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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

## Memorial Day in Villa Park

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 conducted its annual Memorial Day service on Monday morning at Cortesi Veterans Memorial Park, 318 E. Kenilworth Ave. Post Commander Jim Blankshain is pictured (top right) while speaking during the service to honor the members of the United States Armed Forces who died in defense of their country. Anna Seelbach, who recently graduated from Willowbrook High School, sounded taps at the end of Monday's ceremony. She is pictured (bottom right) as (left to right) Blankshain, Post Vice Commander Jim Urso and Post Junior Vice Commander Mike Spacucello salute in the background.

### INSIDE:



Police Reports.....6 Puzzles.....11  
Viewpoint.....7 Classifieds.....14



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## Addison Trail, Willowbrook participate in annual WSC Sports Spectacular

On Friday, May 26, Willowbrook hosted the annual West Suburban Conference (WSC) Sports Spectacular.

During the event, nearly 180 students with special needs filled Willowbrook's field house, gymnasiums and room C2, all from four schools in the West Suburban Conference (Addison Trail, Willowbrook, Hin-

sdale South and Hinsdale Central), as well as the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED).

The event began with opening ceremonies to introduce the schools in attendance. The pupils played basketball, cosmic bowling, balloon badminton and more. There were other games, activities, karaoke and

tasty treats.

The Sports Spectacular was founded in 1994 by a group of West Suburban Conference athletic directors. Retired Addison Trail physical education teacher Sheri D'Ambrose wanted to continue the event to offer students an atmosphere of fun, and District 88 looks forward to keeping the event going for years to come.



Addison Trail special education teacher Jessica Sokolowski (left) sings "Let It Go" with Addison Trail students Brianna Duncan (center) and Geronimo Galan Jr., as they participate in karaoke during the annual West Suburban Conference Sports Spectacular. The event took place on May 26 at Willowbrook.

### District 88, Elmhurst University collaboration program earns national grant

District 88 is committed to providing multiple and flexible pathways for students to ensure they are college and career ready and continues to partner with colleges/universities and local businesses to enhance these opportunities.

One of those collaborations is with Elmhurst University, to provide students with access to courses that allow them to earn college credit.

The district has announced that Addison Trail, Willowbrook and Elmhurst University have received a \$59,404 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

See GRANT, Page 13



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook student Casey Barnes enjoys a snow cone treat during the annual West Suburban Conference Sports Spectacular that included Addison Trail, Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central, as well as the School Association for Special Education in DuPage County (SASED).

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**With Gratitude,**  
Sherry and Tae Fu Staff

# Warriors nearly pull off an upset against Glenbard East

*Willowbrook can't convert a match point against the Rams, who edge Warriors in a three-game thriller*

## STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook boys volleyball team almost delivered an upset victory in its post-season opener against Glenbard East at last week's IHSA Naperville Central Regional.

The Warriors won the opening game of their regional quarterfinal against the Rams on May 22. Glenbard East won the second game to even the match and force a decisive third game. Willowbrook held a lead late in the third game and had a match point after taking a 24-23 lead, but the Warriors were unable to close out a victory.

Glenbard East, which won the final three points of the match, edged the Warriors 23-25, 25-19, 26-24.

Willowbrook finished its season with an overall record of 10-26.

The Warriors entered the post-season as the No. 25 seed in the 30-team Oswego Sectional. Glenbard East was the sectional's No. 8 seed.

"It was quite the match; we just couldn't pull it out," said Willowbrook coach Ryan Bazon of last week's battle against the Rams. "The boys played extremely hard and I was proud of them."

Junior Andrew Ciesinski provided a team-leading 11 kills for Willowbrook in their post-season battle against the Rams. Senior Pat-

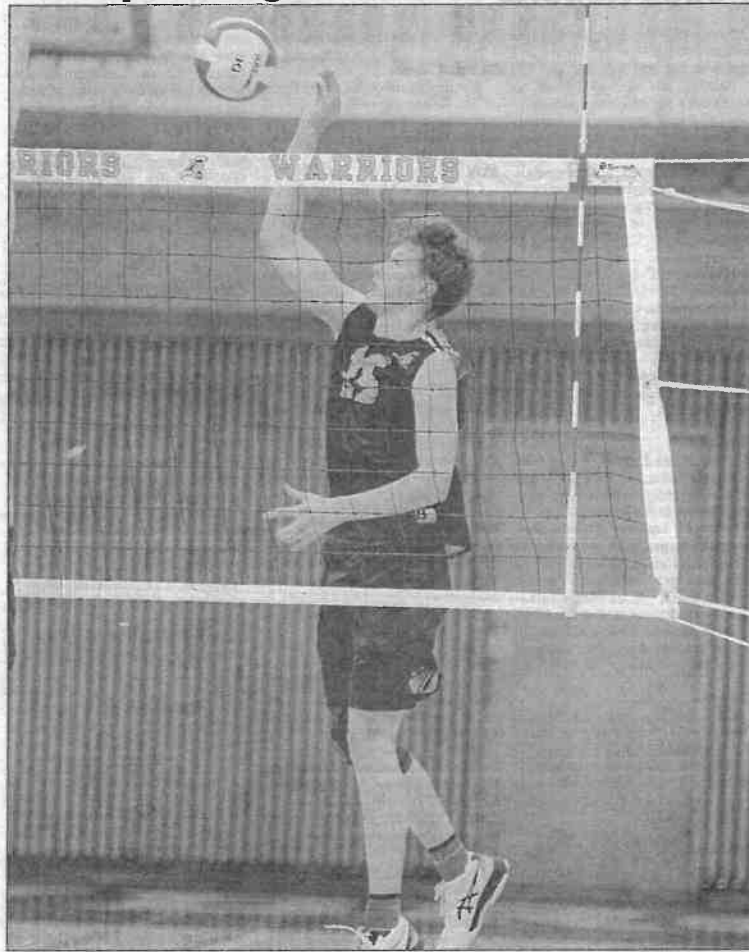
rick Dasbach supplied nine kills for the Warriors, while senior Terence Walker contributed seven kills and seven blocks.

Willowbrook junior Carter Ferguson handed out 25 assists and made four digs. Freshman Jonnie Gosmire delivered four digs for the Warriors.

Willowbrook began its 2023 season with a home match against the Rams on March 21. That contest also lasted three games, with Glenbard East earning a 25-15, 22-25, 25-14 win.

After beating the Warriors on May 22, the Rams defeated Plainfield North 25-19, 25-23 in a regional semifinal at Naperville Central on May 23. Glenbard East's season ended with a 25-20, 25-17 loss to Lyons Township in the regional final on May 25.

Glenbard East finished its season with an overall record of 25-13. Lyons Township, which is the No. 1 seed in the Oswego Sectional, beat Hinsdale Central 25-21, 25-20 in a sectional semifinal contest on Saturday. The Lions faced Downers Grove North in a sectional final earlier this week. The winner of that match advanced to the IHSA state quarterfinals, which begin this Friday at Hoffman Estates High School.



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's boys volleyball team finished its season with a three-game loss to Glenbard East in last week's IHSA regional quarterfinal at Naperville Central High School. The Warriors won the opening game of the May 22 match. Glenbard East won the second game to force a decisive third game. Willowbrook had a match point after taking a 24-23 lead in the third game, but the Rams won the next three points to earn a 23-25, 25-19, 26-24 win. Willowbrook finished its season with an overall record of 10-26. Senior Patrick Dasbach (No. 15) of the Warriors, who is pictured earlier this season, contributed nine kills during last week's post-season battle against Glenbard East. Junior Andrew Ciesinski drilled a team-leading 11 kills for the Warriors. Glenbard East won its next playoff match, beating Plainfield North in a regional semifinal. The Rams' season ended with a loss to Lyons Township in the final of the Naperville Central Regional.

## Warriors finish season with a loss to Lyons Township

### STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook softball team opened the IHSA Class 4A post-season with last week's 18-4 loss to Lyons Township at the Riverside-Brookfield Regional.

The Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 17-15.

Willowbrook entered the post-season as the No. 6 seed in the 16-team Marist Sectional. Lyons Township is the sectional's No. 11 seed. The two teams met during the regular season, with the Warriors earning an 11-1 victory in a six-inning game in Villa Park on April 12.

The Lions scored three runs in the

top of the third inning to take a 3-0 lead in the May 24 post-season contest against the Warriors. The Lions erupted for nine runs in the fourth inning to build a 12-0 lead. Willowbrook scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Lyons Township piled on six runs in the top of the fifth inning. The Lions finished off their five-inning victory by holding the Warriors scoreless in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Lyons Township lashed 15 hits during last week's victory over the Warriors. Willowbrook committed five errors in the game.

Three days after beating the

Warriors, the Lions beat Riverside-Brookfield 15-3 in Saturday's regional final. Lyons Township advanced to this week's Marist Sectional. The Lions faced York in a sectional semifinal. The winner will tangle with either Marist or Mother McAuley in this Friday's sectional final.

Junior Lindsey Rugg went 2-for-3 and scored one run for Willowbrook in last week's post-season loss to Lyons Township. Senior Kayleigh Denison went 1-for-2 and scored one run. Sophomore Sonia Ruchala went 1-for-3 and drove in one run for the Warriors, while senior Chloe Klambeck went 1-for-1.

## Warriors' season ends with 1-0 playoff loss to the Tigers

*Ness and Chaltin hold Wheaton Warrenville South to three hits; Tigers score the game's lone run in third inning*

### STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook baseball team opened IHSA Class 4A post-season play with last week's 1-0 loss to Wheaton Warrenville South in a semifinal game at the Lake Park Regional in Roselle.

The Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 22-11.

The Tigers scored the only run of the May 24 game in the top of the third inning.

A Wheaton Warrenville South player reached base on a one-out single. He then stole second base and scored on a teammate's single.

The Tigers connected for only three hits in the game. After picking up two singles in the third inning, Wheaton Warrenville South managed one more hit—a leadoff single in the top of the fourth inning.

Junior left-hander Gabe Ness pitched the first five innings of the post-season contest for the Warriors. Ness allowed one run, three hits and two walks. He struck out four batters.

Senior right-hander Alex Chaltin took the mound in relief of Ness and fired two scoreless innings. Chaltin retired the side in order in both the sixth and seventh innings. He recorded three strikeouts.

Willowbrook picked up five hits against the Tigers. The Warriors didn't pick up any hits in the bottom of the seventh inning, but they had runners on first and second base with no outs. Willowbrook still had runners on first and second base after a fielder's choice. The Warriors' next two batters struck out to end the game.

Senior Joey Tumilty went 2-for-3 in Willowbrook's post-season opener. Junior Aiden Baerenklau also went 2-for-3 for the Warriors, while senior James Degnan went 1-for-3.

Willowbrook entered the IHSA Class 4A playoffs as the No. 3 seed in the South Elgin Sectional. Wheaton Warrenville South, which finished the regular season with a 10-21 record, is the sectional's No. 15 seed.

After beating the Warriors in the regional semifinal, the Tigers beat Lake Park 5-3 in nine innings in Saturday's regional final. The Tigers, who improved their overall season record to 12-21 with the win, advanced to this week's sectional semifinal game against Batavia at Judson University in Elgin. The winner of that contest will face either St. Charles East or York in this Saturday's sectional final.

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Hello. I'm calling from Villa Park. I'd like to thank the volunteers who organized the spring sweep in Villa Park. It was well organized. It was well attended. Thank you to all volunteers. It's the thing that Villa Park does annually, and I would like to see it continue. Thank you very much, volunteers.

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To the person who was saying that we shouldn't count the votes of leftist California, that it's circling the drain as a state, here are some facts: California pays more than \$250 billion in federal taxes each year, which is 15 percent of the national total, and which is more than

the combined contribution of the bottom 28 states. California also receives back only 65 cents for every dollar it contributes. Seven of the 10 states most dependent on the federal government are Republican-voting. Of the states that sent more than they received back, 52 percent or Democrat voting. These Republican voting states, which are always screaming for smaller government, sure don't have a problem sticking out their hands and taking back more than they contribute.

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Biden and other Democrats frequently talk about white supremacy and racism. When was

the last time Biden talked publicly about horrible academic results and test scores for kids in Democrat-run cities? Look at the numbers from public schools in Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, Washington, D.C., and other cities. They are pathetic. Thousands and thousands of kids (of different races) are stuck in horrible school systems. Some of these school systems have a terribly low number of kids who are actually proficient at their age level in reading and math. You want to talk about systemic racism—there it is. And the teachers unions in those cities seem to be against making any changes.

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Russia must be stopped. Come on people, figure it out. Same things happened in World War I, World War II, and all these other wars. We've got to stop Putin. Get with it.

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Thank you, federal government,

for raising interest rates over and over. This is being done to reduce inflation? That is a laugh. What it did for me was make my mortgage payments skyrocket since 2022 and I may be forced to move. I am getting crushed and my lender is not being very sympathetic. Gee, and with grocery and gas prices so high, that puts a senior like me more behind the eight ball. Shaking my head.

\*\*\*

Biden claims he reduced the deficit by \$1.7 trillion. The so-called \$1.7 trillion reduction was caused by COVID allocations expiring. Biden has raised the national debt by \$4 trillion in the last couple of years.

\*\*\*

We Democrats are losing our credibility because of the Dumbocrats. That's d-u-m-b-ocrats of the far left who exist in our party. What real American patriot believes open borders, running up the nation-

al debt, shutting down our energy supplies, men can get pregnant freebies from the government good things?

\*\*\*

Now that Ron DeSantis has officially become a presidential candidate, it's no surprise Trump resorted to more fifth-grade name-calling and mocking DeSantis every chance he gets, instead of bating the issues with him and ing after Biden. I find it amusing that Trump says DeSantis is electable. The fact of the matter is Trump is unelectable. His base vote for him, but who else? The left will be galvanized to out the vote, and then we will be stuck with four more years of incompetency with Biden or some other radical leftist in the White House. Trump has turned off many people and worn out welcome. I sure hope DeSantis, one of the other GOP candidate nominated.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Kissane visits Dairyland

It's been a while since Villa Park comedian Matt Kissane has performed a comedy show in America's Dairyland but he recently appeared at the Jack Links National Headquarters. "I was so nervous but as with all the Wisconsin audiences I have performed for, they were wonderful!" he said. Kissane stayed afterward to pose for photos and make personalized Matt Foley Motivational Speaker videos. "It was a blast! Even did a couple Aaron Rodgers-themed motivational speeches," he added. Kissane has an upcoming performance at The Lyric Theater in Blue Island. He will be joined by other comics including Dan Brennan, Ed Kerlin, Anthony and Ron Malchiodi and singer Kristin Rose Kelly.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

## Part of the parade

The participants in the recent Lilac Parade in Lombard included young musicians from two Villa Park schools. The marching band from Willowbrook High School and the drum line from North Elementary School both provided entertainment during the parade, which took place in ideal weather conditions on Sunday, May 21.

