

## Press Clippings 11/16/2017

---Daily Herald --- 11/16/17

### **District 15 looks to start dual-language program**

BY BOB SUSNJARA

Palatine Township Elementary District 15 is moving toward launching its first dual-language program in the 2018-19 academic year.

As part of the process, two consultants from Dual Language Education of New Mexico concluded a visit to four district schools Wednesday. District 15's dual-language program would have classes taught in English and Spanish.

Cheryl Wofel, the district's executive director of second-language programs, said the dual-language classes likely would begin in one or two buildings in the next academic season.

"I think that it would be beneficial for our Spanish-speaking students and our English-speaking students," Wofel said. "I think it builds on biliteracy, it builds on biculturalism. It just is good for everyone. I think that it would really promote bilingualism in our community as well."

District 15 would join several suburban systems with dual-language programs in Spanish and English, including Gurnee-based Woodland Elementary District 50 and **Elgin Area School District U-46**. Barrington Area Unit District 220 offers dual-language programs with Spanish and Mandarin as the choices with English. Students who are interested in the learning option enroll in the programs.

Dual Language Education helped **U-46** begin its acclaimed English-Spanish program.

Known as an "80:20" initiative, the youngest Elgin district students start with 80 percent of their instruction in Spanish and 20 percent in English. The Spanish portion is reduced by 10 percent annually from kindergarten through third grade, with the split staying at 50-50.

On the final leg of the consultants' two-day District 15 tour, they met with parents and educators at Central Road Elementary School in Rolling Meadows. Wofel told the group Central was part of a site evaluation visit in an effort to decide where to begin the dual-language program.

Michael Rodriguez, director of operations for the Albuquerque-based company, said research shows students benefit greatly by knowing at least two languages. He said dual-language programs typically narrow the achievement gap for English learners and serve as enrichment for others.

"The main premise for dual language is high academic achievement in both English and Spanish," Rodriguez said.

District 15 school board members have listed the dual-language program as part of their goals. About 36 percent of the district's 12,800 students are Hispanic, according to the 2016-17 state report card.

## SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald --- 11/16/17

### Rockton Hononegah rolls past South Elgin

BY JOHN LEMON



South Elgin's Madison Waichunas passes the ball out of a swarming Rockton Hononegah defense Wednesday in Huntley.

With only one returning starter, South Elgin knows it might suffer some early season growing pains.

The schedule makers didn't take it easy on the Storm, who debuted all those new faces against state power Rockton Hononegah Wednesday night.

The Indians exploited that inexperience in a big way at the Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving tournament, hosted by Huntley.

Rockton Hononegah's full-court pressure overwhelmed the Storm, who turned the ball over on seven of their first eight possessions. The Indians scored the first 21 points on their way to an 83-38 victory.

"To open up against a team like that, I told them there's no losing on a night like this," said Storm coach Dan Mandernack, whose team graduated 98 percent of their scoring. "You either are going to win or you are going to learn. They (Hononegah) are a downstate caliber type team. You can't lose this game, you can just learn."

The Indians (1-0) only have two returning starters themselves -- but one of them is Jordan King.

The junior, with offers from Wisconsin and Iowa, among others, scored 18 points in the opening quarter.

She repeatedly beat the Storm off the dribble and scored inside.

"The nice thing about Jordan is she's our best player and our hardest worker," Hononegah coach Cecil Kennigton said. "Great kid to coach. She's got a big-time future."

Rockton Hononegah used crisp ball movement, backdoor cuts and fastbreak layups to get one high percentage shot after another. The Indians shot 14 for 20 from the field in the first quarter and made 18 of their 21 attempts from 2-point range in the first half.

As lopsided as the final score looks, it didn't tell whole story.

King scored her game-high 31 points in about 12 minutes of court time. Kennigton substituted liberally, and in the limited time King and her fellow starters were on the court together, they outscored the Storm 52-8 on a pace to score 139 points.

"The seven, eight years I've been involved with girls basketball, she's (King) right there with (Huntley grad) Ali Andrews as far as the best girls player I've seen," Mandernack said.

Rockton Hononegah led 35-4 after the first quarter and 46-7 early in the second. The Storm (0-1) turned the ball over 15 times in the first quarter and only got off 3 field goal attempts.

"They definitely threw the first punch," Mandernack said. "That's a new level of press right there. They are strong, they are fast, it was hard to meet some of their athleticism."

The Indians took off their press and the Storm began to get some better looks. They trailed 77-25 after three quarters but won the fourth, 13-6.

"We made some adjustments especially when the press was off," Mandernack said. "We were able to get into our stuff a little."

Senior Catora Brown came off the bench to lead the Storm with 15 points. She scored their only points in the first quarter, hit a trio of 3-pointers in the second half while also grabbing 4 rebounds.

"Catora, what a great kid," Mandernack said. "Last year didn't get much playing time but attitude great, worked hard, speed and agility training, got on a travel team. I told her I'm her biggest fan. Her shot looked good, really fast, aggressive. She didn't get a lot of chances and she knows she's a senior and this is her chance. I really look for good things from Catora."

Sophomore Megan McClure added 5 rebounds while Alexis Roberts tallied 6 points for the Storm who have another tough opponent Friday against Homewood-Flossmoor.

"Their body language was good, their attitudes are great," Mandernack said. "I told them at halftime to keep battling. We'll be all right."

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## **Slow starts dooms Larkin in loss to Marengo**

**BY CRAIG BRUESKE**

Take away the first minute and a half and Larkin's girls basketball team could have been celebrating its first victory of the young season Wednesday night.

Unfortunately, things don't work that way.

Spotting Marengo a 9-0 lead in the first minute and 24 seconds, the Royals (0-2) were forced to play catch-up the rest of the way during their eventual 61-46 setback in the second round of the Burlington Central Thanksgiving Classic.

"It's not even so much the 9-0 (score), it's the fact that we're turning the ball over quick enough to score nine points in probably a matter of 35 seconds," said Larkin coach Steve Knapp. "It's something that I've got to waste a timeout on but I can't do that every night.

"It's hard to crawl back. They're (the Indians) a good basketball team. They're athletic and they played well. They took it to us early in the game."

Hannah Ritter's steal, layup and eventual 3-point play opened the scoring and her steal and assist on teammate Jordan Parker's layup capped the Indians' early 9-0 surge.

Marengo's lead grew to 11 at 17-6 before the Royals scored 8 of the next 10 points to draw within 5 at 19-14 after one quarter.

Larkin's run included Aaliyah Dixon's 3-pointer from the top of the key and Kiara Villa's 3-point play with 13 seconds left in the opening period.

However, the Royals caught the turnover bug again in the first 3 minutes of the second quarter when another 9-0 run enabled the Indians (1-0) to stretch their lead to 28-14.

Larkin, which committed 21 first-half turnovers, trailed 39-21 at the intermission.

"As the year progresses, we're going to get there but again it's the turnovers," said Knapp. "We've got to limit turnovers, especially the ones on the other side of the court."

There were several positives for the Royals, most of which came in the second half.

"I don't know if we outscored them in the second half but we definitely played with them," said Knapp, whose team did outscore Marengo 25-22 over the last 2 quarters.

The Royals chipped away at the double-digit deficit, pulling within 10 at 49-39 with 3:47 remaining on a free throw by senior guard Haley Bohn.

Sophomore Brianna Young led Larkin with 18 points and 11 rebounds while Bohn added 11 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists and 3 steals. Dixon finished with 6 points and 10 rebounds.

"There are definitely some girls that will put up a fight throughout the whole game," said Bohn. "We need to maybe come out talking more and taking care of the ball."

Ritter finished with 18 points, 7 rebounds and 5 steals for Marengo while junior guard Marissa Knobloch added 15 points.

