

## Press Clippings 02/21/2019

---The Daily Herald---02/21/2019

### PopSockets promote U46 school readiness via Logotech donation

By: Janelle L Walker



- Amber Peters of the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning shows the PopSockets branded with the "Give Me Five" messaging to help parents remember to engage with their children to prepare them for learning. Logotech

Showing their love both for learning and the most popular mobile accessory on the market, parents and children left an Elgin laundromat Thursday afternoon with more than just clean clothes.

They left with PopSockets -- patented phone grips that have sold more than 100 million units. They were handed out by the Elgin Partnership for Early Learning and branded with School District U46's "Give Me Five" messaging.

The PopSockets were made possible by Logotech. Based in Palatine, the promotional product company picked EPEL as its first-ever Logotech-4-Good recipient. The program gives a \$500 grant of branded promotional products to one deserving school, educational or nonprofit organization selected by the company each month.

Its second winner will be announced Friday (February 15).

The popular mobile device grips are imprinted in either English or Spanish with the "Talk -- Play -- Read -- Do -- Write ... Give Me Five!" handprint logo used by the district's Give Me Five for Early Learning. The messaging reminds parents and caregivers to practice those actions with children each day to get them ready for school.

The Blue Kangaroo Laundry, 464 Summit St., Elgin, was chosen for the official hand-off to co-promote EPEL's "Language in the Laundromat" program. A bookcase with books, as well as signs promoting the "Give Me Five" message, were placed in the laundromat earlier this year. It is the second area laundry to get the materials encouraging parents to read with their children as their loads run.

"Our employees enthusiastically chose to make our first donation to a local organization, and everyone thought the finished PopSockets looked very cool. They are such a great promotional piece because people are always pulling their phones out. There is the logo, in front of your face, reminding you to interact with your kids and not just be distracted on your phone," said Logotech spokesperson William Smith, director of marketing for the company.

"I am happy I got a PopSocket now," said Elgin parent Arienette Hernandez, who noted she does practice the skills with her parents.

"There are some of the PopSockets left and we will continue to give them out to parents, reminding them and the community to work with children to get them ready for school," said Amber Peters, executive director of the Elgin partnership.

For more information on Logotech and how to apply for future grants, please go to <https://www.logotech.com/logotech-4-good>.

## **SPORTS**

### **---The Daily Herald---02/21/2019**

## **Perez stays hot, shoots Larkin past Streamwood**

**By: Scott Walsh**

Maybe it's just good ol' home cooking, but if something's changed in Victor Perez's diet, he better make sure he keeps eating it.

For the second game in a row, Perez set a new career scoring high on the home floor. Last Friday it was 28 points in a 63-48 win over Glenbard East, and Wednesday the 6-foot-2 Larkin senior went for 33 in an 86-79 win over Streamwood.

"My mindset at practice has just been that this is my last year, my last go and I want to give it all I've got," Perez said. "I want to leave Larkin and have people know that I did something here."

In addition to Perez's 33 -- which came on a 70 percent shooting night from the floor (14 of 20) -- junior Jashon Johnson-Neals and freshman Damari Wheeler-Thomas both had 17 off the bench. Both started there as coach Deryn Carter started all five of his seniors on Senior Night at Larkin (12-18, 9-9).

Keenon Cole, Streamwood's 6-foot-7 force of nature, had 32 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Sabres (12-18, 8-10). Nikola Sinik added 18 points and 7 boards, and Zach Marquez chipped in a dozen.

"I liked the way we handled this game," said Carter. "The defense was just so much better in the second half. They scored some points still, but everything Cole got was so much more difficult in the second half compared to the first. It's hard to prepare for him because I don't have a 6-7 Division 1 recruit to go against in practice. It took us a while to make adjustments, but when we made 'em we were good defensively.

"And Victor, the last two nights, he's just really playing within himself, letting the ball and the game come to him. He's going to be a big key to whatever we do next week," said Carter about the playoffs, which tip off next week.

For the record, Cole had eight field goals and 19 points at halftime, but the Royals' defense limited him to just three second-half buckets to go along with seven free throws in as many attempts. For the game, the Northern Illinois University-bound senior was a perfect 9 for 9 from the free throw line.

The game was close for the first three-and-a-half quarters. Streamwood led 9-3 early before a drive by Wheeler-Thomas and a basket-and-free-throw by Johnson-Neals cut it to 9-8. Cole scored eight down the stretch, including both a dunk and a putback of his own missed slam, to give the Sabres a 23-14 lead after eight minutes.

Wheeler-Thomas drove and was fouled with 5:23 to play in the second to pull Larkin within 26-23. The teams traded baskets for the next two minutes before Perez closed the quarter with 11 of the Royals' closing 13 points in the to give them a 43-42 lead before Jakobi Strong scored his lone hoop of the night to give Streamwood a 44-43 lead at the intermission.

The two Upstate Eight foes went back to trading baskets for virtually the entire third quarter, which ended when Perez drained his second 3-pointer of the night to lift Larkin to a 60-59 lead after 24 minutes.

They never trailed again. In addition to Larkin's defense bulwark in the second half, the Royals won it at the charity stripe in the fourth: 13 times the Sabres sent Larkin to the line, and the Royals made 10 of those to put the game out of reach.

In an interesting fourth-quarter turn of events, Perez fouled Cole for his fifth and went to the bench with 1:15 left and Larkin up 82-71. Cole made both free throws, then just four seconds later he, too headed to the bench with his fifth foul -- as did Larkin's Christopher Rose, on a call away from the ball as the two were mixing it up in the corner.

## **West Aurora tops South Elgin for UEC title**

**By: Kevin McGavin**



- West Aurora's Kelvin Balfour during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz and West Aurora's Hezekiah Salter tip off to begin play during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Trace Ashby works around West Aurora's Logan Mont during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- West Aurora's Hezekiah Salter during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- West Aurora's Kelvin Balfour during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Alex Errington during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Trace Ashby passes West Aurora's Traevon Brown during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.





- South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz and West Aurora's Moshe Rogers reach for the ball during the Blackhawks' win in Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Lane McVicar shoots past West Aurora's Dimitrios Bazos during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Lane McVicar moves past West Aurora's Dimitrios Bazos during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- South Elgin's Vincent Miskiewicz during varsity boys basketball action at Aurora Wednesday night.



- West Aurora's Traevon Brown makes a move to the hoop.

It was quite the anomaly Wednesday night in Aurora.

West Aurora welcomed its first students two years after the American Civil War ended.

South Elgin had to wait quite a bit longer.

But the schools went toe-to-toe for the Upstate Eight Conference boys basketball championship on Wednesday.

Dimtrious Bezos, perhaps the seventh or eighth man for the Blackhawks, was the star of the night in the 57-52 West Aurora victory.

"It was just scoring, getting the ball in the basket," said Bezos, who scored a team-high 14 points. "Hopefully we (as juniors) are going to have a long run next year. We don't want to share (the conference championship) with anyone."

Bezos, on more than one occasion in the fourth quarter with the Storm drawing ever closer, had three critical baskets to aid the Blackhawks' cause.

West Aurora established a new regular-season record with its 26th victory Wednesday against the Storm.

"Being able to coach at West is a dream come true," West Aurora coach Brian Johnson said.

The Blackhawks never trailed in building a 21-10 lead at the end of the first quarter.

"He just makes the little plays," Johnson said of Bezos.

"When you don't convert open shots in a high school basketball game, you're not going to win," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said.

In addition to Bazos, Traevon Brown and Kelvin Balfour were in double figures for the Blackhawks.

Star West Aurora guard Marquise Walker missed the game with a knee issue.

## **Bonds, Yaber lead Elgin over West Chicago**

**By: Jared Birchfield**

Elgin ended its regular season on high note Wednesday night with a 58-53 Senior Night win over West Chicago at Chesbrough Field House.

Solid team play and a 26-point second quarter made the difference in the Upstate Eight contest.

"It was Senior Night. Some guys, who have worked really hard, got an opportunity to start. We talk a lot about teams. Individual make plays, score some points but ultimately it's the team," said Elgin coach David Hess. "I thought that team play provided us with a lot of energy and toughness on defense."

It appeared that the Wildcats would spoil the evening dedicated to graduating players, cheerleaders and dancers by scoring the first 10 points of the game.

Junior Xavier Bonds finally put the Maroons on the scoreboard with 2:45 left in the period with a putback. Senior Trey Yarber drained a 3-pointer from the right corner just before the end of the quarter to cut West Chicago's lead to 12-8.

Led by Bonds and Yarber, Elgin's offense caught fire in the second stanza. The Maroons opened the quarter with a 12-0 run. Kamarr Banks laid in the first basket on a steal but the rest of the scoring was done by Bonds and Yarber.



Bonds put the Maroons ahead on an old fashion 3-point play. His layup 40 seconds into the period tied the game at 12. The junior was fouled on the play and sank the free throw to give Elgin (6-23, 3-15) the lead.

Bonds scored 15 of his game-high 25 points in the quarter. Yarber, who finished the night with 21, scored 9. Elgin led 34-24 at halftime.

"I just found my rhythm," said Bonds about his 15-point quarter. "In the second half I just wanted to get my other teammates involved".

The teams played an even third quarter with the Maroons leading 47-38 at the end of the period.

While Bonds cooled off in the second half, West Chicago's big men, 6-foot-4 Sam Ricci and 6-2 Issac Nelson, got hot. Both were limited to four points in the first half but found their mark in the final 16 minutes to keep West Chicago (9-21, 2-16) in the game.

"They are good players. The first time we played them, they scored a lot of points," Hess said. "You are not going to shut them down, but we made them work." A Ricci (15 points) layup at the 3:56 mark of the fourth quarter pulled West Chicago within 49-45.

Johnny Bey sank a trey from the left wing to narrow Elgin's lead to 53-50 with 1:41 left to play.

The Maroons got a big defensive stop on West Chicago's next possession when Cameron Mueller grabbed an errant Wildcat shot. Back-to-back baskets by Kejuan Harvey and Bonds with less than 47 seconds left sealed Elgin's victory.

Nelson scored 11 points for West Chicago.