

Press Clippings 11/16/2018

---Daily Herald---11/16/2018

Streamwood High precision manufacturing program, instructor awarded \$50,000

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Matt Erbach says teaching students how to fabricate parts precisely down to a thousandth of an inch is the best part of his job.

"I love the precision ... the getting it right aspect of it," said Erbach, one of two precision manufacturing instructors at Elgin Area School District U-46. "Just working with a developing student and honing that ability to get it on target, it's a lot of fun."

Erbach, 39, who has been teaching precision manufacturing at Streamwood High School for 13 years, was recognized Thursday among the best skilled-trades teachers in the nation. He is among 18 teachers singled out for the 2018 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. Three teachers were first-place winners and 15, including Erbach, got second-place awards. Erbach is the only winner from Illinois.

A representative of [Harbor Freight Tools for Schools](#) surprised Erbach with a \$50,000 check and a large rolling toolbox during his advanced precision manufacturing class at Streamwood High.

Finalists were selected from among a pool of more than 550 applicants from 49 states pared down after three rounds of judging, Harbor Freight spokeswoman Karen Denne said.

"Winners were chosen based on the teachers' dedication to the trade, their success in connecting their students to career pathways, and their ability to network and connect students with outside opportunities," Denne said. "These teachers are extraordinarily passionate about their skilled trade and instill that passion in their students."

Streamwood and South Elgin high schools applied for the award last year and placed among the top 56 high schools in the country.

"I'm very proud of earning a second-place award," Erbach said. "U-46 has really deep roots with this program -- at Streamwood since it opened in 1978. We have good equipment. We have good facilities. Our curriculum is up-to-date. We are doing well by the students by keeping the program rigorous and engaging."

Of the \$50,000 award, \$15,000 goes to Erbach to use at his discretion and Streamwood High gets \$35,000 to support its skilled trades program.

Erbach plans to use his share to pay off student loans and put the school's money toward supporting students at skilled trades competitions.

Last year, Streamwood High's automated manufacturing technology team placed second in the SkillsUSA state championships and 10th among high school teams in the national contest.

"I'm hoping to pull a first this year," said Erbach of the state contest in April. "It would be nice to focus the students' efforts on practice and training and we don't have to fundraise this year."



- Matt Erbach, precision manufacturing instructor at Streamwood High School, center, was surprised by Brian Cohen of Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, left, and Streamwood High School Principal Michele Chapman with an award Thursday morning for being among the best skilled-trades teachers in the nation. Erbach was awarded \$15,000, and the school gets \$35,000.



- Streamwood High School precision manufacturing instructor Matt Erbach was presented a tool chest with his name on it as part of the reward for being selected among the best skilled-trades teachers in the country.



- Matt Erbach, precision manufacturing instructor at Streamwood High School, was surprised with a \$50,000 award Thursday for being among the best skilled trades teachers in the nation. Erbach gets \$15,000, and the school gets \$35,000.

'A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr.' to be staged Nov. 16-18 at Hemmens

By: Mary Dulabaum

Children's Theatre of Elgin's "A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr.," performed by a huge cast of local young people and adapted from "The Magic Tree House" book series, is a lively family musical that explores the inspiration for Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 16-17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. For tickets and more information, visit the Children's Theatre of Elgin website at CTEelgin.com or call (847) 214-7550.

The story centers on the adventures of two present-day siblings, Jack and Annie, who are whisked back by way of a magic tree house to Victorian England to encourage the legendary author Charles Dickens not to give up on his writing. They find him discouraged about his failures, his past sorrows, and the poverty he sees all around. With the help of a little magic and lots of music and dance, the children show him why he should keep writing.

Children's Theatre of Elgin alumna Sarah Robertson, a science teacher at Dundee-Crown High School, is thrilled to have the opportunity to choreograph the dances that she hopes will have the audience mesmerized.

"This is one of the greatest groups of kids I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I have watched many of them grow into phenomenal performers and been blown away by

the enthusiasm of the newcomers," Robertson said. "I am beyond proud to have my name associated with CTE and this production in general. The energy and immense performance ability of these students will undoubtedly be very entertaining."

"A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr." will run about 90 minutes and includes a 15-minute intermission during which show-related treats and trinkets will be sold.



- From left are Jack (Will Zimmerman), Annie (Auren Briones) and Mr. Dickens (Nathan Shue) from Children's Theatre of Elgin's production of "A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr."



- Annie (Auren Briones of Gilbert), Mr. Dickens (Nathan Shue of Elgin), and Jack (Will Zimmerman of Bartlett) rehearse for CTE's "A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens Jr." Auren is a fifth-grader at Gilberts Elementary, Nathan is an eighth-grader at Kenyon Woods Middle School and Will Zimmerman is a seventh-grader at Kenyon Woods Middle School.

---The Courier-News---11/16/2018

Downward slide

District U46 student enrollment falls below 39,000

By: Rafael Guerrero

School District U46 student enrollment decreased again this year, falling below 38,600 students, according to new data.

In fall 2014, the Elgin-area school district had 40,487 students. Four years later, the number is 38,572, district officials said.

Despite the drop, District U46 remains the second-largest school district in the state. Only Chicago Public Schools, with 316,000 students, is larger.

Enrollment data is one of the factors used to calculate how much state aid a district will receive and, depending on that, how much additional money must come from other sources, such as property tax.

Last fall's enrollment count was at 39,205 students, meaning there are 633 fewer students this year.

One of the reasons for the decrease was the opening of a new charter school in Elgin, District U46 Chief Operations Officer Jeff King told school board members last week. It's estimated the Elgin Math and Science Academy, with an enrollment of about 200, took between 120 and 140 students from District U46, he said.

Six elementary schools in U46 — three in Elgin, one in Bartlett, one in Hanover Park and one in South Elgin — lost more than 40 students from the previous year, data shows. The largest year-to-year decline was 73 students at Lords Park Elementary School in Elgin, although its enrollment of more than 700 still makes it one of the largest in the district.

"We anticipate we will continue seeing (decreases) at least for the next couple of years," King said.

Enrollment drops can be attributed to a number of factors, including decreasing local birth rates, he said.

Some board members, speaking at last week's meeting, suggested the decline also might be attributed to people leaving the Elgin area and the state due to high property taxes.

While elementary and middle school enrollment dropped by several hundred students total, the head count at the high schools stayed flat compared to last fall. The freshman class has the highest student count among all grades in District U46, according to the data.

Two schools — Prairieview Elementary in Bartlett and Wayne Elementary in Wayne — are categorized as “underutilized,” meaning the buildings are below 50 percent capacity. Another 14 elementary schools are at between 50 percent and 65 percent capacity, data show.

King said an ideal capacity is about 85 percent because there’s room to expand before overcrowding becomes an issue. Five schools are between 82 percent and 97 percent full, he said.



- The number of students attending u46 schools is now at 38,572, a drop of 633 from last year and more than 1,900 since 2014, data show.

National Book Award finalist visits Elgin school

By: Rafael Guerrero

The National Book Foundation recognized Jarrett Krosoczka as a National Book Award finalist in New York City Wednesday. Hours later, the author and illustrator was at Kimball Middle School in Elgin, showing off his finalist medallion to students.

“I’m going to wear this all over the place,” Krosoczka joked; he was one of 25 recognized as a 2018 finalist, and only one of five recognized in young people’s literature.

Students and staff at the middle school library were impressed with the medal. Krosoczka explained to the students that it was not easy to get to this point in his career. His earlier stories were rejected by several publishers before he finally had a breakthrough with “Good Night, Monkey Boy.”

Even more challenging, he argued, was finally telling his childhood story of family and drug addiction through “Hey, Kiddo,” arguably his most personal book to date. Krosoczka spoke about his National Book Award-nominated graphic memoir with several dozen students, sharing details of his childhood, his family, confronting his past, and the creative process it took to get his story into print.

“This is a story I thought I might want to write,” said Krosoczka, 40. “It became a story I needed to write.”

Krosoczka’s mother, Leslie, succumbed to drug addiction — specifically, heroin. Her addiction and ensuing criminal matters left Krosoczka without a mother throughout most of his childhood and a father he barely knew. She is now deceased, overdosing from heroin, he said.

His grandparents, Joseph and Shirley Krosoczka, played the parent role most of the time, he told the students. They feature prominently in “Hey, Kiddo,” he said, as they helped provide stability in his childhood.

Drawing was another big piece of his childhood, Krosoczka told the teens. At first, the hobby helped impress friends, but as he matured in his teenage years, drawing was an escape.

“Drawing gives me peace,” he said.

Nowadays, Krosoczka is both drawing and writing. He said the two skills are “teammates” in telling stories. In the case for “Hey, Kiddo,” he re-invented his drawing techniques, as the more cheerful styles he incorporated into earlier work would not make sense for more serious, realistic topics.

He researched his childhood, revisiting moments from decades earlier and uncovering items from his past. Letters his mother wrote to Krosoczka ultimately influenced the title of the book, he said. His teenage sketchbooks reflected a teenager in turmoil, Krosoczka acknowledged.

“I’m looking at these sketches and I’m thinking, ‘Wow, this kid is really angry, really frustrated, and dealing with all of his emotions through art,’” he said.

“That’s the tough thing about life. There are difficult truths out there, they are affecting us and we have to acknowledge they are affecting us,” he told the students. “But luckily I had good friends, I had my grandparents, I had art — I had something I could completely bury myself into.”

Kimball Middle School was fortunate to bring in Krosoczka, as a more-publicized visit at Gail Borden Public Library occurred only a couple hours later. School librarian Marie Gatz said author visits are rare at the school.

“We need to reach out to the kids,” Gatz said. “We need to let them know they are not alone. And we need to let them know they can make something of themselves,” like Krosoczka did despite his childhood, she added.

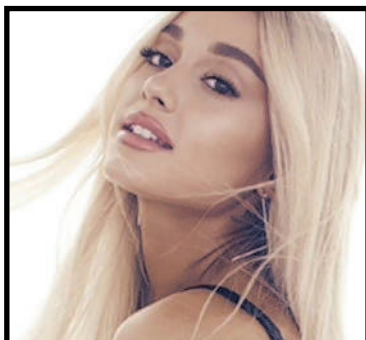
She noted the relevance of the topic of heroin addiction as communities nationwide grapple with an opioid epidemic.

“Children are the invisible victims of this epidemic,” Krosoczka said.



- Jarrett Krosoczka makes a visit to Kimball Middle School in Elgin Thursday. His young adult graphic memoir, “Hey, Kiddo,” was a National Book Award finalist.

Reflejos



**ARIANA
GRANDE**

**'THANK YOU,
NEXT'**

MÚSICA



**JUAN GABRIEL
SE RUMORA QUE
VIVE Y REGRESARÁ
A LOS ESCENARIOS
FARANDULA**

La **Liga MX** vivió
un fin de semana lleno de
emociones antes de la
fecha **FIFA** y cada vez
más cerca de una **liguilla**
que comienza a tomar forma.
DEPORTES



Reconociendo la excelencia en nuestra comunidad

Reflejos honors students, businesses, groups

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY
For Reflejos

Roughly 40 awardees, including seven suburban Latino students, were recognized Wednesday for contributions to Latino communities during Reflejos' seventh annual Reflecting Excellence Awards.

"There is still a lot of room for us to grow as Latinos," said Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti as she addressed the crowd of more than 200 guests at the Stonegate Conference and Banquet Centre in Hoffman Estates.

Sanguinetti talked about many career firsts, including becoming the highest-ranking Latina in Illinois' history and the first Latina lieutenant governor in the country. A daughter of immigrants — a Cuban refugee mother and Ecuadorian father — she tailored her message to scholarship recipients.

"Anything is possible," she said. "I would like to see more of you saying, I could see myself serving on school boards ... serving as a judge ... I could see myself doing anything and everything."

"Know that in life you are going to be going through a lot of ups and downs ... but you always have to challenge yourself."

High school seniors Andrea Vera, Jorge Trejo, Jessica Garcia, Ricardo Morquecho from Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and Monserrat Zarco, Caroline Chwalisz and Elisa Arce from Elgin Area School District U-46 received \$1,000 scholarships.

Recipients were chosen by readers of Reflejos, based on nominations. Among the other honorees:

- Elgin High School, whose student population is 74 percent Latino, was recognized for marking its 150th year.

- Two Latina McDonald's franchisees — Carmen DeCarrier and Tanya Lawrence — received "Latina Leadership" awards. DeCarrier was chosen for her investment in Latino communities around her Chicago franchises. Lawrence was honored for ensuring employees at her family's 12 suburban franchises participate in McDonald's educational benefits.

- Gabriela Vargas, of Algonquin, for sharing her experience, "My Story is Hope," raising awareness about suicide in the Latino community and ways to seek help. Vargas is a volunteer for the Chicago-based nonprofit Hope For The Day and a bilingual interpreter at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin.

- Joliet Junior College for being the nation's first community college and for its continued growth and focused outreach to the Latino community.

- Goya Foods.
- A Safe Place for Help.
- Ballet Folklorico Huehucoyotl.
- Elgin Community College's Office of Student Life.



PHOTOS: JOE LEWNARD

LT. GOVERNOR Evelyn Sanguinetti speaks during the Reflejos Awards event at Stonegate Banquets in Hoffman Estates Wednesday.



- Harper College in Palatine for its business apprenticeships.
- Waubensee Community College for embracing diversity.
- McHenry County College's Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- St. Augustine College's social work education.
- The Lake County state's attorney's office.
- The Kane County Fair.
- The Elgin Hispanic Network.

- The Kane County Teachers Credit Union.
- The Visiting Nurse Associations of America.
- Gail Borden library in Elgin.
- Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.
- The Ecker Center for Mental Health in Elgin.
- The Renz Addiction Counseling Center in Elgin.
- The Southwest Suburban Immigrant

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS hold their plaques during the Reflejos Awards event at Stonegate Banquets in Hoffman Estates Wednesday.

- Project.
- Russo Power Equipment.
- The Family Health Partnership Clinic in Crystal Lake.
- The village of Hanover Park.

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SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald---11/16/2018

Girls swimming: Scouting Fox Valley area at state meet

By: Darryl Mellema

The girls state swim meet begins Friday in Evanston, with many area qualifiers, who have all spent the last year preparing for this afternoon's prelims with the hope of qualifying for Saturday's finals.

Following busy club calendars, high school teams have had two practices most days since mid-August, though the workload has now tapered and all are rested and ready for the 3:30 p.m. start to swimming prelims. The area's qualifying divers start their competition at 9 a.m.

There are realistic expectations up and down the lists of area qualifiers. Rosary seeks a fourth straight title. St. Charles North has earned trophies in two of the last three years. St. Charles East looks to continue its scoring tradition at state while Bartlett and West Aurora are each celebrating unprecedented qualifying success.

All eyes will of course be on Rosary, which seeks to complete its second "quadpeat" of four straight titles this century. The Beads qualified nearly all entries from last weekend's lightning quick Neuqua Valley sectional.

"We've got everybody qualified to have a successful state meet. All the pieces are in place," Rosary coach Bill Schalz said.

Rosary's team is deep but is powered by senior qualifiers who have been through the state meet several times. Among these are Linda Licari, Kathryn Mueller, Anne Taverne, Sydney Van Overmeiren and Athena Ye.

"Our senior class has so much experience," Schalz said. "You see how much our sophomores have changed in the last year since they were freshmen, and it's these seniors who have helped them. We have sophomores who could finish in the top six, Jessica Geriane and Elyssa Brault, and they get it now and want to be a part of this."

Senior Samantha Rankin qualified as an individual for the first time in the 200 IM.

"I'm excited for her to swim," Schalz said. "She 'suited up' for sectional but wasn't fully-rested. Every year, we have girls who don't make our sectional team who would have made virtually every other state team in the state, and (Rankin) has been one of those."

Rosary's other individual qualifier is Izzy Pytel and the Beads have also qualified a diver -- Paige Klimavicius. The Beads, like all the top teams, qualified all three of their relays. Together, the team has one thought in mind -- winning the state title.

"We are not going to the meet to try to get second," Schalz said. "With these girls and this culture we have built, it would be a disappointment. That is not to say that there

aren't teams that could beat us, because there are. We have to swim well to win and we could swim well and still lose the meet, but we are going there to try to win it."

When the meet ends, Schalz will retire from girls swim coaching, though he is set to coach Marmion's team this winter before leaving high school coaching completely.

"I'm focused on the meet, not really thinking about it much. But I got an email from a Benet swimmer from 15 years ago the other day, thanking me for all I've done for swimming, and you can't help but think about it. I've had coaches come up to me all season to talk. Something happened in practice this week, a fleeting moment, and it choked me up a little bit. They might have been just screwing around, but I thought 'this is never going to happen again.' I get these brief moments where I'm like the high school seniors -- 'this is my last sectional, my last state meet.' I'm sure I will get the same moments in the boys season too, and Marmion's my alma mater, so that's special to me too."

From a trophy standpoint, St. Charles North has emerged fully in recent years, claiming third in 2015 and 2017. North Stars coach Rob Rooney is quick to point out that with four straight Top 10 finishes, his team has been consistently one of the top teams in Illinois, whether or not they earned trophies.

This year figures to be another year in which the North Stars challenge for a trophy. In addition to Rosary and St. Charles North, New Trier, Neuqua Valley, Lyons and Oswego are other teams in the mix for the top spots this year.

"We haven't completed our journey yet," Rooney said. "We've got a very resilient, mission-driven group of girls. We've been through a lot and now they're having fun. They're tight like a family and I'm proud of them for finding that togetherness."

The North Stars won the St. Charles East sectional and have certainly got a state group that can be successful this weekend. In addition to their three relays, St. Charles North has a group of qualifiers from across the age spectrum ready to compete. There are seniors in Mallory Jump, Kayleigh Lewis and Rachel Ponte, juniors including Megan Armstrong, diver Ava Atkins, Izabella DelRosario, Sydney Maxwell, Hailey Olsen, Mary Kate Phillips and Mary Ellen Wolff, sophomore Payton Baxter and freshmen Paige Armstrong, Angelina Messina and Caitlin Suda.

"We've historically been a Top 5-10 team," Rooney said. "I've learned a lot and these last three years, I've redrawn what's going on in the program from chemistry to attitude to training and the girls have responded very well. I am extremely fortunate to coach this group of girls at this moment."

While Rosary's winning margin has been large the last three seasons, the battle for the other two team trophies has been intense. In individual races, the difference in time from the top swimmers is often very close, though only the top six will advance to swim for the state title on Saturday the next six-fastest will swim in the consolation final. Some very fast athletes always narrowly miss scoring at the state meet.

"There is parity across the state that is really astonishing," Rooney said. "The kids are getting bigger and faster and stronger and the thing is we don't know how fast they are going to get. I think there's a difference between expecting to do well and those kids who just 'want it.' You have to have that mental mindframe, and I think that's what separates the teams that are talking about doing it and those who want to do it."

St. Charles East qualified its three relays, senior diver Lauren Carne and a group of swimmers who will all return next year -- junior Mary Jania, sophomores Madison Supple and Lauren Swartz and freshman Sophie Mruk.

"Going into sectionals, we were focused on the things we needed to do, to make sure that we had checked all the boxes and that we were ready to go. Now we're excited to go to state. It's (assistant coach) Kent Pearson's last meet on deck as a coach and I think that's a big motivator," St. Charles East coach Julie Oelslager said.

Jania is one of the best breaststroke swimmers in Illinois and competes in what could be one of the most wide-open races in this year's finals.

"When you look at the 100 breaststroke, it really is a free-for-all," Oelslager said. "(Jania) was doing doubles (practices) until last week. I think she is really ready to go and surprise herself as well as maybe other people this weekend."

Oelslager said her team is ready to perform beyond just this weekend.

"There's a lot of motivation even after the season," she said. "They're excited to compete in USA swimming and then to get back with the St. Charles club with the (St. Charles) North girls and to start training hard for next season so they can be even faster next season."

For Bartlett-Streamwood, using words such as "best-ever" is a little tough considering the SabreHawks were seventh in 2016. However, the team qualified the most athletes in school history, has eight preliminary swims and is building the kind of depth found in the strongest teams.

In junior Sydney Kelly, the SabreHawks have one of the fastest distance freestylers in the state and could join 2017 graduate Kayla Filipek as the school's only individual placewinner this weekend.

"Sydney's freshman year was Kayla's senior year and she got to be a part of that experience," Bartlett-Streamwood coach Jeremy Meserole said. "To see her transition from being a newbie to one of the top swimmers in the state has been fun to watch."

The SabreHawks also qualified senior Paige Edmier, who has scored in the state meet in relays and junior Kellsie Krisch in addition to both freestyle relays.

"(Edmier) has been there every year and she finally gets to go in two individual events, which is great because she's had her best year this year. Kellsie Krisch is one of the best breaststrokers in the state and it's nice to see the young kids from a couple of years ago grab the torch," Meserole said.

With qualified relays, Meserole gets to bring more swimmers to the state meet, where they will gain experience and fuel the program's future.

"The kids are excited to come into the program now because of the recent success we've had," Meserole said. "The upperclassmen have been able to tell our newbies what it was like when they were newbies and it's been really nice watching it transition the last three to four years."

West Aurora is another program on the rise, and qualification of the school's 200-yard medley relay kick-started a tremendous Neuqua Valley sectional for the Blackhawks. The IHSA has records dating to 1996, and the Blackhawks have not qualified a relay in that time.

"The medley relay was the most insane thing I've ever witnessed," West Aurora coach Chris Ranallo said. "I was ecstatic and couldn't stop jumping up and down. It set the tone for the rest of the meet."

Senior Gina Jenkins, a four-time qualifier, has qualified in both distance freestyle events while junior Sophie Bastian and freshman Annabel Olivo have also qualified.

"I think some of the girls are still in shock about what they've done," Ranallo said. "If you look at it, we set a lot of school records last year. If you look at the times and where they were last year and look at the time they put in during the offseason and how they came back at it this year, you can see that we had a shot."

In his seventh year at West Aurora, Ranallo said he doesn't want his team to just go and enjoy a bus ride to Evanston this weekend.

"You go into such a big stage, but I want them to go out and have a good time -- and perform well," Ranallo said. "I think they're all excited and I think that will fuel them this weekend. While we've only had (Jenkins) go in recent years, a lot of them have gone and watched and experienced what the atmosphere is like."

Jacobs sophomore Jennifer Tokarz qualified for the state meet in the 200 freestyle.

Dundee-Crown holds off South Elgin in overtime

By: Allen Oshinski

South Elgin erased a 9-point fourth-quarter deficit to Dundee-Crown to force overtime Wednesday night, but the extra period belonged to the Chargers.

D-C scored 10 straight points to open the extra session to down the Storm, 52-44, on the opening night of the Chargers Thanksgiving Tournament.

Alyssa Crenshaw posted a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Katelyn Skibinski just missed one with 15 points and 8 boards.

Gianine Boado added 10 points for the Chargers in the season opener for both teams.

"The team wasn't happy with how we produced through the first four quarters," said Dundee-Crown coach Sarah Miller. "We found a way to battle. We made mistakes. It's game 1. We talked about just taking steps forward from our mistakes. We're a better defensive team than we showed tonight."

The Storm trailed 39-30 after a Boado 3-pointer with 6:49 left, but rattled off 8 straight points to get within 1. The Storm, which never led, eventually tied the game at 40.

D-C regained the advantage on 2 free throws by Payton Schmidt with 45 seconds left. South Elgin had a chance to take the lead but settled for 2 foul shots and the tie.

"One of our freshmen (Ella Winterhalder) rolled out a 3 that might have won it, and Megan (McClure) gets the rebound and makes 2 clutch free throws to send it into overtime," said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "We made some first-game mistakes and they didn't."

McClure had a double-double of her own with 16 points and 10 boards for the Storm. Aryanna Williams added 11 points before fouling out.

D-C seemed on the verge of blowing the game open several times, but every time the Storm responded with a big shot.

The Chargers finished the game short-handed as Cassidy Randl left the game with an apparent knee injury, and Kendall Kieltyka fouled out. Crenshaw also left the game briefly after apparently hurting her ankle, but she returned.