

Villa Park REVIEW

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 5, 2024



An exciting night at Willowbrook

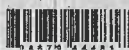
Willowbrook High School's football team played its 2024 season opener against Glenbard East on Friday night in Villa Park. The contest marked the first football meeting between the two schools in nine years. Students and fans from both schools packed Willowbrook's stadium for Friday's game. Members of the Warriors' cheerleading squad (top left), dance team (left) and marching band (bottom left) are pictured during their respective halftime performances on Friday. Another photo (top) shows a few of the spectators in Willowbrook's enthusiastic student section. Glenbard East and the Warriors were tied at 15-15 with less than two minutes to play. The visiting Rams scored a touchdown and took a 22-15 lead with 1:11 remaining. Willowbrook scored a touchdown and added a two-point conversion run to take its first lead of the evening—a 23-22 advantage—with just 20.9 seconds to play. Glenbard East regained the lead on a 23-yard touchdown pass in the closing seconds and defeated Willowbrook 30-23. For more about the game, see Page 20.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review



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California man charged after burglarizing UPS vehicle in Elmhurst Suspect reportedly drove away in a vehicle that contained five other occupants; Villa Park police help stop suspect

On Wednesday, Aug. 28, at approximately 10:42 a.m. the Elmhurst Police Department responded to the At Home store located at 265 S. Route 83 for a 911 call reporting a man attempted to break in to the rear of a UPS vehicle parked in front of the store.



Daniel Fernando Martinez

Upon arrival, officers spoke to a citizen who observed a masked man exit a Chrysler minivan that was parked in a disabled parking space and enter the passenger door of the UPS vehicle.

The citizen approached and saw the suspect use two large screwdrivers, attempting to break in to the locked rear package compartment of the vehicle. The suspect was not successful breaking

the door and got back into the front passenger seat of the Chrysler. The suspect vehicle fled the scene through the parking lot.

The citizen related that they recognized the suspicious activity and began recording the suspect with their cell phone.

Elmhurst police detectives located the Chrysler driving in the area and worked with Villa Park, Oak Brook, and Hinsdale investigators to stop the suspect vehicle on I-88 near York Street. The burglary suspect was taken into custody and an additional five men were inside the Chrysler. The suspects were transported to the Elmhurst Police Department for further investigation.

Investigators determined that the Chrysler used in this incident had a fraudulent license plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle. Also, two of the men in the Chrysler reportedly served as lookouts during the burglary. One lookout was inside the

At Home store watching the UPS driver as he made his delivery, while another lookout stood in the shopping center parking lot, likely in case of police response.

The Chrysler was a rental vehicle, driven by the suspects from California to the Chicago area. This vehicle is linked to several investigations of package thefts from UPS delivery vehicles that took place in the Chicago suburbs during the previous two weeks.

Daniel Fernando Martinez, a 43-year-old man from Long Beach, California, was charged with burglary and possession of burglary tools. He was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

At First Appearance Court on Aug. 29, Martinez was issued pretrial release with a next court date of Sept. 23. Elmhurst investigators are coordinating with other suburban police departments, and additional charges are pending in this case.

DuPage County Health Department highlights free public access to Narcan on International Overdose Awareness Day

In recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day, which was held Aug. 31, the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and the DuPage Narcan Program (DNP) are highlighting their commitment to saving lives through increased access to naloxone, also known as Narcan.

This life-saving medication is free at our public access locations, is easy to use, and plays a critical role in reversing opioid overdoses. Overdose

can affect anyone—parents, students, friends, and neighbors. Recognizing the signs of an overdose is crucial. Symptoms may include slow or irregular breathing, unresponsiveness, and a bluish tint to the lips or face.

It's important to know that anyone can use Narcan to reverse opioid overdose. To enhance Narcan accessibility, DCHD and DuPage Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) have strategically placed Narcan Boxes at 14 pub-

lic access points throughout DuPage County, ensuring community members have easy and immediate access.

"International Overdose Awareness Day serves as a reminder of the importance of reducing stigma and increasing access to life-saving resources like Narcan," said Adam Forker, executive director, DuPage County Health Department. "By working together and making Narcan widely available, we are taking vital steps towards preventing overdose deaths and supporting those affected by substance use."

Since its inception in 2013, the DNP has:

- Trained over 6,300 DuPage first responders and community residents.
- Mailed out 1856 Narcan kits to in-

dividuals who have requested Narcan through our online order form.

• Distributed over 1,600 Narcan kits through the vending machine at the Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center, which opened on Overdose Awareness Day 2022.

The DNP is a collaborative initiative involving the DuPage County Coroner, Sheriff, State's Attorney, chiefs of police, fire chiefs, and DCHD. DCHD encourages community members to be aware of the Narcan public access locations and seek training to learn how they can contribute to overdose prevention efforts.

For more information on available trainings or to arrange a community training session, contact the DNP.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Celebrating the new turf

Willowbrook High School held a ribbon cutting on Friday evening to celebrate the official grand opening of the updated synthetic turf field in the school's stadium. The ceremonial ribbon cutting took place between the Warriors' flag football and football games. The stadium field at Willowbrook featured natural grass before synthetic turf was installed before the 2009-10 school year. The Warriors' 2009 boys soccer team played the first varsity competition on the stadium's synthetic surface on Aug. 25, 2009. That turf field lasted nearly 15 years before it was replaced this summer. Pictured (left to right) at Friday's ribbon cutting are: District 88 Superintendent Jean Barbanente, District 88 Board of Education President Donna Craft Cain, Villa Park Village President Nick Cuzzone and Villa Park Village Trustee Kevin Patrick. Other participants in the ribbon cutting included District 88 Board Vice President Dan Olson and District 88 Board members Gall Gallvan, Diana Stout and Jean Taylor, as well as Villa Park Village Trustee Carl Alfano and John Dyers—the president of the Villa Park Warriors Football and Cheer youth organization.

'A Night for Nature' to support habitat restoration

Help the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County provide healthy habitats for native plants and animals and inspiring places for visitors by participating in "A Night for Nature" on Thursday, Sept. 12, from 5-8:30 p.m. at St. James Farm in Warrenville.

Hosted by the Forest Preserve District and its nonprofit partner the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the fundraiser's goal is to raise \$50,000 for habitat restoration and native wildlife in forest preserves where people connect to nature.

The evening includes fellowship; food and drinks; live music by Anderlik, Roach & Church; and wagon rides through the forest preserve. Tickets, which are \$100 per person for the 21-and-older event, can be purchased at dupageforest.org/friends.

"A Night for Nature" also features a silent auction where guests can bid on donated products and services from local businesses and new, unique forest preserve experiences, some for individuals and some for small groups, including the following:

- A rehabilitated native wild animal release with a wildlife interpreter from

the new DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center in Glen Ellyn.

• A tour of the Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville with a "Mussel Matters" watch party and popcorn.

• A woodland bird walk with a local birding expert at a DuPage forest preserve, accompanied by coffee and donuts.

• A native garden design experience with a native plant expert at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison, accompanied by a cocktail and appetizer.

• A two-hour ride-along experience with a Forest Preserve District ranger to discover some of our favorite spots in the forest preserves.

• A two-hour session with a Forest Preserve District ecologist to watch a working team from the Conservation Dogs Collective search for rare bumblebee nests at a forest preserve, including time to talk to the handler and meet her specially trained dog.

• An ice cream-making experience at Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago.

• Golf packages at DuPage golf preserves including one hour of per-

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Scholarship recipients

Five members of Montini Catholic High School's Class of 2028 recently received the Kazma Scholarship. The five students, who just began their freshman year at the Lombard school, were honored at an Aug. 17 Mass celebrated by Bishop Ronald A. Hicks at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet. Pictured left to right are: Kevin Barrett (Villa Park), Raphael Patacsil, Leigh-Anne Kazma, Abriana Schumerth, Bishop Hicks, Leah Piper, Mrs. Margaret Kazma, Andrew Hemmersmeler and Montini President Kevin Belrne. Before attending Montini, Barrett attended St. Plus X School in Lombard. Gerald and Margaret Kazma established the Kazma Family Foundation in 1997. At that time, their daughter Leigh-Anne was named the foundation's president and sole employee. The main mission of the foundation is to provide financial assistance to students and their families seeking a Catholic education. Each year, the Kazma Family Foundation, in conjunction with the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF), presents awards to eighth-graders actively attending a Catholic parish in the Diocese of Joliet who are interested in attending a local Catholic High School.

Glowiak Hilton invites residents to shred event

In partnership with Elmhurst Mayor Scott Levin and American Legion Post 187, state Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton is hosting a shred event for residents to safely destroy personal documents at no cost.

"To help prevent fraud and identity theft, I encourage residents to take advantage of this free event to dispose of old personal documents," said Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs). "Many of us have unneces-

sary papers in our homes and this is a great opportunity to get rid of them in a safe way."

The shredding truck will be available in the parking lot of the American Legion Post 187, located at 310 W. Butterfield Road in Elmhurst, from 9 a.m. to noon, or until the truck is full on Saturday, Sept. 14. A limit of two boxes of documents per car is encouraged.

The American Legion Post 187

will be collecting worn or tattered American flags and scrap metal on site.

Examples of documents with personally identifiable information that should be safely discarded include bank statements, outdated medical records, tax returns, bills, junk mail, credit card applications and receipts.

Residents with questions can contact Glowiak Hilton's office at 630-785-3177.

•Habitat (Continued from page 3)

sonal instruction by a Forest Preserve District PGA staff member and one 18-hole round of golf for four with carts at The Preserve at Oak Meadows; one 18-hole round of golf for four with carts at Maple Meadows; and one 9-hole round for four with carts at Green Meadows.

- A native pollinator kit containing 100 native plants to attract birds, butterflies, and other pollinators to your garden.
- A four-hour hiking and nature ex-

curSION with a picnic shelter or meeting space at Fullersburg Woods.

Friends board chair and DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center volunteer Bob Watt said the nonprofit's board and staff continue to work together to raise awareness in the community.

"The relationships we form with community partners and individual donors demonstrate the value of healthy natural areas to DuPage County's residents," he said. "We're

also working to ensure that tomorrow's generation will be able to visit the forest preserves to experience the same plants and animals that bring us joy today."

Forest Preserve District president Daniel Hebreard expressed his appreciation for the Friends' ongoing fundraising efforts when he said, "We appreciate the Friends' support of the Forest Preserve District's work to restore habitats and protect wildlife in DuPage forest preserves."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Gwaltney named 88's Best for August

Willowbrook High School senior Olivia Gwaltney was recently named her school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of August. Gwaltney was honored during the District 88 Board of Education's Aug. 26 meeting. She is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The District 88 Board of Education and administration created the 88's Best award to recognize students at Willowbrook and Addison Trail high schools for their achievements in and out of the classroom. Nine Addison Trail students and nine Willowbrook students receive the 88's Best award each school year. Krause read several Willowbrook staff members' comments about Gwaltney at the Aug. 26 board meeting. Those comments described Gwaltney as tenacious, dependable, empathetic, smart and focused. She was also described as a fantastic student, an amazing mathematician and an enthusiastic learner. Gwaltney has achieved Distinction Honor Roll status in each semester of her high school career. She is a member of the National Honor Society, as well as several other honor societies. Gwaltney is a member of Willowbrook's choir. She is also a standout on the school's math team. Gwaltney is the captain of Willowbrook's girls cross-country and track and field teams. Gwaltney has not yet decided where she will continue her education after she graduates from Willowbrook in 2025. Her three top choices are the University of Michigan, the University of Notre Dame and Marquette University. She plans to study mathematics. While speaking at the recent board meeting, Gwaltney thanked her family for attending all of her academic events, athletic competitions and concerts at Willowbrook. She also thanked her teachers for cultivating a positive environment at the school. Additionally, Gwaltney thanked her coaches and teammates for their support during her time as a Warrior.

Police Reports

The Villa Park Police Department recently reported the following arrests and citations. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a conviction, and that suspects are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Persons charged with domestic battery are not named in order to protect the privacy of victims. Juveniles age 17 or younger are not named.

Aug. 27
Michael D. Nimock, 55, of Maywood, was charged with burglary/retail theft possessing displayed merchandise exceeding \$300, retail theft/possessing displayed merchandise exceeding \$300 with a prior conviction and

obstructing identification at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 at 6:08 p.m.

A complainant at a store in the 900 block of S. Route 83 reported at 8:48 p.m. that their wallet had been stolen.

A complainant at a recreation center in the 300 block of N. Iowa reported at 11:38 a.m. that a subject has been making harassing phone calls. The subject was issued a trespass warning.

Aug. 25
A complainant at a bar in the 300 block of E. Kenilworth reported at 10:52 p.m. that their wallet was stolen.

Aug. 24
A complainant at a store in the 1-100 block

of E. North reported at 5:56 p.m. that a suspect removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

A complainant in the 200 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 11:32 p.m. that one of their vehicle's windows had been shattered.

Aug. 23
Police said Dennis A. Arausz Ordenez, 31, of Villa Park, was issued a citation for being an intoxicated person walking on a roadway in the 600 block of W. North at 8:22 p.m.

A complainant at a business in the 300 block of W. North reported that a subject who was terminated from the business has been harassing them. The subject was issued a trespass

warning from the business.

Aug. 22
A complainant at a hotel in the 1-100 block of W. Roosevelt reported at 4:30 a.m. that a subject was causing a disturbance because they were upset with the room conditions.

A complainant near N. Iowa and W. Vermont reported that a subject threatened them.

Aug. 21
A complainant at a store in the 600 block of N. Addison reported at 8:48 p.m. that a suspect removed merchandise from display shelves and left without paying.

Sports

Last-second magic leads Rams to a 30-23 win over Willowbrook

Warriors rally to take the lead with 20.9 seconds to play, but Glenbard East responds with a long kickoff return and a 23-yard TD pass

After a nine-year break, the Glenbard East and Willowbrook varsity football programs renewed their rivalry during Friday night's 2024 season opener in Villa Park.

The Rams and Warriors were tied at 15-15 with less than two minutes to play. Both teams held the lead in the concluding moments of a wild and memorable finish.

Glenbard East scored a touchdown with 1:11 remaining in the game. The Rams added the extra-point kick to take a 22-15 lead. Willowbrook then drove down the field and scored a touchdown with 20.9 seconds to play. The Warriors then tried and converted a two-point run to take a 23-22 lead—their first lead of the night—and trigger a jubilant celebration from their fans.

Needing a last-second miracle, the Rams returned the ensuing kickoff to Willowbrook's 23-yard line. With only 7.8 seconds on the clock, Glenbard East's offense took the field. On the next play, the Rams delivered a 23-yard touchdown pass to regain the lead with only a couple of seconds to play.

After a lengthy celebration, Glenbard East tackled on a two-point conversion pass. The Rams then stopped the Warriors on the kickoff return to earn a thrilling 30-23 victory.

Glenbard East and Willowbrook squared off in 11 straight season-opening football matchups from 2005 through 2015. The Rams won nine of those 11 meetings with their nearby rival.

Friday's renewal, played in warm conditions, attracted a large crowd that included spirited fans from both schools. The game started shortly after 8 p.m. and didn't end until about 11:15 p.m.

The Rams broke the 15-15 tie when junior quarterback Michael Nee scrambled in the backfield before firing a 43-yard touchdown pass to senior Amonte Cook with 1:11 to play. Cook, who made seven receptions for 70 yards during the game, caught the pass near the Warriors' 25-yard line and sped into the end zone. The extra-point kick from sophomore Moises Velazquez pushed Glenbard East's lead to 22-15.

The Rams received a penalty after their touchdown celebration and made the ensuing kickoff from their 25-yard line. The Warriors returned the kickoff to their own 43-yard line. Willowbrook junior quarterback Jahonise Reed then threw three straight incomplete passes. On fourth and 10, he completed a 22-yard pass to senior Charlie Siegler. A few plays later, Reed connected with junior Otis Powell on a 26-yard touchdown pass that put the ball at the



Rams' 1-yard line. Junior Aidan Kuehl of the Warriors carried the ball into the end zone on the next play. His touchdown run cut the Rams' lead to 22-21.



Kuehl then raced across the goal line on the two-point attempt to give Willowbrook its 23-22 lead with 20.9 seconds on the clock.

Glenbard East senior Stevyn Fox received the ensuing kickoff near the 20-yard line. Fox made a short lateral to Cook, who caught the ball around the 16-yard line. Cook then raced down the field for a return of about 60 yards, down to the Warriors' 23-yard line.

"It was a planned thing; we talked about it as soon as we got on the field," said Cook of his teamwork with Fox on the lateral. "He [Fox] pitched me the ball, we got the ball upfield, and then we got the touchdown. We did what we needed to do."

With 7.8 seconds on the clock, the Rams had time for one or two plays from scrimmage. On their first play of the drive, Nee dropped back and lofted a pass to his right. Junior Muhammad Musleh of the Rams caught the pass near sideline at about the Warriors' 5-yard line. On his way out of bounds, Musleh, with the ball in his left hand, extended the ball across the goal line for the touchdown.

Nee and Musleh both made their varsity football debut in Friday's dramatic win over Willowbrook. Nee completed 21 of 37 pass attempts for 319 yards and three touchdowns. He threw one interception. Musleh made four receptions for 70 yards.

"Amonte had a great return," said Musleh a few minutes after the victory. "My coaches just trusted me. Mike [Nee] trusted me, and we got it done with a go route."

"We trust our guys—every single one of them," stated Nee. "And that's just a testament to our team. They [the

Warriors] score with 20 seconds left; we're not just going to give up. We're going to keep fighting and trust all of our guys. That's what happened."

After Musleh's touchdown, the scoreboard showed there was no time left in the game. Glenbard East players streamed off the sideline and headed toward the stadium's north end zone following the last-second touchdown. Several Glenbard East students came out of the stands to join in the on-field celebration. Eventually, order was restored on the field, and the officials announced there were a couple of seconds remaining in the game. Nee completed a two-point conversion pass to Cook, who battled cramps during the game and was not on the field during Musleh's touchdown reception.

"We just had the confidence that we were going to go down and score, no matter how much time is left," added Nee. "We have to win—that was our mindset. We couldn't come in here and lose."

The Warriors tried a lateral while returning the kickoff on the game's last play. The Rams tackled Willowbrook senior KJ Rhodes at the Warriors' 43-yard line to end the game.

"It was a really good football game—well played on both sides," said Glenbard East coach John Walters. "There were a lot of kids who gave everything they had. We're thankful we came out on top in the end."

Walters and Willowbrook coach Nick Hildreth both discussed the electric setting in Friday's clash between area schools. The Warriors and Rams enjoyed plenty of support from their respective fans, who packed the bleachers on both sides of the field.

"I think it's just great," said Walters



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Glenbard East's football team kicked off its 2024 season with Friday's wild 30-23 victory over Willowbrook in Villa Park. The Rams scored a touchdown with 1:11 to play to break a 15-15 tie. Glenbard East then added the extra-point kick to take a 22-15 lead. The Warriors responded with a 57-yard touchdown drive, scoring with 20.9 seconds to play. Willowbrook then converted a two-point run to take a 23-22 lead. Glenbard East senior Amonte Cook (No. 1 - top far left) returned the ensuing kickoff about 60 yards to the Warriors' 23-yard line. Junior quarterback Michael Nee (No. 4 - top left) of the Rams is pictured while throwing a 23-yard touchdown pass to junior Muhammad Musleh in the closing seconds. Musleh (No. 18) is pictured (above right) as he extends the ball across the goal line for the game-winning touchdown just before stepping out of bounds. Friday's thriller marked the varsity debut for both Nee and Musleh. Nee fired three touchdown passes in the contest.

of the renewed season-opening clash between Glenbard East and Willowbrook. "High school sports are community based. We share a boundary, and part of Lombard goes to Willowbrook. I think it's a match made in heaven. Two good football teams have an opportunity to open the high school season. How much more excitement would you like to create?"

"It's a cool atmosphere," said Hildreth of the rivalry between the two schools. "A lot of these kids play together growing up. It's great to see."

The opportunity for the Rams and Warriors to reunite their rivalry came about after a realignment in Glenbard East's conference—the Upstate Eight Conference, which until last season included 10 teams. In recent years, Glenbard East's entire nine-game regular season featured games against all nine of their conference opponents.

Beginning with the start of the cur-

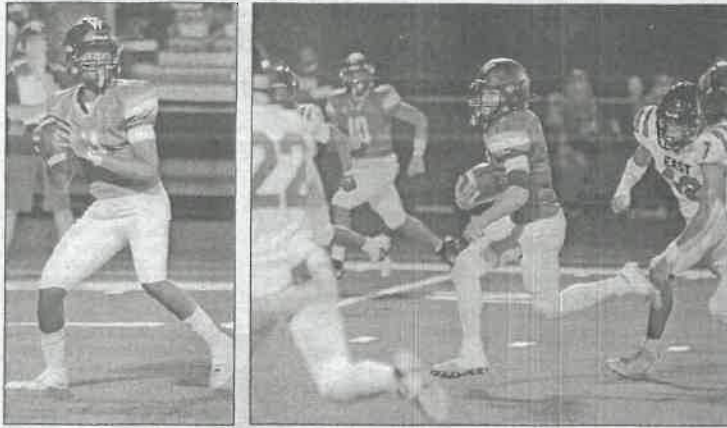
rent 2024-25 school year, the conference added four teams and was separated into two seven-team divisions. The Rams, who are in the conference's East Division, will play their six division opponents during the regular season. Their nine-game schedule also includes a crossover game against one of the conference's West Division teams, and two non-conference games.

Glenbard East's Upstate Eight crossover contest this season will be a Sept. 13 home game against Bartlett.

Glenbard East scored the first points of Friday's game on a safety late in the first quarter. The Rams drove the ball inside the Warriors' 15-yard line, but fumbled the ball away. Willowbrook junior Mason Knudson recovered the fumble at his team's 15-yard line.

On the next play, the Warriors' snap sailed over Reed's head; the ball rolled

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

A heartbreaking loss for Willowbrook

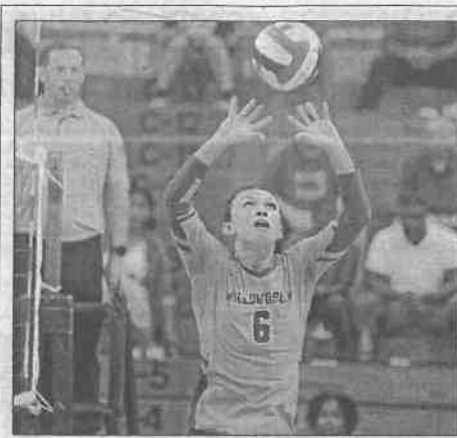
Willowbrook's football team started its season with Friday's 30-23 loss to Glenbard East in Villa Park. The Warriors rallied to take a 23-22 lead with 20.9 seconds to play, but the Rams regained the lead on a 23-yard touchdown pass with a couple of seconds remaining. Junior quarterback Jahonise Reed (No. 11 - above left) fired a pair of touchdowns for Willowbrook. He threw a 23-yard scoring pass to senior KJ Rhodes in the second quarter. Late in the third quarter, Reed connected with senior Charlie Slegler on a 55-yard touchdown pass. Slegler (No. 3 - above right) is pictured while racing into the end zone on the play. Friday's battle between the Warriors and Rams, which was played before a large and spirited crowd, marked the first football battle between the two nearby schools in nine years. Willowbrook and Glenbard East tangled in 11 straight season openers between 2005 and 2015. The Rams won nine of those meetings.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors start their season

Willowbrook's flag football team opened its 2024 season by winning four of five games last week. The Warriors hosted their inaugural Flag Fest tournament on Thursday, Aug. 29, and Saturday, Aug. 31. Willowbrook began the eight-team event by posting two victories on Aug. 29 - a 48-0 win over Morton and a 45-0 triumph over Freeport. On Friday evening, the Warriors played a home game against Mother McAuley. Willowbrook defeated the Mighty Macs 40-0 in that contest, which was not part of the Flag Fest tournament. One photo from Friday's event shows Willowbrook sophomore McKenzie Edison (No. 3 - above left). Sophomore Carson Rieger (No. 7 - above right) of the Warriors is pictured after she was announced as the team's player of the game on Friday. The Warriors resumed the tournament on Saturday, Aug. 31, beating Lindblom 54-0 in a semifinal contest. Willowbrook then faced Lane Tech in the tournament's championship game. Lane Tech scored the only touchdown of the battle with about five minutes to play and went on to earn a 6-0 victory. The Warriors' season continues with this week's games against Stagg and Resurrection. Willowbrook will conclude the week by hosting this Saturday's four-team event in Villa Park.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

A winning week

The Willowbrook girls volleyball team began its 2024 season with a pair of home victories last week. The Warriors started their season with a 25-11, 25-15 win over Bartlett on Aug. 26. Three days later, Willowbrook edged Whitney Young 20-25, 25-12, 26-24. Senior Hannah Kenny (No. 6 - above) provided six kills, nine assists and five digs in the Warriors' season-opening win over Bartlett. Senior Anna Marinier contributed seven kills and two digs for Willowbrook, while senior Lily Javier supplied six kills, six aces and four digs. Junior Kendall Norton handed out 11 assists for Willowbrook. Senior Giada Crocetti added 10 digs. Sophomore Maggie Hurley (No. 20 - below) delivered two blocks and two kills. After losing the first game of their Aug. 29 match against Whitney Young, the Warriors won the second game to force a decisive third game. The visiting Dolphins led Willowbrook 20-15 in the third game, but the Warriors won five straight points to even the score at 20-20. The third game was deadlocked at 23-23. Whitney Young won the next point to take a 24-23 lead and hold a match point, but Willowbrook won the next three points to pull out an exciting victory. Kenny plied up 12 kills, 16 assists and 11 digs in the Warriors' win over the Dolphins. Marinier delivered 10 kills and 10 digs. Javier amassed seven kills and nine digs. Crocetti made a team-leading 15 digs. Hurley contributed two kills, four aces and six digs. Norton passed out 12 assists. Senior Olivia Pollak added four kills and two digs. Senior Sydney Brown made four digs. Willowbrook, which won the third-place trophy in last year's IHSA Class 4A state tournament, continues its season with this week's home matches against Lyons Township and Fenwick. The Warriors will finish the week by hosting their own invitational this Friday and Saturday.



Answers

PUZZLE 1

5	2	6	3	1	8	7	9	4
3	8	4	9	2	7	5	6	1
7	1	9	4	6	5	8	2	3
8	3	5	7	9	4	6	1	2
2	4	1	5	8	6	3	7	9
9	6	7	2	3	1	4	8	5
4	9	8	6	5	2	1	3	7
6	5	2	1	7	3	9	4	8
1	7	3	8	4	9	2	5	6

PUZZLE 2

5	3	6	2	7	1	4	9	8
8	4	2	5	3	9	1	6	7
1	9	7	8	4	6	5	3	2
3	8	4	9	6	7	2	5	1
9	6	1	4	5	2	8	7	3
2	7	5	3	1	8	6	4	9
7	1	3	6	2	5	9	8	4
4	5	8	1	9	3	7	2	6
6	2	9	7	8	4	3	1	5



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

CROSSWORD

POSEIDON	MAUL
ORIENTED	CETRA
LEAKS	ODDE
GOA	AVES
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Friday night lights

Willowbrook's dance team is pictured before the start of Friday night's varsity football game in Villa Park. The Warriors' football team opened its 2024 season with Friday's battle against Glenbard East. Pictured (left to right) are: (front row) junior Kaia Capulong, junior Cecilla Oddo, senior Kelly Kramme, senior Gianna Glampaoli, junior Gedvina Mickevicius and sophomore Amanzia Termini; (back row) sophomore Elizabeth Deany, sophomore Kyri Burritt, junior Maddy McEllin and junior Ava Jovanovich. Not pictured is freshman Brianna Flemming. The dance team performed during halftime of the game. Willowbrook's cheerleaders and marching band also delivered halftime performances.

Word search grid with letters arranged in a grid for a search puzzle.

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• GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page 11

Riverside-Brookfield

Coach: Caitlin Staib-Lipinski
Last season's record: 19-15 overall; 6-0 in Metro Suburban (champions); lost to Downers Grove North 23-25, 25-17, 25-16 in 4A Riverside-Brookfield Regional semifinals
Top returners: Sofia Owens, sr. MH; Claire Cameron, jr. S; Lucy Boyle, jr. OH; Mackenzie Sloger, so. OH; Aimee DiBattista, sr. DS/L; Tatiana Sanchez, sr. DS/L; Elaina Harazin, sr. OH/RS; Avery O'Shaughnessy, sr. MH
Key newcomers: Nina Johnsen, fr. DS/L; Lillian Mills, jr. OH/RS; Kate Zobel, jr. MH/RS
Worth noting: The Bulldogs join the Upstate Eight Conference after winning or sharing first in their final three seasons in the MSC. Fourth-year starter Owens (team-high 170 kills, 48 aces, 47 total blocks) and third-year starter Cameron (team-high 373 assists and 69 aces, 134 digs) were all-conference in 2023. Boyle (133 kills, 107 digs, 269 serve receptions), Sloger (107 kills, 57 aces) and DiBattista (74 digs) also are returning starters. "Sofia is a strong and competitive middle," Staib-Lipinski said. "She brings a strong work ethic and leads by example. Claire works hard, challenges herself and is strong defensively."

St. Francis

Coach: Lisa Ston (9th season)
Last season's record: 34-8, 5-2 GCAC White (Class 3A state champions)
Top returners: Addy Horner, 6-3, sr., S-RS; Emma Delaney, 6-11, sr., MB
Key newcomers: Dylan Kokkinos, 5-3, sr., L; Jenna Glaudel, 5-9, sr., S-RS; MacKenzie Krus, 5-9, jr., S-OH
Worth noting: The defending Class 3A state champion returns state tournament MVP Horner, who will play in college at Wisconsin. Krus is committed to George Washington. Glaudel is back after missing last season with a knee injury and brings quick hands, versatility and a competitive drive to the table. "Our strengths will be that we hope to run a varied offense with many options to score behind the leadership of Addy Horner," said Ston, who has coached in the St. Francis program for 25 seasons. Kokkinos will lead the defensive charge. Delaney also will be a key at the net. "Emma is an experienced middle who likes to be involved in the action," Ston said.

Timothy Christian

Coach: Scott Piersma
Last season's record: 28-7 overall; 10-0 in Chicagoland Christian Conference (regular-season and CGC Tournament champions); lost to ICCP 25-23, 25-20 in 2A Genoa-Kington Sectional final
Top returners: Abby Vander Wal, sr. OH; Bella Potempa, jr. OH; Ella Rickert, jr. M; Elizabeth Alex, jr. S; Miriam

Pozdol Niego sr. L; Norah Rudman, sr. OPP/OH
Key newcomers: Jenna Wasco 5-11, sr. OPP; Audrey Williams so. M
College commitment: Vander Wal (Texas)

Worth noting: The Trojans' last two seasons ended with sectional final losses to ICCP. With 6-3 Texas commit Vander Wal back as one of the nation's top-rated hitters and three returning junior starters, the Trojans hope to reach the final step. "In Abby's last year, I'm sure a lot of people, both inside and outside of our locker room, have high expectations for us," Potempa said. Vander Wal was the lone non-senior IVCA 2A first-team all-stater in 2023 after collecting 218 kills with a .527 attack percentage, 43 aces, 125 digs and 11 blocks. Potempa (191 kills, 190 digs, 56 aces, 15 blocks), Rickert (100 kills, 52 blocks) and Alex (261 assists, 84 digs, 28 aces) also were prominent contributors. Wasco, a transfer from York, bolsters an already solid offense. "We are hoping to be a multi-headed monster that is tough to stop offensively," Potempa said.

Westmont

Coach: Jason Gentile
Last season's record: 7-25; 1-4 in Metro Suburban (4th); lost to Rosary 25-5, 25-18 in 2A Lisle Regional semifinals
Top returners: Jade Curtis, sr. RS; Briseis Stanescu, sr. OH; Daylah Belmonte, jr. DS; Kendal Solik, sr. RS; Elizabeth De La Garza, sr. S
Key newcomers: Kallie Niemer, jr. MH; Kotryna Vanagas, so. OH; Alice O'Connor so. RS; Ryley Johnson, so. S; Elle Strothhaier, so. DS
Worth noting: The Sentinels bring four returning starters - Stanescu, a 2023 All-MSA player, Curtis, Belmonte and Solik - in their move to the Chicago Prep Conference. Entering her third varsity season, Curtis looks to dominate after being injured as a junior. Vanagas is among many promising newcomers. "Our strengths will be on our pins and our will to play as hard as possible on every play," Gentile said. "Briseis, Jade and Kotryna will be players to look for all season. They will be the catalyst of our team."

Wheaton Academy

Coach: Leah Dunlap
Last season's record: 29-6 overall; 9-1 in Chicagoland Christian Conference (2nd and 2nd at CCC Tournament); lost to Deerfield 25-16, 25-12 in 3A St. Francis Sectional semifinals
Top returners: Katelyn Kulesza, sr. S; Kiera Morrison, sr. OH; Kiana Shields, sr., MH/OPP; Abby Schroeder, sr. MH; Maddie Lennox, sr. L; Mary Patrick, sr. OH; Rilee McDonald, sr. OH/DS
Key newcomers: Alida McHugh, jr. DS/L; Kate Lindberg, jr. OH
College commitment: Shields (Northern Illinois)
Worth noting: The Warriors are coming off their best season since 2014 and

first regional title since 2018. NIU recruit Shields and Kulesza were all-conference last season. Shields and Morrison enter their fourth varsity seasons and Schroeder and McDonald their third. "We have a senior-heavy team with a lot of firepower and scrappy defense. Looking forward to an awesome season ahead," Dunlap said.

Wheaton North

Coach: Justin Hineman
Last season's record: 13-23 overall; 1-6 in DuKane (8th); lost to Geneva 25-10, 25-16 in 4A Addison Trail Regional semifinals
Top returners: Olivia Zamis, sr. MH; Halina Istanbuli, sr. P; Mary Kate Whittington, jr. P; Izzy Gibbons, sr. S; Kate Koliopolous, sr. DS; Emilia Lee, sr. DS; Mackenzie Nettles, sr. P; Emily Rochford, so. S; Hannah Van Denend, jr. P
Key newcomers: Chloe Zych, sr. DS; Sophia Ohashi, jr. S; Abby Lee, jr. DS; Aurora Zingales, jr. S; Ava Schell, jr. P; Haley Hanavan, jr. P; Addison Clausing, fr. MH
College commitments: Zamis (University of Chicago), Gibbons (Cleveland State), Nettles (Wisconsin Stevens-Point)

Worth noting: The Falcons are determined to rejoin the area elite. Zamis was IVCA 4A honorable mention all-state and All-DKC last season with 128 kills and 80 blocks, which ranked 10th in 4A, following 74 blocks and 116 kills as a sophomore. Also surpassing 100 kills were Nettles (team-high 151), Whittington (135) and Istanbuli (114). Gibbons led with 222 assists, Emilia Lee (149) and Koliopolous (148) were 1-2 in digs and Koliopolous was second with 34 aces. "This team has a lot of potential and plans on using multiple lineups all season to maximize the depth of talent," Hineman said.

Wheaton Warrenville South

Coach: Bill Schreier
Last season's record: 24-14; 6-1 in DuKane (co-champions with St. Charles North); lost to Benet 25-15, 25-23 in 4A St. Charles North Sectional final
Top returners: Lauren Coyne, sr. OH; Cate Cassin, sr. OH; Katie Dragas, jr. MH; Kayla Paige, jr. L
Key newcomers: Sarah Hartnett, sr. OH; Zoe Dragas, jr. OPP; Tessa Gonzalez, sr. MH; Mackenzie Hartman, jr. OH; Alison Coyne, fr. S; Audrey Utz, jr. S
College commitment: Coyne (Miami Ohio)

Worth noting: The Tigers feature four-year starter Lauren Coyne and returning starters Cassin, Katie Dragas and Paige. Talented newcomers include Alison Coyne, Lauren's sister. "With (Lauren Coyne's) hitting experience, she will be the engine that gets us going," Schreier said. "Cate Cassin will help diversify our offense." It's also one of Schreier's tallest teams ever with Lauren Coyne 6-3, Katie Dragas, Zoe Dragas and Hartman 6-0

and Gonzalez 5-11. "Now is the time to figure out where all of these pieces will fit," Schreier said. "We will go through some growing pains early as we incorporate younger players, but the talent in the gym cannot be denied."

Willowbrook

Coach: Irene Mason
Last season's record: 40-2 overall; 6-0 in West Suburban Gold (champions); 3rd in 4A, beat Barrington 25-20, 23-25, 25-17 for third at state finals
Top returners: Hannah Kenny, sr. S/RS; Anna Marinier, sr. OH/RS; Lily Javier, sr. OH/RS; Ellie Branch, sr. MB/DS; Sydney Brown, sr. DS; Giada Crocetti, sr. DS; Olivia Pollak, sr. OH/RS; Wendy Pollak, sr. OH/RS
Key newcomers: Julia Amin, jr. MB; Maggie Hurley, so. MB; Kendall Norton, jr. S; Melanie Marinier, so. S
College commitment: Kenny (Louisville)

Worth noting: The Warriors are riding high after the greatest season in program history. "We have a lot of close competition and dynamic players who can play a lot of roles," Mason said. Fourth-year starter and Louisville recruit Kenny is a three-time All-WSC Gold selection who surpassed 1,000 career assists while collecting 457 in 2023. The 6-7 Kenny also was second in digs (284), kills (245) and aces (100). Anna Marinier was third in kills (152) and fourth in digs (170) and Javier had 90 kills and 48 digs. "The energy in the gym has been electric and the new players are learning quickly and getting up to speed," Mason said.

York

Coach: Danny Piwowarczyk
Last season's record: 25-12 overall; 3-3 in West Suburban Silver (tied for 3rd); lost to Hinsdale Central 25-20, 25-22 in 4A Morton Regional final
Top returners: Katie Day, jr. OPP/OH; Amalia Toliopoulos, jr. S/OPP; Lilly Roach, sr. MH/OPP; Ava Nawrocki, sr. L
Key newcomers: Lila Bennis, fr. L/DS; Eileen Carroll, fr. OH/OPP; Reese Timmerwilke, jr. MH/OPP; Audrey Foley, jr. MH/OPP; Allison Fehlberg, jr. L/DS
Worth noting: The Dukes graduated eight seniors from a second straight 20-win campaign but return third-year varsity players Day and Toliopoulos. Day (171 kills, 29 blocks), Toliopoulos (115 kills, 128 assists, 13 blocks) and Roach (90 kills) were key offensive components. Roach had a team-best 57 blocks. Libero Nawrocki (61 digs, 171 serve receptions, 1.84 passer rating) will anchor the defensive corps, which includes freshmen Bennis and Carroll with extensive club experience. "I feel very positively about the potential of this group," Piwowarczyk said. "I am excited about the work ethic and love of volleyball. It should be a fun season working to try to become the best team we can be."

• BOYS SOCCER

Continued from page 23

IC Catholic Prep

Coach: Miguel Garcia
Last season's record: 6-5-1, 5-4 (7th)
Top returners: Filip Ciepiela, sr., MF; Sean Pels, sr., D; Alan Salgado, so., MF/F; Tristan Salgado, sr., D
Key newcomers: None listed.

Worth noting: Senior captains Ciepiela and Salgado are four-year starters and all-conference selections whose leadership along with senior defender and captain Pels should make a huge impact.

"Our focus is to take this season one training session and one game at a time," Garcia said. "The main goal is to make a solid run into the playoffs and earn our first regional championship."

Lemont

Coach: Rick Prangen
Last season's record: 8-9-4, 5-2-4 South Suburban Blue (5th)
Top returners: Tyler Chrisman, sr., MF; Vincenzo Mancini, sr., MF/D
Key newcomers: Andre Guzy, so., F; Ali Nabulsi, sr., D; Faraz Ayub, sr., MF/D; Billy Eliadis, sr., MF/F

Worth noting: Lemont is led by senior midfielder Chrisman, who scored six goals and had 11 assists last season to earn all-state honors, and senior midfielder Mancini (three goals).

"We're returning eight of 11 starters from last season and have a sizable senior class," Prangen said. "The potential to compete for a conference and sectional title are there."

Lyons

Coach: Paul Labbato
Last season's record: 20-7-1, 3-3 West Suburban Silver (4th)
Top returners: Mason Burda, sr., MF; Kellen Bourjally, sr., MF; Devin Wong, sr., D; Chris Medina, sr., MF
Key newcomers: Sean Dunn, sr., D; Ryland Avants, jr., F

Worth noting: The Lions might need some time to adjust to the new faces, but talent is everywhere on the roster. Burda, a three-year varsity player, headlines the returnees.

"Our team is replacing 10 starters from a team that finished second in state," Labbato said. "We have a strong mix of returners and newcomers that can have a special year."

Montini

Coach: Mark Kalal (first year)
Last season's record: 1-14-1, 0-8 Chicago Catholic League
Top returners: Aiden Alonzo, jr., D; Julian Beahan, sr., MF; Robert Gutierrez, so., D/MF; Jonathan Kostinski, jr., MF
Key newcomers: Christian Aguilera, fr., MF; Austin Nelson, fr., D

Worth noting: The Broncos have a new head coach and a couple of freshmen looking to contribute right away.

"After coming off a tough season, we look forward to bouncing back and being competitive," Kalal said.

Morton

Coach: Jim Bageanis (8th season)
Last season's record: 16-6-2, 5-1 West Suburban Gold (2nd)
Top returners: Christian Valadez, sr., D; Nico Zaragoza, jr., D; Rafael Ramirez, sr., D

Key newcomers: Alfredo Campos, so., MF; Aaron Nevarez, jr., MF; Moises Malavaez, sr., MF

Worth noting: The Mustangs are aiming to contend for the conference title.

"I feel we have a young and talented group of players that need to learn the speed and physicality of varsity soccer," Bageanis said. "It's going to take a bit to get the boys on the same page and get to know each other on the field. I feel we will be strong in the back and have the opportunity to develop a strong possession game."

Nazareth

Coach: Rob Cianci
Last season's record: 5-18-1, 1-7 East Suburban Catholic (8th)
Top returners: Arigael Hernandez, sr., MF; Dean Faust, sr., D; Julian DeLaTorré, sr., D; Jacob Sanchez, sr., MF; Mateo Delgado, sr., F; Brenden Boyd, jr., F

Key newcomers: Giovanni Cianci, so., F; Michael Duffy, so., MF; Liam Remedi, so., MF

Worth noting: Hernandez earned a spot on the Exact 11 watch list as one of the top midfielders in the Midwest. Hernandez traveled to England to play games and trained with the West Ham United staff.

"We will have nine of our projected 11 starters with at least two years of varsity experience, led by Ari Hernandez," Cianci said. "He's a difference-maker and he has really owned his trade and has taken a step forward in the offseason. With all of that experience, sprinkled in with some very talented underclassmen, it should make for a fun season."

St. Francis

Coach: Jim Winslow (fourth year)
Last season's record: 7-7-1, 5-0-1 Chicago Catholic (2nd)

Top returners: Luke Argamasilla, sr., D; John Coco, jr., MF; Junior Diaz, jr., MF; Nicholas Tisjar, jr., F; Peter Williams, sr., MF; John Yarusso, sr., MF
Key newcomers: Ryan Callander, so.; Brody Jochum, so.

Worth noting: "(We're) optimistic, but we need to find some goal scoring from a variety of places since we lost a bunch from last year," Winslow said. "I like the group a lot but we have some very big shoes to fill."

Timothy Christian

Coach: Joel Zielke (seventh year)
Last season's record: 18-7, 5-1 Chicago-land Christian (1st)

Top returners: Peter Bulkema, sr., GK; Timothy Nulty, sr., MF; Cooper Rainone, sr., MF; Owen Wise, sr., F
Key newcomers: Zach Baker, so., MF; Aidan Contant, jr., F

Worth noting: After back-to-back trophies in Class 1A in 2021 and 2022, the Trojans won a sectional in 2A last year before falling to eventual 2A state champion Crystal Lake South in double overtime in a supersectional. Most of that group is back with 13 returnees (eight starters). Seniors Timo Dacian and Trevor Munk and juniors Ben Schroeder and Wes Huber are back in front of four-year starting goalkeeper Peter Bulkema. With seniors Rainone, Josiah Bhatia, Nulty and Wise controlling possession this fall, the Trojans have yet another reason to be excited about their opportunities.

Westmont

Coach: Francisco Delgado (seventh year)

Last season's record: 7-12-1, 1-5
Top returners: Juan Bolivar, so., D; Manuel Tobin, sr., MF

Key newcomers: Adam Dubiel, fr., D; Edwin Rodriguez, fr., MF

Worth noting: Despite having less than 400 students, Westmont is fielding a fresh/soph team for the first time in Delgado's seven-year tenure. "The young group is solid and we are hoping to be able to keep them all together for the next couple of years," Delgado said.

Wheaton Academy

Coach: Jeff Brooke (13th year)
Last season's record: 13-9-3, 5-1 Chicagoland Christian (2nd)
Top returners: Mason Brooke, so., MF; Sam Brown, sr., MF; Carlton McClure, jr., F/D

Key newcomer: Finn Ruch, sr., CB
Worth noting: "We had a lot of young players log significant minutes last year, which allowed for great growth," Jeff Brooke said. "We have a strong culture and I believe we will have a solid group this year." Brown (15 goals, 6 assists), Mason Brooke (12 goals, 5 assists) and McClure (goal, 4 assists) are among the top players.

Wheaton North

Coach: Joe Klingelhoffer (2nd season)

Last season's record: 4-13-1, 2-5 DuKane Conference (5th)

Top returners: Jackson Galbraith, sr., D; Gabe Brada, sr., D; Luke Hodel, sr., MF; Alex Leon, sr., F; Junior Edwin Gitonga, sr. F; John Thawng, jr., F.

Key newcomers: Felmon Kori, jr., MF; Mathew Garza, jr., D; Chris Mann, jr., D; Rocco Johnson, so., MF; Ryder Froebe, jr., MF.

Worth noting: Galbraith is the only starter from last year returning, but he's joined by fellow senior leaders Hodel and Edgar Carmona in setting a hardworking and team first example.

"This is a high soccer IQ group that can win games because of their work

ethic and understanding of the game," Klingelhoffer said. "We mix an exciting junior class in with a very deep senior class. There are a lot of players on our roster that can wind up having an impact. I'm excited to watch this group grow during the season and find out which players step up. We will aim for a strong finish in what is always a highly competitive conference."

Wheaton Warrenville South

Coach: J. Guy Callipari
Last season's record: 6-10-3, 2-4-1 DuKane Conference (5th).

Top returners: Semin Razman, jr., F; Jet Oehrlein, sr., MF; Aaron Escareno, sr., MF; Am Za Lian, jr., MF; Diego Bautista, sr., MF; Jared Ferreyra, sr., GK

Key newcomers: Carlos Garcia, so., D; Logan LaFratta, so., MF

Worth noting: Razman, who had nine goals in 2023, joins Oehrlein (3 goals, 5 assists), Bautista, Ferreyra (80 saves) and Escareno as the top returnees.

"We have 16 returning players," Callipari said. "Our goal is to compete in the DuKane Conference."

Willowbrook

Coach: Al Ramirez (first year)
Last season's record: 2-19-1, 0-6 West Suburban Gold (7th)

Top returners: Kamil Kurpacha, sr., F; Jonah Slinn, sr., MF; Mathew Herz, sr., D

Key newcomers: Szymon Sokoloski, fr., D; Ian Mueller, fr., MF; Brayden Doston, so., F

Worth noting: The Warriors are looking to take some positive steps this year.

"It's a rebuilding year for the program," Ramirez said. "Our goals this year are to have a .500 season and make a deep playoff run. We will look for our team captain Jonah Slinn and Kamil Kurpacha to help us lead the team this season."

York

Coach: Jordan Stopka
Last season's record: 16-5, 4-2 West Suburban Silver (2nd)

Top returners: Diego Ochoa, sr., GK; Freddie Steen, sr., D, Sr.; Oliver Conner, sr., MF; Aaron Jobi, sr., MF/F

Key newcomers: Cameron Coates, jr., D; Roberto Barriga, sr., MF; Quinn Stratton, jr.; MF/F; Carmie DiMiele, sr., F

Worth noting: With numerous experienced players back, the Dukes have a goal of winning the conference.

"There are going to be at least six new starters on the squad with a mixture of some coming from club and others being promoted to varsity," Stopka said. "The boys have had a very intense start to the season and practice competition is at an all-time high. The season hinges on players playing some new roles and new players stepping up."

Editor's note: Hinsdale South did not respond to requests for information.