

Press Clippings 10/19/2018

---Elgin Community Corner---10/16/2018

Elgin, IL local news, weather, breaking news, events and more

Highland Elementary teachers make the grade

Local teachers serve students and families at McTeacher's Night to raise money for Highland Elementary School PTO.

By Julie Travers







Elgin | Highland Elementary School students gave teachers an A-plus on their fundraising efforts to support the School's PTO.

Teachers from Highland's U-46 volunteered behind the counter on Thursday, October 11th at the McDonald's Located at 1165 N. McLean Blvd. The teachers worked hard to serve students and their families in a fundraiser for the School.

Mr. Noe Valezquez, Assistant Principal of Highland Elementary School, was thrilled to see all the Highland families at the event and support the school.

"The Highland School community appreciates the support of the Bear Family McDonald's Restaurants. The McTeacher's event allowed everyone to take a night off from cooking, enjoy some free smiles, and come together to raise funds that directly support the students and families of Highland. We are 'lovin it!' Assistant Principal Noe Valezquez and the Highland Administration said.

The proceeds from the sale of 240 pies went directly to benefit Highland. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the McTeacher's Night sales were donated directly to Highland, who raised a total of \$785.00 during this fundraising effort.

"McTeacher's Night is part of McDonald's larger commitment to education and other important initiatives supporting families and the local community," David Bear said.

David Bear, Owner/Operator of the Elgin McDonald's and the Bear Family Restaurants, was delighted to participate in the worthy cause for education and the community.

"We are proud to serve the families of the Highland community through the McTeacher's Night event," Bear continued. "In addition to help provide financial support for our local schools, we help students feel connected to their school, their teachers and their sense of community."

Mr. Bear donated the 240 apple pies that were sold for donations during this event and was please the know the Highland families helped to support these fundraising efforts for the.

The Highland McTeacher's Night was courtesy of the Bear Family Restaurants and McDonald's Owner/Operator, David Bear. Like us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [Bear Website](#).

For more information about events provided by the Elgin McDonald's, please contact Community Relations Director, Julie Travers at julie.travers@comcast.net.

---The Courier-News—10/19/2018

Educator wins national award for work with U46's gifted program

By Rafael Guerrero



School District U46 gifted coordinator April Wells, center, is recognized Monday by school board member Melissa Owens, right, and District U46 CEO Tony Sanders for being the recipient of this year's National Association for Gifted Children's Gifted Coordinator Award. (School District U46)

School District U46's gifted coordinator has won a national award recognizing her work. April Wells is one of two people who will receive the National Association for Gifted Children's Gifted Coordinator Award at the association's November conference in Minneapolis.

"(Wells) is a leader who is changing practices by creating and delivering professional development opportunities for teachers in her district," association Executive Director M. Rene Islas said in the award's announcement.

The award is given annually to school or district administrators who have made "significant contributions to gifted children in their school district," according to the National Association for Gifted Children.

At Monday's District U46 board meeting, Wells was recognized for her honor.

"We just have great work ahead of us, and I'm privileged to be a part of the team lifting that work," Wells said.

A graduate of District U46 schools, Wells started her career with the district in 2002. She spent five years in Barrington School District 220 before returning to District U46 to serve as a gifted specialist and the assistant principal at Otter Creek Elementary School. Wells became the district's gifted coordinator in 2015.

District officials noted her role in improving the gifted program's services and initiatives, including the development and implementation of a partnership that allows U46 gifted students to participate in special programming on weekends at Northwestern University.

"(Wells) is a deeply knowledgeable professional who uses the leadership space that she has to advocate for the way that things should work for all children," said Ushma Shah, District U46's assistant superintendent of elementary schools, instruction and equity.

SPORTS SECTION

---The Courier-News---10/19/2018

Elgin keeps the flow going

By Patrick Z. McGavin



Lopez has goal, assist as the Maroons send South Elgin packing
Elgin's Omar Lopez pushes the ball up the field against South Elgin on Tuesday. (H. Rick Bamman/Courier-News)

Senior forward Omar Lopez is unquestionably the best player for Elgin, but he likes to spread around the credit for his success.

"My coaches and teammates help me a lot," Lopez said. "If it wasn't for them, I would never have the number of goals I have scored this season."

Lopez continued his prolific statistical season Tuesday with a goal and assist, powering the Maroons to a 4-0 victory over South Elgin in a Class 3A Huntley Regional semifinal game.

Top-seeded Elgin (15-1-3) will play in the regional championship game at 10 a.m. Saturday against Rockford East.

The Maroons extended their program-record unbeaten streak to 15 games. Elgin is undefeated since losing Aug. 31 to Downers Grove North.

Senior midfielders Ramon Orozco and Christopher Colin also had a goal and assist apiece to propel the Maroons to a commanding 3-0 halftime lead.

Lopez has totaled 38 goals and 12 assists this season. His impact as a playmaker has helped to balance out the attack as Lopez draws the defensive attention from the opposition.

After Lopez started the scoring in the first half, Orozco converted in the 23rd minute.

“Omar helps us a lot because not only does he have the skill to beat a lot of players and score all the goals, he always makes two or more of the defenders from the other team focus on him,” Orozco said. “Our other attackers have more space to finish and score goals as well.”

Colin scored in the 38th minute. Senior forward Luis Ramos added the only second-half goal in the 53rd minute.

Elgin defeated South Elgin 8-0 on Sept. 12 in conference play.

The Storm (2-14-2) have shown great improvement since that first meeting. Junior standout Anthony Sisler created several dangerous scoring opportunities.

Senior goalkeeper Martin Jimenez made four saves as Elgin posted its seventh shutout.

The Maroons entered the playoffs knowing every team is dangerous.

“We were a little bit nervous, but I think we handled it well,” Lopez said. “We remember last year when we were in the regional final and we got upset. We don’t go into any game now with too much confidence.”

---The Courier-News---10/19/2018

Jonah having whale of season

O’Brien transfers from Wisconsin school, gives boost to Bartlett at quarterback

By Paul Johnson



Bartlett quarterback Jonah O’Brien has passed for 1,315 yards and 12 touchdowns this season. He has added three rushing touchdowns. (H. Rick Bamman/Courier-News)

In late June, Matt Erlenbaugh took over Bartlett’s football program.

Days later, 6-foot-3 senior quarterback Jonah O’Brien arrived. Because of his mother’s new job, O’Brien moved to Bartlett from Kaukauna, Wis.

Heading into the regular-season finale at Streamwood, O'Brien has helped lead the Hawks to their first playoff berth since 2015.

"It feels awesome," O'Brien said. "It feels good to be where we used to be, getting the program back on track."

Saturday, O'Brien played in his first rivalry game against South Elgin. O'Brien led the way by throwing three touchdown passes as Bartlett rallied for a 30-25 Upstate Eight win.

O'Brien found Nick Mansk for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 52 seconds left as the Hawks (6-2, 6-2) clinched the playoff berth.

"It was awesome," O'Brien said. "I've never been a part of that. That was probably the most fun game I've ever played. We knew it would be a tough fight, and our hard work paid off."

O'Brien started several games at Kaukauna as a sophomore. In the opener last year, he broke his elbow on his throwing arm, forcing him to miss the rest of the season. He moved to Bartlett in June.

Erlenbaugh immediately saw an experienced quarterback he could rely on.

"The first day he was able to come out and throw the ball around, he was slinging it,"

Erlenbaugh said. "I knew the kid had an arm. It was just how would he be in games?"

"He's really impressed us. He's been cool under pressure all year long. He's a quiet leader, leads by example, never gets too emotional or down. He's a real competitor."

O'Brien has completed 83 of 154 passes for 1,315 yards and 12 touchdowns. He has added three rushing touchdowns.

He's also made the adjustment to a new hometown and team as seamlessly as possible.

"It was hard at first, but the guys warmed up to me and it's basically the same thing (as before)," O'Brien said. "It feels like home."

Conference champ: St. Edward wrapped up the Metro Suburban Red title with Friday's 37-21 win over Fenton, giving coach Mike Rolando a program-record 59 wins. As the conference champions, the Green Wave (4-4, 4-0) are in the playoffs even if they lose Friday against Ridgewood.

Their seeding could dramatically change with a win. A loss would make them the lowest seed in Class 4A, forcing a first-round game at the top seed. A win would put them in the 11 to 13 seeding range.

"We only have five conference games," Rolando said. "Luckily, we clinched it. We're in the playoffs for sure. We want to try to win this one, though."

Rolando is 59-73 in his 14-year career at St. Edward. Greg True won 58 games from 1944 to 1965.

"There is a lot of history there," Rolando said. "Greg was special to the school. He coached a lot of sports."

"Really, it's just that I've been there for a long time. We created a winning culture. That was always a goal, to be a consistently competitive team and have the expectation of winning."

Newest Bronco: Jacobs senior Joey Price committed Wednesday to Western Michigan, announcing his decision on Twitter.

Price, a 6-foot-8, 325-pound offensive lineman, came into the season with high hopes after visiting several high-profile programs over the summer, including Western Michigan.

His senior season was cut short, however, because of a knee injury suffered in the second game at Huntley. He stayed in touch with the colleges recruiting him and landed in Kalamazoo.

“I want to start off by saying thank you to all the coaches who have recruited me during this process,” Price said on his Twitter feed. “I also want to thank my parents, family members, friends, coaches and teammates who have guided me to get where I need to be and for making me the person I am today.”

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

Football Top 5

With records through Friday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. St. Charles North 6-2 (1)
2. Bartlett 6-2 (NR)
3. South Elgin 6-2 (2)
4. Huntley 5-3 (3)
5. Genoa-Kingston 6-2 (5)

Player of the Week: Angel Garcia produced big numbers in Larkin’s 52-13 Upstate Eight win over rival Elgin. He ran for 179 yards and two touchdowns and caught a touchdown pass as the Royals kept their playoff hopes alive.