

# Sports

## LOMBARDIAN VILLA PARK REVIEW

### Rams win the title at the Niles West Invitational

The Glenbard East girls soccer team won three straight matches and claimed the championship at last week's eight-team Niles West Invitational. The three victories gave the Rams an overall season record of 9-3-2.

Glenbard East was originally supposed to play four matches at the invitational, but the inclement weather reduced the Rams' schedule to three matches. Glenbard East opened the event with Friday's 3-0 victory over Willowbrook. Freshman forward Brittany Paganucci scored a pair of goals for the Rams, who

outshot the Warriors 15-1. Junior Alex Ruffer, who assisted both of Paganucci's goals, added one goal of her own. Senior forward Jessica DeJong assisted Ruffer's goal.

The Rams completed the invitational with back-to-back victories on Saturday, beginning with a 1-0 win over Resurrection. Senior defender K.J. Nelson scored the lone goal. Minutes after beating Resurrection, the Rams kicked off a match against the tournament host. Glenbard East beat Niles West 4-0 behind two goals apiece from Ruffer and senior forward Nicole Alfaro.

The Rams accumulated a total of 28 points in the event, which awarded six points for a win, one additional point for a shutout and one additional point for the goal differential (up to three) in each match. That system gave the Rams 10 points apiece in the wins over Willowbrook and Niles West and eight points against Resurrection.

Glenbard East senior goalkeeper Veronica Fairbairn earned her second shutout of the invitational in Saturday's win over Niles West. It was her seventh shutout of the 2013 season.

The Rams' season continues with two straight DuPage Valley Conference home matches—Thursday's contest against West Chicago and an April 30 meeting with Wheaton North. The Rams enter this

week's DVC schedule with a conference record of 0-2-1. The Rams lost 3-2 to Naperville Central on April 2 and 3-0 to Naperville North on April 10. They played Glenbard North to a 1-1 tie on April 4.



#### Montini's boys lacrosse captains...

FOUR MEMBERS of the Montini boys lacrosse team have been named captains for the 2013 season. Pictured left to right are: senior D.J. Callahan, senior Brian Orr, senior J.P. Palasek and junior A.J. Melarkey. Orr and Melarkey are both High Honor students from Lombard. Orr was a member of Montini's boys basketball and math teams. Melarkey is also a member of the Montini math team. He's also part of the Broncos' state-champion football program. The Montini lacrosse team improved its 2013 record to 5-0 with a 5-4 overtime victory over Marmion on April 12 in Lombard.



#### Warriors take the field at Toyota Park...

THE WILLOWBROOK SOCCER TEAM was honored with a pre-game, on-field photograph before one of the Chicago Fire's recent home games at Toyota Park in Bridgeview. The Warriors were recognized for their fourth-place finish at the inaugural 16-team Windy City Ram Classic. The event included some matches at Toyota Park. Members of the Willowbrook team (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Molly Frobels, Maria Aparicio, Alex Escallier, Samantha Wozniak, Bridget Garner and Erin Owen; (back row) assistant coach Pete Montgomery, Jessica Budig, Allie Jones, Alyssa Spada, team manager John Karcz and head coach Victor Marquez. Not pictured are Lauren Carroll, Melissa Rader, Lindsey Petersen, Tiffany Brinkman, Jamie Colella, Amber Welch, Madison Aiello and Natalie Wolski.

#### Basketball clinic at GE

Glenbard East varsity boys basketball coach Scott Miller and his son, Zach Miller, will hold their spring basketball skills clinic next month. The high-paced clinic is for boys and girls in grades five to 12 who want to learn the newest and best basketball drills and take their games to the next level. Coach Miller's background includes 26 years of experience. Zach Miller, a 2011 Glenbard East graduate, helped the Rams to a third-place finish at that year's IHSA Class 4A state tournament. The six-session camp will take place between May 13 and May 29 in the Glenbard East field house. The sessions will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 13, 15, 20, 23, 28 and 29. The cost per player is \$90 for all six sessions. Individually, the cost for each session is \$20. Players who are interested can sign up through the Lombard Park District. For more information, or to register, go to [www.lombardparks.org/register](http://www.lombardparks.org/register), or call 630-620-7322.



#### Super lifter...

FORMER LOMBARD RESIDENT Tom Ekenberg (above) is a member of the World Association of Benchers and Deadlifters (WABDL) Hall of Fame. Ekenberg, a 1967 graduate of Glenbard East High School, was inducted into the hall of fame during a November ceremony in Las Vegas. The above photo shows Ekenberg holding the plaque commemorating his induction. Ekenberg, who turned 64 earlier this month, has been involved in competitive weightlifting for about 40 years. He has set numerous state, national and world records in various federations and age categories. He set one of his world records at the WABDL World Championships, which took place in Las Vegas at the time of his hall of fame induction. Ekenberg set the new world record in the 61-67 age division of the 275-pound weight class in the deadlift by lifting 633.7 pounds. Growing up in Lombard, Ekenberg attended Park View Elementary School and Lombard Junior High School before going to Glenbard East. He played football and baseball at College of DuPage before heading to the University of New Mexico. Ekenberg and his wife Patricia have been married since 1974. They have a son, Chris, and a daughter, Jamie, and four grandchildren. Ekenberg and his wife moved out of the Chicago area in the late 1970s; they have lived in the Dallas, Tex., area since 1986. He works as a developer in the building and construction industry. Decades of training and competing have caused some wear and tear on Ekenberg, who had double hip replacement surgery in November 2006. He did not compete for nearly two years before returning to action in the summer of 2008. He has set several new world records for his age level since the surgery. A little more than a year ago, Ekenberg had heart surgery to correct what he called "an electrical short." No stranger to surgery, Ekenberg has also undergone knee, shoulder and elbow operations. "I could have stopped after the hip replacement," said Ekenberg, who competes in three or four events a year. "Some people think you're supposed to slow down as you age. My philosophy is this—I'm going to do the most I can with the body I've got." Ekenberg, who weighs around 250 pounds, suffered from Perthes Disease as a child. According to Ekenberg, the disease cuts the blood supply to the hip joint. "I was never supposed to play sports," he said. "As a child, I was on crutches for maybe two years, from about (age) 7 to 9." Ekenberg's other athletic pursuits have included tennis, water skiing and senior baseball, which he played until his mid 40s. "I'm in the gym five or six days a week," said Ekenberg of his current regimen. "I don't lift every day. I do a lot of cardio work. It helps my endurance." Ekenberg stated he has never used steroids. "Never in my life," he said, adding that lifters in the competitions he takes part in submit to drug tests. Ekenberg said he can't imagine giving up his schedule of conditioning and training. "Someone might say I need to stop. I say, what's my alternative? I may take it to an extreme, but I could have worse hobbies."