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THURSDAY, SEPT. 12, 2024



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Villa Park Review

Leading the Warriors

Willowbrook's boys cross-country team faced District 88 rival Addison Trail in last week's dual meet at Lombard Common. The Warriors posted nine of the meet's top 10 finishes in the 3-mile race and defeated the Blazers 17-46 in the team standings. Four Willowbrook runners are shown during the early part of the race. Pic-

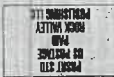
tured left to right are: Junior Miteku Branch, senior Kasen Blain, senior Jake Skibble and senior Adriano Quintero. Blain won the meet's individual title, completing the race in a first-place time of 16 minutes, 1.29 seconds. Quintero finished second, while Branch placed third. Skibble delivered a sixth-place finish.

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Willowbrook Warriors Football

8:30 vs. Glenbard East
9:00 vs. Glenbard North
9:15 vs. Addison Trail
9:20 vs. Huntley (Away game)

11:00 vs. Huntley South
11:00 vs. Franklin East
11:30 vs. OPR
11:30 vs. Morton
11:30 vs. Kylan

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Blazers vs. Warriors

Addison Trail's girls cross-country team faced Willowbrook in last week's dual meet at Lombard Common. The Blazers earned a narrow 26-31 victory over the Warriors in the meet's team competition. One photo from the Sept. 3 meet shows Addison Trail Junior Zuzanna Kwasniewski (above left), who completed the 3-mile race in a second-place time of 22 minutes, 5.57 seconds. Another photo shows (below - left to right) two Blazers—senior Alessandra Gutierrez and sophomore Danielle Marcinkowski—side by side as they approach the finish line. Marcinkowski delivered a third-place time of 22:37.54, while Gutierrez (22:37.93) finished fourth. One more photo shows Addison Trail senior Katelyn Ford (above right), who completed the race in a fifth-place time of 22:55.00.



Rams beat the Royals

Glenbard East's girls tennis team defeated Larkin 6-1 in an Upstate Eight Conference West Division dual meet in Lombard on Sept. 5. Senior Taylor Kowallis of the Rams is pictured during her 6-1, 6-0 victory in the meet's No. 1 singles match. Sophomore Jenna Pope provided Glenbard East with a 6-1, 6-2 win in the No. 2 singles match. The Rams' No. 1 doubles team of juniors Cynthia Garcia and Anaanya Kharbada posted a 6-3, 6-2 victory. Glenbard East's No. 2 doubles duo of sophomores Marija Cheeks and Abby Leahy prevailed 6-0, 6-0. Glenbard East's tandem of sophomores Ava Ebner and Fiona Fitch delivered a 6-0, 6-2 triumph in the No. 3 doubles match. Sophomore Audrey Tragasz and freshman Sarina Parker secured a 6-1, 6-3 win at No. 4 doubles. The Rams began last week's action with a 4-3 UEC East Division victory over West Chicago in Lombard on Sept. 3. Kowallis earned a 6-2, 6-3 win in the meet's No. 1 singles match. Garcia and Kharbada teamed up to post a 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 win at No. 2 doubles. Ebner and Fitch earned a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory in the No. 3 doubles contest. Tragasz and sophomore Maguire Keating cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 victory at No. 4 doubles. One day after beating West Chicago, the Rams dropped a 7-0 decision to Lake Park in a non-conference match in Lombard.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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Warriors drop to 0-2 after losing 19-7 at Glenbard North

Willowbrook opens its conference season with this Friday's home game against Addison Trail

The Willowbrook football team fell to 0-2 following Friday night's 19-7 non-conference loss to Glenbard North in Carol Stream.

The Warriors scored their only touchdown of the game in the middle of the first quarter. The Panthers, who improved to 2-0 with the win, trimmed Willowbrook's lead to 7-6 by the end of the first quarter. Glenbard North scored another touchdown with less than one minute left in the second quarter to take a 12-7 halftime lead.

The Panthers scored their third and final touchdown of the game with a little more than four minutes to play in the fourth quarter.

The Warriors took the game's opening kickoff and began their first drive of the night at their own 33-yard line. Willowbrook drove inside the Panthers' 45-yard line before punting the ball. Glenbard North started its first offensive series of the contest at its own 10-yard line.

Moments later, senior Jordan Pate of the Warriors intercepted a tipped Glenbard North pass. Willowbrook's offense returned to the field and started a drive at the Panthers' 10-yard line.

After an offside penalty against Glenbard North, junior Jovon Boyd of the Warriors delivered a 5-yard touchdown run. Senior Dean Romano added the extra-point kick to give Willowbrook a 7-0 lead with 6:51 to play in the first quarter.

The Panthers responded with a 68-yard touchdown drive that ended with a 2-yard scoring run with less than two minutes left in the opening quarter. Glenbard North missed the ensuing extra-point kick.

The Panthers scored their next touchdown after a short Willowbrook punt late in the second quarter. Glenbard North started the drive at the Warriors' 20-yard line. The Panthers soon scored on an 8-yard touchdown pass with 36.1 seconds left in the first half. They tried a two-point conversion pass, which was incomplete.

The Warriors' offensive unit turned the ball over three times during the second half. Glenbard North intercepted a long Willowbrook pass early in the

third quarter. Near the end of that quarter, the Warriors turned the ball over on a fumble.

Glenbard North extended its lead with a 26-yard drive in the fourth quarter. The Panthers started that drive after a punt return of about 40 yards. After converting a fourth-and-seven play and a third-and-four play, Glenbard North completed its scoring drive with a 3-yard touchdown run. The Panthers added the extra-point kick to take their 19-7 lead with 4:14 left in the game.

The Warriors drove inside Glenbard North's 20-yard line late in the fourth quarter. That drive ended with Willowbrook's third turnover of the second half. The Panthers intercepted a long Willowbrook pass in the end zone with 2:31 to play.

The Warriors will open their West Suburban Gold Conference season with this Friday's home game against District 88 rival Addison Trail (2-0). The Blazers opened their season with a pair of non-conference shutout victories.

Addison Trail won 28-0 at Streamwood on Aug. 30. The Blazers moved to 2-0 following Friday's 31-0 triumph at North Chicago.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Warriors on the run

The Willowbrook girls cross-country team faced Addison Trail in last week's dual meet at Lombard Common. The Blazers prevailed 26-31 in the Sept. 3 meet's team standings. Willowbrook senior Amelle Ojeda (pictured above left) won the meet's individual title in dominant fashion. She completed the 3-mile race in a first-place time of 19 minutes, 36.5 seconds. Addison Trail junior Zuzanna Kwasniewski (22:05.57) finished second. Sophomore Danielle Marcinkowski (22:37.54) of the Blazers finished third, while Addison Trail senior Alessandra Gutierrez (22:37.93) placed fourth. Senior Katelyn Ford (22:55) finished fifth. Six Warriors then crossed the finish line, with sophomore Bethany Yurich (23:22.51) placing sixth. Senior Rosemary Kling (23:27.62) of the Warriors finished seventh. Sophomore Genevieve Kling (23:56.39) posted an eighth-place finish for Willowbrook. The Warriors' trio of senior Mallin Meeker (23:58.37), junior Allyson Stefani (23:58.68) and freshman Juliet Oddo (24:06.75) finished ninth, 10th and 11th, respectively. Another photo shows (above right - left to right) Meeker and Stefani near the finish line. The Warriors competed in Saturday's Mike Kuharic Invitational at Lyons Township High School's south campus in Western Springs. Ojeda placed third in the 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race, which she finished in 18 minutes, 34.27 seconds. Willowbrook placed ninth in the team standings of Saturday's 15-team event.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

A win for the Warriors

Willowbrook's boys cross-country team defeated Addison Trail in last week's dual meet at Lombard Common. The Warriors, who delivered nine of the meet's top 10 finishes, beat the Blazers 17-46 in the team standings of the Sept. 3 competition. Willowbrook senior Kasen Blain sprinted to victory in the 3-mile race, which he completed in 16 minutes, 1.29 seconds. Senior Adriano Quintero of the Warriors posted a second-place time of 16:16.02. Willowbrook junior Mikeku Branch (16:22.35) finished third. Addison Trail sophomore Nathan Gunderson (17:18.37) landed in fourth place. Sophomore Ryan Quinney (17:24.14) of the Warriors ran to a fifth-place finish, while Willowbrook senior Jake Skibble (17:31.32) placed sixth. The Warriors ran to a 10th-place finish in the team standings of Saturday's 22-team Mike Kuharic Invitational at Lyons Township High School's south campus in Western Springs. Quintero provided Willowbrook's best finish in Saturday's 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) race, which he completed in a 27th-place time of 16:17.02. Branch (16:35.39) finished 41st, while Blain (16:54.77) placed 51st.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

A busy week for the Warriors

Willowbrook's girls volleyball team began a busy week of home action with a three-game loss to Lyons Township on Sept. 4. The Warriors won the opening game of the tight match, but the Lions rallied for a 25-27, 25-23, 26-24 victory. Willowbrook held a 20-15 lead in the decisive third game. The two teams were tied at 22-22 later in the game. The Warriors won the next two points to take a 24-22 lead and hold two match points, but the Lions won the next four points to earn the victory and drop Willowbrook's record to 2-1. Senior Hannah Kenny provided 10 kills, 17 assists, 12 digs and six aces for the Warriors. Senior Anna Marlinier (No. 6) contributed seven kills and five digs. Senior Lily Javier added six kills and six digs. Senior Glada Crocetti had 14 digs, while junior Kendall Norton supplied 11 assists, four digs and two aces. Senior Wendy Pollak had four kills and three digs. Sophomore Melanie Marlinier made five digs. Junior Julla Amin delivered four blocks. Sophomore Maggie Hurley had two kills, two blocks and two digs. One day after losing to Lyons Township, the Warriors earned a 25-15, 21-25, 25-14 home victory over Fenwick. Kenny piled up nine kills, 15 assists, six digs and three aces in the Sept. 5 win over the Friars. Marlinier added eight kills, nine digs and four aces. Willowbrook hosted its own eight-team invite on Friday and Saturday. The Warriors opened the event with wins over Coal City, Glenbard South and West Chicago on Friday. Willowbrook beat Trinity 25-18, 26-24 in Saturday's semifinal round to advance to the championship match. Metea Valley defeated the Warriors 25-13, 25-23 in Saturday's championship contest. At the end of the invite, Willowbrook's overall season record stood at 7-2.