

Warriors jump to 5-2 with a win over the Huskies

Palicki runs for three TDs and throws two TD passes

The Willowbrook football team raised its overall season record to 5-2 with Friday's 35-14 victory over Oak Park and River Forest High School.

The Warriors and Huskies were tied at 14-14 after one quarter of Friday's West Suburban Conference crossover game in Villa Park. Willowbrook, a member of the conference's Gold level, held a 21-14 half-time lead over the Huskies, who play in the conference's Silver level.

Oak Park and River Forest dropped to 1-6 with Friday's loss to Willowbrook.

"They [the Huskies] moved the ball pretty well early in the game," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth after Friday's win. "We made some adjustments. We played better and were more physical as the game went on."

The Huskies have a losing record, but they play an extremely tough schedule. The West Suburban Conference's Silver level features a few standout teams, including Glenbard West, York, Lyons Township and Downers Grove North. Additionally, Oak Park and River Forest opened its season with non-conference losses to Fenwick and Lake Park. All six of the Huskies' 2023 losses have come against teams with winning records.

The Warriors scored a touchdown late in the third quarter to extend their lead to 28-14. Willowbrook added one more touchdown with about eight minutes left in the fourth quarter.

The Warriors will continue their

season with this Friday's West Suburban Gold contest at Morton (1-6). Willowbrook will finish the regular season with a conference home game against Leyden on Oct. 20.

Willowbrook needs to win at least one of its final two regular-season games to guarantee a berth in this year's IHSA playoffs.

The Warriors scored the first touchdown of Friday's game on a 53-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Arthur Palicki to junior K.J. Rhodes in the middle of the first quarter. Rhodes caught the pass near the Huskies' 30-yard line and raced down the sideline into the end zone.

Rhodes made eight receptions for 180 yards during Friday's game.

Oak Park and River Forest blocked the extra-point kick after Rhodes' touchdown reception, leaving the Warriors' lead at 6-0.

The Huskies delivered a long return on the ensuing kickoff. They started their offensive series at Willowbrook's 25-yard line. A few plays later, the Huskies delivered a 1-yard touchdown run. They made the extra-point kick to take a 7-6 lead with about five minutes left in the first quarter.

The Warriors responded with a 72-yard scoring drive that included a 45-yard pass from Palicki to senior Carter Ferguson. The long reception by Ferguson advanced the ball to the Huskies' 11-yard line. A couple of plays later, Palicki scored on a

See WARRIORS, Page 16



Willowbrook's football team raised its record to 5-2 following Friday's 35-14 non-conference home win over Oak Park and River Forest High School. Senior quarterback Arthur Palicki of the Warriors threw two touchdown passes and ran for three touchdowns during the game. Palicki (No. 1) is pictured above during his 6-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. Willowbrook and the Huskies were tied at 14-14 at the end of the opening quarter. The Warriors shut out Oak Park and River Forest during the remaining three quarters. The Warriors will play a West Suburban Gold Conference game at Morton this Friday. Willowbrook will finish its regular season with a conference home game against Leyden on Oct. 20.

CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

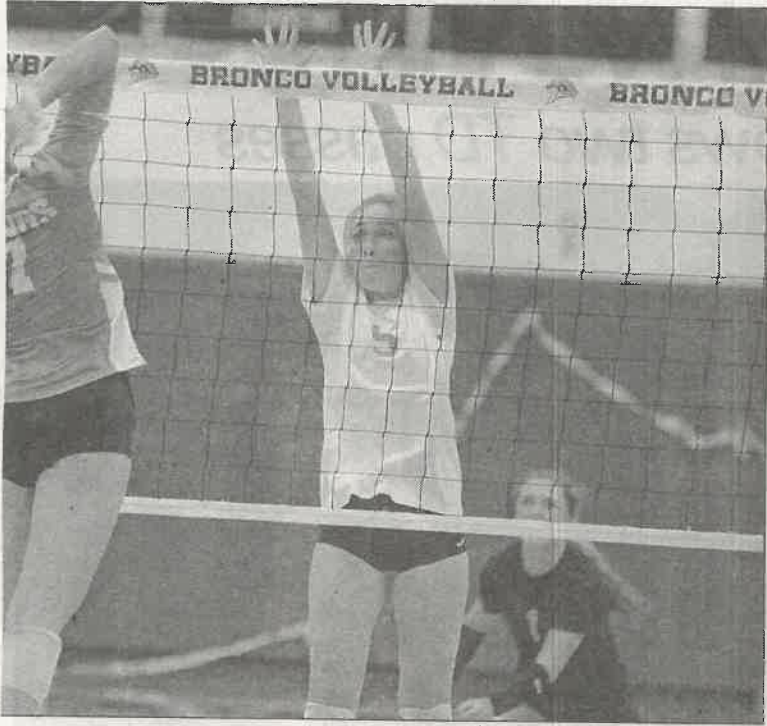


CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat the Blazers

Willowbrook's flag football team completed its regular season with Saturday's 32-0 victory over Addison Trail in Villa Park. The Warriors and Blazers both entered Saturday's game with identical 4-0 records in the West Suburban Gold-Plus Conference. Willowbrook, which did not allow a single point in any of its five conference victories, led the Blazers 20-0 at halftime. One photo from Saturday's contest shows freshman Lillian Macias (No. 4 - above left) reaching for the goal line to score a second-half touchdown for the Warriors. Another photo shows (left to right) Addison Trail junior Erin Parker (No. 6 - above middle) and Macias, who received player-of-

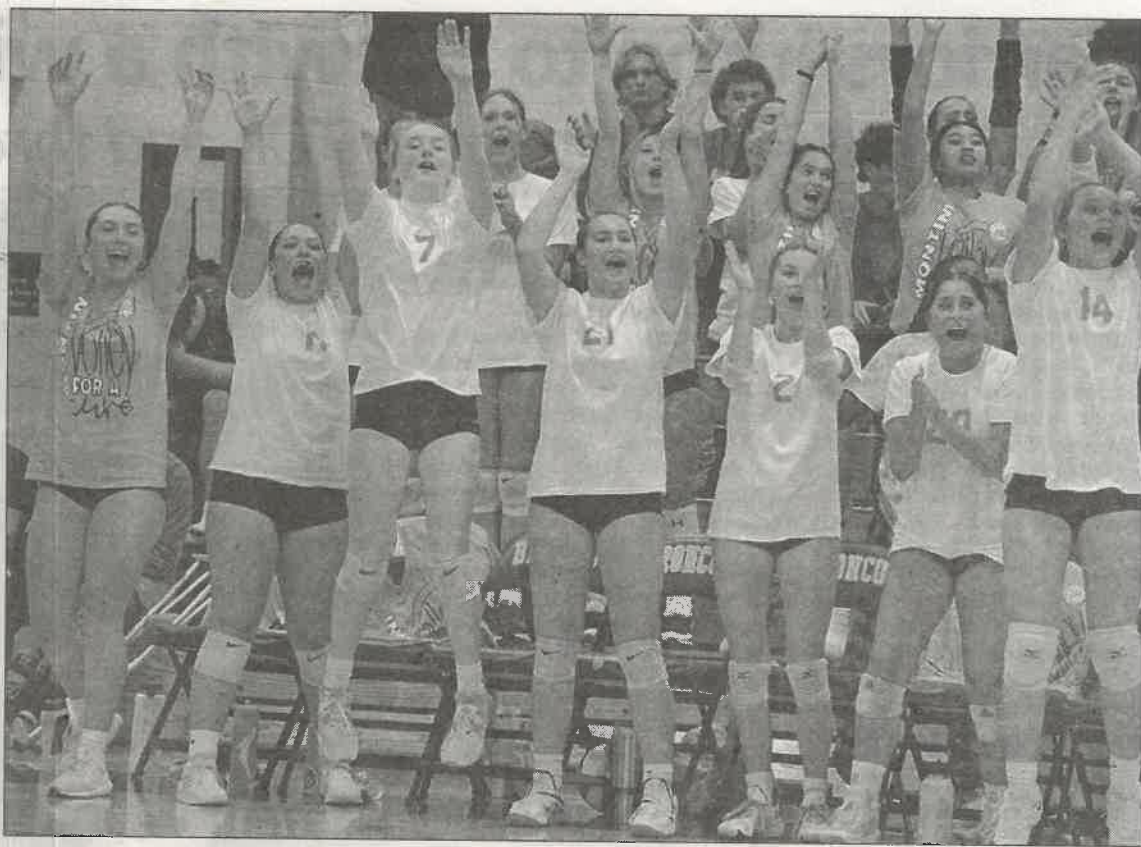
the-game honors for their respective teams. Parker intercepted a Willowbrook pass during the second half. Moments later, freshman Elizabeth Pettinger of the Warriors made an interception to end an Addison Trail offensive drive. The Warriors and the Blazers will join four other teams in the conference tournament, which begins this Saturday at Willowbrook. The conference's championship game will take place on Oct. 21 at Willowbrook. One more photo from Saturday shows (above right - left to right) junior Kendall Medinger (No. 14), junior Loralai McIntyre, sophomore Marli Smrz (No. 6) and Macias celebrating the Warriors' victory.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



Montini Catholic's girls volleyball team defeated St. Lawrence 14-25, 25-17, 25-23 in last week's Volley For the Cure match in Lombard. The Oct. 5 contest served as a fundraiser for the fight against breast cancer. One photo from the match shows Montini junior Izzie Evenson (No. 10 - above) hitting a serve. Another photo shows junior Jamie Loftus (No. 5 - top) defending the net for the Broncos. One more photo shows Montini senior Ella Herrmann (No. 1 - right) celebrating after her team won a point.



Montini players react after the Broncos won a point during last week's match against St. Lawrence.

•Broncos

(Continued from page 14)

Senior Hailey Goetz handed out 11 assists for the Broncos during their win over the Vikings. Junior Sienna Skarda hit eight kills for Montini. Junior Jamie Loftus and sophomore Francesca Lorenzo supplied seven kills each. Junior Izzie Evenson provided five kills. Senior Ella Herrmann had five assists.

Montini's schedule this week includes matches against IC Catholic Prep and Loyola Academy, along with this Friday's tournament at Bolingbrook.

Rams move to 17-10 with wins over Elgin and Fenton

The Glenbard East girls volleyball team earned a pair of Upstate Eight Conference wins last week. The Rams beat Elgin 25-6, 25-14 in Lombard on Oct. 3. Two days later, Glenbard East defeated Fenton 25-21, 25-22 in Bensenville.

The Rams moved to 17-10 overall and 6-1 in conference play with last week's victories.

Senior Hannah Meyer provided nine assists for Glenbard East in last week's win over Elgin. Senior Lauren Bradley made eight digs for the Rams in their win over the Maroons, while senior Stephany Sulari delivered four kills.

Meyer supplied 15 assists in Glenbard East's triumph at Fenton on Oct. 5. Freshman Belle McDermott pounded eight kills for the Rams, while Sulari bashed six kills. Junior Grace Johnson made six digs and added two kills and two aces. Bradley made five digs, while senior Gabby Walton contributed two kills.

Glenbard East's schedule this week includes a conference match against Glenbard South, as well as the Rams' 24-team Autumnfest event, which takes place this Friday and Saturday.

•Warriors

(Continued from page 15)

6-yard touchdown run. Palicki then converted a two-point run to give Willowbrook a 14-7 lead with more than three minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

Oak Park and River Forest marched 56 yards for a touchdown on its ensuing drive. The Huskies finished the drive with a 1-yard run. They made the extra-point kick to tie the score at 14-14 with 10 seconds left in the first quarter.

Oak Park and River Forest recovered a Willowbrook fumble in the second quarter to begin a drive at the Warriors' 26-yard line. The drive ended with the Huskies missing a 36-yard field goal.

Willowbrook's next drive ended with a punt, but the Warriors found the end zone on their following drive. Palicki's 7-yard touchdown run with two minutes left in the first half broke the 14-14 tie. Junior Brandon Lopez added the extra point kick to give the Warriors a 21-14 lead.

The Huskies drove the ball inside Willowbrook's 20-yard line in the middle of the third quarter before turning the ball over on downs.

The Warriors padded their lead with a touchdown drive that ended with Palicki's third touchdown run of the night—a 3-yard burst with 1:55 left in the third quarter. Lopez made the extra-point kick to push Willowbrook's lead to 28-14.

Palicki and junior Martin Anfinson connected on a 48-yard touchdown pass with 8:06 left in the fourth quarter. Anfinson caught the pass in the middle of the field, near the Huskies' 25-yard line, and raced into the end zone.

About 20 seconds after he made the touchdown reception, Anfinson intercepted a long Oak Park and River Forest pass.

Anfinson made another interception earlier in the game, when he pulled a pass out of the air in the closing seconds of the first half.

Ahern and Coppersmith compete at Class 3A golf sectional

Glenbard East senior Peter Ahern and Willowbrook junior Austin Coppersmith competed in last week's IHSA Class 3A boys golf sectional at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club in Yorkville.

Ahern shot an 18-hole score of 81 on the par-71 course at the Oct. 2 sectional. Coppersmith fired an 84. Neither player advanced to the IHSA Class 3A state meet, which took place on Friday and Saturday in Bloomington.

Ahern and Coppersmith both earned individual berths in the sectional with their strong play at the West Chicago Regional at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club on Sept. 27.

Broncos close out their season at a regional

Montini's boys golf team finished its season by hosting an IHSA Class 2A regional at Village Links of Glen Ellyn on Sept. 27. The Broncos finished eighth in the team standings of the nine-team event. Montini senior Anjay Dhir shot his team's best score at the regional, firing an 18-hole score of 87 on the par-72 course.

Two Broncos play at IHSA Class 1A sectional

Two members of Montini Catholic's girls golf team—juniors Annika Bartell and Lily Spanos—played as individuals in last week's IHSA Class 1A sectional at Lake Carroll Golf Course in Lanark. Bartell shot an 18-hole score of 92 at the Oct. 2 sectional, while Spanos carded a 106. Neither Bronco advanced to the IHSA Class 1A state meet, which was contested on Friday and Saturday in Decatur.

Bartell and Spanos secured individual berths in the sectional with their scores at a Class 1A regional in Frankfort on Sept. 28.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR DALLAS COUNTY

Mike Que,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Yuge Bi,
Defendant,

Case No.: LACV044043
ORIGINAL NOTICE

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: You are notified that a petition has been filed electronically, on January 26, 2023, in the office of the Clerk of Court for the Iowa District Court in and for Dallas County, Iowa, naming you as the Defendant in this action. See Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for general rules and information on electronic filing; see Division VI of Chapter 16 regarding protection of personal or confidential information in court filings. The name and address of the attorney for the plaintiff is Theodore W. Craig, 699 Walnut Street, Suite 1600, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309. The attorney's phone number is (515) 244-2600; facsimile number: (515) 246-4550. You must serve a motion or answer within 20 days after service of this original notice

upon you, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or answer with the Clerk of Court for Dallas County, at the county courthouse in Adel, Iowa. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at (515) 286-3394. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (1-800-735-2942). Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice. (SEAL)

/s/Adam Juckett
CLERK OF COURT
Dallas County Courthouse
Adel, Iowa 50003

IMPORTANT: YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review Sept. 28, Oct. 5 & 12, 2023)

444366

Montini Catholic congratulates Kazma Scholarship recipients

Montini Catholic High School congratulates five Kazma Scholarship award recipients from its Class of 2027.

Each year, the Kazma Family Foundation, in conjunction with the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF), presents awards to

eight-graders actively attending a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Joliet and who are interested in attending a local Catholic High School.

Montini Catholic Kazma Foundation Scholarship recipients honored this year are:

Class of 2027

Isabella Baldwin (Hillside/MacArthur Middle School graduate); Jasmine Bell Brunke (Lombard/St. Pius X Parish School graduate); Rosemarie Callagan (Villa Park/St. Pius X Parish School graduate); Owen Ferris (Wheaton/St. Pius X

Parish School graduate); and Kevin May (Villa Park/St. Pius X Parish member).

The Kazma Family Foundation proudly supports Catholic education by providing scholarships to the seven Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Joliet. The Class of 2027 represents the 20th class of high school students that the foundation supports and mentors through their generosity.

The Kazma Family Foundation was established in 1997 by Gerald and Margaret Kazma. At that time, their daughter, Leigh-Anne Kazma, was named president and sole employee. The main mission of the foundation is to provide financial assistance to students and their families seeking a Catholic education.

She serves on several boards including the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF), Chicago's Big Shoulders Fund and numerous elementary and secondary schools. She has dedicated her entire career to personally engaging with students who receive financial aid from the foundation. She serves as a mentor for

her scholarship recipients, reviews their progress and enjoying fun and conversation with them at the high schools.

They began providing college scholarships to students at Mex Home for Boys and Girls in the Archdiocese of Chicago and branched out to provide scholarships to students throughout the Chicagoland area, including the Diocese of Joliet.

In recent years, the Kazma family has established scholarships at St. Pontifical North American College in Rome, Ave Maria University in Florida, St. Joan of Arc school in Florida, Universidad de Don Bosco in El Salvador, and has helped fund school construction in Honduras.

In order to be eligible for a Kazma Scholarship, a student must demonstrate a sense of respect for other be a good Catholic role model in their community, and receive no less than a "C" letter grade in any of the courses. Student applicants are also asked to submit a 250-word essay on what it means to be a Catholic student.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

From left to right: (front row) Isabella Baldwin, Gerald Kazma, Margaret Kazma, Bishop Ronald A. Hicks, Diocese of Joliet, Rosemarie Callagan of Villa Park, Leigh-Anne Kazma and Montini President Kevin Beirne; (back row) Owen Ferris, Jasmine Bell Brunke and Kevin May of Villa Park.

IL ABLÉ savings presentation for people with disabilities to be held Oct. 17

State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock (D-Villa Park) is offering an opportunity in her district to attend a presentation on IL ABLÉ "Achieving a Better Life Experience" accounts that give people with disabilities and their families greater financial independence while preserving benefits.

Blair-Sherlock will be hosting this event at the representative's district office, 6-8 p.m., located at 28 S. Villa Ave in Villa Park on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

A high-quality, low-cost IL ABLÉ savings and investment account can be opened by an eligible individual, or authorized individual, at any time, no matter what state they live in. The presentation will cover who is

eligible and how to apply. There will be a Q&A session at the end.

We will also have an IL ICASI table. The state treasurer is holding \$2.5 billion in unclaimed funds for Illinoisans. The state holds these for funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or their heirs. Property is returned at no cost with the proper identification. Find out if you have any money owed to you.

Arrangements can be made to attend by Zoom if you can't make it in person by emailing:

JaxWest.D46@gmail.com.

Editor's note: This was submitted by the office of State Rep. Diane Blair-Sherlock



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors beat the Huskies

A photo from Friday night's football game against Oak Park and River Forest High School shows Willowbrook senior Noah Brockie (No. 31) pursuing the Huskies' quarterback. "He stepped up and played really well on the defensive line," said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth of Brockie's performance in the Warriors' 35-14 win. The Warriors will play a West Suburban Gold Conference game at Morton this Friday. Willowbrook will finish its regular season with a conference home game against Leyden on Oct. 20. See story on page 15.

Report: Illinois' educator workforce weathered pandemic, but persistent issues remain

By Peter Hancock and Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The supply of education professionals continues to improve in Illinois despite strains brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, but persistent issues remain in certain regions of the state and within some teaching fields.

That's the conclusion of a new report by the education advocacy group Advance Illinois, which was instrumental in the 2017 passage of the state's Evidence-Based Funding formula that overhauled the way state funds public education.

"This is really critical for children," Advance Illinois president Robin Steans said in an interview for the Capitol Cast podcast. "There's literally nothing more important that we do as a state than to make sure that we've got effective teachers in every classroom, in front of every child. And if we get that wrong, if there are gaps, if there is a turn, if there is attrition, all of those things, negatively affect kids."

Even before the pandemic, Illinois was experiencing shortages of teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals, although the shortages weren't distributed evenly across the state or across all teaching areas. Then, as schools closed during the pandemic and later went to hybrid systems of remote and classroom teaching, there were concerns that even more educators would opt to leave the profession altogether.

However, the Advance Illinois report suggests the post-pandemic

workforce remains largely intact.

It shows the number of teachers, assistant principals and paraprofessionals working in Illinois schools has been growing steadily since well before the pandemic and is now at its highest level in the past decade. And that growth has been seen in all regions of the state and across districts of different funding levels.

That finding is also reflected in the most recent state report card from the Illinois State Board of Education, which shows the statewide average student-teacher ratio was 17:1 at the elementary level, a 10.6 percent improvement from five years ago. At the high school level, the student-teacher ratio was 18:1, an 8.4 percent improvement from 5 years ago.

Teachers also increasingly don't look like the students they teach. Fifteen years ago, there was a 31 percentage point gap between the percentage of white teachers compared to the percentage of white students. Last year, that number had risen to a 35-point gap, meaning that the state's student population is diversifying at a faster rate than the teacher workforce.

This, according to Advance Illinois, can have detrimental effects—academic and otherwise—on students of color.

But those are statewide averages and they may not reflect conditions in all classrooms and in all subject areas.

According to the Advance Illinois report, nearly half of all school districts in Illinois reported having at least one teacher vacancy during

the 2022-2023 school year, with the most acute shortages occurring in urban and remote rural districts. Urban and remote rural districts also had the highest concentrations of vacant special education teacher positions and paraprofessional positions.

The report also suggests that since the pandemic, districts have had particular trouble finding enough substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

"I think that tracks with some of what we're seeing in other sectors of the economy," Steans said. "I think the people who are more on the minimum wage end of the spectrum, that's just been more of a crunch. And I think part of the response to that is going to need to be to increase compensation and other kinds of work-related benefits."

The report notes that during the pandemic, schools in Illinois benefited greatly from federal disaster relief money, known as Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

funds, or ESSER.

According to ISBE, Illinois schools have received nearly \$8 billion in ESSER funds since the pandemic began, and more than a third of that money—\$1.7 billion—was used to fund salaries. But those funds are scheduled to expire next year, which means school districts will face some difficult budget decisions if they want to maintain all of the positions they currently fund.

Steans said she believes schools should be able to absorb the loss of that federal funding as long as the state continues to fully fund the Evidence-Based Funding formula, the 2017 law that calls for \$350 million in additional school funding each year, with the bulk of that money going to the least-funded districts.

"It's really hard for me to believe that all of those dollars are going to go away, and we're not going to see

See **WORKFORCE**, Page 16



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors close out their season

Willowbrook's girls tennis team finished its 2023 season by competing in last week's IHSA Downers Grove South Sectional. Rain forced the sectional to be contested at multiple indoor sites. The top four singles finishers and the top four doubles teams at the sectional will compete in this week's IHSA Class 2A state meet. The Warriors weren't able to earn any state-meet berths. Willowbrook's sectional lineup included senior Lauren Schalk and junior Ella Lopez. Schalk opened the competition with a loss to the eventual sectional champion. Lopez won one sectional match before she was eliminated with a loss. Willowbrook's doubles team of senior Brenda Martinez and junior Avery Solis suffered a three-set loss at the sectional. The Warriors' doubles duo of seniors Lauren Carson and Jasmine Langston dropped a 6-4, 6-1 decision at the single-elimination sectional. Willowbrook began last week's action with a second-place finish in the team standings of the West Suburban Gold Conference Meet, which took place in Villa Park on Oct. 10. Lopez, who is pictured during the conference meet, earned a third-place finish in the No. 1 singles flight. Schalk placed third at No. 2 singles, while Willowbrook sophomore Shannon Freer earned second-place honors at No. 2 singles. The tandem of Carson and Langston finished third at No. 1 doubles. Martinez and Solis placed second at No. 2 doubles. Willowbrook's team of junior Abby Finnegan and sophomore Hannah Gawat took third at No. 3 doubles. The Warriors' twosome of senior Natalie Bliss and sophomore Kiki Smalling finished second at No. 4 doubles.



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Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for the Village of Lombard

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Village of Lombard for 2023 will be held on November 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lombard Village Hall, Village Board Room, 255 E. Wilson Avenue, Lombard, Illinois 60148.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Timothy Sexton, Director of Finance, Village of Lombard, 255 E. Wilson Avenue, Lombard, Illinois 60148; phone number (630) 620-5700.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022, were \$11,053,040.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$11,788,323. This represents a 6.65% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$5,488.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$5,000. This represents a 0.00% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$11,053,040.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$11,788,323. This represents a 6.65% increase over the previous year.

(Published in The Lombardian Oct. 19, 2023)

445195

Sports

Warriors improve to 32-1

Team wins five straight matches to claim the title at Lincoln-Way Central's tournament; post-season begins next week

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team moved its overall season record to 32-1 by winning six straight matches last week.

After opening the week with a conference win over Proviso East, the Warriors won five matches and claimed the championship at Lincoln-Way Central High School's Autumn Knights Tournament. The event at Lincoln-Way Central began on Oct. 11, and concluded on Saturday.

Willowbrook improved its West Suburban Gold Conference record to 5-0 with a 25-7, 25-7 victory over Proviso East in Villa Park on Oct. 10. Senior Calli Kenny provided the Warriors with 10 aces and eight assists during the win over the Pirates.

The Warriors began the tournament at Lincoln-Way Central with two wins on Oct. 11. Willowbrook opened the event with a 25-14, 25-16 victory over Marian Catholic. The Warriors then beat Downers Grove South 25-14, 25-16.

Junior Hannah Kenny supplied seven kills, seven assists, five aces and six digs in Willowbrook's win over Marian Catholic. Calli Kenny added 16 assists, six kills, six digs and three aces. Junior Anna Marinier of the War-

riors contributed seven kills and five digs. Seniors Keri Ostrowski and Elisa Chivilo made seven and five digs, respectively.

Calli Kenny delivered nine assists, eight kills and six digs in the Warriors' win over Downers Grove South on Oct. 11. Hannah Kenny had seven kills, eight assists, three digs and two aces in the match.

In its first match at Lincoln-Way Central on Saturday, Willowbrook edged Loyola Academy 22-25, 25-16, 15-4. Hannah Kenny provided eight kills, seven assists and six digs in the victory. Calli Kenny had six kills, 16 assists, nine digs and two aces. Seniors Elle Bruschuk and Eliza Ramey connected for five and four kills, respectively, for the Warriors. Marinier had four kills and eight digs in the match, while Chivilo made 14 digs.

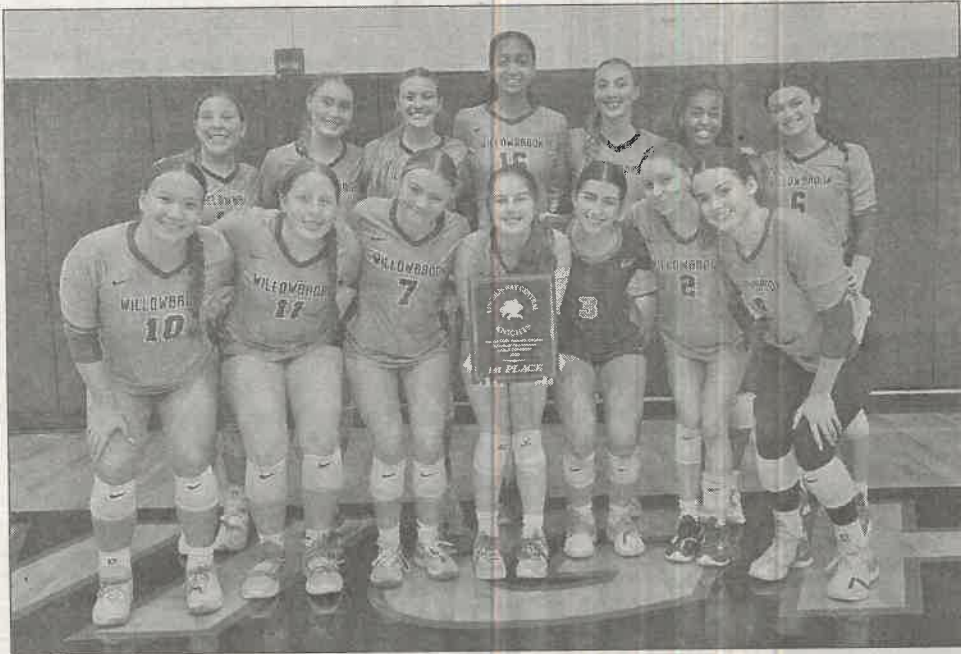
The Warriors improved to 3-0 in the tournament's pool play following their win over Loyola Academy. Willowbrook then faced Lockport in a tournament semifinal match. The Warriors defeated Lockport 25-9, 25-23.

Hannah Kenny bashed eight kills in Willowbrook's win over Lockport. She also provided nine assists, seven digs and three blocks. Calli Kenny amassed six kills, 16

assists and 12 digs against Lockport. Bruschuk and Marinier delivered five kills each. Chivilo made nine digs and handed out five assists.

The Warriors beat Romeoville 25-10, 25-19 in Saturday's championship contest at Lincoln-Way Central. Calli Kenny supplied nine kills, eight digs, seven assists and three aces in the title contest. Hannah Kenny contributed 10 digs, nine assists, four kills, three blocks and two aces. Bruschuk added four kills and three blocks, while Ramey had three kills and two digs. Chivilo made eight digs, while Marinier made four digs and hit two kills.

The Warriors completed their regular season with this week's matches against Hinsdale Central and Leyden. Willowbrook will open the IHSA Class 4A by hosting a regional semifinal match on Oct. 24. The regional final takes place on Oct. 26. If Willowbrook wins the regional title, it will advance to the Hinsdale Central Sectional. The Warriors are that sectional's No. 2 seed. Oak Park and River Forest, which handed the Warriors their only loss of the season, is the sectional's No. 1 seed. The two teams could collide in the sectional final on Nov. 1.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team won five straight matches to capture the championship plaque at Lincoln-Way Central High School's Autumn Knights Tournament. The Warriors won two matches at the tournament on Wednesday, Oct. 11. They completed the tournament with three victories on Saturday. Willowbrook raised its overall season record to 32-1 with Saturday's three wins. The Warriors finished the regular season with two matches earlier this week. Willowbrook will begin the IHSA Class 4A post-season by hosting next week's regional in Villa Park. If the Warriors win the regional title, they will advance to the Hinsdale Central Sectional.

LOMBARDIA



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Glenbard East's football team beat Glenbard South 28-14 in Friday's Upstate Conference clash in Lombard. The visiting Raiders entered the game with a perfect 7-0 record. Glenbard East, Glenbard South and South Elgin are now locked in a three-way tie for first place in the conference standings. The regular season ends this week. All three teams will likely finish the regular season with identical 8-1 records. Senior Chris Renford (No. 18) of the Rams races down the sideline for a 51-yard touchdown reception in the middle of the third quarter. Renford's score gave the Rams a 26-14 lead. Junior Amonte Cook added a two-point conversion run moments later. Glenbard East, which has clinched a berth in the IHSA playoffs, will finish the regular season with this Friday's conference home game against Bartlett.

Inspired Rams beat Glenbard South 28-14

Result leaves Glenbard East, Glenbard South and South Elgin in a three-way tie for first in the Upstate Eight Conference

Glenbard East's football team defeated Glenbard South 28-14 in Friday's Upstate Eight Conference battle in Lombard.

The visiting Raiders entered the showdown with a perfect 7-0 record. The Rams, who entered the contest with a record of 6-1, had been waiting several weeks to prove they could prevail in a close game against a tough opponent.

Up until Friday, all six of Glenbard East's wins came in games that featured a running clock during the second half. Those games had a running clock because the Rams built leads of at least 40 points in each contest.

Glenbard East's only loss of the season was a 17-14 conference setback against South Elgin in Lombard on Sept. 1, in the second week of the season. The visiting Storm trailed the Rams in the final minute of that game before producing a go-ahead touchdown pass with 11.1 seconds to play.

Glenbard East, Glenbard South and South Elgin now sit in a three-way tie for first place in the conference standings with identical 7-1 records. All three teams will likely share the Upstate Eight title. The regular season ends this week, and all three teams should finish it with decisive wins.

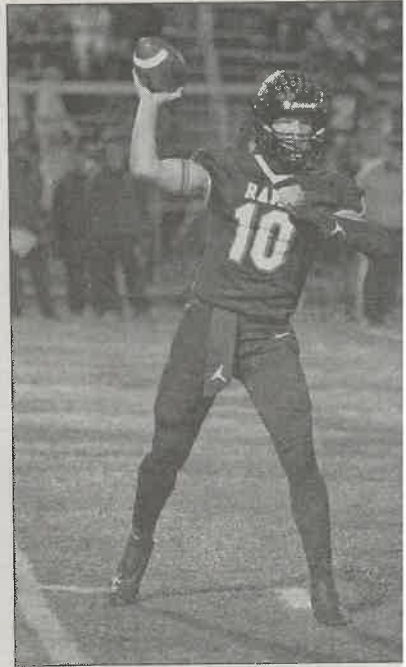
The Rams will conclude the regular season with this Friday's conference home game against Bartlett (4-4).

Glenbard South will play at Elgin (1-7) this Friday, while South Elgin will play a home game against Streamwood (2-6).

Glenbard South handed South Elgin its only loss of the season on Sept. 29. The Raiders beat the Storm 14-13 in South Elgin.

The three teams that are tied for first in the Upstate Eight Conference have already clinched playoff berths. One more conference team—East Aurora—should clinch a playoff berth this week. The Tomcats face Fenton (0-8) this week.

Glenbard South scored the first touchdown of Friday's game in Lombard, which was played with a threat of heavy rain. That rain did not arrive until much later in the evening, after the



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior quarterback Blake Salvino (10) threw three touchdown passes to lead the Rams to Friday's win.

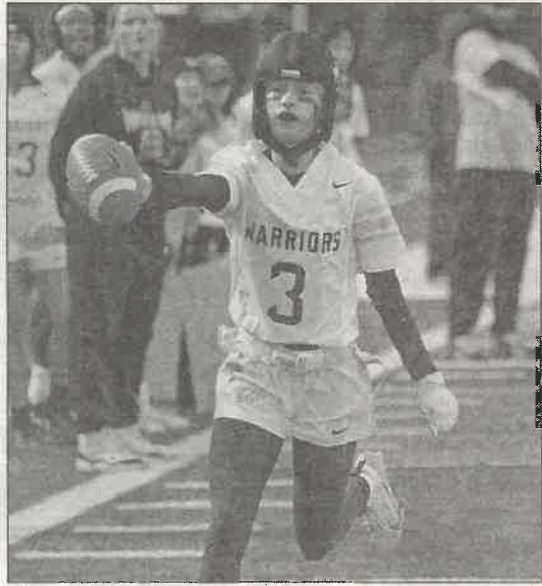
game concluded.

The Raiders scored the first touchdown of the game on a 21-yard touchdown pass with 1:15 minutes left in the first quarter. The extra point kick gave Glenbard South a 7-0 lead.

The Raiders' first scoring drive of the game covered 36 yards. The drive began after Glenbard East punted.

The Rams evened the score with an 8-yard drive that ended with a 5-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Blake Salvino.

See RAMS, P. 18



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors lock up a playoff berth by beating Morton 41-14

Willowbrook finishes regular season with this week's home game against Leyden

said Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth while discussing Friday's game at Morton. "We had two touchdowns called back on penalties. Then we kind of settled in. We continue to get a little bit better each week."

Senior quarterback Arthur Palicki fired three touchdown passes for the Warriors during Friday's contest. He threw two touchdown passes to junior K.J. Rhodes and delivered one scoring pass to senior Carter Ferguson.

Palicki contributed a rushing touchdown in the win over Morton. Junior Jovon Boyd broke a lengthy touchdown run for the Warriors. Rhodes added a defensive touchdown during the victory.

Downers Grove South, which leads the West Suburban Gold Conference standings with a perfect 5-0 conference record, will complete the regular season with this Friday's home game against Addison Trail (6-2 overall; 3-2 in the conference). Downers Grove South (5-3) has won five straight games after opening the season with three non-conference losses. Addison Trail clinched a playoff berth with last week's 20-7 win over Leyden.

The Willowbrook football team improved to 6-2 overall and 4-1 in the West Suburban Gold Conference with Friday's 41-14 victory at Morton in Berwyn.

The Warriors clinched an IHSA playoff berth with their decisive win over Morton. Willowbrook will finish the regular season with this Friday's conference home game against Leyden (2-6 overall; 2-3 in the conference).

The Warriors built a 41-0 halftime lead over Morton, which dropped to 1-7 overall and 1-4 in conference play. Willowbrook's halftime lead of at least 40 points led to a running clock throughout the second half.

The game was supposed to start at 7:30 p.m., but the opening kickoff was moved up to 5 p.m. because there was a threat of severe weather.

"We were a little sloppy to start,"

Another dominant performance

Willowbrook's flag football team defeated Larkin 68-0 in Saturday's semifinal game at the West Suburban Gold-Plus Conference tournament in Villa Park. The Warriors will face Addison Trail in this Saturday's tournament championship contest at Willowbrook. The Warriors went 5-0 and didn't allow a single point during their five regular-season games against conference opponents. Willowbrook, which finished its regular season with a 32-0 win over Addison Trail on Oct. 7, posted another shut-out victory in Saturday's semifinal game against the Royals. The Warriors led Larkin 42-0 at halftime. Freshman McKenzie Edison (No. 3) of Willowbrook is pictured while running for a first-half touchdown. Edison returned a punt for a touchdown later in the first half. Sophomore Marli Smrz (No. 6) is pictured during her touchdown reception on the last play of the first half. Junior Kendall Medinger, who threw the touchdown pass to Smrz, was named Willowbrook's player of the game.

Warriors race at WSGC Meet

Willowbrook junior Amelie Ojeda finishes second in the girls race

Willowbrook's boys and girls cross-country teams competed in Saturday's West Suburban Gold Conference Meet at Katherine Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale. The Warriors placed second in the team standings of the girls event. Willowbrook claimed third in the team competition of the boys race.

Junior Amelie Ojeda of the Warriors delivered a second-place individual finish in the girls race. She completed the 3-mile race in 20 minutes, 10 seconds. Ojeda finished behind the meet's individual champion—Downers Grove South junior Holly Johnson (20:02).

Willowbrook sophomore Mariangela Popoca ran to a fifth-place finish in the girls race. She negotiated the rain-soaked course in 20:57. Junior Malin Meeker was the third Warriors to cross the finish line. She landed in 12th place after completing the race in 21:41. Freshman Grace Mamolella (22:17; 16th place) and junior Molly Brown (22:44; 19th) rounded out Willowbrook's scoring lineup. Sophomore Allyson Stefani (22:50; 20th) and junior Holly Harris (24:33; 31st) also represented the Warriors in the meet.

Ojeda, Popoca, Meeker and Mamolella earned All-Conference recognition by placing among the top 16 finishers in Saturday's race.

Downers Grove South won the conference meet's team title with its total score of 23 points. Five Mustangs placed among the meet's top eight individual finishers.

Willowbrook turned in a team

score of 53 points in its second-place finish in the team standings of the competition, which featured five full teams. Leyden (79 points) placed third, while Morton (99 points) and Addison Trail (124 points) finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Freshman Danielle Marcinkowski turned in Addison Trail's best finish in the race with her 14th-place time of 21:57.

Blain leads Warriors in the boys race

Junior Kasen Blain led Willowbrook's boys team to its third-place showing in Saturday's event. Blain finished the 3-mile race in a 14th-place time of 17 minutes, 39 seconds. Junior Jake Skibbie of the Warriors finished a couple of seconds after Blain. Skibbie landed in 16th place in the individual standings with his finishing time of 17:41.

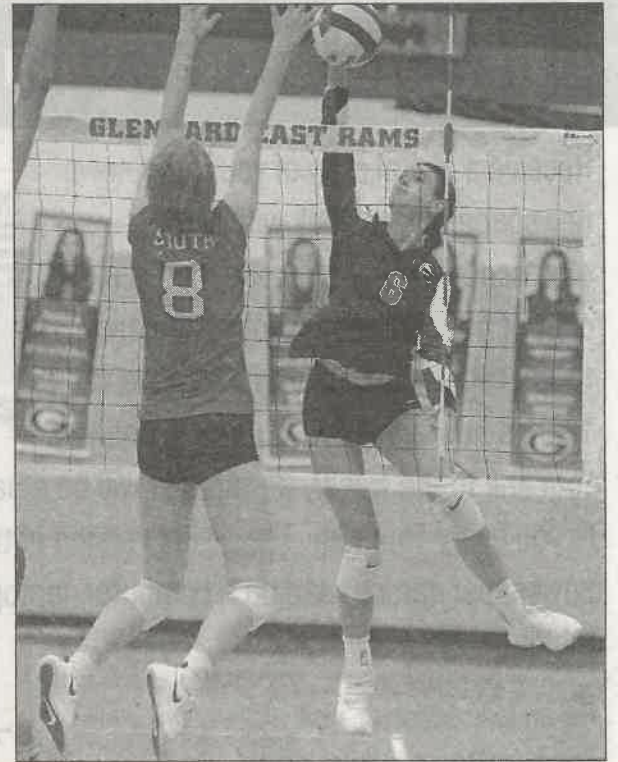
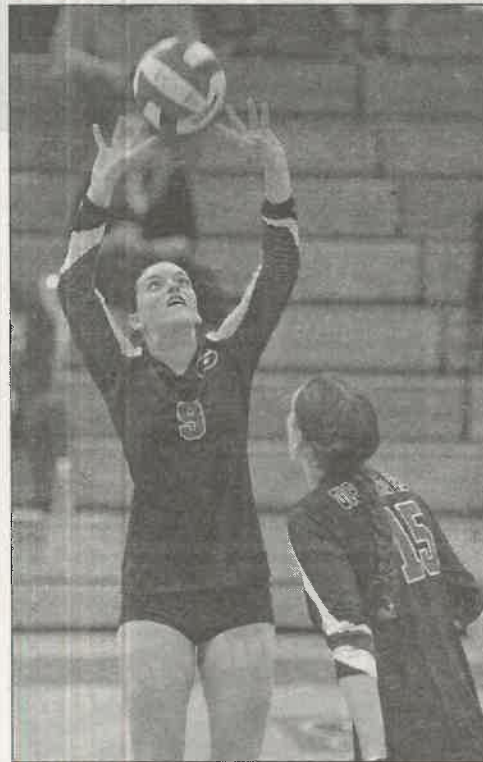
Blain and Skibbie both secured All-Conference honors by placing among the top 16 finishers in the race.

Junior Adriano Quintero (18:29; 21st), senior Declan Abercrombie (18:33; 22nd) and junior Omar Arenas (18:46; 23rd) contributed to the Warriors' third-place score in the team standings. Seniors Evan Weder (18:59; 25th) and Liam Moran (20:57; 34th) rounded out Willowbrook's varsity lineup at the conference meet.

Downers Grove South won the team title in the seven-team boys meet with its score of 28 points. Four Mustangs landed in the top eight of the meet's individual standings.

Morton, which earned four of the top nine finishes in the individual standings, posted a second-place

See WARRIORS, Page 22



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Rams take on the Raiders

Glenbard East's girls volleyball team faced Glenbard South in last week's Upstate Eight Conference match in Lombard. The Rams won the first game of the Oct. 10 contest, but the visiting Raiders rallied to earn a 22-25, 25-19, 25-17 win. Glenbard East fell to 17-11 overall and 6-3 in conference play with the loss. Senior Hannah Meyer (No. 9) provided the Rams with 24 assists and eight digs during the match. Junior Grace Johnson (No. 6) contributed seven kills, four digs and three aces. Freshman Belle McDermott supplied 10 kills and six digs. Senior Lauren Bradley made 20 digs. The Rams won two of five matches at their own 24-team Autumnfest Tournament, which took place on Friday and Saturday. Glenbard East opened the event with Friday's losses to Benet Academy (25-15, 25-13) and Normal Community High School (25-20, 25-15). The Rams played in the event's Bronze level on Saturday. Glenbard East began Saturday's action with a 25-22, 27-25 loss to West Aurora. The Rams then beat Glenbard South 25-13, 25-17. Glenbard East completed the event with a 26-24, 25-19 win over Crystal Lake South. The Rams finished 21st in this year's Autumnfest event. Benet Academy won the tournament title. The Redwings beat Mother McAuley 25-22, 25-22 in the championship match. Glenbard East's overall season record stood at 19-14 at the end of the tournament. The Rams are completing the regular season with this week's matches against Bartlett and Glenbard North. Glenbard East will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a match against Downers Grove South at the Oak Park and River Forest Regional on Oct. 24.