



Program recognizes first-generation college students

U-46 Presents 40 Winners of the Superintendent's Scholarship

ELGIN - School District U-46 will recognize a record-high 40 seniors recently, during the eighth annual Superintendent's Scholarship reception and awards ceremony. These Class of 2019 members, selected from a field of several hundred, are first-generation college-bound students from the District's five comprehensive high schools, Bartlett, Elgin, Larkin, South Elgin and Streamwood.

"All 40 students are committed to their education and the promise of a better life, a promise fulfilled by post-secondary education," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. "They've outwitted and overcome challenges and adversity in their lives such as poverty, language barriers, stereotypes, and trauma. I am extremely proud of these students and grateful to all those who donated to the Superintendent's Scholarship program."

Since the Superintendent's Scholarship fund was established in 2012 through the U-46 Educational Foundation, more than 220 U-46 graduates, including this year's recipients, have each received a \$1,000 scholarship. This year's reception for the student recipients, their families, principals, and scholarship donors was held at on Wednesday, April 24 at Streamwood High School.

Eligible seniors submitted applications for the scholarship this past winter. The application included their high school transcript, a copy of their Federal Student Aid application, a letter of recommendation from an adult (a principal, teacher, academic advisor, employer, religious leader, etc.) and a personal essay. A panel of judges selected the 40 scholarship recipients from more than 300 applicants. The 40 students are bound for post-secondary institutions including Aurora University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, DePaul University, the University of Kentucky, and Illinois State University.

During the scholarship reception, the students were celebrated for their accomplishments but also urged to visit with donors and administrators. Prior to the reception, recipients participated in a networking workshop led by former Board of Education member Traci O'Neal Ellis. The students each received a customized box of business cards. Mrs. O'Neal Ellis emphasized the skills needed to make a good first impression and demonstrate self-confidence in preparation of the reception and future networking opportunities.

The 40 Class of 2019 Superintendent's Scholarship recipients are as follows:

Bartlett High School

Ashley Diaz
Kendra Payne
Dana Siciliano
Kelsey Sniatynsky
Victoria Rzucidlo

Elgin High School

Ezequiel Bedolla
Giovanni Cisneros
Gabriela Cuautele
Lauren Dimayuga
Khalil Jennette
Italo Rojas
Inga Suceska

Larkin High School

Elisa Arce
Fernando Guzman Jr.
Jordan Kosin
Erika Lara-Tellez
Taylor Long
Melanie Lopez
Jair Nunez
Omar Ramirez
Maritza Renteria
Margarita Sanchez
Leslie Solano
Mareena Sower
Carlos Toledo Jr.

South Elgin High School

Christian Gordon
Makayla Hall-Lee
Alex Herrera
Maritza Pitones
Vraj Thakkar

Streamwood High School

Karina Adan
Diego Castillo
Edgar Gasca
Christian Gonzalez
Kiara Kerkoofts
Haydee Perez
Nicole Rataj
Jennifer Robillard
Jennifer Teran
Jocelyn Vences

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Suburban high school cheerleaders win gold at world championships

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY
For Reflejos

Students from several suburban high schools won gold as part of the U.S. National Junior Coed Team that placed first in the International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championships last week in Orlando, Florida.

The team comprised 28 athletes from South Elgin, Bartlett, Belvidere North, Antioch, Marist, Bolingbrook, Burlington Central, Grant, Lockport, Grayslake Central, and Lemont high schools. Students competed in the Junior Coed Elite division against teams from Norway and Finland, which placed second and third, respectively, as well as Mexico and Slovenia. They did a 45-second cheer and performed to custom music for about three minutes.

Among them were South Elgin High School juniors Thomas Justin "TJ" Ramos and Tristan Cruz and Bartlett High junior Nicole Borawski.

Antioch Community High School's Kaitlyn Bargamian, Avery Frasch and Bridget Nauman, Grant High School's Kamryn Zielinski and Grayslake Central's Talia Schuerman also were part of the gold medal team.

"It's pretty cool," Cruz, 16, said of the win. A gymnast for 15 years, this was Cruz's first year doing cheer. "We've been working very hard and it's great to represent the U.S. and Illinois."

Cruz said it was easy transitioning to the tumbling aspect of cheerleading, but the stunts were harder to nail and took him a while to grasp.

"It's really fun," he said. "There's a lot of performing aspect to cheerleading, which I really enjoy. Showing off your skills is just really exciting."

Ramos, Cruz and four other South Elgin High cheerleaders also were part of an all-star team that placed fifth in the Large Coed Division -- one of the most competitive divisions involving mostly North American teams -- at the U.S. All Star Federation's World Cheerleading Championships, which concluded Sunday in Orlando.

The all-star club team comprised 41 members including, South Elgin High students Abby Greco, Casey Alimento, Lexie Wrobel, and Charlie Barrett, and students from Belvidere North, Marist, Grant, Antioch, Lincoln Way West, Plainfield South, Grayslake Central, Burlington Central, Bolingbrook, and Huntley high schools.

Cruz said after "countless hours of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAVANNAH BENNETT

STUDENTS FROM several suburban high schools were part of the U.S. National Junior Coed Team that placed first in the International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championships last week in Orlando, Florida.

blood, sweat and tears," he felt confident the team's hard work would pay off.

In both contests, the teams had three months to pull together a routine compared to other full-season teams that have 11 months to prepare, said Savannah Bennett, South Elgin High head varsity cheer coach.

"It's an amazing honor and I could not be more proud of them," said Bennett, in her third year coaching at South Elgin. "Tristan is a phenomenal athlete, who has a contagious positive energy. He's definitely a role model to a lot of our younger athletes. TJ is a natural born leader, with a skill level that is absolutely insane. He's constantly striving for excellence and pushes his teammates to be their best. It goes to show how competitive the South Elgin program is becoming and the eliteness that our kids are bringing."



SOUTH ELGIN High School juniors TJ Ramos, left, and Tristan Cruz, right, sporting the gold medals they won as part of the U.S. National Junior Coed Team that placed first in the International Cheer Union World Cheerleading Championships last week in Orlando, Florida. Here, they are with South Elgin High head varsity cheer coach Savannah Bennett. Courtesy of Savannah Bennett

Press Clippings 05/02/2019

---The Daily Herald---05/02/2019

U-46 school board seats elected members

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



John Devereux



Kathleen (Kate) Thommes



Eva J. Porter



Susan Kerr

The Elgin Area School District U-46 school board seated two new and two incumbent members elected in April during a special meeting Tuesday.

Newcomer Eva Porter and incumbents Sue Kerr and John Devereux were sworn in, while Kathleen Thommes, who was not present, will be sworn in at next week's school board meeting. They join Donna Smith, Veronica Noland and Melissa Owens on the seven-member board.

Kerr was elected board president replacing Smith, who served in that role for eight years. Devereux was named board vice president and Noland secretary pro tempore.

Porter, of Hanover Park, is a retired educator, a former trustee of the Poplar Creek Public Library District board and a parent of U-46 graduates. Thommes, of Elgin, is a former U-46 educator who now teaches at Elgin Community College and served as co-chair of the U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council's specialized student services and finance committees. She has three children in U-46.

The board bid farewell to members Jeanette Ward and Phil Costello -- two conservative voices -- and thanked them for four years of service.

Ward thanked her supporters, noted achievements during her term, and vowed to continue to advocate for conservative issues and remain politically active.

"I'm grateful for the things I was able to accomplish, even in the minority: increased transparency via a state law affirming the right of all Illinois elected board members to access closed session recordings; diversity of thought; dialogue surrounding privacy and safety for all students; increased parental choice via the EMSA charter school; and a modicum of respect for the taxpayer," she said. "I hope the current board will not forget the perspective of a sizable portion of this district who agreed with me that curriculum resources should present all sides of controversial issues and that taxpayers need relief."

Costello implored the next board "to work directly with citizens, including students, to gauge your effectiveness and supplement your perspective."

"The socioeconomic impact of what U-46 does or doesn't do has and will have a dramatic impact on the welfare of our families and the prosperity of our communities that we live in," said Costello, who added he was proud of his efforts toward improving the district's accountability and financial planning.

Hallie Furtak, a junior at Streamwood High School, replaced Jackson Teetor as the school board's new student adviser representing students from all U-46 high schools for one year.

"This has been truly an amazing experience," said Teetor, who will graduate this month from Larkin High School and study music at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He was given a plaque recognizing his service as the board's 10th student adviser.

Elgin teachers union ratifies contract; U-46 board to vote Monday

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



The Elgin Teachers Association has ratified a tentative agreement on a new teachers contract. The Elgin Area School District U-46 school board will vote on the agreement on Monday.

Members of the Elgin Teachers Association have ratified a tentative agreement on a new teachers contract that goes to the Elgin Area School District U-46 school board for a vote Monday.

It brings to a close nearly nine months of protracted negotiations.

The union's Representative Assembly voted 1,764 to 336 Tuesday to accept the contract, which runs from 2018 through 2022. Informational documents about the agreement are posted on the association website, theeta.org.

The district's more than 2,400 teachers have been working without a contract since the previous one-year extension expired last Aug. 10. The terms of that contract remain in effect until a new agreement is signed by both parties. It granted a base salary increase of 0.94 percent with a step increase of 3.1 percent on average.

If approved, teachers would receive back pay for any raises in the new contract retroactive to the start of the 2018 school year.

Last May, the union and U-46 administration reached a tentative agreement on a new multiyear contract for the 2018-21 school years that would have provided raises to all teachers. It proposed switching teachers to a new compensation model with an average yearly increase of 3.88 percent over three years and offered some teachers the ability to move to the new model over time, remaining under the current compensation system while accruing career credits. Union membership overwhelmingly rejected that deal.

The tentative agreement addresses compensatory items -- salary, health insurance, retirement and rates of pay -- and issues related to early learners, parent-teacher conferences, safety, professional development, technology, supervision and support systems for behavioral needs.

Step and lane increases -- salary raises based on years of experience and education -- are part of the tentative new deal.

Union President Barbara Bettis and Suzanne Johnson, U-46 deputy superintendent of instruction, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Celebrations and reflections as the EYSO's 'Little Prince' draws to a close

Submitted by: Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra



The Maud Powell String Quartet, shown here with music director Randal Swiggum, will be one of the featured performers at the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra's season finale on Sunday, May 5.



Cellist Jay Reiter, a senior at Illinois Math and Science Academy and winner of the 2018-19 EYSO Young Artists Concerto Competition, will perform at the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra's season finale on Sunday, May 5.

Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra's 43rd season draws to a close as students reflect on the final chapter of "The Little Prince."

All season long students have been following "The Little Prince" on his six-year journey pondering the lessons revealed in this generation-transcending tale as they learn and perform the season's repertoire.

On Sunday, May 5, students will give their final performances of the season as they say goodbye to "The Little Prince" as part of a concert day with performances at 2, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Blizzard Theater at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors or \$14 for students. For tickets, visit www.eyso.org.

"The tears of saying goodbye -- something the Fox warned the Little Prince about in the book -- are part of loving, of forging ties, of investing in someone or something besides oneself," says Artistic Director Randal Swiggum. "Those, and many other memories, are what we celebrate at this season finale performance."

"The Little Prince" is a reminder of the importance of retaining a youthful sense of wonder as you continue into adulthood.

The 7:30 p.m. concert features Edward Elgar's "Slumber Scene" and "Fairies and Giants" from "The Wand of Youth." This concert also will feature Dmitri Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1, Op. 1 performed by Jay Reiter, a senior at Illinois Math and Science Academy and winner of the 2018-19 EYSO Young Artists Concerto Competition.

Another highlight is the Maud Powell String Quartet's performance of Edvard Grieg's, String Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27.

As the premier ensemble of the EYSO, the Maud Powell String Quartet is among five EYSO active and high-profile performing honors chamber ensembles.

The Youth Symphony will bid the season a poignant goodbye with its 20th anniversary performance of "The Turtle Dove."

At the beginning of the concert day, the 2 p.m. performance features two "Only in Elgin" pieces.

First, "Alleluia" was composed by Henry Purcell, adapted by Benjamin Britten and specially arranged for strings by Prelude conductor Andy Masters. Holding to Prelude tradition, the ensemble will end its season by performing the timeless, heartwarming classic by Harold Arlen, "Over the Rainbow."

Attendees at the 4:30 p.m. concert will journey over the rainbow and into the stars with Philharmonia's performance of Gustav Holst's "Uranus, the Magician" from "The Planets." This concert also features Franz Anton Hoffmeister's Concerto for Viola in D major, performed by Harry Graham, a freshman at St. Charles East High School and winner of the 2018-19 Philharmonia Young Artists Concerto Competition.

Sunday's performances not only celebrate the close of another successful season, but the recognition of two very special people.

EYSO will recognize Kathy Heikkinen as 2019 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year, and Anthony Riani as EYSO Servant Leader.

Heikkinen and Riani will be recognized on stage during each concert. They also will be honored at a 6:15 p.m. reception at before the 7:30 p.m. concert.

Visit [EYSO.org](https://www.eyso.org) to learn more about these two outstanding individuals.

EYSO serves nearly 400 students from 70 communities and has a national reputation for providing students with an engaging musical experience and a comprehensive learning environment of curiosity, imagination, critical thinking, and collaboration. Students explore a thematic curriculum each season -- one which helps students develop artistically and technically, and prepare them for a future of complex ideas, creative risk-taking, and leadership as global citizen. This approach has led hundreds of alumni to successful careers as professional musicians, educators, and strong leaders in every field.

- Kathy Heikkinen grew up in southeastern Wisconsin. She knew she wanted to be an orchestra teacher while still playing viola in junior high and joined her city's youth orchestra and the Racine Symphony while in high school. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and did her student teaching with William Hofeldt. She and Dallas Heikkinen were married in 1981, and she began her teaching career in Oregon, Wisconsin in 1982. They moved to Illinois in 1985 where Kathy began teaching at **Canton Middle School in Elgin Area School District U-46**. She was a member of the faculty that opened Kenyon Woods Middle School in 2004, where she will finish her 37-year career this May. During her time in Streamwood, she completed her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the National College of Education. She and Dallas welcomed Damon into their family in 1989, and are the proud parents of the cellist, EYSO alum, and music teacher he has become. She spent her career as a supporter of students receiving a well-rounded education, including the fine arts. Her time as a union representative and official was grounded in helping the educational system understand the importance of the arts in child development, and supporting educators who teach the arts. Heikkinen has been blessed with many students who have

gone on to be teachers, musicians, and lovers of music. The friends she has made with other educators are close to her heart. She plans to volunteer and continue her education, studying theology, during retirement.

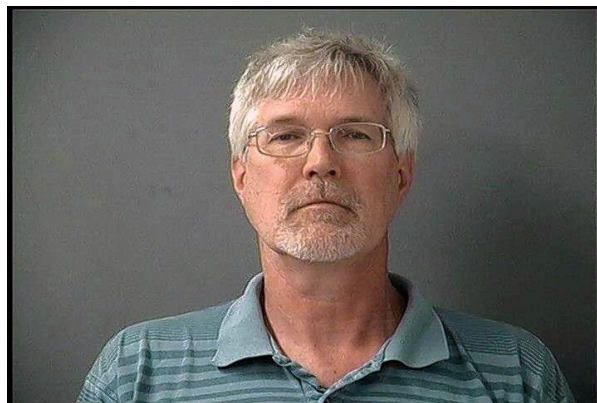
- The David Moller Servant Leader Award is the highest honor given by the EYSO to a volunteer or alum for exceptional contributions to the EYSO. Established in 2013, the award was named in gratitude for one of the EYSO's most dedicated and loyal volunteers -- parent and board member David Moller, known and loved by hundreds of EYSO students and parents for his enthusiasm for the EYSO, and the countless roles for which he cheerfully volunteered. This year's recipient, Anthony Riani, lives in Geneva and is the proud father of two EYSO players. Anaka played trumpet in Sinfonia, Philharmonia, and Youth Symphony, and also was a member of the Sterling Brass Quintet 2016-17. Rebecca is now in her sixth season with the EYSO, playing violin. Anthony spent most of his career in the print industry, but has loved music since his own school days. He started the trombone in fifth grade (although his first choice would have been trumpet) and played in band, marching band, solo ensemble, and musical pit orchestras. After high school, he continued to play in the Addison Community Band.

It was during Anaka's second EYSO season that Anthony decided rather than just dropping off his girls at rehearsal, he would stay and watch. More and more fascinated with the EYSO approach -- encouraging curiosity, imagination, critical thinking and collaboration (which he admits was different from his own musical experience as a kid) - he had an idea. Why not use his skills as a videographer to provide the conductors with a weekly video of their rehearsal, to review and use to plan the following week?

For the last four years, Anthony has faithfully video-recorded not only every rehearsal, but every concert. EYSO conductors have appreciated this tremendous resource, but even more, they have appreciated Anthony's dependability, his flexibility and generosity of time, and his ever-cheerful "Yes, we can!" attitude.

Trial date set for former Bartlett teacher accused of pouring nitrogen on student

By: Justin Kmitch



Garry Brodersen

A longtime Bartlett High School chemistry teacher accused of pouring liquid nitrogen on a student during a science experiment last spring has set his case for trial rather than accepting a plea agreement.

DuPage County Judge James Konetski set a July 22 jury trial date for Garry Brodersen, 64, of the 0-10 block of North Grove Street in Carpentersville. Brodersen is free on \$1,500 bail. He was charged with misdemeanor reckless conduct in late June 2018 after, court documents allege, his actions left the student with burns to his groin and a finger.

A cellphone video purporting to show the experiment was posted on social media. The student was lying on his back in the classroom when a small amount of the liquid nitrogen was poured on the boy's chest, with the liquid evaporating as it hit the air. After a few seconds, a much larger amount was poured on the boy's groin. The boy immediately jumped to his feet in apparent pain.

Elgin Area School District U-46 placed Brodersen on paid leave pending an investigation shortly after the case came to light. On Wednesday, district spokeswoman Mary Fergus said Brodersen is no longer with the district.

---The Courier-News---05/02/2019

U46 school board swears in new members, says goodbye to Ward and Costello, elects president

By: Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 board members Sue Kerr, from left, Eva Porter and John Devereux are sworn in at Tuesday's board meeting. Incoming board member Kate Thommes was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict.

The two new members of the District U46 School Board were sworn in and a new board president and vice president chosen at Tuesday night's special board meeting.

Newly elected members Eva Porter and John Devereux, joined by returning member Sue Kerr, took their oaths of office before assuming their positions. Kate Thommes is also newly elected but was sworn in prior to the meeting because she was unable to attend Tuesday.

In addition, outgoing board members Jeanette Ward and Phil Costello were recognized for their service to the district.

Board members selected Kerr to succeed Donna Smith as board president, a position she held for eight years. The vice president job, previously held by Kerr, went to Devereux.

Kerr is starting her second four-year term while Devereux, previously appointed to the board, was elected to his first.

Following the meeting, Smith said she felt it was time to step down from her leadership role. She said she undecided if she will seek reelection in 2021.

“If I were to choose not to run, we need someone who can provide steady leadership,” she said.

Kerr said she was looking forward to what the future holds for U46.

“I’m excited to be working with the new board,” Kerr said. “There’s a lot of challenges along the way, like (U46’s proposed career) pathways. But I’m optimistic about our future.”

Kerr thanked Smith for her years at the helm, describing her as a “quiet leader, but calm, fair, concerned for the kids. They have always been her focus.”

Porter, of Hanover Park, is a retired educator, a mentor for Kids Hope USA and secretary of the Poplar Creek Public Library District Board in Streamwood.

Thommes, of Elgin, is a former U46 educator who now teaches at Elgin Community College. She is a former tutor trainer coordinator for Literacy Connection of Elgin and co-chair of the Citizens’ Advisory Council’s specialized student services and finance committees.

Costello, who opted not to seek a new term, told those in attendance he was proud of his four years on the board, during which the district established its first charter school, the Elgin Math and Science Academy; started work on the new career pathways program; and improved the partnerships between the district and local businesses.

“The socioeconomic impact of what U46 does or doesn’t do will have a dramatic impact on our families and the prosperity of our communities that we live in,” he said. “The lessons learned here made me a better person in my family life and in my career.”

Ward, whose term had been occasionally contentious and ended when she didn’t win reelection, cast one more no vote Tuesday, this one against approving closed session minutes and destroying some closed session recordings.

Ward said she was proud to have played a role in increasing transparency in the board’s proceedings, notably achieving greater public access to closed session records. She also cited the charter school and property tax abatements as board successes during her tenure.

She said she was glad she was able to bring some “diversity of thought” to the board.

“I hope the current board will not forget the perspective of a sizable portion of this district, who agree with me that curriculum resources should present all sides of controversial issues and that taxpayers need relief (from property taxes),” Ward said.



District U46 School Board President Donna Smith, center, recognizes outgoing board member Jeanette Ward at Tuesday's school board meeting. The meeting was the last for Ward, who lost her April 5 reelection bid. Also on hand was U46 CEO Tony Sanders.

---The Patch---05/02/2019

U-46 Planetarium to Host Public Sky Shows Friday

Attendees can get a tour of the current spring sky under the dome.

By: Amie Schaenzer



(U-46)

ELGIN, IL –The U-46 Planetarium is presenting two hour-long [public sky shows](#) on Friday, May 3 at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., according to a U-46 news release. Doors open at 4 p.m. The theme for both shows will be "Sky Wars: Battle for Discovery," and attendees will get to experience a full-dome video featuring astronomical conflicts, evidence, and discovery, as well as a tour of the current spring sky under the dome.

Admission is cash only, \$3 per person, or a maximum of \$10 per family. The planetarium is located at 312 Watch Street in Elgin, and there is free parking at Raymond Street and National Street, one block away.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---05/02/2019

Baseball: West Aurora shuts out Elgin

Daily Herald reports



West Aurora's Jake Smith makes an offering against Elgin during varsity boys baseball at Elgin on Wednesday.



Elgin's Edgar Fernandez comes up empty on an offering from West Aurora's Jake Smith during varsity boys baseball at Elgin on Wednesday.

Reid Medlin went 2-for-4 with a double and both Graham Rachow and Adrian Ruiz knocked in 2 runs for West Aurora in a 12-0 win over Elgin in the Upstate Eight.

Jake Smith struck out 6 and walked none in $3\frac{2}{3}$ innings for West Aurora (16-6-1, 12-5-1). Hard-luck losing pitcher Kyle Coates allowed one earned run on 5 hits and a walk in 4 innings. He struck out 7. Seven errors led to 6 unearned runs against winless Elgin.

Burlington Central 3, Richmond-Burton 1: Tristan Samuelian doubled to drive in Brayden Seyller and Cody Carlson in the top of the ninth of this Kishwaukee River Conference win. Danny Kinney then completed a 4-hitter by inducing a popup with the potential tying run at the plate. He struck out 10 and walked 2 for Burlington Central (13-8, 9-1).

Crystal Lake South 4, Dundee-Crown 3: Ben Peltz single with one out and the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth to drive in Jacob Bimbi with the winning run in a Fox Valley Conference game. Patrick Fischer went 3-for-4 and Kyle Hetherington doubled for CL South (11-8, 5-8). Reliever Nick Benedetto earned the win in relief of Bimbi, who allowed 2 earned runs on 4 hits and a walk and struck out 11 in 7⅓ innings. Nick Gregory held the Gators to 2 earned runs on 9 hits and a walk and struck out 4 in 7 innings for Dundee-Crown (4-15, 0-11). Justin Colon took the loss in relief.

McHenry 4, Huntley 1: Joe Kaminski threw a 3-hitter with a walk and 9 strikeouts, and a 3-run fifth inning propelled McHenry (14-6, 10-3) in the Fox Valley Conference. Losing pitcher Hunter Rumachik allowed 3 runs (1 earned) on 4 hits, walked 4 and struck out 4 in 5 innings for Huntley (18-5, 11-4).

Lacrosse: St. Charles North, South Elgin among favorites at Geneva sectional

By: Gregg Voss



Bartlett is enjoying a 9-3 start to the season.



Bartlett coach Vince Trombetta calls senior midfielder Nick Eckleberry, pictured above, a "blue-collar player."

It may be a little hard to believe, especially with the crummy spring weather, that the IHSA state lacrosse playoffs are just a few weeks away.

The sectional assignments have been made, with the seeds expected Thursday and the brackets Friday.

St. Charles North and South Elgin find themselves in the meat grinder that will be the Geneva sectional, which includes the host school, along with Fox Valley entrants Batavia, Kaneland, St. Charles East, Marmion and the Hawks, the Bartlett-Streamwood co-op program. And not only that -- those schools have to deal with DuPage Valley powers Neuqua Valley, Wheaton Academy and Valley Lacrosse, which is the Waubonsie-Metee Valley co-op.

"We all know each other," St. Charles North coach Kyle Pepich said. "The players play on travel teams together or have grown up playing youth lacrosse together. When it becomes a rivalry-type environment, it can go either way."

In the Hoffman Estates sectional, Jacobs, Dundee-Crown, Crystal Lake South, Hampshire and Huntley will have to ward off the host school, along with Schaumburg, Conant, Prairie Ridge, Crystal Lake Central, Cary-Grove and Barrington.

Perhaps the most interesting sectional development, though, is in the north shore, where the Loyola Academy sectional will feature the top two teams in the state, Loyola and New Trier. Despite being a mile apart, they were in different sectionals a year ago and ended up playing for the state title.

Does that give the local schools an advantage, particularly if they reach the state finals May 30 and June 1 at Hinsdale Central?

"I think it would be very naive to think the road is easily paved," South Elgin coach Dylan Butler said. "It is one less headache to we have to worry about, but we have five or six programs ahead of us that are noting that and thinking the same thing."

Girls sectional packed, too: On the girls side, all of the Fox Valley schools are in the St. Charles East sectional, including the St. Charles co-op, Huntley, Geneva and Hampshire. It is one of 2 sectionals with only 7 teams.

St. Charles coach Ronnie Kluener noted that the most interesting thing is the absence of powerful Barrington, which switched sectionals. That may make the sectional more manageable, along with the fact that like the boys, Loyola and New Trier are in the same sectional. Both lost to Hinsdale Central for last year's title.

In its first year as an IHSA-sanctioned sport, Hampshire has had to play, or will soon play, virtually all the schools in its sectional, which could provide a major advantage come playoff time, depending on how the brackets play out.

"Since were a growing and learning team, we're kind of trying to find our footing," Hampshire coach Nicole Paukovits said. "We've had some good successes and some rough games. Within our sectional, we're probably in the middle ground, I'd say."

Competing with class: The Hawks are 9-3, and coach Vince Trombetta credits, at least in part, the team's season motto, which is Compete with class.

"I think over the past three or four years now, anytime anybody's talked about (our team), not good things were mentioned," Trombetta said. "We wanted to get back to our roots, just a tough team to play and a classy team to play."

He feels his team has been able to live up to its motto, adding, "I think almost every game, we've had refs come up to me, telling me how good we behaved."

The Hawks are led by senior midfielder Nick Eckleberry, a faceoff specialist, of whom Trombetta says is a "blue-collar player."

"His dad is an official, and he's kind of leading the team when I'm not there," Trombetta said. "He's kind of the coach on the field. He's a great two-way middle."

The Hawks are also getting great minutes from senior defender Matt Nowak, who is back after a nasty ankle sprain early in the season, and senior attackman Brandon Baker, who is a leader in goals and assists.

As for the sectional, Trombetta said, "We've played all of those teams in the past. We know every single sectional will be a hard game for us."

Got an idea for a future notebook item? Tweet it out to @GreggVossPreps.

Girls soccer: Barthelt boots South Elgin past Bartlett

By: Jared Birchfield



Bartlett's Jocelyn Carlos, right, and South Elgin's Taylor Latsonas follow the ball during varsity girls soccer at Millennium Field in Streamwood on Wednesday.



Bartlett senior Kelsey Sniatynsky, center, is greeted upon exiting the game after kicking the first ball against South Elgin during varsity girls soccer at Millennium Field in Streamwood on Wednesday.



Bartlett's Jasmine Mendez, left, follows the ball as South Elgin's Nicole Peeters moves up the field during varsity girls soccer at Millennium Field in Streamwood on Wednesday.



Bartlett's Amber Fiedler, front, corrals the ball ahead of South Elgin's Bridget Bondi during varsity girls soccer at Millennium Field in Streamwood on Wednesday.



South Elgin's Bridget Bondi corrals the ball against Bartlett during varsity girls soccer action at Millennium Field in Streamwood on Wednesday.

South Elgin coach Laura Snow's pregame talk Wednesday night was a prophetic one.

She told her team that one goal could determine its Upstate Eight Conference match with Bartlett. And one score did make an impact.

Katrina Barthelt's penalty kick goal early in the second half was the difference-maker in the Storm's 1-0 victory at Millennium Field.

The victory, which raised the Storm's conference record to 5-0-2, also kept the team in the thick of the conference race.

"I knew going into this game with so many of them knowing each other that it was going to be a tight one," Snow said. "I told them at the beginning, one goal could be the difference in this game and that's exactly what happened."

Barthelt, dribbling the ball just inside Bartlett's penalty box, collided with a Hawk defender and was awarded a penalty kick. Her shot went into the right corner of the net in the 47th minute.

"A lot of emotion went through me before the kick. I was thinking I missed one before but I got this," said Barthelt, a freshman. "I just needed to keep calm even though everything was rushing through me and there were so many people out there. I went for the corner and the shot was hard and low."

The Storm, with an overall record of 10-4-2, is currently atop the UEC with two league contests to play. West Aurora is right behind with a 5-1-1 record.

"We have two big games next week. We have Glenbard South and West Aurora, two other teams that are up at the top with us," said Snow. "We have to come prepared and ready for that, but I just told my team this is the momentum that we need."

While Hawks coach Vince Revak was pleased with his defense, he would like to see the offense become more productive, since the regionals start in less than two weeks.

"Bottom line we've got figure out how to put the ball into the back of net. It would be great if we could always hold the other team to zeros but there are certain games, we need everyone to step up," Revak said. "As much as we ask our defense for a shutout every game, we need our offense to start making some goals because I don't want to go to PKs in regional play."

The Storm also put a damper on Bartlett's senior night.

"Obviously the result wasn't what we wanted but recently the score sheet hasn't shown the drive and effort we put into the game," said Bartlett senior and co-captain Paige Bednarke. "The results aren't showing how good BHS soccer is."

The loss drops Bartlett to 6-9-2 overall and 4-2 in the conference.