

Press Clippings 11/20/2018

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U-46 adopts new high school P.E. curriculum emphasizing active lifestyle

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Starting next school year, students at Elgin Area School District U-46's six high schools will be able to take a variety of physical education courses promoting a physically active lifestyle and moving the district away from the emphasis on team sports.

The U-46 school board Monday night approved new high school physical education curriculum, resources, equipment and teacher training for a total cost of \$191,502. Technological resources -- heart rate monitors and iPads -- make up \$156,305 of that expense. The same technology already is being used at the district's middle schools for physical education classes.

New high school courses include functional fitness, strength and performance, walking for wellness, and team sports officiating and coaching. All courses will be one semester long and available to freshmen at all district high schools starting in the 2019-2020 school year. Interested sophomores, juniors and seniors also will be allowed to participate in those courses, officials said.

The goal is to appeal to students with varying interests and abilities who typically don't participate in physical education classes, officials said. "The number of our students who participate in team sports is decreasing," Tracey Jakaitis, U-46 student wellness and physical education coordinator told the school board during an earlier presentation. "It's not necessarily a lifelong fitness and wellness activity, so we need to move our curriculum to what our students need. The majority of the students in physical education do not desire to play volleyball, basketball and soccer. We want kids to be able to do real movement. We want to be able to offer them other opportunities."

The new curriculum will help students develop critical thinking skills necessary to understand, analyze and produce knowledge specific to movement and their health, as well as develop competence and confidence in their choice of activity, officials said.

It also establishes districtwide cohesiveness of standards, assessments and rubrics aligned to the updated Illinois and National Learning Standards.

Teachers and students will use iPads for assessment and lesson planning. Teachers will be trained on the new curriculum and equipment in the spring.



- Students at Elgin Area School District U-46's six high schools will be able to take a variety of physical education courses promoting a physically active lifestyle.



- Elgin Area School District U-46 will offer new high school physical education courses, including functional fitness, strength and performance, walking for wellness, and team sports officiating and coaching starting next school year.

SPORTS SECTION

Fenton topples Elgin in opener

By: Scott Schmid

Though its roster features just two seniors, the Fenton boys basketball team does have an experienced group back.

The host Bison played like veterans Monday, overcoming an early double-digit deficit to post a 59-47 victory over Elgin in an opening game of the 31st Chuck Mitchell Thanksgiving Tournament.

"We have a lot of guys back with experience," Fenton coach Chaz Taft said, "but we also have a lot of young guys back. We are just trying to get it going and that starts on the defensive end. We tried to keep the energy high and get a lot of deflections.

"The guys were pulling for each other and making plays on both ends."

Trailing 23-12 midway through the second quarter thanks to a trio of 3-pointers by the Maroons' Trey Yarber, Fenton ended the half on an 8-2 run to trail 30-27.

The Bison carried that momentum into the third, taking their first lead of the contest on a three-point play by Detwan Yoakum. Diamon King and Marcus Rule had 4 points apiece in the period and shared team-high honors with 16 points apiece. King also contributed 14 rebounds.

"At the beginning of the game, we let them get some shots off," King said. "But at halftime, we talked about the team that came out with the most energy in the third and fourth quarter would be the team that came out on top. Everyone was working hard and everyone played a part."

Leading by 5 heading into the final quarter, Fenton would not let Elgin get closer than 4 points the rest of the way as Rule knocked down four free throws. He finished 10 of 12 from the free-throw line.

Andre Reed also hit a 3-pointer in the fourth and checked into double figures with 10.

Yarber finished with a game-high 18 points for the Maroons, and Cameron Muller chipped in with 8.

"We came out ready to play," said Elgin coach David Hess, coaching his first game for the Maroons. "I was proud of that. In the second half I think we shot 6 of 23 with 3 assists and 8 turnovers. We started to settle against their zone and not attack it as much.

"But give credit to them, they were tough and organized. We don't have much varsity experience back. We will take the positives from the first half and try to build on that."



- Elgin's Xavier Bonds (11) drives on Fenton's Alex Kopec, left, and Marcus Rule during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.



- Fenton's Diamon King (12) drives on Elgin's Jeffery Lomax during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.



- Above: Elgin's Trey Yarber (3) shoots over Fenton's Ivan Sosa during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville. Below: Elgin's Xavier Bonds (11) drives on Fenton's Alex Kopec, left, and Marcus Rule.
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- Fenton's Andre Reed, bottom, dishes off the ball after a scramble on the floor with Elgin's Kamarr Banks during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.
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- Fenton's Marcus Rule (20) drives on Elgin's Cameron Muller during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.
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- Elgin's Xavier Bonds, left, drives on Fenton's Diamon King during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.
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- Fenton's bench cheers during their game against Elgin Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.
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- The Fenton bench cheer on their teammates during their game against Elgin Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.
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- Fenton junior Andrew Pietrucha, right, gives the choke sign to an Elgin player during their game Monday at Fenton High School in Bensonville.
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