WCCHS teachers go on strike again

"Mr. Barborack, Mr. Leitner, and Mr. Lincoln on picket line"

by Eric Brosted

Early on the morning of August 31, 1982, a strike vote was taken here at WCCHS. The result was a strike that lasted nine days, kept 1500 students from class, and stirred many people into action.

The actual negotiations began on May 10, and there were approximately 13 negotiating sessions held before the strike. The teachers contract expired on August 26, and on August 17 the teachers refused a board offer to return to work on time and negotiate while at school.

The school board stated in its August 31 newsletter that salary was one very major issue that was unsettled. And Lawrence Hapgood, president of the school board, stated that the teachers were offered a flat $1500 across the board raise, the teachers refused.

George Stecker, chief negotiator for the teachers said that the main issue was not salary but RIF (Reduction in force). RIF is the guidelines for the hiring and firing of teachers. Under current state law the more seniority a person has, the more of a guarantee he has of not being fired. If the school had to fire some teachers because of a decline in enrollment or cuts in programs, RIF would decide who goes first.

Strecker said that the board wanted to write thier own RIF rules, so much of the negotiating went into changes in the RIF code. Finally after being in a deadlock for so long, both sides agreed to drop their demands on RIF, and stay with the state law.

A tentative contract agreement was reached at 5:30 a.m. on Thursday September 9. The agreement was ratified by teachers at 9:00 a.m. that morning and school started one hour later. The Board of Education unanimously ratified the agreement at a meeting held on Tuesday, September 14.

The new contract is good for four years, expiring in August, 1986. The base salary rises from $14, 542 to $15,345. And at the beginning of the second semester the base salary rises again, to $15,550. In latter years of the contract the salaries are to be determined by a formula that relates to the Consumer Price Index and increases in teacher experience and training.

The school calendar will not be changed, and the teachers will not immediately receive any payment for days they were on strike. But in latter years of the contract teachers may get some money back by giving up two days of personal leave, or three days of sick leave.

While the strike was on some residents called for the firing of the teachers. Hapgood said that firing the 89 teachers would result in the expenditure of at least $200,000 in legal fees. But the possibility did exist, and Hapgood said there would be no problem in finding 89 new teachers. In response Strecker said, "I don't think they would have any problems finding 89 bodies that happened to have a teaching certificate."

Tensions during the strike ran high, but Hapgood said to Strecker that he "appreciated the work we've done together this summer."

The Bridge

West Chicago Community High School Volume 12 Number 1 The Bridge/September 24, 1982

See inside

Football preview

District 200 strike settled

by Eric Brosted

Wheaton-Warrenville District 200 teachers went on strike one day after West Chicago, but they didn't return until six days after WE-go's strike had been settled.

The district's 550 teachers walked out on September 1, 1982, and didn't return until September 15, 1982. Three high schools were involved; Wheaton Central, Wheaton-Warrenville, and Wheaton North. Some 10,000 students were effected by the strike in the district.

Although numerous bargaining sessions had been held there were still 30 unresolved issues as of September 9, 1982. The boards salary offer stood at an eight percent increase for the 1982-83 school year and a 7½ percent increase for the second year.

A Wheaton North High School teacher who asked not to be identified said, "The board isn't giving the whole story to the people, they have said mainly salary separates us, but some 30 issues are unresolved." "What we want is an orderly process for order and dismissal where seniority plays a part."

With the closing next fall of Monroe Junior High and Wheaton-Warenville High School, teachers worry that they may lose their jobs. Without seniority playing a part in the hiring process some striking teachers fear they may be fired because it's cheaper to hire someone with less experience.

The strike was settled on September 14, 1982 with the teachers receiving a 16 percent increase in pay the first year, and 8 percent in the second. The contract extends for two years.

Homecoming plans set

by Pam Fenning

Student council met Tuesday, September 14 to decide upon some of the upcoming activities for Homecoming.

The games will be played on October 8 against Glenbard North. The starting times are 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. for the sophomore & the varsity games respectively, sponsored by the class of 1983, the band will be Pegir. The time of the dance is from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

A Homecoming assembly will be held during Homecoming week.

Some of the week's events before homecoming will include the pie eating contest, T-shirt day, the hall decorations competition, window painting and the tricycle race in which all four classes will compete with one another.

There will also be two assemblies for the announcement of the Homecoming finalists and the coronation.

Friday night at the game the class with the winning float will be announced.

Students picket for education

by Mary Jo Fellows

On the morning of September 3, 1982, between 75 and 100 We-go students went on the picket line to protest the schools closing. "We care to go to school," said senior Jeane Murray.

The student who originated the idea of a protest was Penny Berendson. With her were four organizers: Kelly Cavin, Lisa Houle, Jeane Murray, and Becky Phillip. The protestors met in front of Kerr-McGee at 9:30 a.m. From there they walked to the school where they picketed from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Before picketing, the students met with teachers to discuss both sides positions. The students said that they wanted to insure there would be no misunderstandings about their aims. At the end of the meeting the students had convinced the teachers of their neutral positions. Murray said that the teachers support was "very reassuring."

The students refused a request of media coverage saying that they felt it might upset the delicate balance they were trying to maintain between sides.

One of the student organizers stated "we're lucky to have such a superior staff and board, and I'm glad they're still here. Hopefully they will get everything straightened out with no hard feelings left behind."

Ink Spots

Events at Fermilab

Fermilab presents the Empire Brass Quintet on Saturday, October 2, 1982, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets to the concert are $5.00 and must be purchased before the concert. For further information call 840-3353.

Fermilab also has a lecture tonight by Dr. C. Owen Lovejoy, cost is $2.00. The lecture which starts at 89:00 p.m., will provide a "unique perspective on human origin."

BRIDGE wins award

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association has awarded **The Bridge** a first place award for the fourth year in a row. **The Bridge** scored 850 out of 1000 points for the 1981-82 school year.

Exchange students are here at Wego

Six foreign exchange students are now enrolled at WCCHS. They are: Minna Wennauosui of Finland, Takeshi Fujiu of Japan, Rolando Penaloza of Columbia, Annette Frank of Australia, Ansch Nabholz of Germany, and Isabel Nunez from Venezuela.

WCCHS student named finalist in National Merit

Pamela Darrah, senior at We-go, is a semi-finalist for a National Merit Scholarship award. If she wins the award she receives up to a $1000 scholarship, depending on the college she chooses.

DAVEA students affected by strike

by Robin Marvin

Approximately 120 students from West Chicago attend DAVEA this year. The teacher strike left anxious students somewhat disappointed. Principal, Richard Waterhouse explained that the decision that kept students out of DAVEA was made by Richard Kamm, Richard Dufour, and himself. Mr. Waterhouse said that it was rumor that the busses had feared crossing the picket line.

The student missed four days, that's eight hours of classes in all. The classes use an hour credit system, such a class is metology who is requiring girls to make up those eight hours, because of state licensing. Other workshop classes that deal directly with individual and independant goals do not have these hours to make up.

Questions about students driving themselves to DAVEA were also answered by Waterhouse who said that West Chicago High School is responsible for the safety of students who are involved with DAVEA. He also added that two years ago three students of another high school were killed in an accident on the way home from DAVEA. The parents of the students killed set lawsuits against the school. Every precaution for the welfare of our students safety is taken by our school, according to Waterhouse.

Not considering these factors, students had much to say about missing the vocational program. Senior Sharon Dusza, enrolled in secretarial practice said she was upset because "I thought we were going to have to make it up". DAVEA student Cathy Prosek said "I was mad about the situation but I'm glad we're going back now."

A non-DAVEA student, Jeane Murray, who had helped organize the students counter demonstration had this to say about the situation. "We're glad we got the DAVEA students a bus because DAVEA is an important part of life for all that attend, and only a few days may be missed. Therefore, if we hadn't gotten the bus when we did, a lot of students would have had to forfeit their education. Thank God they were reasonable about it."

Teachers strike again

Once again, those people associated with WCCHS have had to endure a strike by the teachers. And, once again, those people who have suffered the most as a result of the strike, whether they realize it or not, are the students. As society becomes ever more technological, jobs that do not require a sound education continue to shrink in number. Therefore, every day of school becomes valuable, especially in a society where more and more students are deciding to enter college. During each of the battles between the administration, school board and the teachers the possible harmful effects on students must not have been of very great concern, for if it was there would have been no strike. However, since there was a strike, someone must have been at fault because the buck has to stop somewhere.

No matter how eloquently it is put, the teachers, or at least the vast majority of them, decided not to educate. It does not matter for what reason and or reasons they decided to strike, except, of course, to the teachers themselves. Their action is what forced those students who desired to enter the school to be turned away.

When a person decides what career to undertake, he must realize what he is getting himself into. Firemen, policemen, and even teachers must realize that their role in society is obviously very important and that society cannot function properly without them. People do not speak very highly of firemen who calmly sit by as someone's home burns to the ground. He is expected to do his job all the time and put up with the disadvantages of his profession because he is the one that chose it. A strike by these men would jeopardize the property and lives of a great many people and should not be tolerated. The same basic philosophy holds true for the members of the teaching profession, although to a less life-threatening extent. This is especially true when those being most penalized by the strike, the students, have absolutely no say in the matter.

No one forces someone else into becoming a teacher or anything else against their will. Each person, at least in this country, has had or will have to make his own decision after carefully weighing both the benefits and limitations when choosing a particular career. Simply stated, one does not become a teacher in order to make a great deal of money. This does mean that teachers should not be allowed to make a living because they perform some useless public service. Indeed, the exact opposite is true. There is definitely something wrong with a society in which a basketball player can earn over $2 million when someone responsible for educating the country's children can barely support themselves and their family. However, this does not give them the right to prevent students who wish to attend school from doing so for reasons that have nothing to do with the education of these students. Are these actions by those people who are supposed to be a symbol of respect designed to illustrate that nothing is more important than money?

It is very difficult to put the well-being of others before one's own, especially when the country's economy is far from flourishing. However, when differences of opinion arise someone must be willing to sacrifice a little so that something might be accomplished with a minimum of turmoil. Naturally it would be nice if no one ever had to go on strike or take other drastic measures to achieve what they feel they deserve. Longer contracts might help to alleviate this problem but these agreements can oftentimes favor one side over the other in the long run because of the unpredictable nature of the world's economy.

Allegedly, one of the major causes of the strike concerned which teachers could be dismissed and when. It has always been the policy that the first teachers to be dismissed would be those most recently hired. Those teachers that were to be dismissed last would have been those that had worked at the school for the longest amount of time. The board decided to remove this clause which, needless to say, angered many teachers with the most tenure because they had the most to lose in terms of salary and time spent on the job. Generally, the employee with the most years on the job is the one that possesses the most practical experience and is the best qualified, although this is not always the case. However, because this is not always the case, employers should have the right to dismiss who they deem necessary, although only within reason and after providing sufficient reasons for dismissal.

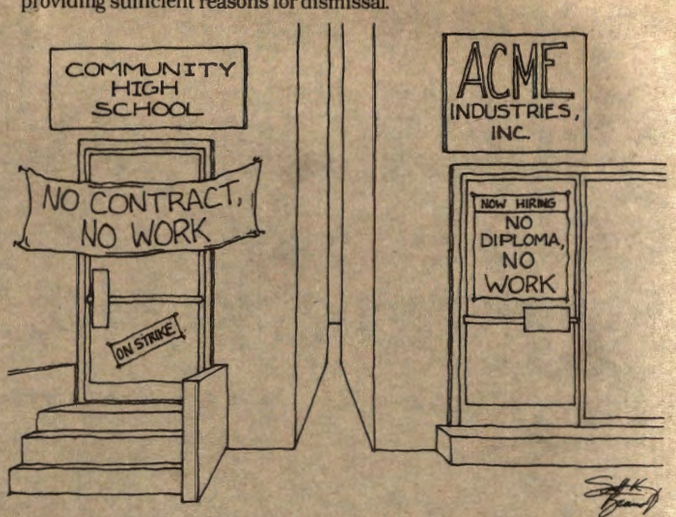
Board forces teachers to walk picket line

by Robin Marvin

I felt very much out of place when my friends said that they felt the blame for the teacher's strike should be put upon the teachers, if it had to be put on one group or the other. A strike of any kind, legal or not, is a way to protest what we feel is unfair. Sure, there is a law that supposedly is designed to protect us, the students, from teacher's strikes, making them illegal. That law didn't do much for us since we had to miss a week of school.

What was the strike all about? A friend of mine was eager to jump in and say "the teachers want more money." I asked him how he knew that and he replied "that's what the newspaper said." The issue of money was a matter of importance to the teachers, but it was overplayed by the press to make the teachers look greedy. RIF (Reduction in Force) was a far greater issue. RIF is the system by which teachers are dismissed if and when the enrollment of our school goes down. Who exactly will be fired? The board was trying to dictate this state law that protects the teachers. Ironically, after 14 or so bargaining sessions since last May 10 the board dropped the clause.

In my opinion, the board is to blame. Were they scared that binding arbitration, having a third party come in and decide on matters, might prove the teachers' requests reasonable? Maybe if the board had been a little less egotistical and a little more cooperative the strike would have never occurred.



To sign or not to sign?

by Ed Rahe

Should editorial letters be allowed to remain unsigned? Apparently the editors of **The West Chicago/Winfield Press** think so because a large portion of their letters printed in the September 9 issue didn't list any author. Instead, the name has been "withheld by request."

By not printing the authors of these letters, **The Press** has greatly diminished their value. In agreeing not to publish their names, **The Press** has succeeded in making each of these name-withheld-by-request letters worthless. Removing their names has also removed these people's responsibility to what they have written. It is easy to write down and do whatever one pleases as long as he can't be criticized or forced to stand up for what he has done.

It is certainly safer and easier to leave a letter to the editor unsigned. However, if the point of view taken by the author is worth mentioning at all, he should be willing to stand behind his opinion and endure any abuse that might come his way as a result of his statements. For this reason, letters to the editor submitted to **The Bridge** must be legibly signed or they will not be printed. **The Bridge** challenges **The Press** to adopt this same policy.

The Bridge

The Bridge has earned a first place rating in both the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the American Scholastic Press Association.

The Bridge is the student newspaper of West Chicago Community High School. *The Bridge* office is located in room 216.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 400 words and must be legibly signed. Letters will be printed as time and space permit. We reserve the right to edit, if necessary, for length and libelous material.

Content and editorial policy are determined by the editor with the concurrence of *The Bridge* editorial staff. The adviser acts in the capacity of a professional consultant. The opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the student body or the high school.

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Three teachers cross picket line

by Nancy Binzen
and Lauren Rowlex

Due to the teachers strike, students received an extra six days of vacation. For teachers those same six days resulted in a pay loss. Although a picket line was formed, three teachers crossed the line and continued work.

Patti Kozlowski was one of the teachers who chose to work. She felt the decision to strike was a personal one. In her case, family obligations prevented her from picketing. Kozlowski, who teaches home economics, pointed out that she "does not want to be singled out as anyone special," and she "is not a martyr." She stressed that she wasn't going against her fellow workers by not striking, and that she agreed with their stand one hundred percent.

Kozlowski stated that she hasn't been treated badly by any of her co-workers because of her decision not to strike. She spoke highly of them saying that they "explained their viewpoints so that I could make the best choice," in regards to striking.

She expressed a deep concern for the welfare of the teachers at WCCHS. Kozlowski feels "there are excellent teachers here, some are respected throughout the U.S. Many of them spend time after school helping students doing extra work." Often, the teachers receive no pay or recognition for this work. "Respect and appreciation are important in this profession."

Citing an example of a WCCHS student who called the Phil Donahue show this summer to praise our teachers for their work and encouragement he had received at WCCHS. She justified the student's appreciation.

Robert Lemon and Dr. John Murphey both declined to comment on their reasons for not striking.

Some of the teachers that did strike had no hard feelings against those who didn't. "It's a personal decision," stated Terry Strohm, German teacher. They are fellow professionals, and I respect them."

Beverly Gossen, president of the West Chicago Teachers Association, feels that everyone has to "follow their own conscience." However, she also pointed out that "we must stand together to accomplish anything."

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Pom pon squad first in We-go history to capture title

by Sue Lindenmeier

The 1982-83 West Chicago Pom Pon squad brought home a few trophies this summer from their participation in Badgerette Camp at North Central College and the Midwest Competition.

Their accomplishments include receiving a first place rating for their originality routine set to "How Do You Talk To Girls" by Rick Springfield and their short skill routine set to "Heartbreaker." The girls also earned this identical rating for their harmonized song to "Mr. Sandman" and a one-minute kickline by Joy Gustafson, Lisa Holmes, co-captain Bonnie Martin and captain Robin Weatherford. The squad's 2 count ripple also was awarded a 1st place. Recognition was given to the girls for their camp learned routines and showmanship abilities.

Individual showings by Joy Gustafson and Robin Weatherford also earned honors for the squad. Gustafson won a place on the Badgerette All-Stars for her pep and leadership qualities while Weatherford was named Miss Badgerette for her individual routines to "Don't Stop Me Now." Weatherford competed against 11 other girls and received all 1st and 2nd place ratings.

At the Midwest Competition, the squad was named "Grand Champs." The squads at this competition were invited on the basis of their showings at camp. Their camp routine to "Let's Hang On" as well as a prop routine to "Working in the Coal Mine" each received a third place. The prop routine was performed with the use of replica pick axes and construction helmets with lights. The camp only gives one award for a ripple and the squad won this first place rating. Weatherford once again won Miss Badgerette title for her individual routine. She competed against 37 other girls who had won the Miss Badgerette title at their respective camps.

The girls set a precedent for being the first squad to win the Grand Championship as well as the squad captain winning the Miss Badgerette title.

Photopinion

by Michael Sitarz

Why do you like high school better than junior high?

Molly Turner — "People are more mature in high school than junior high. And that's the truth."

Doug Zamastil — "There are more and better sporting events."

Denise Krzak — "I like it because you can pick all of your subjects and there are more people to meet."

Matt Stewart — "The classes are better organized."

Bob Hoeft — "Junior high was better because the day and classes were shorter."

Brenda Smith — "The classes, I like them."

Ron Schramer — "You can make more friends and have fun."

Wendy Walsh — "The classes, more students and teachers to meet, more p.e. classes, and better hot lunches."

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Conference season to open

by Bill Recchia

Tonight opens West Chicago's conference football season at Wheaton North at 8 o'clock.

Coach George Turnbull, who coached the Falcons to a 1981-82 state championship, hopes his team will be ready to open up the season. "The strike in our school district has really messed up our program," states Turnbull. "The strike kept our team from practicing for two weeks."

As for the game, Turnbull is looking for a tough challenge. He says that West Chicago has always given them one of the hardest games of the year.

Wildcat tri-captain Gary Hansen agrees with Turnbull. "The Wheaton North-West Chicago games are always looked forward to because they are excellent games every year," says Hansen, a senior.

West Chicago Coach Ron Hansen feels that Wheaton North will be one of the tougher teams in the conference. "They've always had a good tradition," added Coach Hansen.

Coach Turnbull says that the Falcons should be competitive, but are no comparison to last year's championship team. "We aren't even in the same league as last year's team, and the late start due to the strike doesn't help us any either," Turnbull stated.

Turnbull says that his players to watch are the five returning lettermen. These players are quarterback Dan Grahm, tackles Rick Morris and Rick Jordon, center Rich Morris and fullback Dave Cambell. "We expect a lot from these guys," claimed Turnbull.

Coach Hansen has seven returning lettermen in quarterback Willie Bishop, flanker Gary Hansen, linebacker John Macko, guards Pilump Schemshidini and Rich Schultz, and halfbacks Rob Taylor and Mike Tijerina.

"I feel we can match up with them," Coach Hansen said. "They are a little bigger than us though," he added.

Bishop feels that the Wildcat's game last week against Crystal Lake was a good tune up for them. "They (Crystal Lake) run a 4-4 defense, and Wheaton North runs a variation of that defense, so it will help," claims Bishop.

In order to beat the Falcons, Coach Hansen feels that they will have to eliminate mistakes and cut down the number of turnovers. "We will have to improve on our blocking techniques, too," added Coach Hansen.

Seniors Bishop and Hansen both feel that to win the game, they (the team) will have to play the best of their abilities, cut down their mistakes, and play good sound football.

Turnbull said, "I expect a very exciting, hard-hitting game."

Tri-captains (l to r) Rob Taylor, Willie Bishop, Gary Hansen.

Soccer team young but strong

by Dino Tiberi

This year's varsity soccer team was just one of the many extra-curricular activities which felt the crunch from the teachers strike. The team got off to a late start with practices organized by the players themselves due to the strike.

Carlos Cuiriz, senior, and Trey Zamora, also a senior, both believe the strike affected the team. Cuiriz said, "We weren't hurt conditioning wise, but we really weren't ready for a conference game."

Despite these barriers, Coach Steve Kimery is optimistic about his team. "We have a good nucleus returning," said Kimery, who returns six starters from a team that was 12-2-4 overall and 8-2-4 in the DuPage Valley Conference. "This year's team has passing ability, can control the tempo of the game, and is strong defensively," Kimery added.

Lack of scoring punch and inexperience seem to be the most imposing problems according to Coach Kimery. "We need some people to be able to put the ball in the net in order to win," said Kimery. Turning to the inexperience problem, Kimery cited the loss of players through graduation. "It's hard to replace the experience we lost," pointing out Enrique Guzman, Gil Rios, and Bill Hahn as major losses.

Kimery feels he has one of the best goalies in the conference in junior Dan Barry. He also praised the play of Cuiriz, an all-conference pick, and Julio Del Real, who Kimery calls "a fierce competitor." Some other key players include frosh Juan Mendoza, Arturo Navejas, Oscar Pascindo, transfers Mark Dillon and Dave Sheriff, Mario and Moises Rodriguez, Tomas Mares, and returning lettermen Zamora and Martin Pascindo.

Kimery is a firm believer that in soccer, underclassmen should be brought up if their ability is good enough, unlike basketball and football. An example is that over the past five years, no less than five freshmen have been brought up.

Asked for a conference prediction, Kimery replied, "There is more balance this year than any other year." He feels that some surprises have come about in order to contend with who he thinks will be near the top, Naperville North and Wheaton Central. Talking to the players themselves, Barry hopes to be in one of the top three spots, Cuiriz is one of the top three, and Zamora feels they have an outside chance for first but hopes to be in the top three also. Zamora said, "The play of goalie Barry, and Cuiriz, who makes our defense so much better, give us a solid defense."

Kimery is hoping the best for his team, saying that he feels the West Chicago program has received some respect from the last two years.

Chose the champs

by Bill Recchia

The Bridge's Football Pick gives the fans a chance to choose who they feel will top out the DuPage Valley Conference. The winner will receive an unlimited dinner for two at Mill Race Inn located in Geneva.

The rules are as follows:

1. Choose the teams you feel will place first through eighth in the conference under the team column.

2. Next to each team, put what you feel will be their final record in conference under the record column. Remember, each team plays seven conference games.

3. Under the total points column, put down the number of points you feel West Chicago will score in the conference season only.

4. Place your name and class year in the space given at the bottom of the ballot and return it to room 216 by 3:30 on Thursday, September 30.

5. Anyone not fulfilling all of the listed requirements will be ineligible from the contest.

6. Bridge staff members and immediate family are excluded. Everyone else is eligible to enter, including the administration and teachers. One entry per person.

Good luck!

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Boys' Football
Sept. 24 Wheaton North Var. A 8 pm Soph. A 6 pm
Oct. 1 Naperville Central Var. A 8 p.m. Soph A 6 pm
Oct. 8 Glenbard North Var. H 8 pm Soph. H 6 pm

Girls' Volleyball
Sept. 25 Larkin H 10 am
Sept. 28 Naperville Central A 6 pm
Oct. 5 Wheaton Central H 6 pm
Oct. 7 Naperville North H 6 pm

Cross Country
Sept. 28 Glenbard North H 4:30 pm
Oct. 2 DuPage County Meet A 9 am (at Glenbard West)
Oct. 5 Wheaton Warrenville A 4:30 pm (at Wheaton Central)

Girls' Swimming
Sept. 28 Naperville North H 7 pm
Oct. 2 West Aurora Invitational A 10 am
Oct. 5 West Aurora A 5 pm
Oct. 7 Morris H 6 pm

Boys' Soccer
Sept. 25 Glenbard South Var. H 6:30 pm Soph. H 5 pm
Sept. 28 Wheaton Central Var. A 4:30 Soph. A
Oct. 2 Glenbard North Var. H 6:30 pm Soph. H 4:30 pm
Oct. 5 Naperville North Var. A 4:30 pm Soph A
Oct. 7 Wheaton North Var. H 7:30 Soph. H 6:00 pm

Golf
Sept. 27 Addison Trail H 4 pm
Sept. 28 Naperville North H 3:30 pm
Sept. 30 St. Charles H 3:30 pm
Oct 4, 5 DuPage Valley Conference TBA
Oct. 7 Regionals TBA

Girls' Tennis
Sept. 25 Tennis Invitational H 9 am
Sept. 28 Glenbard North H 4 pm
Sept. 30 Wheaton Warrenville A 4 pm
Oct. 2 Tennis Invitational H 9 am
Oct. 5 Wheaton Central H 4 pm
Oct. 7 Glenbard South A 4 pm

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