

Sports



CHRIS FOX FILE PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team named the school's Team of the Year

Willowbrook High School's Athletic Booster Club held its annual senior athletic banquet last month. The event featured the presentation of scholarships and awards to several student-athletes in the school's Class of 2024. Willowbrook's 2023 girls volleyball team received the school's Team of the Year award at the banquet. That team, which won the third-place trophy at the IHSA Class 4A state tournament, finished its season with an overall record of 40-2. The Warriors, who were coached by Irene Mason, completed their historic season with a win over Barrington in the Class 4A tourna-

ment's third-place match in Normal on Nov. 11. Members of the team are pictured at that victory. Willowbrook won regional, sectional and super-sectional championships to earn its berth in the Class 4A semifinals. The Warriors lost to Benet Academy in a Nov. 10 semifinal clash in Normal. That loss ended Willowbrook's 20-match winning streak. In addition to making the first downstate appearance in the program's history, the Warriors' 2023 girls volleyball team set a new program record for victories in a season. Willowbrook's 2021 team held the previous record with 37 wins.

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Out with the old

The synthetic turf at Willowbrook High School's stadium was removed last week. That turf, which had been in place since the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, was transported to a turf recycling center. The stadium field at Willowbrook featured natural grass until synthetic turf was first installed 15 years ago. The Warriors' 2009 boys soccer team played the first varsity competition on the stadium's synthetic surface on Aug. 25, 2009. Marmion Academy defeated Willowbrook 4-0 in that contest. The Warriors' 2024 girls soccer team played the final varsity competition on the surface last month. Willowbrook beat DeKalb 1-0 in an IHSA Class 3A regional quarterfinal on May 11. The installation of the new synthetic surface at Willowbrook's stadium will be completed this summer. The Warriors will open their 2024 football season with a non-conference home game against Glenbard East on Aug. 30.



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