Trail and Willowbrook girls bowling teams claimed the top two spots in the team standings of Saturday's 12-team IHSA Hinsdale South Regional at Bowlero in Woodridge. Both teams advanced to this week's Hinsdale Central Sectional at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont.

Addison Trail won the regional title with its overall score of 5,326. Willowbrook finished second with its total of 5,248. York (5,159) claimed third, while Downers Grove North (5,030) secured fourth, narrowly edging out fifth-place Downers Grove South (5,020) for the last available team spot in the sectional.

The top four teams at the Hinsdale South Regional advanced to the team competition of this week's Hinsdale Central Sectional. Twelve teams will battle in that sectional's team competition. The top four teams at the sectional will qualify for the upcoming IHSA state meet, which takes place Feb. 17-18 at the Cherry Bowl in Rockford.

Addison Trail sophomore Val Pizzoferrato led the Blazers to their regional title with her six-game regional total of 1,112 (an average of 185.3 per game). Senior Kylie Fiermuga, who nearly matched Pizzoferrato's total, contributed a six-game regional score of 1,109 for Addison Trail. Senior Hannah Melone (1,079), sophomore Amelia Leslie (1,014) and sophomore Grace Cannizzo (1,012) rounded out the Blazers' regional lineup.

Pizzoferrato, who wound up ninth in the regional's individual standings, bowled her best game of the event in her second game, when she fired a 257. Fiermuga, who placed 10th among all individuals at the regional, also bowled her best game of the event in her second game, when she rolled a 206.

Melone rolled a 223 in her fourth game at the regional. She finished 12th in the event's individual standings. Leslie and Cannizzo placed 19th and 20th, respectively, in the regional's individual competition. Leslie fired a 190 in her fourth game of the day, while Cannizzo shot a 189 in her fifth game.

Addison Trail led Willowbrook by 18 pins through five games at the regional. The Blazers outscored the Warriors 890 to 830 in the sixth and final game to beat the Warriors by 78 pins. Addison Trail outscored York by 116 pins (890 to 774) in the final game. The Blazers led the Dukes by 51 pins with one game to play.

Willowbrook bowling

Junior Jacquelyn Porro led Willowbrook to its second-place finish at the regional with her six-game total of 1,169 (an average of 194.8 per game). Porro finished fifth in her event's individual standings. She urned in her best game of the regional in her second game, when she rolled a 246. Porro added a 227 in her fourth game of the day.

Junior Olivia Williams of Willowbrook, who placed sixth in the regional's individual competition, con-

tributed a six-game score of 1,147. Williams posted her best game of the regional—a 218—in her third game.

Willowbrook senior Brianna Smalling (1,059) placed 13th in regional's individual standings. Smalling produced her best game of the regional when she fired a 230 in her third game.

Junior Lauren Carson of the Warriors supplied a six-game total of 951. Carson delivered her best game of the regional when she bowled a 190 in her first game.

Willowbrook junior Annabelle Thompson bowled four games at the regional and turned in an overall score of 644, which included a 195 in her final game of the day. Junior Maddie Wolf bowled two games for the Warriors at the regional. She provided game scores of 150 and 128.

Addison Trail girls gymnastics

Addison Trail senior Maddie Mucciatti earned an automatic sectional berth with her fourth-place finish in floor exercises at last week's Wheaton Warrenville South Regional. Mucciatti received a score of 8.9 for her routine on the floor during the Jan. 30 regional. She also earned an at-large sectional berth on the uneven bars with her regional score of 8.05. That score produced a seventh-place finish for Mucciatti at the regional.

Addison Trail finished fourth in the team standings of the Wheaton Warrenville South Regional with its total of 120.85. DeKalb won the regional title with its score of 141.275. Wheaton Warrenville South (138.15) finished second, while Kaneland (120.975) claimed third.

Mucciatti landed in ninth place in the regional's all-around standings with her score of 31.25. Junior Nicolette Franczak of the Blazers delivered an eighth-place score of 31.55 in the regional's all-around competition.

This week's sectional competitors will attempt to qualify for the IHSA state meet, which will take place Feb. 17-18 at Palatine High School. The top five finishers in each event of this week's four sectionals will automatically qualify for the state meet.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls bowling team competed in Saturday's 12-team IHSA Hinsdale South Regional. The Warriors earned a second-place finish in the regional's team standings to advance to this week's Hinsdale Central Sectional. Addison Trail won the regional title. York and Downers North placed third and fourth, respectively. The top four teams at the regional advanced to this week's sectional, which will be held at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont. Willowbrook's regional lineup, pictured clockwise from the bottom, included: junior Annabelle Thompson, junior Maddie Wolf, senior Brianna Smalling, junior Jacquelyn Porro, junior Olivia Williams and junior Lauren Carson. The top four teams at the Hinsdale Central Sectional will qualify for the IHSA state meet.

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Bond set for trio of Cook County residents charged with burglary from Willowbrook Walgreens and fleeing authorities in a high-speed chase

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Willowbrook Chief of Police Robert Schaller announced that bond has been set for three Cook County residents accused of stealing perfume and other merchandise from a Willowbrook Walgreens store located in the 500 block of Plainfield Road.

Kyla Simmons, 20, of Chicago; Duane Robinson, 23, of Chicago; and Monteriana Williams 20, of Oak Park, each appeared in bond court, where Judge Joshua Dieden set bond at \$75,000 with 10 percent to apply for Simmons, \$50,000 with 10 percent to apply for Robinson and \$10,000 with 10 percent to apply for Williams.

All three defendants are charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony) and one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony). Additionally, Simmons is charged with two counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding (Class 4 felony) and Robinson is charged with one count of robbery (Class 2 felony).

On Jan. 31 at approximately 9:42 p.m., officers with the Willowbrook Police Department were dispatched to the Walgreens for a call for a retail theft. A nearby Darien police officer was on patrol at the time of the call and located a vehicle suspected of being involved in the theft at the intersection of Route 83 and Plainfield Road.

The officer positioned his squad car behind the suspected vehicle, allegedly driven by Simmons, at which

time the vehicle made a U-turn on Route 83. At this time the officer activated his emergency lights. It is alleged that the vehicle sped up and continued driving, reaching speeds of up to 70 mph in a 35-mph zone.

Following a high-speed pursuit which included multiple law enforcement agencies and a Chicago Police Department helicopter, the vehicle was located near Central Park Avenue and Harrison Street in Chicago. It is alleged that when Cook County Sheriff's deputies pulled in front of the vehicle, Simmons put the car in reverse and crashed into another officer's vehicle causing damage.

It is further alleged that officers found 21 bottles of perfume and approximately \$5,000 in cash in the vehicle. All three defendants were taken into custody at this time.

Following an investigation, it is alleged that at approximately 9:25 p.m., Simmons and Robinson entered the Walgreens together, followed by Williams a short time later.

It is alleged that Robinson asked a store clerk to double-bag twenty-one bottles of perfume totaling approximately \$1,668.58 and after the clerk did so, Robinson grabbed the bag from the clerk and fled the store. It is further alleged that Simmons and Williams took items from the store including candy, band-aids and Neosporin and fled the store.

"The type of criminal behavior alleged against these three defendants clearly displays their complete disregard for public safety and the rule

of law," Berlin said "The allegations that these three defendants entered a retail store, stole merchandise and then put the public at risk by leading authorities on a high-speed chase through a residential area, will not be tolerated in DuPage County. The fact that the defendants were in custody less than one hour after the initial call sends the message that if you commit this type of crime in DuPage County, we will use every tool available, including neighboring law enforcement agencies and the use of a helicopter, if necessary, to ensure you are caught, charged and held responsible for your actions. I thank the Willowbrook Police Department for their work on this case and for their continued efforts in keeping our retail establishments safe. I thank the Darien, Villa Park, Hinsdale, Burr Ridge, Berkeley, Bensenville, Oak Ridge, Elmhurst and Chicago po-

lice departments as well as the Cook County Sheriff's Office for their assistance on this case."

"I would like to personally thank the men and women of the Willowbrook Police Department that worked collaboratively with officers from Hinsdale, Villa Park, Hillside, Elmhurst, Berkeley, Oak Brook, Darien, Burr Ridge, Bensenville and the Cook County Sheriff's Police Street Crimes unit" Schaller said. "These arrests demonstrate the importance of collaborations between local law enforcement to better protect communities and hold individuals accountable. I also thank State's Attorney Bob Berlin and his office for their commitment to public safety."

The next court appearance for all three defendants is scheduled Feb. 27 for arraignment in front of Judge Brian Telander.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Villa Park resident celebrates his 94th birthday

Villa Park resident Earl Pearson (left) celebrated his 94th birthday at the York Township Senior Nutrition Center in Lombard on Jan. 30. York Township Supervisor John W. Valle (right) surprised Pearson with a cake. The senior center's lunch crowd joined in a cheerful chorus of "Happy Birthday to You." Per Pearson's request, the cake was cut and shared with everyone as dessert after lunch. "We wish Earl a happy and healthy birthday," said Valle. "We are glad he is a regular at the township and wanted to show him how much we care."

Mating season means more coyote sightings

Late winter is mating season for coyotes, and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County reminds residents it's not unusual to see these animals as they search for mates and monitor their territories.

"Just because you see a coyote isn't a cause for alarm. Consider yourself lucky, and enjoy the rare opportunity to observe it from a safe distance," says Forest Preserve District ecologist Dan Thompson. "Whether you see them or not, coyotes are all around, and the more we can understand they're just trying to live their lives, the more we can safely share our neighborhoods."

Coyotes, after all, play a vital role in the ecological community by keeping populations of rodents and

other small animals in check.

In winter, when coyotes may spend more time foraging for food, they can also be easier to spot on the snowy landscape or in areas with limited vegetation and places to hide.

Thompson acknowledges coyotes can be intimidating due to their apparent large stature and may be bolder this time of year.

"They may view other canines, including dogs, as competition. Likewise, they might approach a female dog in heat as a potential mate," he said.

In DuPage, coyote breeding season peaks in late February or early March. Litters are born in April, and coyotes raise their young in dens until late June.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Future Warriors

Willowbrook High School recently held its annual Curriculum Showcase and Meet the Coaches/Clubs Night. The event provided incoming and current students and their parents/guardians with information about the academics, clubs, activities and sports that are offered at the school. Participants were able to meet with school counselors, representatives from each academic area, athletic coaches/activity advisers, District 88 Board of Education members and Willowbrook and District 88 administrators. Genevieve Kling (left) and Ruby Kingji (right), who will both begin their freshman year at the school in August, are pictured with some of their new Willowbrook gear.

Warriors lose key conference battle to the Mustangs

Downers Grove South wins WSGC title with a 10-2 record; Willowbrook finishes with a conference mark of 8-4

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook girls basketball team wound down its regular season by winning one of three games last week. The Warriors finished the week with an overall season record of 14-15.

Willowbrook began its week with a 48-15 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Leyden on Jan. 31. Three days later, the Warriors completed their conference season with a home game against Downers Grove South. The visiting Mustangs edged Willowbrook 46-42 in Friday's game in Villa Park. With the victory, Downers Grove South clinched the conference title with a mark of 10-2.

The Warriors entered Friday's contest with a conference record of 8-3. If Willowbrook had won Friday's game, Downers Grove South and the Warriors would have had identical 9-3 conference records. Willowbrook defeated the Mustangs 49-40 in the teams' first meeting of the conference season in Downers Grove on Dec. 16.

The Warriors overpowered Leyden in last week's game in Northlake. Willowbrook led the Eagles 16-5 after one quarter and 26-10 at halftime. The Warriors' lead grew to

37-14 by the end of the third quarter.

Senior Sara Stout scored a team-leading 17 points for the Warriors in last week's win over Leyden. Junior Elle Bruschnik, who provided eight of Willowbrook's 16 first-quarter points, added 12 points. Senior Rimón Kari, who sank a pair of 3-point attempts, contributed eight points.

The Warriors and Mustangs were tied at 8-8 through one quarter of Friday's conference battle. Downers Grove South held a 20-18 halftime lead. Willowbrook owned a 34-31 lead at the end of the third quarter. Stout scored a basket early in the fourth quarter to give the Warriors a 36-31 lead, but Downers Grove South then went on an 11-0 run to take a 42-36 lead. The Mustangs made a pair of shots from 3-point range during their 11-0 burst.

Willowbrook trailed Downers Grove South 42-36 with less than two minutes to play. Senior Yazmin Setaram sank a 3-point shot to cut the Mustangs' lead to 42-39 with 1:20 remaining. Moments later, Bruschnik connected on a 3-point shot to tie the game at 42-42 with 54 seconds on the clock.

Downers Grove South regained

the lead by making a pair of free throws with 46.5 seconds to play. The Mustangs scored the final points of the night when they made two more free throws with 5.9 seconds remaining.

Stout scored a team-high 14 points in Friday's loss. Bruschnik, who made a pair of 3-point shots, contributed 10 points. Setaram sank three 3-point baskets to provide nine points.

Junior Tia Kelly delivered six points by making two 3-point shots in the second quarter.

Willowbrook finished the week with Saturday's 75-34 non-conference loss to Fremd in Villa Park. Fremd, one of the state's top Class 4A teams, improved its overall season record to 27-2 with Saturday's win.

The Warriors played one game this week; they tangled with Downers Grove North of the West Suburban Silver Conference in a crossover game in Villa Park. Willowbrook will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a Feb. 14 game against Wheaton North at the St. Charles North Regional. If the Warriors beat Wheaton North, they would likely face St. Charles North in the regional final on Feb. 16.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team finished its West Suburban Gold Conference season with Friday's 46-42 loss to Downers Grove South in Villa Park. The Warriors led the Mustangs 36-31 early in the fourth quarter, but Downers Grove South delivered an 11-0 run to take a 42-36 lead. The Warriors tied the score at 42-42 with a pair of late 3-point shots by senior Yazmin Setaram (No. 4 - above left) and junior Elle Bruschnik (No. 33 - above right). Downers Grove South scored the game's last four points at the free-throw line. The Mustangs won the conference title with a 10-2 record. Willowbrook, which beat the Mustangs earlier in the season, could have won a share of the conference title if it would have won Friday's game. The Warriors, whose overall season record fell to 14-14 with Friday's loss, finished the conference season with an 8-4 record. Willowbrook will open the IHSA Class 4A playoffs with next week's game against Wheaton North at the St. Charles North Regional.

Three Willowbrook gymnasts earn individual sectional berths

Sarah Ball of the Warriors delivers three top-three finishes at the Glenbard West Regional

The Willowbrook girls gymnastics team competed in last week's IHSA Glenbard West Regional in Glen Ellyn. The Warriors finished second in the team standings of the four-team regional. Three Willowbrook gymnasts earned individual berths in this week's Lake Park Sectional.

Glenbard West won the team title at the Jan. 31 regional with its total of 140.175 points. Willowbrook delivered a team total of 130.5 in its second-place finish. Bartlett (128.875) and Morton (110.175) claimed third and fourth, respectively.

Glenbard West advanced to the sectional's team competition. The Warriors fell short of earning one of two available at-large team berths to the sectional. The team champions (DeKalb, Glenbard West, Lake Park and Glenbard North) from four of last week's regionals automatically advanced to the sectional's team competition. The two teams from those regionals with the next-best team scores (Wheaton Warrenville South and Oak Park/River Forest) claimed at-large team berths with their respective totals of 138.15 and 134.875 at different regionals.

All gymnasts who earned top-five finishes in the regional automatically qualified for the sectional. Additionally, the next 12 top scorers in each individual event, and in the all-around competition, from the four regionals (Wheaton Warrenville South, Glenbard West, Glenbard East and Leyden) that fed into the Lake Park Sectional earned at-large sectional berths.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Three members of Willowbrook's girls gymnastics team advanced to this week's Lake Park Sectional after delivering strong performances in last week's Glenbard West Regional. The top five finishers in each regional event automatically qualified for the sectional. Additionally, some gymnasts earned at-large sectional berths. Willowbrook senior Sarah Ball (above right) secured sectional berths in three events—the vault, floor exercises and the balance beam. Ball delivered second-place performances on the vault and in floor exercises at the regional. She also earned third-place honors on the balance beam. Junior Mia McBride (right) of the Warriors advanced to the sectional with top-five finishes in two events. McBride placed fourth on the balance beam at the regional. She also finished fifth in the regional's uneven bars competition. McBride earned an at-large sectional berth in the all-around competition with her total regional score of 32.225. Sophomore Naomi Campbell (above left) of Willowbrook also advanced to this week's Lake Park Sectional. Campbell finished fourth in the regional's floor exercises event. She also earned a pair of at-large sectional berths. Campbell obtained one of those at-large berths in the all-around competition with her total regional score of 32.975. She also earned an at-large sectional berth on the balance beam.



See GYMNASIS, Page 14

Emily Petring, Downers Grove South hold off Willowbrook for first WSC Gold title since 2001

By CHRIS CASEY

Shaw Local News Network correspondent

VILLA PARK — Emily Petring wasn't going to let it slip away.

With a conference title within reach, Petring's Downers Grove South girls basketball team saw its game-long lead vanish into a deficit entering the fourth quarter Feb. 3 at Willowbrook.

Petring, however, converted a bucket through contact, missed the free throw, found the loose ball and drilled a 3-pointer with 5:50 remaining to immediately erase the Willowbrook lead. It was the last time the Mustangs trailed in a 46-42 victory that clinched the West Suburban Conference Gold Division title.

The conference title was the first for the Downers Grove South girls basketball program since 2001.

"We just needed to settle down and play as a unit," said Petring, a Coastal Carolina soccer commit. "This is a special group and without a doubt my favorite year [of high school basketball]. We knew [the conference title] was right there for the taking and we knew we needed to finish strong. It took all of us to get it done and I'm happy that we did it."

Petring's five quick points were the start of an 11-0 run, which included the senior guard hitting another 3-pointer as part of her game-high 20 points.

Downers Grove South (17-12, 10-2 West Suburban Gold) then seemed to be in full control, ahead by six until the 1:28 mark. Willowbrook's Yazmin Setaram and Elle Bruschuk hit back-to-back 3-pointers to tie the game at 42 with just under a minute to play.

Petring pushed the ball down the court, was fouled and converted both free throws, which proved to be the game-winning points. Downers Grove South's defense held Willowbrook to 3-of-15 shooting in the fourth quarter.

"I told the girls that this is going to be a game of roller coaster," Lyndsie Long said. "[Willowbrook] went up to start the fourth quarter and we just had to stay poised. We knew our shots would fall."

"For this group to be the first to win conference since 2001, it's special. This entire group is special. And Emily is just one-of-a-kind athleticism. She just wants it and has that passion and desire that you just can't teach. She has that leadership quality that everyone follows."

The Mustangs focused defensively to try to shut down Willowbrook standout forward Bruschuk. Despite making



Photos by Karen Naess for Shaw Local News Network

Downers Grove South's Emily Petring puts a shot up over Willowbrook's Sarah Stout on Feb. 3 in Villa Park.

only one of her first 13 shots, the 6-foot Bruschuk knocked down two 3-pointers in the second half, the latter of which brought the Warriors level.

Bruschuk finished with 10 points, a game-high 13 rebounds and three blocked shots.

Willowbrook coach Dan Bannon, who has spent this season transitioning into the head coach position with head coach Terry Harrell retiring, felt his team just ran out of time.

"It was no doubt a game of runs," Bannon said. "I think if that game goes another minute, the outcome could very well be different, but that's not how it works. We're used to [Bruschuk] drawing the extra defender and just couldn't get it going consistently enough on the offensive end tonight. I thought our defense was outstanding. To hold that team to 46 points with their size and speed is great. But we struggled to score and that hurt us. You have to give credit to [Downers Grove South]."

Freshman Megan Ganschow and junior Allison Jarvis each added 12 points for the Mustangs.

Sara Stout led the way for Willowbrook (14-14, 8-3) with 14 points.



Willowbrook's Elle Bruschuk looks to advance the ball against Downers Grove South's Allison Jarvis.

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cal.com, Chicago tells the story of "chorine Roxie Hart, (who) murders has been more than a decade in the making, after the rights were pulled

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THURSDAY, FEB. 9, 2023

Former parish president accused of stealing from St. Demetrios Church Bond for Addison resident set at \$100,000

By Dee Longfellow

FOR THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

According to a release issued on Friday, Feb. 3 by DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Elmhurst Chief of Police Michael McLean, a former parish President of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Elmhurst had been charged with stealing approximately \$700 from church memorial donations.

Peter Barkoulies, 68, of Addison, appeared before Judge Margaret O'Connell who set bond at \$100,000 with 10% to apply. Barkoulies has been charged with four counts of Burglary to a Place of Worship, a Class

1 Felony.

According to the release, located inside the church is a memorial table where parishioners insert money through a slot as a free-will offering. Barkoulies had served as parish President from 2019-21 and in that role, he was given a key to the memorial box during that time. The key is typically passed from president to president at the completion of their term. It was later determined that Barkoulies had never returned the key at the end of his service, as required.

According to the investigation, it is alleged that on four separate occasions between the dates of Thursday,

Dec. 8, 2022, and Tuesday, Jan. 25, Barkoulies accessed the money slot in the memorial table with the key that he had not returned. It is alleged that in all, Barkoulies stole approximately \$700 from the church. Barkoulies' alleged thefts were discovered when church officials grew suspicious when they discovered funds were missing from the memorial table contributions. On Friday afternoon, leaders in the church contacted the Elmhurst Police Department, which began an investigation, after which Barkoulies was located and taken into custody.

"The allegations against Mr. Barkoulies are very disheartening," Berlin

said. "As parish President, Mr. Barkoulies was entrusted with the well-being of the parish. He allegedly betrayed that trust by treating the parish's memorial table as his own personal piggy bank."

"I thank authorities at St. Demetrios for bringing this matter to the attention of law enforcement. I also thank the Elmhurst Police Department."

"Mr. Barkoulies' alleged betrayal of trust to this religious institution is very disappointing," Chief McLean said. "However, the church community should be thankful for the proactive cooperation between church leadership, the Elmhurst Police De-

partment, and the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office to stop these thefts from continuing and bring the individual allegedly responsible to justice."

Barkoulies' next court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, for arraignment in front of Judge O'Connell.

Members of the public are reminded that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendant's guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

The cast of Addison Trail's production of Chicago Teen Edition rehearse for the upcoming performances on Thursday, Feb. 9, Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. plus a 2 p.m. show on Saturday. Tickets, available at the door, are \$7/adults, \$5/ages 12-17, free for pass holders.

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Addison Trail Theatre winter musical Chicago Teen Edition opens Thursday

Addison Trail Theatre invites you to travel back to 1920s Chicago: a time filled with sensationalized stories of female crimes and empowerment, nightclubs, flappers and — of course — "all that jazz." Step back in time as the school presents its winter musical, "Chicago: Teen Edition," on Thursday, Feb. 9, Friday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. There will also be a 2 p.m. performance on Saturday.

According to concordtheatricals.com, Chicago tells the story of "chorine Roxie Hart, (who) murders

a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap ... until he finds out he has been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another 'Merry Murderess,' Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the 'American Dream': fame, fortune and acquittal."

Theatre Director Anna McSweeney said bringing "Chicago: Teen Edition" to the Addison Trail stage has been more than a decade in the making, after the rights were pulled

in 2009. But this year's strong female cast brought about the perfect opportunity to perform the show.

"It's a fun production and a different type of theatre that showcases a deconstructed vaudeville style," McSweeney said. "I hope the audience enjoys the cabaret, jazz setting and is blown away by the talent we have here."

The talent is so deep in fact, that the show will feature double casting and six students will alternate

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