Press Clippings 10/09/2018

---Daily Herald---10/09/2018

Bartlett High football coach charged with bringing gun onto campus

By Eric Peterson



Peter J. Naughton

Police arrested a 36-year-old volunteer football coach at Bartlett High School on Friday on allegations he brought an unloaded firearm onto school grounds where it was prohibited.

Peter J. Naughton of the 2600 block of West Superior Street in Chicago is charged with carrying a concealed weapon in a prohibited area, a misdemeanor, Bartlett police said Monday.

About 6 p.m. Friday, officers responded to a report that an unloaded firearm had been found inside the Bartlett High School Activities Complex.

Officers determined that the unloaded firearm fell out of Naughton's backpack during pregame warm-ups, police said

Naughton was released on a \$1,500 individual bond with a court date of Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the DuPage County courthouse in Wheaton.

Officials with Elgin Area School District U-46 could not immediately be reached for comment. Schools and offices were closed Monday for the Columbus Day holiday.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald---10/09/2018

Boys golf: Geneva duo headed back to state

By Kevin McGavin



Geneva's Tyler Isenhart hits out of the rough on the 2nd tee at the South Elgin boys golf sectional in Bartlett on Monday. *Bev Horne*

The six-time defending Class 3A state champions inched ever closer to Normal U-High for boys golf state immortality Monday in Bartlett.

But Tyler Isenhart and Jack McDonald also continued their extraordinary four-year careers for at least one more time for Geneva.

The Vikings and the other 10 qualifying teams could not match the firepower of Hinsdale Central at the Class 3A South Elgin sectional at Bartlett Hills as Iowa-bound senior Mac McClear led the Red Devils to an authoritative 290-310 victory over Geneva in their second postseason preliminary in hopes of matching the record of seven straight titles U-High hoisted. Isenhart, headed to Baylor after back-to-back third-place individual finishes, and McDonald punched tickets to the state tournament at the Den at Fox Creek in Bloomington for a fourth consecutive year.

Isenhart fired a 2-over par 73, and McDonald had a 77 in support to lead the Vikings to an equal number of team appearances.

"It's really cool we made it downstate for four years in a row," Isenhart said. "We have set a lot of school records along the way. It's been a really fun journey."

"We seem to step up at big moments at sectionals," McDonald said. "That was our goal going into the season, to make it down to state."

Joe Novak and Will Klaus fired complementary rounds of 79 and 81.

Isenhart and McDonald are the second and third athletes in the program's history to advance out of four sectionals.

"It's hard to verbalize," Geneva coach Eric Hactzel said of his seniors' shared accomplishment. "They really drive the team, even as freshmen. I never really thought 310 would make it out."

West Aurora senior Ryan Vanderway had to earn the distinction of making the state grade all by himself for a third straight year.

The individual cut -- which surprisingly did not require a playoff -- fell at 5-over 76.

Vanderway earned one of 10 at-large berths with a back-nine 37 that translated into a 75.

"I just knew that if I played well that I would make it," Vanderway said. "I knew I had to stay around level par on the back. I didn't feel pressure."

Marmion senior Peter Thayer lost out to Vanderway at the Glenbard East sectional, only to make the cut on the number in his final sectional.

"I was hoping I was able to maintain my number (coming in) and advance," Thayer said. "A year ago I shot a 76. I think the course was harder this year."

Bartlett senior Justin Everson also had a 75 to earn his first state bid.

St. Charles East (322) and St. Charles North (340) had their seasons come to a close as respective team leaders David Griggs (79) and Alex Lilly (78) fell short.

One score has the potential to transform a team at the sectional.

Will Troy had impeccable timing to continue a magical Waubonsie Valley season.

The Warriors, less than a week removed for their first regional championship in school history, had Troy deliver the goods in dramatic fashion.

The final Waubonsie Valley hope, Troy posted a level-par 71 to lead the Warriors past Neuqua Valley (319), Wheaton North (318) and Wheaton Warrenville South (318).

The Warriors earned the highly cherished third position to Bloomington with their 314 total.

"I didn't have a clue where we were at," Troy said as the last player among the regional team champions' foursome. "I was just trying to make pars, a couple of birdies and help our team in any sort of way. We haven't been to state in almost 10 years (2009)."

"We have got a bunch of guys who are workhorses," Waubonsie Valley coach Eric Flodberg said. "They will outwork anybody out here."

Jacob Fritz had a 78 to supplement Troy for Waubonsie Valley.

Troy and McClear had to settle for a shared runner-up finish as Aidan Lafferty, who tied McClear for fifth in state last fall, was the medalist for Downers Grove North with his 3-under 68.

But the Red Devils were the class of the 12-team field with their 20-shot win over Geneva.

State veterans Josh Lundmark and Gabe Larson had matching 72s for Hinsdale Central.

"We just try to make it fun," McClear said. "You have to make it look like an opportunity. We don't want to make it look like a burden."

Scott Boyajian is the first multiple state qualifier for Metea Valley with his 76.

Sam Gerry (74), Matt Newman (75) and Tyler Schettek (75) are state bound for Wheaton North, Neuqua Valley and Naperville Central.

"My front nine was really good," Boyajian said. "I was a little up and down but shot well. I knew what it was going to take to make it down."

"I really wanted to get out this year," Gerry said. "This was my third time playing the sectional. (I had) a lot of pars, a lot of greens (in regulation). It was kind of boring."

Schettek was a member of the advancing Naperville Central team last fall.

"I had a shaky start," Schettek said. "Not as fun without the team."

---Daily Herald---10/07/2018

Boys soccer: Elgin edges West Aurora for UEC title

By Steve Nemeth

Elgin coach David Borg asked if it was a case of winning ugly?

Regardless of the definition, the Maroons pulled out a 1-0 victory Saturday at West Aurora which guarantees them the right to have an Upstate Eight Conference banner raising for the second straight year.

Yes both teams came in averaging 4.2 goals per match, so naturally it came down to just one goal scored.

Technically Elgin (14-1-2, 7-0-1) has a last league match on Wednesday at home against West Chicago, but even if the Maroons get upset -- and assuming West Aurora (15-2-1, 6-1-1) finishes with a win at Larkin that night -- the head-to-head tiebreaker for this year's top-to-bottom 10-school race favors Borg's crew.

While the UEC may have lost four tradition-rich schools, this were the top two teams in 2017 when there was a crossover showdown after Elgin ruled the River Division and West Aurora topped the Valley.

Not only did Elgin make a 1-0 halftime lead courtesy of Ramon Orozco stand up, the Maroons did so playing "a man down" for the last 22 minutes and keeper Martin Jimenez making a final save with seven seconds left.

As befitting a title showdown between two teams envisioned to reach the Sweet 16 based on their seeding for the postseason, both sides had notable scoring chances. To its credit West Aurora's defense kept one of Class 3A's most prolific scorers in Omar Lopez bottled up.

However, Lopez was still involved in the game-deciding play. Taking possession just inside the Blackhawks' box, three West Aurora defenders surrounded him and after dispossessed the ball only to have their clearing kick find Orozco open to unleash a 38-yard rocket into the right side of the goal.

"The (ball) came to me and I saw a lot of space with no one in front of me so I powered the kick and it felt good right off my foot," Orozco said in regard to his fourth goal of the year and second match-winner. "It feels special being in such a big match plus it's the same as what we constantly try to do in every practice." While the fairness of several calls were debatable to both coaches, the timing and uneven nature of the whistles often contributed to an increasingly physical match. In total there were seven yellow cards and four injury stoppages.

"A couple (of the cards) were understandable, but some seemed unfair," Borg said. "To overcome playing a man down against a team that is really tenacious on offense and defense was tough. They're probably the only team we've seen that is faster than us. Thankfully Manny (Ramirez) was a beast for us and Orozco has been earning more minutes because of his play in the middle. It was like a triangle around Omar, but Ramon made them pay for the space left open."

West Aurora's Omar Marquez had a blast from off the end line and a header a couple minutes later that required Jimenez saves. One of the last stoppages came with 21:55 left in regulation and before the ball was put back in play, the Elgin keeper was carded and as protests continued, Olaoluwa Ajayi got a second yellow which then equaled a red-card expulsion.

Reserve goalie Jefferson Paulino logged a minute before Jimenez returned in time to be tested by a 15-yard pivot turn blast from Blackhawk top scorer Patience Yuha. After Elgin thwarted a couple more West attacks or exhaled after shots sailed high, Lopez virtually dribbled from box to box before a fourth defender got the ball away from him.

The Blackhawks had a free kick on which a collision between Andy Emile and Jimenez put the Maroon goalie on the ground, however, the senior leapt to his feet in time to stop a follow-up shot by Yuha.

"Knowing how big a game it was and that there was no space for error, I instinctively jumped up and made another block," Jimenez said. "I can't describe what an amazing feeling it was once the horn sounded."

It's the 13th straight (11-0-2) match without a loss for Elgin while West Aurora had a string of 15 (14-0-1) without a defeat ended.

"This was like a heavyweight boxing match," 18th-year West coach Joe Sustersic said. "This was two of the state's top 20 teams fighting for the Upstate Eight, both teams had quality moments. I can't be prouder of our effort. We had three sophomores playing 80 minutes of defense and we were minus five starters from the start of the season."

---Daily Herald---10/07/2018

Bartlett completes win over Larkin

By Allen Oshinski

It took nearly 24 hours and 2 different fields, but Bartlett became playoff eligible by defeating U-46 rival Larkin, 29-6.

The Hawks were leading 22-6, but the Royals were on the move when storms swept across Bartlett's new on-campus field Friday night. Larkin had first and goal from the Bartlett 9-yard line when play was suspended Friday night.

But the Hawks' defense had time to regroup overnight and, when play resumed on the artificial turf of Millennium Field, Bartlett kept the Royals out of the end zone 4 straight times.

Spencer Konstanzer sacked Larkin quarterback Jaxon Aubry on fourth down. The Hawks then proceeded to drive 83 yards for the clinching score, a 7-yard pass from Jonah O'Brien to Alec Palella.

"It's a different situation. We came out here, weird, no one out here, the guys aren't used to that," said Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh. "We got right into the game. It was right before the fourth quarter, so we just had to make sure that we were the team that was most ready to go."

The timing of Friday's storm could have been better from Larkin's perspective.

"You come out, you put something together, but if you don't execute it you're not going to do it," said Larkin acting coach Jason Aubry. "It's a tough situation that the kids came out in here. Last night we were rolling. It happens. There's nothing you can do about it."

Bartlett tailback Nick Deckard helped the Hawks control the ball, gaining 127 yards on 32 carries. O'Brien finished 10 of 20 for 111 yards, hitting 8 different receivers. His counterpart, Jaxon Aubry, hit 12 of 29 for 148 yards.

Konstanzer was also a force on defense with a pair of sacks and a pass breakup. Tony DeRosa and Liam Gallagher snagged interceptions for Bartlett.

Bartlett (5-2, 5-2) got the critical fifth win for playoff eligibility while Larkin dropped to 3-4, 3-4.

Friday night, the Hawks took control with 2 touchdowns in 13 seconds. O'Brien hit Tyler Rivelli for a score and, on the next play, DeRosa came up with a pick-6.

---Daily Herald---10/07/2018

South Elgin off to good start in suspended game at Glenbard South

By Matt Le Cren

South Elgin senior Azxavier Salinas played mostly wide receiver and defensive back last season, so some people had doubts about whether he could play quarterback.

New South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic wasn't one of them.

"He didn't play too much quarterback the last two years because they had the great kid, Nate Gomez, who got a scholarship to Northern Michigan," Teonic said. "So Azxavier was forced to play some other positions and when I got here some of the previous coaches said I don't think he could play quarterback.

"We just believed in him and he's done a great job."

Indeed, Salinas had been splitting time with Jakob Johnson, who went down with a concussion. Johnson is expected back next week, but in the meantime the Storm is rolling with Salinas, a slippery runner when the weather is dry and nearly impossible to bring down when it is raining, which it was for part of Friday's game at Glenbard South.

Salinas carried 14 times for 111 yards and 2 touchdowns and passed for 88 yards and another score as the Storm bolted out to a 33-7 lead before the game was suspended because of a thunderstorm.

Salinas had just scored on a weaving 11-yard run when play was halted with 7:34 remaining in the third quarter.

"From the start (the position switch) was pretty rough but Coach has been helping and teaching me how he wants this new offense run because we never ran this offense before," Salinas said. "It worked out great. I couldn't be more happy."

Glenbard South's Trevor Burnett returned the opening kickoff 55 yards, setting up a 30yard drive that quarterback Nick Plaso capped with a 1-yard touchdown run to give the Raiders a 7-0 lead.

After that, it was all South Elgin. The Storm, which will improve to 6-1 if it holds this lead, tied the game on an 11-yard touchdown run by Patrick Norwood, then scored 20 points in the second quarter.

Salinas rambled 63 yards up the right side, breaking several tackles along the way, to give the Storm a 14-7 lead. After Keshawn Smith blocked a punt, Salinas scored from 8 yards out and later tossed a 3-yard TD pass to Calin Gurau with 37 seconds left in the first half for a 27-7 lead.

"It wasn't just me; it was my line," Salinas said. "The blocking downfield just made plays happen.

"My offensive line and wide receivers did it all for me, so I just got to thank them."

Vince Clinite had an interception for the Storm, which has held the Raiders, who are on the brink of falling to 4-3, to just 62 yards of offense.

The game is scheduled to resume at 10 a.m. Saturday.

---Daily Herald---10/07/2018

West Aurora clinches 4th straight playoff berth

By Scott Miller

When it comes to making the football playoffs the new norm for West Aurora is no longer a question of if but just a matter of when.

This season the when came sooner rather than later. In just the seventh week of the season the Blackhawks (6-1, 6-1) secured their 4th straight playoff berth with a 45-0 win at Elgin in Upstate Eight Conference action.

"It never will get old to me," West Aurora coach Nate Eimer said. "There was a time not to long ago where we were at the bottom struggling, but we have built up the program to where this is what is expected. I am extremely proud of my players and my coaching staff. This is a great thing for the school and the community."

West Aurora took care of business right from the start. Quarterback William Tammaru threw touchdown passes on the Blackhawks' first 2 offensive plays from scrimmage. The first one was a 28-yard toss to Moshe Rogers and was set up by an interception by Zach Jacobsen.

When the Blackhawks got the ball back Tammaru connected with JaQuan Buchanan on a 53-yard scoring strike on the first play.

"The word of the week for us was focus," Tammaru said. "We came right out and got what needed to get done. I can't make those throws without my offensive line giving me time and great work by my receivers to get open. The credit totally goes to them. Those plays weren't originally designed to go that way but when I saw them in man coverage I had all the trust in the world my receivers would make a play and it all worked out."

Tammaru completed 5 of 9 passes for 157 yards.

The Blackhawks continued to tack on points and led 28-0 after one quarter and 38-0 at halftime.

Buchannan scored a second touchdown late in the first half on a 34-yard run. He had 68 yards on 5 carries to lead a group of 9 running backs that racked up a total of 226 yards on the ground for the Blackhawks. Buchanan was also the Blackhawks' leading receiver with 3 receptions for 123 yards.

"We always talk about executing," Eimer said. "And tonight I was really pleased with the way we executed. Will did a great job of recognizing the coverage on the two touchdowns passes and the whole running game was very good."

Trevon Tittle rushed for 56 yards on 6 carries, including a pair of 5-yard touchdown runs. The second one came on the first possession of the second half to put the Blackhawks up 45-0 and gave them a running clock the rest of the way. Bryson Puckett added a 3-yard touchdown run in the first half.

The Blackhawks defense yielded just 123 total yards and forced 5 turnovers. Rodney Jones and Jylen Spivey had interceptions along with Jacobsen.

The Maroons fell to 2-5 on the season. Xavier Bonds caught 7 passes for 88 yards.

"I think we saw tonight how far we have to go to get to where a team like West Aurora is at," Elgin coach Anthony Mason said. "That's a team that fights and competes every play. We need to develop that kind of grit. It's also just an aspect of needing to continue to learn."

---Daily Herald---10/06/2018

Burlington Central's home finale postponed

By Eric Bridges

lightning damage, power outages, and postponing Burlington Central's last home game of the season versus Harvard.

The game was postponed in a 6-6 tie with 3:44 left in the first quarter, and will be made up at 5 p.m. Saturday.

The Rockets (1-5, 1-3) scored first on an 11-play drive that started from the Rockets' own 42-yard line after Harvard (2-4, 1-2) tried an unsuccessful onside kick to start the game. Nick Termini capped off the drive with a 21-yard score, leaping into the end zone the final three yards for the Rockets' first score.

Harvard tied the game on its next possession, benefiting from two 15-yard penalties to advance down to the Rockets' 15-yard line. From there, Dylan Perkins scored from 15 yards out, but the extra point was missed shortly after.

The game will restart with the Rockets possessing the ball on their own 33-yard line facing second down and 8 yards to go.

---Daily Herald---10/06/2018

Glenbard East's special season continues with romp vs. Streamwood

By Paul Steeno

You know it is your night when a senior defensive tackle scoops up a fumble and rumbles in for a touchdown.

"Well, at first when I got the ball I just started running," senior Jesus Lopez III, the Rams defensive tackle who accomplished that feat, said after Glenbard East smashed Streamwood 63-2. "When I realized I wasn't touched, it was the greatest feeling ever. It was my first-ever touchdown in my whole life."

Lopez's date with the end zone raised the Rams advantage to 49-0 with 10:35 left in the third quarter. If maintaining their unblemished record was causing them any pressure, rushing out to a two-touchdown lead not even six minutes into the game took that pressure away. So did entering halftime with a 42-0 advantage.

"They are really laser focused on week-to-week, day-to-day," Rams coach John Walters said after the game. "We really don't hear much out of them about our record or where we are in the standings or anything like that. Get better, focus on the game plan, focus on your academics, and make sure you eat and hydrate right. I hate to say this, but it's a bit of a business-as-usual attitude."

Rams senior quarterback Bret Bushka certainly was laser focused. He connected with his favorite target senior Jeremy Johnson for touchdowns three times in the first half, including ones that went for 48 yards and 55 yards. He also tossed another passing touchdown to junior wideout Deon Cook while adding a 4-yard rushing touchdown of his own just for good measure.

The Lopez touchdown was an exclamation point on a night when the Glenbard East defense dominated. But Lopez wasn't the only one collecting fumbles on Friday night.

Senior defensive end Nick Andrews scooped up a Streamwood (1-6, 1-6) botched pitch late in the second quarter, landing on the ball at Streamwood's 1-yard line. Senior running back Jake Netchin cleaned it up on the next play with a 1-yard touchdown run.

"We watched film, we did our assignments, none of us got greedy," Lopez said when asked what was working so well for the defense on Friday night. "We did everything we were told to do and none of us got selfish. We just did our jobs."

In the first half the Rams forced three Sabres fumbles and surrendered just one first down, which came about because of a face-mask penalty. Streamwood ran 18 plays in the first half, and 10 of those resulted in either no gain or negative yards.

For the game Streamwood finished with 95 yards, although 50 of those came on an Alex Tannhauser run in the fourth quarter.

Glenbard East clinched its first playoff berth since 1999 last week after beating East Aurora. If the Rams can remain atop of the Upstate Eight Conference standings, they'll win their first conference title since 1965.

"It's unreal," Walters said. "As a coach, you want if for the kids, you want it for the school, and you want it for your community more than anything. To see our kids go out there and bust their tails for four years to get to this point with 32 seniors on the roster and 19 senior starters to get to this point, 7-0, it's pretty special."

---Daily Herald---10/06/2018

Bartlett takes 2-touchdown lead on Larkin

By Allen Oshinski

Bartlett couldn't beat the weather. Even moving the starting time of the Hawks' game against Larkin up to 6 p.m. didn't work. A storm rolled in late in the third quarter, forcing the suspension of the festivities with Bartlett leading 22-7.

The game will resume Saturday at 5 p.m. with 1:23 left in the third quarter.

The weather came at a most inopportune time for Larkin, which was driving toward the end zone. Going up-tempo, the Royals had driven from their own 26-yard line to the Bartlett 9 when a rumble of thunder could be heard in the distance. The Royals tried to get lined up for 1 more play but couldn't get it off before the officials stopped play.

Prior to that, the teams played evenly except for about a 4-minute stretch of the second quarter. Already ahead 7-6, the Hawks took advantage of good field position following a short punt and drove 40 yards for a score. Jonah O'Brien's 20-yard pass to Tyler Rivelli finished it.

On its next play following the kickoff, Larkin tried a swing pass but Bartlett's Tony DeRosa jumped the route, snared the ball and took it 30 yards for a score.

In the first half, O'Brien completed 6 of 15 for 80 yards and the touchdown. His counterpart and fellow number 6, Jaxon Aubry, nearly matched him, completing 5 of 11 for 54 yards and a score of his own to favorite receiver Jahari Stubbs. Stubbs caught all 5 of Aubry's first-half completions.

Bartlett's workhorse tailback, Nick Deckard, carried 16 times for 68 yards and a rushing score.

Deckard's 6-yard jaunt put the Hawks ahead halfway through the first quarter.

But the Royals answered immediately, taking the ensuing kickoff and driving 65 yards. Aubry's 17-yarder to Stubbs paid it off, with Stubbs hauling it in at the 4, juking a defender and racing in.