

Press Clippings 10/22/2018

---Courier News ---10/21/2018

U46 tax levy gets 3% hike

By Rafael Guerrero The Courier-News

School District U46's levy may increase by about 3 percent but tax bills should remain about the same, district officials said.

About \$280 million in tax money is to be requested in the 2018, a 3-percent increase from a year earlier. The combined total levy in U46 would be nearly \$322 million, a 2.6 percent increase from last year's \$315 million.

However, next month officials will present an abatement proposal worth \$5.6 million in U46 property taxes, said Dale Burnidge, U46's director of financial operations. That's on top of another \$3 million-plus tax abatement, Burnidge said.

"For current taxpayers, it should keep their tax bills flat," he said. "They really shouldn't see an increase."

According to the proposal, the largest segment of tax levy dollars — the nearly \$280 million — is split into smaller portions representing funding for education, district maintenance and operations, transportation, municipal retirement, Social Security, fire prevention and safety, tort immunity, and special education. Earlier this school year, the school board approved a 2018-19 budget of more than \$550 million.

Burnidge and CEO Tony Sanders told board members at last week's school board meeting the proposal is a half-percentage point higher in order to take into account potential changes in the equalized assessed values of taxable property in U46, which will not be determined by Kane, DuPage and Cook counties until next year. Sanders said the counties generally adjust the district's calculations down.

No vote was taken at the recent U46 board meeting. The levy certificate and the tax levy resolution will be presented next month, with final adoption to be voted on in December.

SPORTS SECTION

---The Courier-News---10/21/2018

Rogers powers West Aurora into Upstate Eight playoffs

**Wide receiver has best game of season in 48-10 rout of South Elgin
By Rick Armstrong The Beacon-News**

**West Aurora wide receiver Moshe Rogers makes a contested catch Friday
over South Elgin's Davion Cherwin. (Mike Mantucca/Beacon-News)**



Senior wide receiver Moshe Rogers picked the perfect time Friday night to dominate for West Aurora.

Getting a breakout game from Rogers and plenty of contributions across the board, the Blackhawks locked up second place in the Upstate Eight with a 48-10 rout of South Elgin .

Just as importantly, West Aurora (8-1, 8-1) looked solid in its final tuneup for a fourth straight postseason.

“That’s probably the most complete game we’ve played,” Blackhawks coach Nate Eimer said.

It also was the best game of the season for the 6-foot-2, 200-pound Rogers. Eimer thinks Rogers has not received the recruiting interest he deserves.

Rogers caught four passes for 123 yards and a touchdown. He leads the team with 27 receptions for 525 yards, but topped the century mark for the first time in a game.

His run after the catch of a long pass from quarterback Will Tammaru on the Blackhawks’ first play of the second half seemed to take the life out of any hopes for a comeback by the Storm (6-3, 6-3).

He gathered the pass in near midfield, and then zigged and zagged to elude two South Elgin defenders. He dragged a third with him across the goal line in completing the 75-yard play.

“He had two other catches (where) he adjusted his route and came back to the ball,” said Tammaru, who passed for 163 yards. “I had confidence he was going to come up with the ball.”

South Elgin had a TD called back by a penalty late in the first half, preserving a 28-3 lead for West Aurora.

“It was a true TD,” Storm coach Dragan Teonic said. “The kid wasn’t beyond the line. That could have been 28-10 with us getting the ball coming out.

“I thought we did some good things offensively. We simply could not stop them. We had three trips to the red zone and came up empty (except for Andrew Brucaro’s 31-yard field goal).”

Quarterback Azxavier Salinas passed for 138 yards, including a 12-yard TD to Shiking Marshall. He had five receptions for 83 yards to go with kick returns of 77 and 42 yards.

West Aurora had three running backs combine for 241 yards — Hezekiah Salter (14 carries, 94 yards, 3 TDs), Trevon Tittle (13 carries, 88 yards, 1 TD) and JaQuan Buchanan (10 carries, 59 yards, 1 TD). Buchanan also caught a 36-yard TD pass.

“The running game is amazing,” Tammaru said. “I think our passing game is amazing, too. With the receivers we have, we can pass all night, too.”

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---Daily Herald ---10/20/2018

Bartlett completes remarkable turnaround

By Scott Miller

Daily Herald Correspondent

Bartlett made a triumphant return on Friday night to its football home of the last 20 years with a 46-6 rout of host Streamwood at Millennium Field to finish the regular season 7-2.

It has been a complete turnaround under first-year coach Matt Erlenbaugh after the Hawks finished 2-7 last year. Bartlett is headed to the playoffs for the first time since 2015.

"It's been all the kids," Erlenbaugh said. "They were tired of losing and hungry to win. They have been very coachable since day one. Every week the kids have worked hard to get better and every week we all get more on the same page. I feel real good heading into the playoffs. We are excited for it."

Bartlett quarterback Jonah O'Brien led the way with 5 touchdown passes. He completed 12 of 20 passes for 251 yards.

'Our receivers did a great job of getting open and making plays," O'Brien said. "They were able to create a lot of space. All I had to do was get the ball to them. They were playing 2 high safeties and that created some mismatches we were able to take advantage of. It's been a big difference this year. Just a lot more energy. The offense is moving the ball efficiently, so we feel confident heading into the playoffs."

O'Brien spread the ball around to 6 receivers with four different ones catching touchdowns.

"He's a special talent," Erlenbaugh said. "He has a cannon for an arm and makes good reads and good decisions."

The Hawks scored on their first 5 offensive possessions. Threes times the Hawks were able to take advantage of great field position, starting inside Streamwood territory after the defense pinned the Sabres deep in their own territory, Bartlett had touchdown drives of 64, 22, 37, 27, and 70 yards in the first half as they built a 32-6 lead.

Nick Deckard got the Hawks on the board first with a 9-yard touchdown run. O'Brien followed with touchdown passes of 5 yards to Noah Herstad, 4 yards to Alec Palella, 14 yards to Hayden Angell, and 70 yards to Austin Gates.

Herstad caught a second touchdown of 46 yards in the second half. Deckard added a second rushing touchdown of 5 yards to round out the scoring. Deckard had a team-high 73 yards rushing on 17 carries.

"I really liked the way we executed all around tonight," Erlenbaugh said. "The kids were in it and focused right from the start."

The Sabres' lone score was a 51-yard touchdown run by Sirrion Dixon in the second quarter.

Streamwood finish the season 1-8, but there may be brighter days ahead.

"We have 16 of our 22 starters coming back," Streamwood coach Don Guindon said. "We were a very young team this year, but we learned a lot and hopefully that carries over to more success in the future."

Glenbard East completes perfect regular season

By Allen Oshinski

Daily Herald Correspondent

The Glenbard East Rams are undefeated conference champions.

Brett Bushka threw 4 touchdown passes to 4 different receivers as the Rams wrapped up a perfect regular season and the Upstate Eight title by downing Larkin, 42-14, at Memorial Field.

Bushka threw for 176 of his 217 yards in the first half, then the Rams' 3-headed tailback monster took over as Glenbard East played ball control in the second half.

Early on, Larkin, which needed a victory to become playoff-eligible, made the Rams work for everything they got. The Royals took the opening kickoff and marched 68 yards, capped by Angel Garcia's 1-yard scoring run.

After Glenbard East tied it on Bushka's pass to Deon Cook, Larkin moved the ball again, reaching the Rams' 17. But a fourth-down sack ended the threat and led to a run of 42 unanswered points by the Rams.

"It's awesome to make history," Bushka said. "I love all these guys out here, too. It was a great job. It took all 53 to do this and we've been saying this for awhile. I'm glad everybody else can see it, too. To cap it off at 9-0, it's just a great job by all of us."

The early Larkin score didn't faze the Rams.

"We just had to play Glenbard East Rams football," said Bushka. "We did, and the scoreboard really showed it at the end."

Besides Cook, Bushka threw scoring strikes to Jeremy Johnson, Kurt Csech, and Patrick Crossland.

Jamylenn Miles and Jake Netchin ran for scores for the Rams.

"It's unreal," said Glenbard East coach John Walters. "These kids have worked so incredibly hard to get to this point. They've been through a lot, and they stayed the course, they bought into the process, and now they're 9-0."

The Rams broke the game open in the second quarter, scoring 3 times. Receptions by Netchin and Crossland and a 10-yard run by Netchin accounted for the Rams' 3 scores during the period.

For the game, Bushka completed 14 of 24 for 217 yards. Christopher Whitehead led Glenbard with 71 yards on the ground, all in the second half. Billy Gotsch added 61 and Netchin finished with 54.

Daniel Quirk came up with an interception and Nehemiah Jones recovered a fumble, both ending Larkin scoring threats.

It was that kind of night for the Royals (4-5, 4-5). The Royals reached the Rams' 1-yard line in the second quarter but lost a fumble. They got to the 12-yard line in the third quarter, only to be stopped on downs after 2 incomplete passes.

The Royals closed the scoring on Deujuan Akins' 64-yard run. He burst through the middle and raced untouched into the end zone. That made Akins the Royals' leading ball carrier with 72 yards on just 3 carries. Garcia finished with 70.

South Elgin cannot contain West Aurora

By Kevin McGavin
Daily Herald Correspondent

In his first season at South Elgin, Dregan Teonic came away mightily impressed with the West Aurora football team following the Upstate Eight Conference regular-season finale Friday night.

"They have as much talent as anyone in the state," Teonic said after West Aurora manhandled the Storm 48-10.

With its seventh running-clock victory on the season in Aurora, the Blackhawks (8-1, 8-1) established new program bests for most points scored (405) and fewest points allowed (58) in a nine-game season.

South Elgin is also in the Class 8A playoffs in ending its regular season at 6-3 overall and in the league.

The West Aurora offensive standouts were once again on display throughout the game to the dismay of the Storm defense.

Hezzy Salter scored three consecutive touchdowns for West Aurora in staking the team to a commanding 28-3 lead at halftime.

Salter had scoring runs of 2, 13 and 11 yards on successive drives in the second quarter in garnering a game-high 95 yards on 13 carries.

Ja'Quan Buchanan more than filled in admirably for Salter when his classmate was banged up with a knee injury in the second half of the season.

Buchanan had a first-quarter rushing score from a yard out to give West Aurora a lead never to be surrendered; the senior had the final team score with a 39-yard touchdown reception from highly regarded junior quarterback Will Tammaru.

"We have a lot of playmakers on this team," said West Aurora returning all-state guard Ian Mooney. "Any one of them can score a touchdown from anywhere. I love blocking for them."

Buchanan had 69 yards rushing and another 81 receiving in complementing Salter at tailback.

West Aurora fullback Trevon Tittle had a career-high 93 yards rushing on 14 carries, including a ground score from 10 yards away as the Blackhawks had a run of 41 unanswered points in the game.

"I think it's the most talented backfield in the state," said Tammaru, who amassed 201 throwing yards on a mere 7 completions. "They were unstoppable. Our chemistry is great right now."

Tammaru turned to athletic wide receiver Moshe Rogers to end all suspense to the final outcome.

Following in the footsteps of back-to-back three-sport West Aurora stars Davion Cross and Camron Donatlan, Rogers had a dazzling 63-yard touchdown catch and run in the third quarter.

"I wasn't surprised at all by (the point spread)," Rogers said. "We know we can compete with any team in the state when we come ready to play."

Rogers finished with 113 yards on 4 catches.

"We simply could not stop them," Teonic said.

Shiking Marshall was the South Elgin bright spot with 237 all-purpose yards and a late scoring reception.

---Daily Herald ---10/21/2018

Boys soccer: Elgin wins 1st regional championship

By Dave Hess

Daily Herald Correspondent

In 16 years as Elgin High School boys soccer coach, Dave Borg's Maroons have lost in the regional finals 6 times including a heartbreaking setback last year to Hampshire in penalty kicks.

The suffering is over. The elusive regional plaque is now in the hands of the Maroons.

The top-seeded Maroons moved to 16-1-3 on the season with a 2-0 win over upset-minded and ninth-seeded Rockford East to claim the 3A Huntley regional title Saturday morning.

It is the program's first regional crown.

Elgin advances to play Crystal Lake Central at the Hampshire sectional at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The Tigers defeated host DeKalb 1-0 in the regional finale.

"We were heavily favored to win the regional last season and dropped the ball," said Borg. "Since that loss all the kids have talked about was getting back to the regional finals and winning the regional. It is an amazing feeling especially since this is a great group of kids."

Missing some golden opportunities to score in the first half, Elgin finally got on the scoreboard on a rebound goal by Rafael Perez Jr. with 3:33 remaining in the first half.

Outshooting the E-Rabs 15-8, the Maroons scored an insurance goal by Omar Lopez off a pass from Perez with 3:04 remaining.

"After Omar's goal I could relax a little," said Borg. "There is a big difference between a one goal and a two-goal lead. We had some good opportunities but we hit the post a couple of times."

Lopez realizes the importance of the Maroons' first regional title.

"The loss in the regional finals last season has really stayed with us all year round," said the Elgin senior forward. "We wanted another shot at winning the regional. This is an amazing feeling. We feel confident going into the sectionals and our goal is to make it to state (finals).

With 8 saves, Elgin senior goalkeeper Martin Jimenez registered his best save of the game with 4:01 remaining.

Rockford East's Adan Flores blasted a shot on goal from 10 yards out and Jimenez was able to dive and keep the ball out of the nets.

"My job is to do whatever I have to do to keep the ball out of the goal," said Jimenez.

"In a game of this importance I have to be at my best. This regional championship is monumental for this program."

Borg values Jimenez's effort between the pipes.

"Martin is rock solid," said Borg. "He is so calm and always makes the great save."

Rockford East goalkeeper Francisco Zaragoza kept the E-Rabs within striking distance with 13 saves.

"The Rockford (East) keeper was outstanding," said Borg. "We had some great shots on goal that are usually goals. He kept the game close."

Boys soccer: Streamwood blanks Larkin for regional

crown

By John Lemon

Larkin and Streamwood tied this year in their Upstate Eight Conference meeting, and through the first 40 minutes of their matchup in Saturday's Class 3A regional championship game they were still deadlocked.

The second half was a different story. Streamwood's offense came alive, putting three shots in the back of the net for a 3-0 victory at Millennium Field.

The Sabres (16-4-3) advance to the Class 3A Hampshire sectional where they will play Dundee-Crown, a 2-0 winner over Jacobs, at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"We talked about how we needed to get it to our wingers," senior Alex Chavez said of the halftime adjustments. "Get them on the line and attack from there."

"It's my last game on this field. I'm really confident in our guys. Every time we need something we pull it out. Today everything was clicking in the second half."

Both teams had a handful of chances in the first half but nothing that took a highlight save to stop. Larkin defender Miguel Moreno cleared one ball off the back line to prevent a goal, while Streamwood coach Matthew Polovin implored his team to be more aggressive.

"I felt we had possession of the ball the majority of the first half," Polovin said. "The only thing that was keeping us from doing anything good was getting shots on goal. We had to start taking chances."

Rolando Martinez broke through with the first goal at 50:17. After Larkin was unable to clear a corner, Martinez gathered the bouncing ball in the box and poked it high and in.

"Once we got the first one I think Larkin's shoulders started dropping a bit," Polovin said. "I told them, once we score keep going at them."

The Sabres did just that. Chavez scored the second and third goals assisted by Edwin Peralta and Jesus Limon coming at 63:19 and 71:33.

"It's been a fun season so far," Polovin said. "One piece of the puzzle sort of speak. We'll enjoy it for a few minutes and then get ready for (Dundee-Crown)."

Larkin (15-6-3) had a few chances. Hector Alfaro made 3 saves for the Sabres, one when Aleksandar Zdravkovic blasted a free kick from the 25-yard line.

Samuel Rodriguez also found an opening twice in the final 20 minutes but shot just wide right both times.

"I thought we played too passive the whole game," Larkin coach Ken Hall said. "We're young. It's not easy when you are playing a quality and experienced team like Streamwood, but that being said I thought we had three or four chances when we could have put the ball in the goal. We just didn't."

Zdravkovic led Larkin this year with 26 goals. Only three Royals had previous playoff experience.

"We have most of the guys coming back so we're really happy about that," Hall said.